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## SALMAN KHAN SENTENCED TO FIVE-YEAR IMPRISONMENT IN BLACKBUCK KILLING CASE

Actors Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Sonali Bendre and Neelam, and Jodhpur resident Dushyant Singh have been given the benefit of doubt and acquitted as co-accused



Salman Khan at the courts

File photo / PTI

**JODHPUR, INDIA (TIP):** Actor Salman Khan was on Thursday, April 5, sentenced to five years in jail after being convicted in a 19-year-old blackbuck poaching case by a court in Jodhpur.

*contd on page 20*

## President Trump speaks of hitting China with \$100 billion in tariffs



"Rather than remedy its misconduct, China has chosen to harm our farmers and manufacturers," Trump said. President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping (File photo)

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** In a marked escalation of a trade war with China, President Trump said Thursday, April 5, that he will consider hitting China with an additional \$100 billion in tariffs, on top of the \$50 billion the White House has already authorized.

In a statement late Thursday, President said that he was responding to China's "unfair retaliation" against the United States, which this week outlined hundreds of Chinese products, like flat-screen TVs and medical devices, that could be subject to

*cotd on page 20*

## BUSINESS-MINDED IR STUDENTS GO TO NATIONALS IN DALLAS



*Confidence is the name of the game for these BPA state winners from Indian River High School.*

*Seen in the picture from left: front row, Jubes Lopez, Morgan Bartholomew, Elaina Lopez, Josue Lopez, Brooke Weaver, Luke Morgan and Alexa*

Bartholomew, Elaina Lopez, Jubes Lopez and Josue Lopez (second place, Video Production); Isaac Chandler (third place, PC Servicing & Troubleshooting); and Nick Marchetti (third place, Entrepreneurship). Their teacher advisors are Jeff Bunting and Steve Kilby.

"I'm really thrilled that the students put forth the effort," Bunting said. "They're not just showing up and giving a presentation. The students are putting in a lot of their own personal time. We're talking evenings and weekends. They're taking what they've learned in the classroom ... to the next level."

*Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)*

### BPA extends classroom learning to test real-world skills in business, tech, leadership, citizenship and academics

**DALLAS (TIP):** Indian River High School is getting down to business. This spring, 10 students earned a trip to the 2018 Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas.

IR's winners included Gavin Clattenburg (first place, Extemporaneous Speech); Brooke Weaver (first place, Interview Skills); Alexa Fitz (second place, Entrepreneurship); Luke Morgan (second place, Banking & Finance); Morgan

Bartholomew, Elaina Lopez, Jubes Lopez and Josue Lopez (second place, Video Production); Isaac Chandler (third place, PC Servicing & Troubleshooting); and Nick Marchetti (third place, Entrepreneurship). Their teacher advisors are Jeff Bunting and Steve Kilby.

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## Trump deploys military to secure US-Mexico border to check 'illegal migration'

President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico reacts sharply to Trump's Threats

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump, April 5, signed an executive order directing the deployment of military along the US-Mexico border to fight illegal immigration, asserting that the situation had reached "a point of crisis."

The announcement came a day after Trump said he intended to deploy the National Guard to the US-Mexico border until his administration was able to deliver on his campaign promise to build a wall to bolster security.

Given the importance to secure borders for national security, the National Guard, in coordination with governors, will remain in a support role until Congress takes the action necessary to close the loopholes, the White House said. Trump on Thursday told reporters aboard Air Force One that a large portion of the troops he is planning to

*contd on page 20*



*Brotherhood mural by Enrique Chiu. Inset President Donald J. Trump and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico*

## Trump says he was unaware of payment to Stormy Daniels

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Breaking his silence over the \$130,000 payment by his lawyer Michael Cohen to adult film star Stormy Daniels ahead of the 2016 election, President Trump on Thursday, April 5 said he was unaware of the transaction.

Asked if he knew about the \$130,000 payment to Daniels, Mr. Trump said, "No. No. What else?"

The president made the comments aboard Air Force One, heading from a roundtable event in West Virginia to Washington, D.C. Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, claims she had a sexual encounter with Mr. Trump in 2006. Asked why Cohen made the payment if there was no truth to the woman's allegations, Mr. Trump said reporters would "have to ask Michael Cohen."

"Michael is my attorney. And you'll have to ask Michael Cohen," Mr. Trump said.



*Stormy Daniels is suing over a nondisclosure agreement that she signed but claims, is invalid because Mr. Trump never signed it.*



## Indian American inducted into 2018 RGV Walk of Fame in Texas

**DALLAS (TIP):** Indian American Barry Patel has been inducted into 2018 Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame at State Farm Arena which was sponsored by the City of Hidalgo, Texas, according to a Valley Morning Star report. Patel was nominated by the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce for the impact he has had on the community. Patel has built seven hotels on South Padre Island and owns a total of 22 hotels in the Valley which has resulted in \$400 million revenue with employment for 500 to 600 people.

*contd on page 20*

*Barry Patel has been inducted into 2018 Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame at State Farm Arena*

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## Indian American Republican Aakash Patel raises \$25K for Hillsborough Commission Campaign in March

**FLORIDA (TIP):** Indian American Republican & entrepreneur Aakash Patel has raised \$25,500 for his campaign in March.

"I am extremely excited about the continued momentum of our campaign. Our hard work is reflected in the fundraising totals and the tremendous support we have been receiving," Patel wrote on his official Facebook handle.

According to a report, Patel has so far raised \$378,751 including \$288,601 for his campaign account and \$90,150 for his political committee, Elevate Tampa.

The report said that the bulk of the funds that Patel received in February came from 60 contributors amounting to \$19,886.

Earlier in the week, Patel had announced that he received the endorsement of former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Will Weatherford.

"I am so very honored to have the support of such a true conservative leader as Speaker Will Weatherford. I'm truly humbled to have members of the business community come forward with such strong support of my campaign," Patel said.

Patel, a first-time candidate, is reportedly far ahead of his Republican rival Todd Marks when it comes to raising funds for the campaign. His Democratic counterpart, Tampa Democratic Rep. Janet Cruz, has not released the latest reports of her campaign funding.

"I have known Aakash Patel through our work in the business community and have witnessed his efforts to enrich economic growth in Hillsborough County. I believe he will be an asset to the community and that he will instill his strong conservative beliefs as he continues his work for greater economic development, improved transportation and many other issues important to the community," Speaker Weatherford said.

Patel studied his bachelor's degree in Political Science and English Literature at Florida State University. During this time, he also worked at The Tampa Bay Times, Tallahassee Bureau. He is also a graduate of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Tampa (2012), FBI Citizen's Academy (2012), Tampa Police Citizen's Academy (2012), Tampa Bay Public Leadership Institute (2013) Leadership Tampa Bay (2011), and Tampa Connection (2010), and College Leadership Florida (2005). He is enrolled in City of Tampa's Mayor's Neighborhood University, according to his LinkedIn profile.

An expert networker, Patel recently received the endorsement of Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz. In August, Gaetz, who is the son of former lawmaker Don Gaetz, tweeted, "Proud to support my longtime friend @pateltimes in his run for the Hillsborough Commission!"



Indian Americans have in recent years shown a greater desire to take to politics. Aakash Patel is one of the breed

# Indian origin scientist in the UK is leading a new high-speed space camera project

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian origin scientist in the UK, Professor Vik Dhillon, is leading a new high-speed space camera project that is expected to revolutionize our understanding of stars and black holes.

Professor Dhillon and his team at University of Sheffield in the UK were joined by experts from around the world on the HiPERCAM project, which involves the creation of a new camera that can take more than 1,000 images per second.

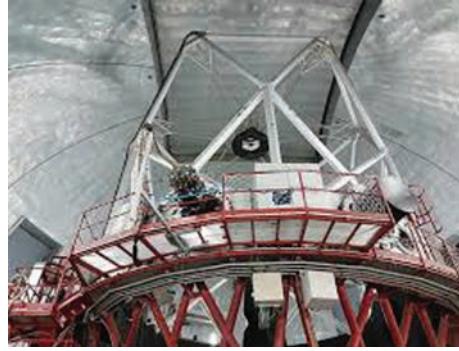
The camera went live on the world's largest optical telescope, Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC), this week.

It will take high-speed images of objects in the universe, allowing their rapid brightness variations due to phenomena such as eclipses and explosions to be studied in unprecedented detail.

"The combination of HiPERCAM and the world's largest telescope provides us with a unique, new view of the universe, which history tells us is when major new discoveries are made. Astronomers are excited to use HiPERCAM on the GTC to start exploring the Universe at high speed," said Vik Dhillon, Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Sheffield and Affiliated Researcher at the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias (IAC).

"Normal cameras installed on large telescopes usually capture only one picture every few minutes. HiPERCAM can take one picture every millisecond. The high speed essentially provides a slow-motion view of rapidly varying celestial objects," he added.

"The high-speed images are also captured in five different colors simultaneously, which means we can instantly tell the difference between hot stars which are



Professor Vik Dhillon, is leading a new high-speed space camera project that is expected to revolutionize our understanding of stars and black holes.

burning at tens of thousands of degrees Celsius and are blue in color - and cooler stars, which appear red and are burning at only a few thousand degrees."

The pioneering five-year project was funded by a 3.5-million-euro grant from the European Research Council (ERC) and is being conducted in partnership with the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Astronomy Technology Centre (ATC) and the IAC, along with researchers from the University of Warwick and Durham University in Britain.

The GTC is based on the island of La Palma, situated 2,500 meters above sea level, which is considered one of the best places in the world to study the night sky.

Data captured by the camera, taken in five different colors simultaneously, will let scientists study the remnants of dead stars such as white dwarfs, neutron stars and black holes.

These are key objects within astrophysics

as their extreme gravities, densities and pressures allow researchers to test theories of fundamental physics, such as general relativity and quantum mechanics.

By observing objects in the Solar System pass in front of background stars, HiPERCAM will also teach scientists about the sizes and shapes of the minor planets beyond Pluto's orbit, and whether or not they possess atmospheres, rings and satellites.

"The vital role that STFC and UK universities played in developing HiPERCAM is a testament to the work of our world class scientists," Britain's Science and Universities Minister, Sam Gyimah, said.

This game-changing camera that will be installed on the world's largest telescope will not only deepen our understanding of white dwarfs, neutron stars and black holes in our universe, but it will help maintain our reputation as being a global-leader in research and development.

"It is projects such as these, and collaboration with partners and universities from across the world, which underpins our ambitious modern Industrial Strategy to boost innovation and help create a Britain fit for the future."

"HiPERCAM was a challenging project that pushed the design team to fit a lot of scientific potential into a small space," Martin Black, an optical engineer from the Science and Technology Facilities Council's UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UK ATC) and part of the HiPERCAM team, said.

"The team had to work closely together to ensure everything fit together and to correctly position the cameras to around 30 microns, about the width of a human hair."

## Indian American Niraj Antani endorsed by Ohio Chamber of Commerce



Niraj Antani has won the endorsement of Ohio Chamber of Commerce

**OHIO (TIP):** Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (OCCPAC) has endorsed Indian American incumbent Niraj Antani for the upcoming House of Representatives, District 42 Republican primary to be held on May 8.

Founded in 1893, OCC is one of Ohio's oldest organizations to represent businesses by pitching in for free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of business organizations in Ohio.

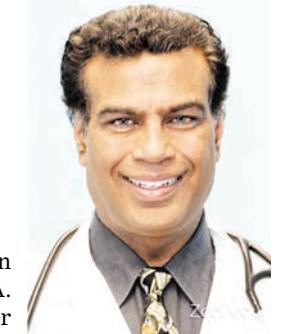
Announcing the endorsement on Twitter, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee tweeted, "OCCPAC endorses Rep. @NirajAntani for House District 42 in the May 8 Primary Election." Earlier, Ohio Chamber of Commerce (OCC) had acknowledged the efforts made by Antani who introduced HB 450 to amend the existing health insurance law.

"Health care mandates increase the cost of health insurance, leaving less money for companies to expand & hire new workers. Thanks, Rep. Niraj Antani for introducing HB 450 to provide #MandateRelief," OCC posted on its official Facebook handle.

Antani is a cosponsor of the bill that was passed by the House in July 2017. The bill is currently before a state Senate committee and proposes "to provide an opportunity for a concealed handgun licensee or qualified military member to avoid charges for carrying a deadly weapon into a prohibited place if the person leaves upon request, and to penalize failure to leave upon request or returning with a firearm."

In the Republican primary, incumbent Antani will battle out with fellow Republicans Sarah Clark and Marcus Rech, and the winner of the election will represent the party in the general election to be held on November 6.

## Indian American physician Dr. Vaid from Missouri indicted for health care fraud



Dr. Brij R Vaid has been indicted for health care fraud. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000, if found guilty

**MISSOURI (TIP):** An Indian American doctor and his nurse practitioner Donna A. Waldo have been indicted after the former pre-signed prescriptions to patients and falsely claimed to Medicare and Medicaid regarding "face to face" office visits.

According to the Justice Department, Dr. Brij R Vaid has several offices across St. Louis County and employed physician assistants who prescribed powerful opiate and opioid pain relief drugs to patients, including Opana, Hydrocodone, and Oxycontin on his pre-signed prescriptions.

The department found that the prescriptions were given to the patients by Vaid's assistants even when he was out of town or even out of the country. Physician assistants are not legally permitted to prescribe medicines to patients.

The prosecutors also alleged that Vaid's office would make misrepresentations to Medicare and Medicaid by submitting bills as if he was personally present during the visits of his patients.

The indictment report also says that the pre-signed prescriptions were prepared by the doctor for each patient referring to the case history and based upon the previous prescription.

According to reports, Vaid failed to stop prescribing when patients' urine tested positive for illegal drugs or showed they were not taking the drugs he prescribed. Vaid, 56, and Waldo, 57, face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000 if they are found guilty of the conspiracy charge and the charge of making and presenting false claims to the United States.

Steven M. Sherman, Vaid's attorney called him "a caring physician with dedicated patients." The case was investigated by the Offices of Inspector General for the US Department of Health and Human Services, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Missouri Attorney General's Office, and the US Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

(Source: DOJ)

The EXPERIENCE

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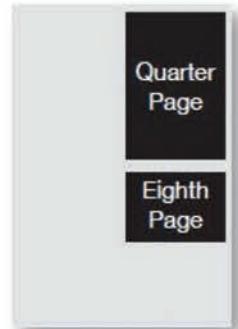
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The Indian Panorama is a South-Asian English newspaper with print editions in New York City, the Tristate area and now also as the first English Asian Newspaper from Dallas, printed weekly every Friday.

Bespoke CONTENT

## Scott Pruitt asked to use sirens in D.C. traffic and was told no for non-emergency

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt wanted to use his vehicle's lights and sirens to get to his official appointment, but the lead agent in charge of his security detail advised him that sirens were to be used only in emergencies, news reports say.

The agent who denied Scott the pleasure of his will, was removed in less than two weeks from Pruitt's detail, and reassigned to a new job within the EPA.

Pruitt's lavish travel, which totals more than \$182,000, according to the Environmental Integrity Project, has included first class domestic and international flights for him and his security detail, private charters and a military jet. Reports on his expensive travel arrangements began a torrent of negative headlines over the past several months that peaked over the last week with stories examining his housing arrangements and very generous raises for two of his staffers. The bad publicity has cast an ethical cloud over the EPA administrator that's put him in danger of being the next casualty in the Trump Cabinet.

"I can't make any statements about the future of Scott Pruitt," White House spokesman Hogan Gidley told Fox News Thursday. Recently however, two Democratic senators wrote a letter to the EPA asking, "Under what circumstances did the prior Special Agent in Charge leave?"

Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Tom Carper also said in the letter that they want to know why Perrotta and one of his business partners received an EPA security contract. Perrotta, they noted, citing the Associated Press, runs a side business called the Sequoia Security Group. His business partner, Edwin Steinmetz, who runs another security company, was awarded a \$3,000 contract to sweep Pruitt's office for bugs. "Two other contracts," both under the \$3,500 threshold for public reporting, "were given for the purchase of biometric locks." "These facts raise questions about Mr. Perrotta's compliance with EPA regulations and concerns that he may have used his position at the agency to influence the award of EPA contracts to a person or company in which he has a financial interest," the Senators wrote.



Environmental Protection Agency, Administrator Scott Pruitt

# Magnitude 5.3 earthquake hits off Southern California coast, shakes Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES (TIP):** An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.3 struck off the coast of Southern California on Thursday, April 5, officials at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) say. CBS Los Angeles reports the quake originated near the Channel Islands. It happened around 12:30 p.m. local time about 38 miles southwest of the mainland city of Ventura, according to the USGS.

"A 5.3 is a good jolt," Dr. Susan Hough of the USGS said Thursday at a press conference with Dr. Jennifer Andrews of Caltech, and that it was no surprise people in Los Angeles felt the quake.

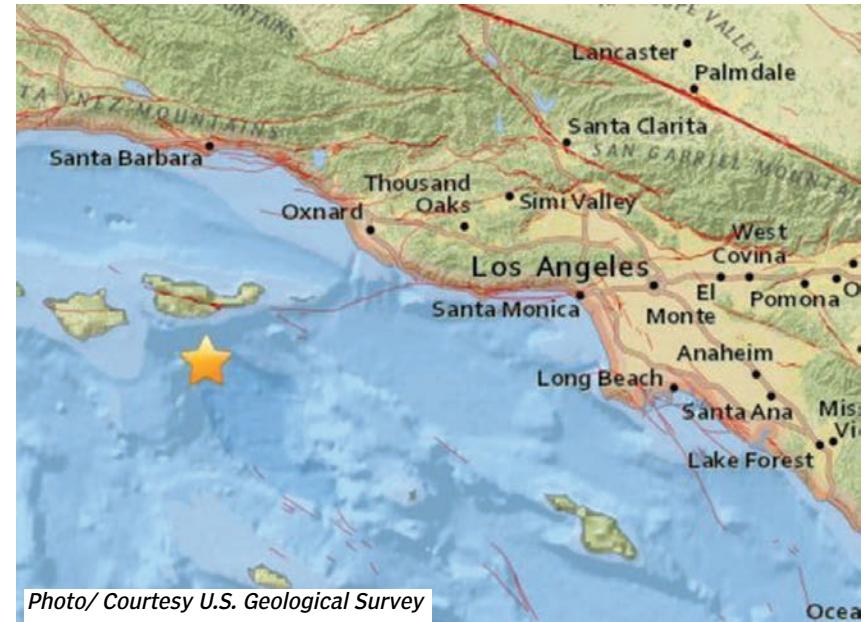
"We would expect aftershocks, and there is the potential for some triggered seismicity," Andrews said.

The quake's strength was revised upward from initial estimates of magnitude 5.0. It struck about 10.5 miles underground, the USGS said.

Asked was it likely to follow typical aftershock patterns, Hough said "We can never count on earthquakes to obey the averages" but said that they did expect an aftershock pattern, most likely peaking in the magnitude 4 range.

"Earthquakes are not at all predictable. We can say what's happened in the past, we cannot say what's going to happen," Hough said, adding: "There's always a 1 in 20 chance that an event like this will trigger something bigger."

An early warning system did alert residents in Los Angeles before the shaking was felt, Caltech confirms.



Photo/ Courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

Los Angeles Fire Department said it went into "earthquake mode" and firefighters from all 106 of its firehouses began surveys of their territories, including bridges, dams, large buildings and power lines.

"We currently have no reports of damage or injuries," fire department spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said.

Ventura County officials announced they are "in a heightened response posture to assist our citizens" in wake of Thursday's tremor.

Officials took this opportunity to urge residents to make a communications plan if they don't have one already and to check if they have

emergency supplies on hand.

Although there was no significant damage reported, some bricks fell from a chimney at a historic ranch in the Channel Islands region. Channel Islands National Park spokeswoman Yvonne Menard tells The Associated Press that bricks fell at a ranch building on Santa Cruz Island that dates back to the 1860s. She added that visitors and staff members on the island felt the quake, but nobody was injured.

Most of Santa Cruz, including the ranch area, is owned by The Nature Conservancy, which cooperatively manages the island with the Park Service. (Source: Agencies)

## SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVED PAUL MANAFORT WITH NEW SEARCH WARRANTS IN MARCH



Paul Manafort has been charged with more than 30 counts of bank fraud, making false statements to investigators and other charges in two criminal cases

YouTube photo

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Special counsel prosecutors revealed in court filings Thursday, April 5 night that they had obtained on March 9 seven new search warrants against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who has been charged with more than 30 counts of bank fraud, making false statements to investigators and other charges in two criminal cases. Manafort pleaded not guilty.

The court documents list search warrants against various properties, a storage unit, bank accounts, email addresses and devices. The warrants are not terribly surprising, reports CBS News'

Paula Reid, as Manafort is charged in two criminal cases and investigators have signaled they may bring additional charges as they look to pressure him to cooperate.

Manafort is accused of lobbying and doing other work for a pro-Russian political party in Ukraine headed by ousted Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovych, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin. They are accused of failing to register as foreign agents representing the Ukrainians and also allegedly laundered up to \$75 million in payments. The activities date from 2006 through February 2017.

In March, he was charged with secretly paying European politicians to lobby politicians on behalf of Ukraine.

Manafort's business associate Rick Gates pleaded guilty in February on charges of conspiring against the U.S. and of making false statements to the federal government.

# YOUTUBE SHOOTER LEGALLY PURCHASED FIREARM IN SAN DIEGO EARLIER THIS YEAR



**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** Details are emerging about the woman behind the YouTube headquarters shooting Tuesday, April 3 that injured three people in San Bruno, California. Police said Thursday, April 5 that Nasim Aghdam legally purchased the firearm in San Diego on January 16, 2018 from a gun dealer in her name.

It was a 9mm Smith and Wesson that had a capacity of 10 rounds. San Bruno police confirm that one of the magazines was empty and that Aghdam loaded a second to fire more shots at YouTube employees before she turned the firearm on herself. However, authorities have not been able to confirm how many total shots were fired and that there is a possibility that the first magazine may have not been fully loaded.

Authorities have promised a deeper investigation into the shooter's past and her anger with the policies of the world's largest online video website, identified as her motive for attacking it.

Aghdam, an Iranian native in her late 30s, walked through a parking garage into a courtyard at the campus Tuesday and opened fire, police said. She wounded three people before killing herself. YouTube said Wednesday it will increase security at its headquarters and offices around the world.

# AAP & USAID partnering for a TB- Free India

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** USA-International Developmental Agency (USAID) on April 5th signed an MOU with American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAP) to work together in achieving the goal of Tuberculosis (TB) free India.

According to the MOU, the USAID in partnership with the Ministry of Health, India, and AAP will rigorously work to make India TB Free.

AAP will play the pivotal role in achieving the goal by providing high-level education and research facility to India's health ministry which has been pushing for the eradication of the life-threatening disease.

According to Dr. Naresh Parikh, president-elect, AAP, in addition to providing tools to engage patients, the organization will also be creating WHO mandated symptomatology by which indexed cases will be first detected from hotspots of tuberculosis in India.



In addition to the TB Free India partnership, AAP has also announced that its 12th health summit will take place in Mumbai this December. The organization said that it will provide free health care, training and support across India.

Following the announcement of USAID and AAP, the US Consulate in Mumbai tweeted, "Today we celebrate the announcement of @usaid\_india's newly signed MOU with the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAP) to work together toward achieving a #TBFreeIndia."

USAID works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. Since 1998, USAID has been partnering with the Government of India to combat TB. According to the official website of USAID, it has already invested more than \$120 million to help diagnose and treat 15 million people with TB in India.

AAP is an organization of Indian American doctors practicing in the US. Founded about 34 years ago, it is now one of the largest organizations of physicians in the United States.

## Chicago Tamil Women Celebrate International Women's Day

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** There is only one thing more precious than our time & that is who we spend it on. It was truly a time well spent in the company of wonderful friends and acquaintances celebrating the international women's day 2018 on the evening of March 17th organized by PENN (Penn in Indian language Tamil means woman), a group of extremely talented women belonging to the Indian community in the Chicagoland area who had come together to present to us an outstanding program that evening. The air was festive with the organizers, guest speakers and most of the audience members attired in the most spectacular array of colors in the traditional wear of India.

The event started with the guest speaker Mrs. Rajeshwari Chandrasekaran, a consul with Indian embassy who set the tone and mood for the entire evening, which was a very happy one with her witty down to earth speech. The next speaker was Dr. Mallika Rajendran (Gynecologist) who addressed various women's



PENN Star awarded to Mrs. Mari Arul PENN team (from Left to Right): Lakshmi Sreenivasan, Suseela Rajesh, Rama Raghuraman, Devi Annamalai, Raji Vivek, Marikanthi Arul, Ranjani Varadhan, Kalai Somu, Shree Gurusamy, Lakshmi Anandan. Photo/Courtesy Asian Media USA

health issues from puberty to adulthood and beyond, followed by Dr. Viji Susarla, a clinical Psychologist who covered the topic very dear to

every parent, our "Children" and our concerns particularly when they go through that adolescence phase. The challenges, pressures,

and competition our children face now are much more than many of us would have faced a few decades ago. The next presentation was by a young lady named Amrita Raghuraman on E-Cigarettes and vaping among young ones which was an eye opener for many parents. The last, but not the least, was a stellar presentation by Attorney Sharanya Gururajan on Estate Planning (Will & Trust). She was candid, straight forward and funny. The thing that made the evening most interesting was the interactive session between the experts in various fields and the audience.

Added to the fun were the impromptu standup comedy, the most aromatic spread of food, beautiful stalls selling colorful Indian clothing, fashion jewelry, and hand-made gift items. All received a lovely goody bag & a copy of the Penn Magazine done so artistically filled with pages of articles, short stories, poems, sketches, photographs and recipes as a take home souvenir.

(Edited Press release by: Usha Muthukrishnan)

## Ilaiyaraaja the King of Raaga Enthrals audiences in Chicago

**CHICAGO, IL(TIP):** Chicagoland's much awaited dream came true when music maestro, Ilaiyaraaja, performed live with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra from Hungary and Indian Classical Musicians on Saturday March 24 at the Naperville Yard Center. The 55 musicians, 10 singers and 1 legend gave a spectacular performance that rocked music lovers in Midwest. A name synonymous with the Indian Music Industry Raaja is an incomparable genius who totally transformed the perception of people towards film music. Cloud9 events proudly presented the much-awaited concert that enthralled an audience of 4000 plus who were left mesmerized by his memorable musical compositions. The live concert was performed by singers Chithra, Mano, Haricharan and Rahul Nambiar. They were accompanied by a talented orchestra of 50 musicians. They performed a total of 39 songs in both Tamil and Telugu languages.

Ilaiyaraaja's acumen and knowledge of the aesthetics of music and cinema is what sets him apart from the rest. He is a multifaceted artist and has composed over 6000 songs and worked for 1000 movies. Raaja, as he is popularly known and affectionately called, comes from a family of musicians, and has won five Indian National Film Awards; three for Best Music Direction and two for Best Background Score. In 2010 he received the Padma Bhushan, awarded by the Government of India and in 2018 he was presented the Padma Vibhushan award which is the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India. The living legend paid an emotional tribute to his audience by singing that he would continue to make music for his fans living seven seas away from their motherland. This gesture deeply touched the audience and made them appreciate his love for music. Over 35 songs sung at the concert included "Janani janani - Thai Mookambigai", "Om sivoham - Naan kadavul", "Jagadhananda kaarak-



Members of Cloud 9 events honoring Ilaiyaraaja the King of Raaga

Telugu", "Ram ram salame ram ram-Hey Ram", "Malaiyil yaaro- Kshathriyan", "Ninukkori varnam-Gharshana-Telugu", "Yen Iniya pon nila-Moodu Pani", "Madai thirandhu-Nizhalgal", "Abbani theeyani-Telugu", "Sendhoora Poove-Sirimalle poove-Telugu" and so on.

K. S. Chithra or simply Chithra, is an Indian playback singer from Kerala. Chithra also sings Indian classical, devotional, and popular music. She has sung in a number of languages that include Urdu, Latin, Arabic, Sinhalese and English. She has recorded over 25,000 Songs for various films and music-albums. She is a recipient of six National Film Awards, seven Film fare Awards South and 35 different state

film awards. Another popular singer, Nagoor Babu popularly known as Mano entertained the audience with his melodious voice. Mano is a playback singer, voice-over artist, actor, producer, and anchor and music composer. Haricharan comes from a family of music connoisseurs and started learning music at an early age of seven from Sethu Mahadevan followed by legends like K. V. Narayanaswamy , T. M. Prabhavathi and P. S. Narayanaswamy . Rahul Nambiar is an Indian playback singer and live performer and has lent his voice for several advertisement jingles.

Cloud9 Events is a group of passionate individuals working together to organize events to promote Indian culture and heritage overseas with the goal to bring entertainment to the Chicago Indian Community. The kind of events Cloud9 aims to organize are Indian classical dance performances, Indian Musical & Dance Shows / Ramana Abbaraju - Member - Event Marketing & Sales Concerts, Book Launches, Literary Events and Indian Trade Bazaars. Sudhir Velpula , the Cloud 9 Events Managing Principal along with team members, Gopi Pittala (Planning, Operations and Finance) , Ramana Abbaraju (Event Marketing & Sales, Raj Addagatla and others coordinated the entire event. The platinum sponsors HR Pundits, Bookstogo, Radhikas Kitchen, Pietsch, Professional Home Mortgage Solutions, Regal Jewels and Hot Breads. Sponsors of the event were Pegasus Knowledge Solutions, Hot Breads, International Legal & Business Services Group, Patel Brothers, Allstate, Pietsch Financial group, Sunrise Indian Supermarket, ebooks2go, some dental group.

De Wayne Williams President of Williams Security & Protection Agency did excellent job to protect all Stars of Ilaiyaraaja Live concert

(Photograph and Press release/ Asian Media USA)

## BJP, CONG MOVE COURTS FOR 'FAIR' BENGAL RURAL POLLS

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The BJP and the Congress on Thursday filed separate court petitions seeking deployment of central forces to ensure free and fair rural polls in West Bengal as violence rocked several districts of the Trinamool-ruled state in the run-up to next month's elections.

Trinamool leaders met governor Keshari Nath Tripathi and the state Election Commissioner A K Singh over what they said were "falsehoods" spread by opposition parties.

The panchayat polls — on May 1, 3 and 5 — are being seen as a test of strength for the Trinamool and opposition BJP and Congress ahead of next year's Lok Sabha polls. Counting of votes will take place on May 8.

In Delhi, a Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra agreed to hear on Friday a petition filed by the BJP.

Advocate Aishwarya Bhati said there was an emergency in the matter and sought an early hearing. She pointed out that nomination closes on April 9.

In Calcutta, the Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the party has filed a petition in the Calcutta high court "seeking directions on the administration to ensure free and peaceful elections".

*Source: HT*

## I&B Ministry sets up committee to regulate online content

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The information and broadcasting ministry (MIB) has formed a committee with representatives from various ministries to draft regulations for digital media companies.

According to an official aware of the development who asked not to be identified, the committee has been mandated to "frame and suggest a regulatory framework for *Information & Broadcasting* online media, news portals, digital broadcasting and entertainment and infotainment (information and entertainment) sites and for media aggregators."

The committee, which was announced a day after the Prime Minister ordered the reversal of the MIB's order on regulation of fake news, is headed by the secretary of the ministry and will include officials from the ministries of home, law, telecom, the department of industrial policy and promotion, representatives of the Press Council of India, News Broadcasters Association and Indian Broadcasters Federation, and the head of government outreach portal MyGov.

Underlining the need for the regulation of online content, MIB minister Smriti Irani said last month that the government is considering a new regulatory framework for online content, including on social media and websites. Fake news is a pressing problem in India, like it is elsewhere in the world, and much of it is in the online domain. *Source: HT*

## Arun Jaitley under treatment for kidney ailment

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is being treated for kidney-related problems and is working from home for the last few days. "I am being treated for kidney-related problems and certain infections that I have contracted. I am, therefore, currently working from controlled environment at home. The future course of my treatment would be determined by the doctors treating me," Jaitley said in a tweet.

The Finance Minister has not been attending office since Monday and even skipped taking oath after being re-elected as Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh. Fifty-three of the 58 newly elected or re-elected members took oath of office during the last two days. Jaitley is one of the five members who have not taken oath. He may be admitted to the Cardio-Neuro Tower at AIIMS. He is likely to be operated by nephrologist Dr Sandeep Guleria from Apollo hospital, also brother of AIIMS director Randeep Guleria, who is a family friend of Jaitley.



# SC doesn't agree to Centre's plea Aadhaar would curb banking frauds

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Centre's argument that Aadhaar would help curb ills like terrorism and banking frauds today did not find favour with the Supreme Court which said the bank officials were "hand-in-glove" with fraudsters and scams do not happen because the culprits are unknown.

The top court also questioned the government for asking the entire population to link their mobile phones with Aadhaar "just to catch a few terrorists" and asked what would happen if the authorities, through administrative orders, ask the citizens to part with their DNA, semen and blood samples as part of their Aadhaar demographics.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the validity of Aadhaar and its enabling 2016 law, *prima facie* disagreed with the submission and said Aadhaar was "not the solution" to banking frauds.

"There is no doubt about the identity of fraudsters. The bank knows whom it is giving loan and it is the bank officials who are hand-in-glove with the fraudsters. Aadhaar can do little to stop it," the bench, which also comprised justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan, said.

"Banking fraud does not happen because of multiple IDs", the bench told Attorney General K K Venugopal, representing the Centre, who had submitted that biometrics were safe and could solve problems like "money laundering, bank frauds, income tax evasion and terrorism".

"Aadhaar will not prevent an individual from operating layers of commercial transactions. It would not prevent bank frauds either," the bench



said, adding that it may only help the authorities in finding out non-existent beneficiaries of schemes like MGNREGA.

Elaborating, the bench said a person in different capacities and through various entities could enter into multi-layered commercial transactions and take loans which are not "illegal per se".

Venugopal then submitted that linking of Aadhaar with mobile would help in catching terrorists, planning to bomb a place.

"Do terrorists apply for SIM cards? It is a problem that you are asking the entire 120 crore people to link their mobile phones with Aadhaar just to catch a few terrorists," the bench asked him.

It said the government may have "legitimate State interest", but the issue was whether to catch a few, 120 crore people can be asked to link Aadhaar with mobile. "Mere legitimate state interest does not ensure proportionality," it added.

The bench also said that the State suspends internet services to control the violent situations and nobody questions its authority. But the issue arises when all citizens are asked to link their mobiles with Aadhaar.

The top law officer then said Aadhaar may help in ensuring upliftment of people who are below poverty line and such persons constituted 67 per cent of the total population when the Britishers left and now it stood at 27 per cent.

To this, the bench said "the gap (between rich and poor) is widening from independence and today 67 per cent wealth is with one per cent of people."

The percentage of BPL persons may have decreased, but the problem is that their number is rising, it said.

The bench referred to the provision of Aadhaar Act which defines "biometric information" as "photograph, finger print, iris scan, or such other biological attributes of an individual as may be specified by regulations".

*Source: PTI*

## ICICI-Videocon loan: Chanda Kochhar's brother-in-law Rajiv Kochhar detained

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on April 6 questioned Rajiv Kochhar, brother-in-law of Chanda Kochhar, after he was stopped at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai while he was about to board a flight to Singapore.

Kochhar was brought to the agency's headquarters in Mumbai and examined until late evening. Sources said that he is likely to be called on Friday to join the investigation.

Kochhar, along with his brother Deepak, are being probed by the central agency for the Rs 3,250-crore bank loan granted by ICICI to Videocon Group in 2012. The agency is probing the allegation of alleged 'quid-pro-quo' granted to Videocon by ICICI Bank whose CEO and MD is Chanda Kochhar.

A preliminary enquiry (PE) into the case is already registered by the Delhi unit of the CBI.

As first reported by The Indian Express on March 29, Videocon promoter Venugopal Dhoot formed a joint venture with Deepak Kochhar,



Rajiv Kochhar

loaned him Rs 64 crore before he transferred ownership of the lending entity to him for just Rs 9 lakh. This transfer happened six months after the Videocon Group got a loan from ICICI Bank. Almost 86 per cent of that loan (Rs 2,810 crore) remains unpaid and the Videocon account was declared an NPA in 2017.

Sources said that Rajiv Kochhar was about to board a Singapore Airlines morning flight but was stopped at the

immigration counter and taken to the BKC office of CBI.

"We had specific information that Kochhar was flying out of the country. He was stopped at the immigration counter. A team got Kochhar to the agency's Mumbai office where he was quizzed on the case and has been asked to cooperate in the investigation," a senior official said.

"During the examination, Kochhar said he was en route to Singapore as his office is located there and he had some professional commitments to meet," added the official.

Sources said that Kochhar was questioned on his firm Avista Advisory.

According to disclosures made by Avista Advisory, the company acted as an advisor in restructuring debt of Jaiprakash Associates, Jaiprakash Power Ventures, GTL Infrastructure, Suzlon, JSL and Videocon Group.

Avista mentions two loan-restructuring deals involving the Videocon Group on its website worth \$194 million and \$97 million in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

# 5.6 lakh Indians hit by ca data theft, admits Facebook

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** After the Centre recently issued notices to social media giant Facebook and UK-based Cambridge Analytica on the data breach issue, Facebook on Thursday disclosed that 5.62 lakh people in India were "potentially affected" by the leak episode.

The Union Ministry of Electronics and IT had asked Facebook to inform whether the personal data of Indian voters and users has been compromised by Cambridge Analytica or any other entities. The Ministry also sought to know whether the data has been used to manipulate the Indian electoral process. Facebook had been given time till April 7, 2018, to respond to the letter.

Data mining firm Analytica has been accused of harvesting personal information of over millions of Facebook users illegally to influence polls in several countries.

Facebook had on Wednesday admitted that data on about 87 million people — mostly in the US — may have been improperly shared with Analytica.

A Facebook spokesperson said while 335 people in India were directly affected through an app installation, another 5,62,120 people were potentially affected as friends of those users.



"This yields a total of 5,62,455 potentially affected people in India, which is 0.6 per cent of the global number of potentially affected people," Facebook spokesperson added.

The company said it is "investigating" the specific number of people whose information was accessed, including those in India. The past few days have seen a global outrage over the breach of

user data on Facebook, forcing the company to issue a public apology.

Facebook's data breach scandal also sparked a furore in India with IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad last month warning the firm of "stringent" action for any attempt to influence polls through data theft and threatening to summon Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, if needed.

## PM to visit Sweden, UK for India-Nordic summit, CHOGM

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Stockholm and London later this month, on bilateral visits to Sweden and the United Kingdom as well as to attend the India-Nordic summit and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Modi will meet Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven on his maiden visit on April 16 and 17. He will also call on King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. He will address a gathering of select business leaders and meet expatriate Indians.

India and Sweden will co-host the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm on April 17. Modi will be joined by Prime Ministers of all the Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, besides Sweden.

Over 170 Swedish companies have invested \$ 1.4 billion in India since 2000. Around 70 Indian companies have invested in Sweden. India-Sweden annual bilateral trade stands at around \$ 1.8 billion.

India's trade with the Nordic countries totalled around \$ 5.3 billion in 2016-17, with cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India at \$ 2.5 billion.

"The Nordic countries have globally recognised strengths in clean technologies, environmental solutions, port modernisation, food processing, health, agriculture infrastructure, skill development and innovation which are also the focus areas of India's development," the Ministry of External Affairs stated in a press-release on Thursday. "The unique strengths of India



**Modi will also attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London from April 19-20**

and the Nordic countries hold the potential to further boost trade and investment from both sides."

Modi will have separate bilateral meetings with Prime Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway on the sidelines of the India-Nordic summit.

The Prime Minister will travel to London on April 17 and attend the CHOGM. He will meet British Prime Minister Theresa May with the aim of strengthening India-UK partnership. "The visit will see a number of deliverables in the area of skill development, healthcare, cyber security, innovation, traditional medicine, and education," the MEA stated.

The India-UK CEOs Forum will also

meet during Modi's visit. The UK is expected to formally convey its readiness to join the International Solar Alliance.

The merchandise trade between India and the UK rose to \$ 13 billion in 2017, and trade in services to around \$ 7.2 billion. The UK is the 4th largest inward investor in India with a cumulative equity investment of \$ 25.31 billion, accounting for around 7 % of all foreign direct investment in India. India continued to be the third largest investor in the UK and emerged as the second largest international job creator with Indian companies having created over 1,10,000 jobs in the UK, the MEA said.

Modi will attend the CHOGM in London on April 19 and 20 before returning to New Delhi.

## GOVT BLAMES CONG FOR BUDGET SESSION WASHOUT



Opposition party members, including UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress president Rahul Gandhi and Leader of the Congress Party in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, protest in Parliament during the Budget Session in New Delhi.

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A day before the "least productive" Budget session ends, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar on Thursday accused the Congress of being the "main culprit" for disruptions.

People are watching, he said, adding the attitude would "hurt the Congress badly in the Karnataka Assembly poll". After Rahul became Congress president, the situation has deteriorated. "The Congress is the main culprit. The entire blame is on the Congress. In a democracy, do the parties that don't get majority have the mandate to stop Parliament's functioning," he asked.

"The entire country is watching Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, the Congress and their associates. This politics of the Congress is going to hurt them badly in Karnataka," he said. In terms of legislative business, 1 per cent of the productive time in the Lok Sabha was spent on legislative business; 6 per cent in the Rajya Sabha.

Kumar said the Congress followed the "mysterious, unwise and strange" counsel from its president "after his return from Italy during the inter-session break". "Because of him, the party adopted different strategies for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Only Rahul can think of this," he said.

The Congress is "extremely frustrated and intolerant" about the mandate given by people to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, he added. "They are intolerant because the BJP and its allies have come to power in 21 states. This is getting reflected in the logjam in both Houses of Parliament," he said.

## SAD, Sena question BJP's move to forego salary of NDA allies

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The oldest allies of the BJP, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Shiv Sena, on Thursday questioned its unilateral announcement of NDA MPs foregoing their salaries with regard days of this Budget session disrupted by opposition parties.

In effect, the two founding members of the NDA played a spoilsport to BJP's move to take a high moral ground against the Congress in an obvious battle of perception with regard paralysing functioning of the both Houses of Parliament during the second leg of the Budget session.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar had announced on Wednesday that ministers and NDA MPs will not take salary of 23 days (related to second part of this Budget session) on account of disruptions caused to both Houses of Parliament by the Opposition.

He squarely blamed the Congress for the disruptions forcing adjournments.

SAD Chief Whip Prem Singh Chandumajra said: "The NDA allies were not taken into confidence. We do not know when the decision was taken."

"Why should the guilty be equated with those not responsible for disruptions of the Houses," he said.

He further said the government must clarify where the amount deducted from the salary would be credited.

He batted for utilisation of the amount for farmers' who are in distress or for other causes like help to family of soldiers martyred at the borders.

He made a case for enactment of a law with regard spending of the amount deducted from salaries of MPs.

On the other hand, Shiv Sena leader in Rajya Sabha Sanjay Raut questioned the BJP on taking decisions on behalf of NDA allies. "We will take our decisions on our own."

*Source: The Tribune*



## GUEST COMMENT

# BEING SALMAN: SUPERSTARDOM DOES NOT GUARANTEE LEGAL IMMUNITY

**F**inally, the law has caught up with superstar Salman Khan. All those who felt his earlier acquittal by the Rajasthan High Court in the 1998 Jodhpur blackbuck and chinkara poaching cases was a travesty of justice can now breathe easy. A Jodhpur Trial Court has pronounced him guilty, thus sending out an unambiguous signal that not even a hugely famous star is above the law. For too long, an impression has been gaining ground that star power can sway court judgments. Salman did get away in a more serious charge of allegedly running over five persons, killing one. That verdict had lent further credence to the widespread belief that onscreen stars are invincible in real life too. The Jodhpur Court judgment puts things in the right perspective.

As it is, the poaching case has been dragging for nearly two decades, reinstating once more how wheels of justice move tardily. And when it is perceived to be working for the privileged, it does little to elevate the judiciary's image. The judgment establishes that Chief Judicial Magistrate Khatri meant business and could clearly delineate between Salman the person and the star. This difference is often blurred not just by frenzied fans, but those in power too. Not too long ago, perhaps taken in by Salman's successful run at the box office and massive fan following, he became India's Goodwill Ambassador for Rio Olympics. CJM Khatri, however, seemed suitably unimpressed by the entertainer's mega stardom or his Samaritan acts off the silver screen.

Salman is in the dock regarding the infamous hit-and-run case, whose verdict has already been challenged and an appeal by the Maharashtra Government admitted in the Supreme Court. Let it be said that the rule of law must prevail, and guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. Let no one feel that Salman walked away scot-free or was hounded courtesy his mega-star status. Justice should not only be done but seen to be done. Star or no star, law cannot be leveraged to the advantage of a few, least of all the well-heeled.

(Tribune, India)

BY SN SAHU

**T**here is widespread Dalit anger across the country (India) and it is mounting and spreading at an accelerated pace. It was manifested in the Bhima Koregaon incident a few months back. It arose out of the flogging of Dalit youths who were skinning dead cows in Gujarat. Now it is manifested in the Bharat bandh.

However, it is wrong to locate this anger only in the context of the bandh and the resultant unfortunate killing of seven precious lives and large-scale damage and devastation of property. While the violence during the bandh has been highlighted and flashed in the media, the corresponding media coverage of the atrocities committed on a day-to-day basis against Dalits even on such trivial issues as a Dalit mounting a mare on the occasion of his marriage are not adequate and widespread.

There are deeper and sensitive causes behind Dalit anger and it would not be fair to look at it merely in the context of the Bharat bandh called to protest against the dilution of the legislation designed to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes.

In fact, Dalit anger can be best understood by understanding the neoliberal policies which has resulted in joblessness and job loss growth. The affirmative action taken to economically empower Dalits, subjected to centuries of exploitation and exclusion, is being weakened because of neo-liberalism, which marks the withdrawal of the State and the predominance of market and corresponding lessening of employment opportunities within the government for which the architecture of reservation policy is available. It is in the neoliberal era that a new system of employment in the form of contractual jobs has been created across the government departments and permanent jobs are shrinking at a rapid pace.

Tragically, the policies of reservation are not applicable to such contractual jobs and, as a result, the Dalits, for whom the reservation policy enabled their access to jobs, have been denied employment in such contractual jobs which constitutes a mechanism to negate and dilute the affirmative action for Dalits. Both directly and indirectly, the system of contractual employment means de facto withdrawal of reservation of jobs for Dalits and other backward classes and sections of society. The job loss in the neoliberal economy is thus spelling troubles for the Dalits and stoking their anger. In fact, it constitutes the key reason behind the mounting Dalit anger in the country. It is rather unfortunate that this reason behind their anger has not been highlighted by the media.

The neoliberal policies have made quality education very expensive as it is now available mostly in private educational institutions which exact a heavy cost from those seeking access to such education. While the Chaturvarna system created opportunities for high castes to monopolize

## AS I SEE IT

# Deeper reasons behind Dalit anger

**"In fact, Dalit anger can be best understood by understanding the neoliberal policies which has resulted in joblessness and job loss growth. The affirmative action taken to economically empower Dalits, subjected to centuries of exploitation and exclusion, is being weakened because of neo-liberalism, which marks the withdrawal of the State and the predominance of market and corresponding lessening of employment opportunities within the government for which the architecture of reservation policy is available. It is in the neoliberal era that a new system of employment in the form of contractual jobs has been created across the government departments and permanent jobs are shrinking at a rapid pace", says the author.**



Dalit anger during Bharat bandh in protest against the dilution of the law to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes  
Photo/ Courtesy PTI

education, the neoliberal policy is enabling the high castes and wealthy to monopolize it in the 21st century on account of its prohibitively high cost.

Dr Ambedkar, while giving evidence before the Southborough Committee in 1919, had noted: "The growth of education, if it is confined to one class, will not necessarily lead to liberalism. It may lead to the justification and conservation of class interest; and instead of creating the liberators of the down-trodden, it may create champions of the past and the supporters of the status quo." From his evidences, we find his interpretation that with the confinement of education to a few, a kind of nationalism would emerge which would produce a few men of sympathy.

In the neoliberal era marked by the monopolization of education by a few based on caste and wealth, we have today a few men of sympathy, protagonists of class interest, more people wedded to values which negate liberalism and perpetuate status quo. In such a situation, the Dalit anger will get multiplied as Dalits will continue to get victimized by the protagonists of status quo. Unless we take remedial measures, the Dalit anger which has taken a pan-Indian shape will cause a huge crisis, overwhelming the society and body polity. However, Dalit anger will have to be channelized by adopting constitutional methods as any other method, in the words of Dr BR Ambedkar,

would spell grammar of anarchy.

### Gandhi on Dalits

As early as 1926, Mahatma Gandhi wrote an article, "Crime of caste", when a Dalit in a highly devotional and ecstatic mood entered a temple in South India and was caught by some caste Hindus and given to the police for prosecution. He was tried and fined Rs 75 for having offended his own religion by entering the temple which was prohibited to him. Luckily, because of arguments of a man like C Rajagopalachari, who appeared on behalf of the man who appealed against the fine, the punishment was set aside as the prosecution had forgotten to prove the insult in the lower court. Gandhi then put several questions, "What place shall the 'untouchables' occupy in our scheme of swaraj? If they are to be free from all special restraints and disabilities under swaraj, why can we not declare their freedom now? And if we are powerless today, shall we be less powerless under swaraj? We may shut our eyes and stuff our ears to these questions. But they are of the highest importance...." After 70 years of Independence, we are still grappling with such questions. They are of the highest importance to address the rising Dalit anger.

(The author is a Press secretary to former President, the late KR Narayanan)

### DISCLAIMER

# BIG THAW ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA



By Rakesh Sood

An unusual charm offensive is under way on the Korean peninsula and the unlikely architect is none other than the North Korean Supreme Leader, Kim Jong-un. During the last three months, he has played a deft political hand, a far cry from his rhetorical exchanges with U.S. President Donald Trump. Last year, Mr. Trump was threatening the "Rocket Man" with "fire and fury like the world has never seen"; the North Korean leader described him as a "dotard" and his military called his statement "as a load of nonsense". Now the two leaders are planning a summit in May which according to Mr. Trump could lead to "the greatest deal in the world".

Since 2011 when Mr. Kim took over, North Korea has conducted four nuclear tests; the first two were conducted in 2006 and 2009. The sixth test, last September, had a yield more than six times the Hiroshima bomb. He has accelerated the missile program, conducting nearly 80 tests, compared to an estimated 16 by his father Kim Jong-il between 1994 and 2011.

In his New Year address, Mr. Kim conveyed two messages - that the entire U.S. was within range and the nuclear button was on his table, and that he was open to dialogue with Seoul and could send a team to participate in the Winter Olympics being hosted by South Korea in February. Mr. Trump responded by tweeting that his "nuclear button" was "much bigger & more powerful". But South Korea responded positively and reaffirmed willingness to talk with North Korea at anytime and anywhere. Thereafter events gathered pace.

Mr. Kim's younger sister Kim Yo-jong attended the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, with the two Korean teams marching together. She conveyed her brother's handwritten note to South Korean President Moon Jae-in even as she mesmerized South Korean audiences, and TV channels carried endless discussions about her clothes, hair style and whether she was pregnant.

In early March, a South Korean delegation led by National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong and intelligence chief Suh Hoon visited Pyongyang to explore the idea of talks. According to the officials, Mr. Kim indicated continuing restraint on nuclear and missile tests (last test was a Hwasong-15 in

"The big unknown is Mr. Trump's idea of what is an acceptable 'deal'. Will a process towards eventual denuclearization tempt him or will he reject it as 'fake news' and revert to relying on sanctions and military pressure as some of his advisers are inclined to? Major compromises will be needed for reconciling interests of all the key players for the high stakes summitry on the Korean peninsula to succeed", says the author.



Mr. Trump has agreed to a summit with the North Korean leader in May

November with a range of 12,000 km), joking that Mr. Moon would not need to wake up early in the morning for emergency meetings, since North Korean missile tests were normally timed for dawn. According to the South Koreans, "the North Korean side clearly showed willingness on denuclearization in the Korean peninsula if military threats to North Korea decrease and regime safety is guaranteed". An April summit between the two Korean leaders was announced and is now scheduled for April 27 at the Peace House in Panmunjom.

The two South Korean officials travelled to Washington to brief Mr. Trump on March 8. It was announced that Mr. Trump had agreed to a summit with the North Korean leader in May.

This will be the first summit meeting between the U.S. and North Korea. Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton have travelled to Pyongyang in 1994 and 2009, respectively, to meet Mr. Kim's grandfather and father, respectively, but after their terms as U.S. President ended. There have been two earlier summits between the Korean leaders, in 2000 and 2007, though the outcomes proved to be short-lived. Mr. Moon has also mooted the idea of a trilateral summit though there has been no reaction to it from Pyongyang or Washington. In another surprise move, the North Korean leader, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol-ju, travelled by train to Beijing on March 25. It was

Mr. Kim's first foreign trip since he took over in 2011. Though described as an unofficial visit, it had the trappings of a state visit, complete with a guard of honor and a banquet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan at the Great Hall of the People. The North Korean leader assured Mr. Xi that if South Korea and the U.S. responded with goodwill and took phased, synchronized measures, the issue of denuclearization of the peninsula could reach resolution.

China has long been North Korea's political ally and economic lifeline, accounting for 90% of North Korea's foreign trade. It has often resisted tightening of sanctions that could lead to the collapse of the regime. However, relations between the two countries have soured since 2013 when Jang Song Thaek, Mr. Kim's uncle who was responsible for managing the China relationship, was purged. Missile tests when China was hosting the G20 summit in 2016 and the Belt and Road Forum in 2017 together with a nuclear test during the BRICS summit in 2017 were embarrassments for China. As sanctions tightened under successive UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea blamed China for 'dancing to the tune' of the U.S.

However, Mr. Kim realizes that he needs help to handle U.S. pressure. His China visit acknowledges Mr. Xi's extension in power beyond 2022; and for China, it reflects its pivotal role in any negotiations regarding North Korea. Mr. Xi has sent a personal message to Mr. Trump about his meeting with Mr. Kim while Politburo Member Yang Jiechi is being dispatched to Seoul. In Washington, recent appointments of John Bolton as National Security Adviser and Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State, both hardliners, raise the stakes for North Korea.

Mr. Kim's objectives are clear - securing regime legitimacy, regime security and sanctions relief. A summit with Mr. Trump provides legitimacy as long as it begins a dialogue process leading towards diplomatic recognition. In 1992, despite North Korean reservations, China recognized South Korea and today it is one of the South's largest partners and a major investment source. How South Korea and the U.S. deal with the move towards recognition will demand political creativity.

contd on page 20

## TRIBUTE

# The world owes Martin Luther King Jr. a debt of gratitude



By Ashook Ramsaran

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates join with other organizations, agencies, officials, groups, individuals and institutions worldwide in remembering Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

Martin Luther King Jr. lived an extraordinary life. At age 33, he was pressing the case of civil rights with US President John Kennedy. At age 34, he galvanized the nation with his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. At age 35, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. At the young age of 39, he was assassinated, but he left a legacy of hope and inspiration that continues today to confront the ugly vestiges of racial discrimination especially during these turbulent and alarming times.

We pay special homage and grateful recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s preeminent leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from 1955 to 1968, during which time African

Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 3 centuries had produced. He championed equal rights which led to the 1965 US Civil Rights Act legally barring discrimination and segregation in all segments of American society.

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement. He was born on January 15, 1929 and assassinated on April 4, 1968. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that peaceful refusal to obey unjust law was the best way to bring about social change. His adherence of Gandhian non-violence teachings for peaceful protests to achieve freedom and social justice have inspired many to protest in peaceful ways against oppression, colonial rule, subjugation and violent discrimination in many countries.

The life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. provide inspiration, challenges and reminders of the possibilities for good, as well as the role and responsibility of everyone to be supportive of advancing social justice in even small ways. One of his famous quotes: "Human progress is neither



Martin Luther King Jr.'s body lies in repose. (Inset) Martin Luther King Jr.

automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals".

The world owes Martin Luther King Jr. a debt of gratitude.

(The author is President of Indian Diaspora Council International. He can be reached at AshookRamsaran@gmail.com / Mobile (USA) +1 917 519 5783)

## Prince Philip in 'good spirits' after hip surgery

LONDON (TIP): Queen Elizabeth II's husband Prince Philip is "comfortable and in good spirits" after he underwent a planned hip replacement surgery in a London hospital on April 4.

The 96-year-old Duke of Edinburgh was admitted to King Edward VII Hospital in Marylebone yesterday for the procedure.

"His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh has undergone a successful hip replacement operation and is progressing satisfactorily at this early stage," Buckingham Palace said.

Prince Philip had announced his retirement in May 2017, after decades of supporting the Queen as well as attending events for his own charities and organisations.

A month later he was admitted to the King Edward VII Hospital as "a precautionary measure" following an infection arising from a pre-existing condition.

His final solo engagement was in August last year, when he reviewed a parade of Royal Marines outside Buckingham Palace in his capacity as Captain General of the corps.

But he has since appeared several times at engagements alongside the 91-year-old monarch. His surgery comes ahead of a busy time for the royal family, with Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, due to give birth to her third child some time this month, and the wedding of his grandson, Prince Harry, with Meghan Markle on May 19.

Some media reports in the UK indicated that the timing of Prince Philip's hip replacement surgery was in preparation for the activities that will be involved in the royal wedding ceremony. (PTI)

## Saudi prince to make official visit to France next week: Sources

PARIS (TIP): Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will make an official visit next week to France, expected to focus on culture and investments but also the long-running war in Yemen, sources with knowledge of his plans told AFP.

Prince Salman, the 32-year-old de facto Saudi leader, "will be on an official visit Monday and Tuesday, mainly to discuss culture, tourism, investment and new technologies," a source close to the Saudi delegation said.

He is expected to arrive Sunday, though it was unclear where he would be staying.

The New York Times reported in December that Prince Salman was the owner of the opulent Chateau Louis XIV near Louveciennes, to the west of Paris -- and not far from the palace at Versailles -- which was purchased in 2015.

The prince has already travelled to several Western capitals since his appointment as heir apparent last June, which has ushered in a sweeping reform drive aimed at liberalising the highly conservative kingdom.

But pressure has also been rising over Saudi Arabia's role in the civil war in Yemen, which a Saudi-led coalition has been bombing since 2015 to combat Iran-backed Shia Houthi rebels and restore the country's internationally recognised government.

## China launches WTO challenge against US intellectual property tariffs

GENEVA (TIP): China has launched a World Trade Organisation challenge against Washington's proposal to slap \$50 billion in tariffs on Chinese imports over Beijing's alleged theft of intellectual property and technology, documents published on April 6 showed.

In the text released by the WTO, China's delegation requested "consultations" with Washington "concerning the proposed tariffs (and) measures that the United States accords to certain goods in various sectors including machinery, electronics, etc. originating in China."

A "request for consultations" is the first step in a full blown legal challenge at the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body. (AFP)

# Scotland Yard expands counter-terror tactic for London streets

LONDON (TIP): Scotland Yard on April 5 expanded the net of a specialist counter-terrorism tactic for the streets of London, which involves the deployment of specially-trained visible as well as plainclothes' officers.

Project Servator, a policing tactic used to "deter, detect and disrupt" terrorism and a range of other criminality, has been piloted in parts of the British capital since November 2016 and will be operating across the whole city.

The deployments can happen anywhere, and at any time, and include police officers specially-trained to spot the tell-tale signs of individuals who may have criminal intent.

Project Servator Metropolitan Police teams will work in partnership with hundreds of officers from the City of London Police, British Transport Police (BTP) and the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) to carry out deployments across London, including busy areas such as shopping centres, tourist attractions and transport hubs.

"By being vigilant, we can all create a hostile environment for potential terrorists who may be considering their targets and for individuals looking to commit crime," said Superintendent Nick Aldworth, Head of the Metropolitan Police's Project Servator teams.

"Every day, Project Servator officers will enlist the help of businesses, security staff, community groups and members of the public to be vigilant and make it even harder for criminals, including terrorists, to succeed," he said.

According to the Met Police, Project Servator will involve the deployment of both highly visible and covert police officers, supported by other resources such as specially-trained dogs, Mounted Branch with officers on horseback, firearms officers, vehicle checkpoints, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and CCTV.

The tactics used have been developed and tested by security experts at the UK's Centre for the Protection of National



Infrastructure (CPNI) in partnership with the City of London Police.

"The public shouldn't be worried if a deployment happens in their area. In fact, I encourage anyone to talk to the officers to find out more. The public can help keep their community safe from terrorism by reporting anything that seems out of place, unusual, or doesn't seem to fit with day-to-day life," said Supt Nick Aldworth.

Superintendent Helen Isaac, of the National Project Servator Team based at the City of London Police, added: "Project Servator has been adopted by eight UK police forces since it was launched by City of London Police in 2014, with more to follow in 2018."

"Officers have made arrests on suspicion of a wide range of offences and have taken drugs and weapons, including firearms and knives off the streets, seized uninsured vehicles and located wanted criminals. Hundreds of pieces of intelligence about criminal activity have been gathered and shared across policing."

A key part of the project involves

community engagement, with the public urged to report any suspicious activity or behaviour to a police officer, member of security staff, or to call local police.

Since the Met Police launched pilot teams in 2016, its Project Servator officers have gathered more than 500 pieces of intelligence about suspected criminal activity and conducted more than 550 searches, leading to 176 arrests for various offences including firearms and weapons offences, drugs, money laundering, robbery and theft.

On the rail network, British Transport Police have made 102 arrests since March 2017 - most in London - as a result of Project Servator deployments. In that time, they found 15 people wanted on warrant, recovered seven offensive weapons and gathered over 350 pieces of intelligence about suspected criminal activity.

Since February 2018, the Ministry of Defence Police have been carrying out deployments in and around Whitehall - the heart of London's political establishment, which includes Downing Street. (AP)

## Bahrain says new discovery contains an estimated 80 bln barrels of tight oil

MANAMA (TIP): A new discovery off the coast of Bahrain is estimated to contain at least 80 billion barrels of tight oil, the kingdom's biggest ever find, its oil minister said on Wednesday.

Bahrain said on Sunday it had discovered extensive tight oil and deep gas resources off the west coast of the kingdom. Independent appraisals by U.S.-based oil consultants DeGolyer and MacNaughton and oilfield services company Halliburton had confirmed Bahrain's find of "highly significant quantities of oil in place ... with tight oil amounting to at least 80 billion barrels,

and deep gas reserves in the region of 10-20 trillion cubic feet," Oil Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Khalifa said.

Tight oil is a form of light crude oil held in shale deep below the earth's surface that is extracted with hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, using deep horizontal wells. "Agreement has been reached with Halliburton to commence

drilling on two further appraisal wells in 2018, to further evaluate reservoir potential, optimise completions, and initiate long-term production," Sheikh Mohammed told a news conference in Manama. He said he was not sure yet how much of the estimated 80 billion barrels was recoverable, but the kingdom aims to attract foreign oil and gas firms to develop the resources.

"The newly discovered resource, which officials expect to be 'on production' within five years, is expected to provide significant and long-term positive benefits to the kingdom's economy - both directly and indirectly through downstream activities in related industries," Bahrain's National Communication Centre said in a statement. Sadad al-Husseini, a former senior executive at Saudi Aramco and now an energy consultant, said the discovery was positive news for Bahrain, but more data gathering, evaluation and

well testing needed to follow to determine whether there are any future commercial opportunities in the resources.

"Converting resource estimates to reserves is an intense and costly process and not all the resources may ultimately be upgraded to reserves," he said.

"The additional drilling and data gathering will serve to improve the accuracy and reliability of the estimate."

Bahrain, which is rated junk by all three major credit rating agencies, revealed the oil discovery just a few days after yields on its international bonds spiked as investors became more concerned about its rising public debt levels. Officials did not give a specific figure on Wednesday for expected production levels from the new field, but the daily Al Ayam quoted the head of the financial and economic committee in parliament, Abdulrahman Bu Ali, as saying output was expected to be 200,000 barrels per day. (Reuters)

# 'You'll be sorry,' Russia tells Britain at UN nerve agent attack meeting

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** Russia told Britain at the United Nations Security Council on April 5 that "you're playing with fire and you'll be sorry" over its accusations that Moscow was to blame for poisoning a former Russian spy and his daughter.

It was the second showdown between Russia and Britain at the world body since the March 4 nerve agent attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in an English town. Russia, which requested Thursday's council meeting, denies any involvement.

The attack has had major diplomatic ramifications, with mass expulsions of Russian and Western diplomats. The 15-member Security Council first met over the issue on March 14 at Britain's request.

"We have told our British colleagues that 'you're playing with fire and you'll be sorry,'" Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said during a more than 30-minute speech that attempted to poke holes in Britain's allegations against Moscow.

He suggested that anyone who watched television crime shows like Britain's 'Midsomer Murders' would know "hundreds of clever ways to kill someone" to illustrate the "risky and dangerous" nature of the method Britain says was used to target Skripal.

British police believe a nerve agent was left on the front door of the Salisbury home where Skripal lived after he was freed in a spy swap. He was



a military intelligence colonel who betrayed dozens of Russian agents to Britain's MI6 spy service.

"We believe that the UK's actions stand up to any scrutiny," British UN Ambassador Karen Pierce told the Security Council. "We have nothing to hide ... but I do fear that Russia might have something to fear."

At the global chemical weapons watchdog Wednesday, Russia called for a joint inquiry into the poisoning of the Skripals, but lost a vote on the measure.

"Allowing Russian scientists into an investigation where they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime in Salisbury would be like Scotland Yard

inviting in Professor Moriarty," Pierce told reporters earlier on Thursday, citing a character from "Sherlock Holmes."

At the end of the council meeting, Nebenzia read a passage from the novel "Alice in Wonderland" about a trial where the Queen demands the sentence first and the verdict afterward. "Does that remind you of anything?" he added.

Pierce responded: "There is another very good quote from Alice in Wonderland which is: 'sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast' so I think that's the quote that suits my Russian colleague best." (Reuters)

## Turkey's Erdogan says missile deal with Russia is final

**ANKARA (TIP):** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that his country's plan to purchase Russia's long-range missile defence system is a "done deal," brushing aside concerns from some NATO allies.

Erdogan appeared at a joint news conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was in Ankara for his first foreign visit since his March 18 re-election. Both the defence system agreement and Putin's visit underscore the intensifying ties between Turkey and Russia.

In December, they finalised a deal for Turkey to purchase Russia's long-range S-400 missile defence system, raising eyebrows among some of Turkey's fellow NATO members.

"We have made an agreement regarding the S-400s. That subject is closed. It's a done deal," Erdogan said.

The warming relations between the two countries stand in contrast to the souring relations between Russia and the West over the poisoning in Britain of a Russian ex-spy. Turkey's relations with its Western allies also have deteriorated over human rights issues and its military operations against Kurdish militia in Syria.

The Turkish leader spoke of "attempts to poison Turkish-Russian cooperation" and added: "Thank God our relations navigated these difficult tests with success. With every failed provocation, our relationship strengthened, just like steel after iron is quenched with water."

Putin said Russia will manufacture the S-400 missiles at a quicker pace than initially planned to deliver them more quickly per Ankara's request.

"We have decided to speed up the delivery of those highly efficient systems," he added. (AP)

## Saudi Arabia's first cinema to open on April 18

**RIYADH (TIP):** Saudi Arabia's first cinema in over three decades will open on April 18 in Riyadh, authorities said, after a ban was lifted last year as part of a far-reaching liberalisation drive.

AMC Entertainment has been granted the first licence to operate cinemas, with Saudi state media saying the US giant is expected to open 40 cinemas across 15 Saudi cities over the next five years.

"AMC plans to open the kingdom's first cinema theatre in Riyadh on April 18," the information ministry's Centre for International Communication said in a statement.

The news comes after AMC Entertainment signed a non-binding agreement in December with Saudi Arabia's vast Public Investment Fund to build and operate cinemas across the kingdom.

"The granting of the first licence marks the opening of very significant opportunities for exhibitors," Information Minister Awwad Alawwad was quoted as saying in the statement.

"The Saudi market is very large, with the majority of the population... eager to watch their favourite films here at home."

International theatre chains have long eyed the kingdom as the Middle East's last untapped mass market of more than 30 million people, the majority of whom are under 25.

AMC will still face stiff competition from other heavyweights including Dubai-based VOX Cinemas, the leading operator in the Middle East.

The move to reopen cinemas is part of a modernisation drive by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is seeking to balance unpopular subsidy cuts in an era of low oil prices with more entertainment options -- despite opposition from religious hardliners.

Long known for its ultra-conservative mores, the kingdom has embarked on a wide-ranging programme of social reforms that includes boosting sports and entertainment and allowing women to drive from June.

In February, Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority (GEA) announced it will stage more than 5,000 festivals and concerts in 2018, double the number of last year, and pump \$64 billion in the sector in the coming decade.

The reform stems partly from an economic motive to boost domestic spending on entertainment as the kingdom reels from an oil slump since 2014.

Saudis currently splurge billions of dollars annually to see films and visit amusement parks in neighbouring tourist hubs like Dubai. (AFP)

## 'Over 240 Chinese policemen died due to overwork last year'

**BEIJING (TIP):** More than 240 out of the 361 Chinese public security officers who laid down their lives in the line of duty last year died due to overwork, authorities said on April 6.

Research showed that the front-line policemen work 13 to 15 hours a day, which makes overwork a major concern, the Ministry of Public Security said in a statement.

Of the 361 police officers, 246 died due to overwork, the ministry said.

The ministry has increased pensions to officers' families and improved insurance system. It also pays officers' medical costs and provides support for their children, state-run Xinhua news agency said.

The ministry highlighted the importance of using more scientific and technological tools to lower the workload of officers (PTI)

## 4 staff dead in Turkish university shooting: reports

**ANKARA (TIP):** Four people were killed and three others were wounded on April 5 in a shooting at the Osmangazi University in Turkey's northwestern province of Eskisehir, the school's rector and local media said.

The gunman, a researcher at the university, shot dead the assistant dean, faculty secretary, lecturer, and a staff member from the education faculty of the university, rector Hasan Gonen told Turkish media. Broadcaster CNN Turk said three others had been wounded in the shooting.

Gonen said the assailant entered the university's education faculty with a gun and shot the four university staff members.

Footage from the scene showed several police officers and medical staff in the area, while students and university staff were treated at ambulances.

Police had detained the gunman, the state-run Anadolu news agency and other media reported.

The motive of the gunman was not immediately clear. A reporter for Anadolu, speaking on CNN Turk, said he had surrendered rather than trying to escape. (Reuters)

## Saudi-led alliance turns focus on north Yemen rebel zone

**ADEN (TIP):** The battle for the Yemeni province of Saada is heating up, military leaders said April 5, as a Saudi-led alliance turns its focus on the rebel bastion used to fire missiles at the kingdom.

Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels have launched a string of ballistic missile attacks on Saudi Arabia, which shares a border with the war-torn country, from the northern province.

In the latest attack, the coalition said it shot down a missile late Wednesday fired by the Houthis who said they targeted storage tanks of Saudi oil giant Aramco in the border province of Jizan.

Hundreds of soldiers from Saudi Arabia and Sudan, both allied with the government in its war against the rebels, have arrived in the north to reinforce Yemen's troops deployed around Saada, Yemeni military officials said.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ben Dagher hailed the operation as "the end of Iran's confessional plans for Yemen, executed by its Houthi allies".

The rebels say their missile attacks on Saudi Arabia are retaliation for air raids by the Riyadh-led military coalition.

Both the coalition and the United States — a key ally of Saudi Arabia — have accused Iran of arming the Houthi rebels.

Tehran denies sending military supplies to the insurgents but has openly said it supports the Houthis' fight in Yemen.

According to sources in the Yemeni army, the government alliance has advanced "several kilometres" towards the town of Saada, capital of the province of the same name, since the reinforcements arrived.

The embattled government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi was driven out of Yemen's capital in 2014 by the Houthis, who control Sanaa and much of northern Yemen.

The coalition led by mainly Sunni Saudi Arabia has since struggled to close in on rebel strongholds, including Maqrab -- a key province in central Yemen -- and Hodeida, the country's largest port. (AFP)



## I INTEND TO COME BACK STRONGER: RANVEER ON INJURY

Ranveer Singh, who recently suffered a shoulder injury, today said that he was on the path to recovery and is concentrating on coming back "stronger".

The 32-year-old actor took to Twitter to thank fans for their wishes and revealed that he sustained a "labral tear" in his left shoulder during a football match.

"Thank you for the good wishes, everyone. I'm good. It's just a labral tear in my left shoulder. I intend to come back stronger... Love you all," Ranveer wrote.

A spokesperson for the "Padmaavat" star yesterday said in a statement that he would not perform at this year's IPL opening ceremony as doctors had strictly advised him against overstraining his shoulder.

Ranveer, however, will continue shooting for his next "Gully Boy".

"Ranveer will continue to shoot for 'Gully Boy' as per its shooting schedule which is not physically strenuous since only performance-based talkie scenes are left to be shot," the statement had added.

The actor is also working in Rohit Shetty's cop film "Simmba" and Kabir Khan's sports drama "83", in which he would portray former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev.

*Source: PTI*

# GLAD MY MARITAL STATUS DIDN'T MATTER TO THE AUDIENCE: RANI

Actor Rani Mukerji is happy that the audience accepted her film "Hichki" and did not let her marital status come in the way.

The 40-year-old actor said the film's success is a clear indicator that it does not matter if the actor is married or "is a mother".

This is her first film after the birth of her now two-year-old daughter, Adira.

"It (success) means a lot to me because I was coming back after a baby, so obviously there were so many questions. I am happy you accepted me with open arms and have told me very categorically that my marital status, the fact that I am a mother, doesn't bother you," Rani told reporters.

"What you really want is (for) me (to do) good content films. Thank you so much for all the love," she added.

The film, which released last Friday, featured the actor as a teacher with Tourette's Syndrome. "Hichki" is directed by Sidharth P Malhotra and backed by Maneesh Sharma and producer Rani's husband Aditya Chopra.

When asked what are her future plans, the actor said she would focus on doing more films.

"I'll keep making these comebacks sooner. But definitely, I'll do more films. That's always been something I have loved doing. I wanted to see how 'Hichki' does. It's important to know if the audience wants to see you back on screen because there was a gap of years which I took after my marriage and baby," she said.

"I wanted to see if people were keen to see me. Now that I know they are, I am sure the projects I had kept on hold till the release of 'Hichki' will now see the light of the day," the actor added.

Rani said her daughter finally



understands that she was a working woman and quipped she did not like her mother wearing make-up.

"She understands that I am coming from

work now and says 'Mumma just remove the makeup'. She doesn't like make-up, just like her father. So that way, the DNA is working fine," she said.

*Source: PTI*

## Waluschka De Sousa joins Isabelle Kaif and Sooraj Pancholi's Time To Dance

After impressing one and all in Shah Rukh Khan's "Fan", Waluschka De Sousa has signed her second big film.

The B-Town hottie is all set to turn up the heat on the dance floor with Katrina Kaif's sister - Isabelle Kaif. Yes, Waluschka has signed up for Isabelle's debut film Time To Dance, which also stars Sooraj Pancholi. Being a dance film, Time To Dance will feature some interesting dance styles including a mix of ballroom styles like Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot as well as Latin dance forms like Cha Cha, Samba and Jive. So the trio is already prepping for the movie and the first schedule starts from mid-April.

After Fan, everyone wanted to see Waluschka once again on the silver screen. But she was taking her time and waiting for the right script. As soon as she heard about Time To Dance and its story, Waluschka got excited and instantly signed up for it. As a source close to the development revealed to us exclusively, "Waluschka really liked the story of Time To Dance and as soon as she was offered the film, she came on board."

From what we hear, she will play a pivotal role in the film and her dance moves will surely set the screen on fire.



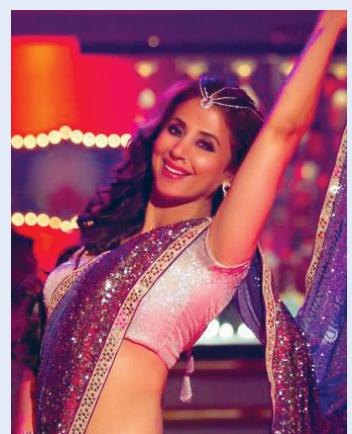
## URMILA MATONDKAR MAKES BOLLYWOOD COMEBACK WITH ITEM SONG

Actor Urmila Matondkar recently made a comeback on the big screen with Irrfan Khan starrer Blackmail's new song Bewafa Beauty, reported Pinkvilla.

The Abhinay Deo directorial witnesses the comeback of Urmila after a decade. She was last seen in 2008's remake of 1980 film Karz, titled Karzzzz alongsde Himesh Reshammiya.

Of the film, producer Bhushan Kumar said, "Although Irrfan's character in Blackmail is in a situation no man would want to be in, the mood of the film is tongue-in-cheek. We wanted a song that would be naughty and humorous without being vulgar."

Speaking about the song, Bhushan went on to say, "Bewafa Beauty depicts that perfectly. With Amitabh Bhattacharya's amazing lyrics set to Amit Trivedi's racy composition and Pawni Pandey's spicy voice, picturised on a huge, magnetic star like Urmila, this song is set to burn the airwaves in an already scorching summer."





## EMILY BLUNT FOUND IT EXCITING TO WORK WITH HER HUSBAND JOHN KRASINSKI IN A QUIET PLACE

Emily Blunt says it was exciting to work with husband and actor John Krasinski in film *A Quiet Place*. She added that the film also touched on some of her deepest fears as a mother.

*A Quiet Place* follows a family of four who must live life in silence while hiding from creatures that hunt by sound.

"What I fell in love with in the screenplay is that I felt it touched on some of my deepest fears as a mother of not being able to protect your children. The stakes are so sky-high in this story I was racing to read to the end," Blunt said in a statement.

"Ironically, before I read the script, I had suggested to John that a friend of mine might be right for the role of Evelyn. But as I read, I thought, never mind that, I need to play this role'. I just loved the depth and beauty of the story, which goes beyond the horror movie atmosphere. And John and I had never worked together so that was exciting," added the mother of two.

The film is slated to open in India on April 6. A Paramount Pictures movie, it will be exclusively distributed in India by Viacom18 Motion Pictures.

Source: IANS

## CAMERON DIAZ CONFIRMS HER RETIREMENT FROM MOVIES

**B**eing out of the limelight may be "The Sweetest Thing" for Cameron Diaz right now.

The actress recently reunited with her co-stars from that 2002 comedy, Selma Blair and Christina Applegate, for an interview with Entertainment Weekly to reminisce about the film.

The topic of the trio having not reunited was brought up.

Applegate noted that she sees Blair (their children are friends), and Blair in turn asked Diaz about a possible reunion.

"Maybe I should, you know, I mean, I'm down," Diaz said. "I'm literally doing nothing."

Applegate said she is "semi-retired" and hasn't worked for years as she's been focused on being a mom.

"That's so awesome. I'm totally down," Diaz said. "I'm semi-retired, too, and I am actually retired, so I would love to see you ladies."

Diaz last appeared in the 2014 remake of "Annie," and her status in the industry was buzzed about in early March after Blair's interview with Metro News UK.

In it the "Cruel Intentions" star talked about having a recent lunch with Diaz.

"We were reminiscing about the film," Blair said. "I would have liked to do a sequel but Cameron's retired from acting. She's like 'I'm done!'"

Blair later sought to clarify her comments on Twitter after they went viral.

"Guys please, I was making a joke in an interview. CAMERON DIAZ is NOT retiring from ANYTHING," Blair tweeted. "And for more breaking news: I am NOW retiring from being Cameron Diaz's spokesperson."

Diaz married rocker Benji Madden in 2015.

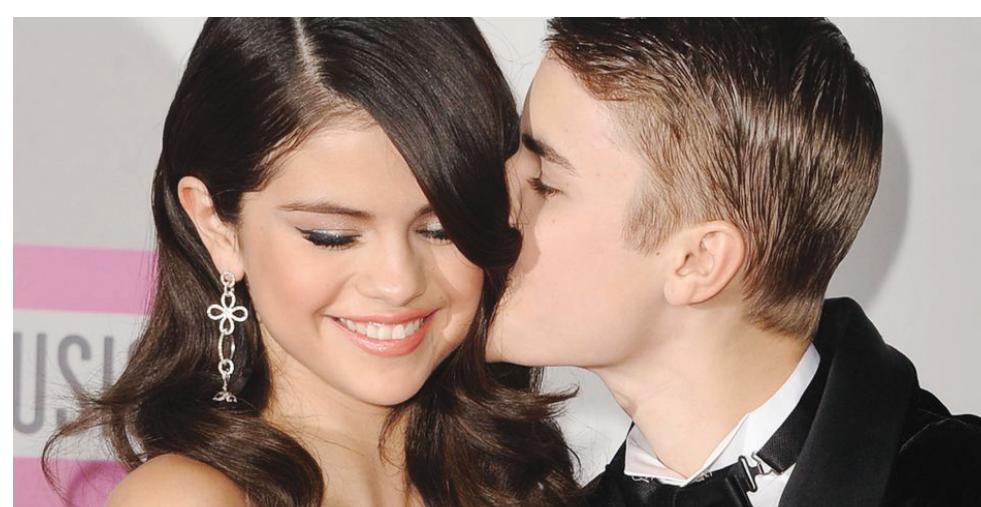


## ALL JUSTIN BIEBER WANTS IS TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH SELENA GOMEZ

Are Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez going to rekindle their romance? Never say never. "He loves her. He wants her back," a Bieber source says of the singer, adding he "misses" Gomez.

A rep for Bieber did not immediately respond to PEOPLE's request for comment.

After Gomez, 25, and the Weeknd split in October, she and Bieber, 24, reconciled and began hanging out but were never "officially" back together. Since the fall, the pair took several trips together, celebrated Valentine's Day together and even traveled to Jamaica for Bieber's father's wedding in February. But in March, the singers — who have dated on and off since confirming their relationship in 2011 — pumped the brakes on their latest go of it. Bieber and Gomez's last big public date was his father's wedding in Jamaica, where they recreated their 2011 wedding kiss. They spent 6 out of 7 consecutive days together that week, indicating they were stronger than ever and might make



their on-off relationship permanently on this time, according to the tabloids.

But Gomez's family never approved of the

Biebs, a major factor that led to their break, some outlets reported. And Bieber, according to Us Weekly's source, started acting selfish again,

annoying Gomez. "[He] doesn't care about anyone but himself," the source told Us on March 12. "The second she saw it, she walked away, especially now with her health. She knows she doesn't need him."

The break seemed to be instigated by Gomez right around Bieber's March 1 birthday. Bieber never wanted this: "Justin has been upset about the recent break from Selena and is trying to keep busy until they work things out," a source told E! on March 21. "It wasn't his choice for them to split, and he is really taking time to focus on himself right now."

Meanwhile, Gomez had a realization, E! reported on March 26: that he may be better, but they may still not be right... at least right now. "Selena realized even though he's made some positive improvements, they just aren't a perfect match right now," a source told the outlet.

But Gomez's birthday post to Bieber remains on her Instagram, a sign that hope may not be lost yet.

## Sharifs and Imran under threat from Taliban: Report

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is biding its time to target former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his brother Shahbaz Sharif, cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan and their families, a media report said on April 4.

"We have received multiple intelligence reports, submitted by the premier intelligence agency, that the TTP may attack the family members of Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif," a senior interior ministry official was quoted as saying by The News.

Following the intelligence reports, the National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta) dispatched a formal threat letter to the police and law enforcement agencies, the paper said. The reports were received on April 1 and the same day an alert was issued to the departments concerned for taking preventive steps, the paper added. It said a separate intelligence report was also received stating that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan faced a serious threat to his life. Citing its source, the paper said the information about the threat had also been communicated to Imran Khan and his associates on the directions of Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal. The intelligence report was received a couple of days before Imran Khan's visit to Pind Daden Khan, Jhelum district, on March 14, the source said.

Fawad Hussain Chaudhry, the party's central spokesman and a close associate of Imran Khan, confirmed the threat.

"Yes, we were conveyed about the threat officially," Fawad was quoted as saying by the paper.

Citing the source, it said that when Imran Khan was addressing party workers in Pind Daden Khan, a phone call had advised him to avoid public appearance. The call was also made to his party leaders, including Fawad Chaudhry.

Last year on December 27, exactly 10 years after the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, a letter written by the ISI to the interior ministry on December 19, 2007 surfaced in a media report in which it was claimed by the agency that al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden had planned her assassination.

The al-Qaeda had claimed responsibility for the deadly attack on Bhutto. (PTI)

## Soldier killed, 2 terrorists neutralised in Balochistan

**KARACHI (TIP):** A soldier and two terrorists were killed in an encounter during a search operation carried out by the Frontier Corps in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, the operation was carried out yesterday in Pansin Kaur, Dasht, Turbat and Dera Bugti areas in the province. It said a large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from hideouts which were raided. The operation was carried out two days after the Islamic State terror group claimed responsibility for an attack in Quetta city that killed four members of a Christian family. Meanwhile, six suspected terrorists and a would-be suicide bomber were arrested during a operation in Lahore by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and the Intelligence Bureau.

The arrested terrorists were identified as Islam-ul-Haq, Jahangir Shah, Imran, Waqar and Aleem, whereas Luqman was the suspected bomber.

The CTD officials claimed that the terrorists were involved in attacks on Bedian and Ferozepur roads and were planning attacks on the Pakistan Super League matches from a seminary they had taken refuge in. (PTI)

## Afghanistan pledges October date for parliamentary election

**KABUL (TIP):** Long-delayed Afghan parliamentary and district council elections should be possible this year despite major security and logistical challenges, Afghan election authorities said on Sunday as they confirmed Oct. 20 as the date of the vote. President Ashraf Ghani, his credibility on the line with both Afghan voters and increasingly impatient international partners, has vowed to hold the elections before presidential elections next year. But the elections, now three years late, have been repeatedly postponed and have been again pushed by from a July date announced last year as political disputes and wrangling over voter registration have blocked progress. (Reuters)

# Sri Lankan PM survives no-confidence vote

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on April 4 survived a no-confidence vote in parliament after a majority of legislators voted to support his coalition government but the instability caused may damage its reform agenda.

The opposition, eyeing fractures within the ruling alliance, had sponsored the trust vote against Wickremesinghe blaming him for failing to prevent an alleged scam here in the bond market, and for failing to stop anti-Muslim riots here that occurred last month.

Wickremesinghe, who leads Sri Lanka's United National Party (UNP), won the support of 122 members of the 225-member parliament, with 76 voting against him. President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) was split over the vote, with the only 16 of its 42 lawmakers who support the government voting for the prime minister. Some 26 legislators, many from the SLFP, were absent.

"We can have a fresh start from tomorrow," Harin Fernando, a minister with the UNP told the parliament during the debate.

But many UNP legislators urged Wickremesinghe to sack the SLFP ministers who had expressed no confidence in him - suggesting the unity



of the coalition was fraying.

Sacking the ministers would dent the government's stability in parliament and affect Wickremesinghe's plans to pass key laws aimed at attracting more foreign investment.

The SLFP and UNP agreed on a coalition government after the last parliamentary elections in August 2015. But the centre-left SLFP had opposed many liberal economic policy measures proposed by the centre-right UNP.

Wickremesinghe has faced criticism for failing to deliver on economic growth which slumped to a 16-year low of 3.1 percent last year here, its worst pace

since a recession in 2001. The rupee currency LKR=LK is hovering at a record low.

The government is also under pressure as it tries to manage China's expanding infrastructure push in Sri Lanka, located near key shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. Over-dependence on China for borrowing, however, has raised fears that this may push the tiny country deeper into debt.

Foreign direct investments doubled to \$1.6 billion last year, but more than 40 percent of that was from China, for two key projects that have dragged on for more than a year. (AFP)

## 'No alternative to excellent ties between Nepal, India'

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** There is no alternative to excellent bilateral relations between Nepal and India despite some twists and turns in the recent past, Nepalese foreign minister said today, ahead of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's maiden foreign trip to India this week.

Admitting that ties between Nepal and India had reached a historic low during the previous tenure of Oli as the prime minister following the promulgation of the new Constitution in 2015, foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said, "This is an appropriate time to improve and further the relations between the two neighbouring countries."

"There is no alternative to excellent bilateral relations between Nepal and India despite some twists and turns in the recent past," he said.

He said that Nepal and India share historically close and deep-rooted relations and there are a number of areas in which both the countries can cooperate for mutual benefits.

"As both Nepal and India currently enjoy strong political leadership with popular mandates from people, this provides us a good opportunity to review and improve the bilateral ties," he said.

"The current Left Alliance government has made economic development and prosperity as its main agenda, which provides an opportunity for further strengthening our relations," he pointed out.

Interacting with media-persons here, Gyawali expressed confidence that the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) of Nepal and India formed earlier will be able to recommend concrete measures to improve Nepal-India relations.

The term of EPG comprising experts from both the countries is set to expire in June.

On his maiden foreign trip after assuming office in February, Oli will visit India from April 6-8 during which he will hold talks with the top leadership to strengthen the partnership between the two countries.

Oli will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and call on President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. A high-level delegation will accompany Oli on his state visit to India.

Gyawali said that the upcoming India visit by Prime Minister Oli will open new vista in the bilateral relations between Nepal and India.

"The visit is aimed at earning India's goodwill and trust and further strengthening our bilateral ties. There won't be any new agreements. We have many pending issues. The visit will focus on taking them into implementation," Gyawali added.

Highlighting the foreign policy priorities of the new Oli government, the minister said that Nepal seeks to pursue close and mutually beneficial relations with both its immediate neighbours -- India and China.

"We are not in a position to ignore any of the two neighbours," he added.

"It is good to know that India and China are gradually cooperating with each other in various areas despite their geopolitical and strategic rivalry. We must be able to reap benefits from both the countries," he pointed. (PTI)

## Malaysia set to intercept boat said to be carrying Rohingya

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Malaysian authorities said on April 3 that they have stepped up patrols to intercept a boat thought to be carrying dozens of people from Myanmar's beleaguered Rohingya Muslim minority seeking refuge in the country.

Meanwhile, an expert on the plight of the Rohingya said the sighting of the boat people does not portend a new exodus by sea.

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said it has increased patrols in the Malacca Straits and Andaman Sea, especially near Langkawi island, after hearing of Sunday's stopover of a fishing boat with 56 people at an island in southern Thailand's Krabi province.

The boat stopped at the island because it had been damaged in a storm. Thai officials said it was repaired and supplied with food and fuel, and sent on its way to predominantly Muslim Malaysia, the destination sought by those aboard.

Rohingya, treated as undesirables in mostly Buddhist Myanmar, used to flee by sea by the thousands each year. About 700,000 have fled western Myanmar's Rakhine state to Bangladesh since last August to escape a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by Myanmar's army. Thailand has an official policy of pushing back boat people from its shores. Those who have landed in recent years — especially during a deluge of boat people in 2015 — have been kept in detention centers. There have also been many cases of Rohingya landing in Thailand being taken by human traffickers and forced into near-slavery, held for ransom or otherwise abused.

Most Rohingya prefer to head to Malaysia, whose dominant Malay Muslim population makes it a more sympathetic destination, although its policy on allowing them in is somewhat nebulous. (AP)

# OOTY: NESTLED IN BETWEEN MISTY MOUNTAINS AND COTTON CLOUDS

Called the Queen of Hill Stations picturesquely, green Udhagamandalam better known as Ooty is the most popular hill station in the South. Located in the Western ghats at a height of 2240m, Udhagamandalam is the headquarters of the Nilgiris district where the two ghats ranges meet. Nature has been generous with this region, which is by far the most beautiful in the state.

Apart from coffee and tea plantations, trees like confiers, eucalptus, pine and wattle dot the hillside in Udhagamandalam and its environs. Summer temperature is rarely higher than 25°C with a minimum of 10°C and winter is distinctly cooler with a high of 21°C and a low 5°C. Curiously enough, this slice of paradise remained unknown to the great southern dynasties and it took the British to discover it in the early 1800s. They were, however, not the first inhabitants of this land as a tribe called Todas had been living there long before the British came, claiming that the Nilgiris had been their home since time immemorial. But the credit for modernising Udhagamandalam and making it accessible goes to the British who constructed the first railway line in the area and made it the summer capital of the Madras Presidency.

Ooty with smaller hill stations of Coonoor - 19 kms and Kothagiri 31 kms from Ooty are the other hill stations of this district. Nilgiri is India's first biosphere. It has been declared as one of the 14 'hotspots' of the world because of its unique bio-diversity. Nilgiri presents a truly breath taking kaleidoscope of visual treats and soul stirring experience.

## Nilgiri Mountain Railway

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway built by the British in 1908 is a World Heritage Site. It's a 46-kilometre beautiful toy train journey that starts from Mettupalayam and goes through tunnels, curves, bridges and beautiful scenery to reach Ooty in five hours. From 300 feet to 7200 feet, the Ooty toy train is definitely a ride to cherish. Here's a tip – try to sit on the side that looks out in to the valley for the best views on the way up.

## Ooty Lake

Ooty Lake is a popular destination for picnicking, paddle boating and enjoying Ooty leisurely. Built in 1825, it is a 2.5-kilometre long lake meandering through the scenic beauty of the Nilgiris.

## Botanical Garden

Ooty Botanical Garden, spread over a huge area of 22 hectares and with more than 650 species of flowers and trees, is a horticulturist's delight. The highlight of the garden is a fossil tree that is believed to be 20 million years old. Another attraction here is the Toda tribe settlement towards the top of the garden. Be privy in to the lifestyle and culture of this tribe during your visit.

## How to Reach Ooty

Ooty's colonial charm and innate splendor attracts tourists from all over the world every year. Ooty has a well linked network of Air, Rail and Road ways.

### By Air

The nearest airport to Ooty is located in Coimbatore. The hill station is at a distance of about 98 kilometers from the Coimbatore Airport. The airport is connected to Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Cochin by Indian Airlines flights. In order to reach Ooty



from the airport, one has to hire a taxi or a bus to reach Ooty.

### By Rail

The hill station of Ooty has a railway

station of its own. It is called the Udhagamandalam railway station and can be reached by The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (a.k.a. Toy Train) from Mettupalayam. Though the toy train isn't very fast but the

scenic beauty of this route attracts many tourists. Mettupalayam is the nearest major railway station to Ooty. One can also hire a private taxi to reach Ooty here. The distance of Ooty from Mettupalayam is about 52 km.

### By Road

Ooty is also connected to all the nearby towns and cities by good roads. The hill station connects to various other important cities of South India like Chennai, Bangalore, Mysore, Coimbatore, etc. The road to Ooty from Coimbatore is popular for its scenic beauty. As Ooty is located on NH 67 several tourist buses and taxis commute here without any hassle.

### Shopping in Ooty

Shopping in Ooty is one of the most exciting and thrilling experience for tourists who love to go on a shopping spree. Endowed with sprawling tea gardens and luxuriant green forest, Ooty is known for its fine flavored and aromatic tea leaves, delicious honey, eucalyptus oil and several fruits.

The shopping malls of Ooty are flooded with natural products of forests. Ooty is a paradise for those who love shopping. Surrounded by tea gardens, the tourists can smell the enchanting scent of fresh tea leaves while taking a stroll in the long winding paths of Ooty.

The fresh tea leaves are purchased by the tourists as a relic of the beautiful place of Ooty. Another prominent itinerary in the list of items while shopping in Ooty is the pure and sweet honey which is available in all the stores and shopping centers of the place. The natural oil of Eucalyptus has a great demand among the shoppers because of its medicinal value. The markets of Ooty are full of fresh fruits that impart a colorful look to the place.

The exquisite piece of the embroidered items by the tribal community of Toda represents the rich traditional art and craft of South India. The delicately designed jewelry of Silver is another attraction for the tourists who purchase such items as souvenirs for their near and dear ones.

# DEEP CONDITIONING TREATMENT FOR HAIR AT HOME

**H**ealthy hair is often looked at as something you either have or you don't. Issues like dryness, frizz, and damage are considered as a disadvantage of having a certain type of hair. While it is true that some hair types are more prone to drying out and frizzing up, there isn't much that the right kind of hair care won't tackle. Deep conditioning for hair at home is one of the best ways by which you could treat your hair with natural ingredients.

There are many deep conditioning treatments you can try at home that are bound to improve the health of your hair. Regardless of your hair type, the leading cause of bad hair, more often than not, is the lack of moisture. Following is a list of 10 DIY deep conditioning treatments that are totally affordable and contain ingredients that are probably already in your kitchen.

## Deep Conditioning With Shea Butter

- Apply shea butter from the roots to the tips of your hair. If you have an oily scalp and dry hair, you can apply it from the mid-lengths to the tips.
- Once all of your hair is coated with the shea butter, cover it with a hot towel. You can heat the towel by using a blow dryer on the hot setting.
- Keep the towel wrapped around your hair for an hour.
- Wash and condition your hair.

## Deep Conditioning With Tea Tree Oil

- Take 3-5 drops of tea tree oil and add it to 3 tablespoons of cold-pressed coconut oil.
- Stir with a spoon to mix the two oils.
- Section your hair and start applying the oil mixture on the roots, along the length of your hair, and the tips.
- Massage the oil into your scalp for 10 minutes and then braid your hair or put it up in a bun.
- Sleep with the oil in your hair. The next morning, wash it out with shampoo and condition.

## Deep Conditioning With Yogurt

- Wash your hair with shampoo; skip conditioning.
- Once your hair is almost dry, start applying yogurt along the length of your hair, from the roots to the tips.
- Let the yogurt sit in your hair for 30 minutes to an hour.
- Rinse it out with lukewarm water.

## Deep Conditioning With Aloe Vera

- Cut an aloe vera leaf and extract about 1/2 a cup or more gel (depending on the length of your hair) with a spoon.
- Blend the gel until it gets to a smooth consistency.
- Wash your hair with shampoo. Skip conditioning.



- While your hair is still damp, start applying the aloe vera gel to your hair from the roots to the tips.
- Let the gel sit in your hair for about 30 minutes.
- Rinse your hair out with lukewarm water.

## Mayonnaise And Egg Deep Conditioner

- Mix half a cup of mayonnaise with 1 egg and 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a bowl. You may double the ingredients if your hair is very long.
- Shampoo your hair and skip conditioning.
- Once your hair is almost dry, section it and start applying the mixture from the roots to the tips.
- Put your hair up in a bun and cover it with a shower cap or a moist hot towel.
- Keep the pack on for 20-30 minutes and then rinse it off with shampoo and lukewarm water. Skip conditioning if you have oily hair.

## Deep Conditioning With Honey

- Honey can be used in combination with various ingredients for conditioning your hair. Below are three deep conditioning recipes that contain honey.

## Honey And Avocado

- Mash one ripe avocado and add 2 tablespoons of raw honey to it. Ensure that there are no lumps.
- Mix it until it gets to a smooth consistency.
- Wash your hair with shampoo and skip conditioning. Let your hair air dry.
- Once your hair is dry, start applying the honey-avocado mixture from the roots to the tips of your hair.
- Let it sit for 30 minutes to an hour.
- Wash it off with shampoo and condition.

## Honey And Olive Oil

- Take 2 tablespoons of raw honey and mix it with 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
- Wash your hair with shampoo and skip conditioning. Let it air dry.
- Once your hair is completely dry, start applying the honey-olive oil mixture to it from the roots to the tips.
- Put your hair up in a bun, or in braids, and wait for 30 minutes to an hour.
- Wash with shampoo and condition.

## FOOD CORNER

### MOZZARELLA STICKS

#### INGREDIENTS

300 gm mozzarella  
1/2 cup chickpeas flour  
1 cup sunflower oil  
1/2 cup all purpose flour  
1/2 cup crushed breadcrumbs

#### Method

Cut the cheese into 1/2-1 inch sticks and keep aside.  
Mix the maida and besan flour in a bowl. Add enough water and mix to a thick batter.  
Spread the breadcrumbs on a plate. Dip the cheese sticks in the batter and roll them in the breadcrumbs.  
Place them on a parchment paper and keep it in the fridge for 2 to 3 hours or overnight.  
This is to ensure the cheese does not melt while frying and it has a crispy coating.  
Heat oil in a deep frying pan. Fry the mozzarella sticks until light golden brown.  
Remove and drain excess oil. Serve with a dipping sauce of choice.



### EGG FRIED RICE

#### Ingredients

Basmati Rice - 2 cups, Eggs - 10, Onions - 2 Spring, Onions - 1 bunch, Beans - 10, Carrot - 2, Capsicum - 2, Cabbage - 100 gms, Pepper Powder - 1/2 tbsp, Green Chillies - 2, Tomato Puree - 2 to 3 tbsp (or as required), Ajinomoto - 3 tsp (optional), Soy Sauce - 4 tbsp, Salt as per taste, Oil - 3 tbsp, Coriander Leaves

#### Method

- Pressure cook the rice until 1 whistle and remove.
- Chop all the vegetables finely and keep aside.
- Grind together the green chillies and mix well 2 tbsp water. Heat oil in a pan. Sauté the onions for a minute.
- Add the chopped vegetables one by one and cook for a minute or two.
- Add the green chilli paste and tomato puree.
- Add salt and ajinomoto. Mix well and add soy sauce.
- Break the eggs into the pan and stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes.
- Add the cooked rice and mix until all ingredients are combined. Garnish with coriander leaves.



# HIGH BP BEFORE CONCEPTION MAY RAISE MISCARRIAGE RISK

**H**igh blood pressure before conception and early in pregnancy may increase the risk of pregnancy loss, even if the woman does not have a hypertension diagnosis, new research has found.

"Elevated blood pressure among young adults is associated with a higher risk of heart disease later in life, and this study suggests it may also have an effect on reproductive health," said lead author of the study Carrie Nobles from Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) in Maryland, US.

Millimeter of mercury, or mm Hg, is the unit of measure used for blood pressure.

The findings, published in the journal Hypertension, showed that for every 10 mm Hg increase in diastolic blood pressure (pressure when the heart is resting between beats), there was 18% higher risk for pregnancy loss among the study population.

The researchers also found a 17% increase in pregnancy loss for every 10 mm Hg increase in mean arterial pressure, a measure of the average pressure in the arteries during full heart beat cycles.

The researcher studied more than 1,200 women who had already experienced one or two pregnancy losses



and were trying to become pregnant. The findings were similar for preconception and early-pregnancy blood pressure.

"The impact of cardiovascular risk factors starts really early in life. Physicians treating women of reproductive age should pay attention to slightly elevated blood pressure because it may have other not-well-recognised

effects, such as adverse pregnancy outcome," said senior author of the study Enrique Schisterman from NICHD.

"Preconception is a previously unrecognized critical window for intervention such as lifestyle changes that can help prevent later heart disease and may also improve reproductive health," Schisterman said. *Source: IANS*

## Iron can worsen malaria infection

**S**cientists have found a possible explanation for why iron can sometimes worsen malaria infection, an advance that may lead to better treatments for the disease. By studying mice and samples from malaria patients, researchers found that extra iron interferes with ferroportin, a protein that prevents a toxic build-up of iron in red blood cells and helps protect these cells against malaria infection.

The researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US also found that a mutant form of ferroportin that occurs in African populations appears to protect against malaria. The findings, published in the journal Science, may help researchers and healthcare officials develop strategies to prevent and treat malaria infections, which numbered nearly 216 million worldwide in 2016.

"Our study helps solve a long-standing mystery," said Tracey Rouault, a senior investigator at NIH. "Iron supplements can sometimes worsen malaria infection and, conversely, iron deficiency can be protective in some cases," said Rouault.

"Our findings reveal that ferroportin — its function, as well as its regulation by iron levels — helps to explain these observations," Rouault said. The study team found that red blood cells use ferroportin to remove excess iron, which malaria parasites consume as a food source.

In studies of mice, the team found that the absence of ferroportin in erythroid



**Researchers found that extra iron interferes with ferroportin, a protein that prevents a toxic build-up of iron in red blood cells and helps protect cells against malaria infection**

cells (red blood cells and their precursors) caused iron to accumulate to toxic levels inside red blood cells. This, in turn, stressed the cells and shortened their life span, researchers said.

The team also found that mice lacking ferroportin had more parasites and worse outcomes when infected with malaria, compared to infected mice with intact ferroportin.

When they fed mice a high-iron diet,

the researchers also found that a hormone called hepcidin regulates ferroportin in erythroid cells. The hormone, which is more abundant in high-iron environments, lowered ferroportin levels on erythroblasts (precursors to red blood cells) and, subsequently, in red blood cells. Additionally, hepcidin physically bound to ferroportin, preventing iron from being removed from the cells, researchers said. *Source: PTI*



- The minimally-invasive injection contains clay that triggers blood cells to clot
- Injection creates a 3D, jelly-like substance that promotes healing of tissue
- In the future, the treatment could be adapted to deliver drugs to the site
- It is unclear when the 'bandage' may be treated on wounds outside the lab

## INJECTABLE BANDAGE CAN STOP INTERNAL BLEEDING, HEAL WOUNDS

**A**n injectable bandage fabricated from a seaweed-derived gel that is used in cooking can stop internal bleeding and promote wound healing, according to researchers of Indian origin in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Texas A&M University.

This self-administering injectable gel can prevent death from excessive blood loss from road traffic accidents, internal bleeding and shrapnel injury, they claim. Researchers used kappa-carrageenan found in seaweed to design injectable hydrogels, which are jelly-like 3-D water swollen polymer networks that simulate the structure of human tissues.

Mixing this hydrogel with clay-based nanoparticles produced an injectable gelatin that led to plasma protein and platelets to form blood adsorption on the gel surface to accelerate clotting.

"These biomaterials can be introduced into a wound site using minimally invasive approaches to promote a natural clotting cascade and initiate wound healing response after hemostasis (the process to stop bleeding)," said Dr Akhilesh K. Gaharwar, assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Texas A&M University. The study is published in the journal *Acta Biomaterialia*.

Innovators are calling it a remarkable addition to the achievements in nanotechnology. "Many people die in road accidents due to internal bleeding from lack of timely medical aid, this innovation will help address the lacunae," said Manish Goel, CEO, i3 Nanotec LLC & ICube Nanotec India.

"A more conducive environment for academia-industry partnerships and incubation space for young scientists will undoubtedly foster such and many more innovations. It is disheartening to see so many young researchers migrate to IT and finance, when nanotechnology has the potential of being lucrative while contributing to the society," he said.

These injectable bandages are also conducive to prolonged release of medicines used to heal wounds.

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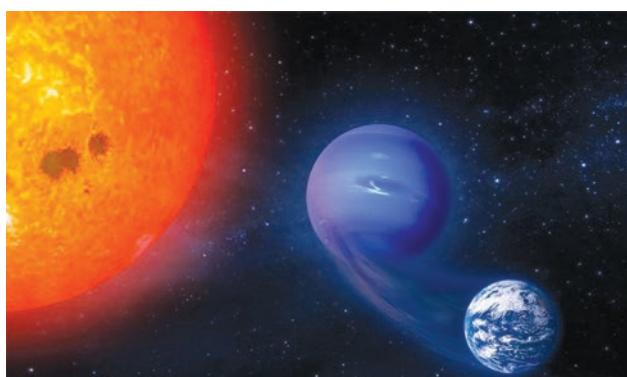
### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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

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

## X-RAYS MAY STRIP AWAY ALIEN LIFE FROM HABITABLE PLANETS



**BERLIN (TIP):** Intense X-ray radiation could eliminate the possibility of alien life on many Earth-like planets, by stripping away the ozone layer and rendering them uninhabitable, a study has found.

Astronomers now know of around 4,000 planets in orbit around other stars. A handful of these are both Earth-sized and in the habitable zones of the stars they orbit, where the temperature is right for liquid water.

However, many candidate Earth-sized worlds are in orbit around red dwarf stars, much smaller and cooler than our own. To be in the habitable zone, the planets need to be much closer to their stars than we are to the Sun.

The problem, however, is that red dwarfs can produce significant X-ray emission, and often have large flares of radiation and eruptions of particles in so-called coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

To try to assess the risk, researchers at the Thueringer Observatory in Germany are intensively monitoring low-mass stars where flares might take place.

In February, they observed a giant flare from the star AD Leo, located 16 light years away in the constellation of Leo.

AD Leo has a giant planet orbiting three million kilometres away (fifty times closer than the Earth to the Sun), and it may have Earth-sized worlds further out in its habitable zone.

The astronomers are working to establish what the flare did to the known giant planet and any hypothetical planets further out.

Their initial results suggest the giant planet was unaffected, and that unlike similar events on the Sun, the radiation flare was not accompanied by a CME.

This is potentially good news for life further out, as CMEs are thought to have a role in stripping away the atmosphere of smaller planets. From their monitoring, the team believe CMEs are generally less common in smaller stars.

On the other hand, the X-ray radiation is dangerous. According to researchers, these would cut through the atmosphere and reach the surface of an Earth-like planet.

Life on land would be badly affected by a stellar flare and might only survive in the oceans.

"Astronomers are mounting a global effort to find Earth-like worlds, and to answer the age-old question of whether we are alone in the universe," said Eike Guenther of the Thueringer Observatory.

"With sporadic outbursts of hard X-rays, our work suggests planets around the commonest low-mass stars are not great places for life, at least on dry land," Guenther said.

Source: PTI

## NEW DEVICE MAY GIVE HUMANS 'CAT-LIKE HEARING'

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Scientists are developing an atomically thin device that could receive and transmit signals across a radio frequency range far greater than what humans can hear.

The "drumhead" device being developed by researchers at Case Western Reserve University in the US is trillion times smaller in volume and 100,000 times thinner than the human eardrum.

The advance may lead to the next generation of ultra-low-power communications and sensory devices smaller and with greater detection and tuning ranges, researchers said.

Dynamic range is the ratio between the signal ceiling over the noise floor and is usually measured in decibels (dB).

Human eardrums normally have dynamic range of about 60 to 100dB in the range of 10Hz to 10kHz, and our hearing quickly decreases outside this frequency range.

Other animals, such as the common house cat or beluga whale, can have comparable or even wider dynamic ranges in higher frequency bands.

Source: PTI

# OVER 1,300 ROBOTS DANCE TOGETHER TO BREAK GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

**LONDON (TIP):** A new Guinness record has been set in Italy for the most number of robots dancing simultaneously, where 1,372 tiny humanoids synced many different moves to music.

Since 2016, technology companies have been setting up armies of dancing robots and battling it out for the Guinness World Records title 'Most robots dancing simultaneously'.

In August last year, 1,069 'Dobi' machines set a record in China, but the mark has now been raised to 1,372.

The latest record-breaking attempt was organised in Italy, using the Alpha 1S robot which is just under 40 cm tall and made of aluminium alloy with a plastic coating.

The humanoids were built by Chinese company UBTECH, which also engineered the first record-breaking dance off in 2016.

Guinness World Records adjudicator Lorenzo Veltri attended the shoot to make the record official, by ensuring all



the machines were dancing at the same time and discounting any that fell during the attempt.

The Alpha 1S robot is extraordinarily

flexible, which allows it to perform many different dance moves in time to music, according to Guinness.

Source: PTI

## Smartphone app better at measuring blood flow



**TORONTO (TIP):** A smartphone app using the phone's camera has performed better than traditional physical examination to assess blood flow in patients undergoing coronary angiography, scientists said.

The findings, published in Canadian Medical Association Journal, highlight the potential of smartphone applications to help physicians make decisions at the bedside.

"Because of the widespread availability of smartphones, they are being used increasingly as point-of-care diagnostics in clinical settings with minimal or no cost," Benjamin Hibbert from the University of Ottawa in Canada said.

"For example, built-in cameras with dedicated software or photodiode sensors using infrared light-emitting diodes have the potential to render smartphones into functional

plethysmographs (device that measures changes in blood flow), "Hibbert said.

Researchers compared the use of a heart-rate monitoring application with the modified Allen test, which measures blood flow in the radial and ulnar arteries of the wrist, one of which is used to access the heart for coronary angiography.

A total of 438 participants were split into two groups; one group was assessed using the app and the other was assessed using a gold-standard traditional physical examination (known as the Allen test).

The smartphone app had a diagnostic accuracy of 94 per cent compared with 84 per cent using the traditional method.

"The current report highlights that a smartphone application can outperform the current standard of care and provide incremental diagnostic yield in clinical practice," said Hibbert.

"However, while they are not designed as medical devices, it is important that they are evaluated in the same rigorous manner by which we assess all therapies and diagnostic tests," said Pietro Di Santo, lead author of the study.

"Although this application is not certified at present for use in health care by any regulatory body, our study highlights the potential for smartphone-based diagnostics to aid in clinical decision-making at the patient's bedside," Hibbert added.

Source: PTI

## Google introduces bookmarking option on audiobooks



**NEW YORK (TIP):** In a bid to edge-out competitors like Audible and iBooks, Google introduced a number of new updates on audiobooks available on Google Play Store.

The tech giant rolled out four updates in total, allowing users to now bookmark pages of an audiobook, control narration speed or add books to their routine, reports The Verge.

With the updates in place, a user who has paused a book, will have a chance to listen from the beginning of a word or sentence. Furthermore, Google will now allow listeners to adjust the speed of the narration, or add a bookmark at a certain point that one may want to revisit.

Additionally, users will be able to add audiobooks to a Google Assistant routine, thus enabling it to be automatically played as part of a morning program, for example. The company also announced the expansion of the e-book and audiobook family to users in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Chile, Mexico, Japan (audiobooks only), and South Africa.

In January this year, Google had announced the launch of audiobooks on the Google Play store in India, amid increasing inclination towards the use of voice commands and personal digital assistants.

Source: ANI

# RBI maintains status quo, keeps repo rate unchanged at 6%

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Reserve Bank on April 5 kept the key interest rate unchanged but cut its inflation forecast on lower food prices, sparking a rally in the stocks and bond markets.

While keeping the benchmark repurchase or repo rate unchanged at 6 per cent and reverse repo at 5.75 per cent for the fourth time straight, the six member Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel retained the neutral stance.

The MPC trimmed its April-September inflation projection to 4.7-5.1 per cent, from its February forecast of 5.1-5.6 per cent. It raised economic growth target to 7.4 per cent for 2018-19 fiscal from 6.6 per cent of last fiscal "with risks evenly balanced".

Five of the six members of MPC voted for the decision, while one sought a hike.

"Overall food inflation should remain under check on the assumption of a normal monsoon and effective supply management by the government," Reserve Bank of India said in a statement.

Cutting inflation forecast for second-half was cut to 4.4 per cent from 4.5-4.6 per cent, RBI reiterated commitment to keep inflation at 4 per cent in medium-term. It however warned that rising trade protectionism and financial market volatility could derail global recovery.

Bonds yields fell after the policy statement, while the rupee gained 18 paise to 64.97 against the US dollar and the benchmark Sensex shot up 577 points.

The status quo policy, the fourth in a row since August last year, will be neutral to the EMIs for housing and



vehicle loan borrowers, but banks are free to tinker with both deposit and lending rate depending on their asset liability position.

This was the first bi-monthly monetary policy review of the 2018-19 fiscal which commenced on April 1. The next review will be announced on June 6. The decision of MPC comes against the backdrop of governments assertion that both the fiscal deficit as well as the revenue shortfall in 2017-18 will be lower than the upwardly revised estimates given in the Union Budget.

The government has also announced that its market borrowing would be only Rs 2.88 lakh crore in the April-September period of 2018-19 as against Rs 3.72 lakh crore it had borrowed in the corresponding period of the last fiscal, 2017-18, ended on March 31.

Patel noted that inflation print for February was lower than the expected but the MPC always looks ahead.

"MPC believes there are several uncertainties surrounding the baseline inflation path. First, the revised formula

for MSP (minimum support price) as announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 for kharif crops may have an impact on inflation, although the exact magnitude will be known only in the coming months," he said.

Second, the staggered impact of house rent allowance revisions by various state governments may push headline inflation up, he said.

Thirdly, he added, in case there is any further fiscal slippage from the Union Budget estimates for 2018-19 or the medium-term path, it could adversely impact the outlook on inflation.

There are also risks to inflation from fiscal slippages at the level of states on account of higher committed revenue expenditure, he said.

Besides, recent volatility in crude prices has imparted considerable uncertainty to the near-term outlook on inflation.

Crude oil prices are hovering around USD 70 per barrel putting pressure on the government to cut duty on this.

*Source: PTI*

## Hardcastle Restaurants to invest up to Rs 1,000cr to revamp McDonald's offerings

**MUMBAI (TIP):** Hardcastle Restaurants, the master franchisee of fast food chain McDonald's in west and south India, plans to invest Rs 800 crore to Rs 1,000 crore over the next three years to introduce healthier food options and digitise its stores.

The city-based company in a bid to attract millennials and double its customer base to 500 million, has been introducing low-calorie, low-fat alternatives in its menu, along with introducing local flavours.

"Our customers are increasingly adopting healthier lifestyles and trust the brands that behave responsibly and transparently, especially when it comes to food options," Amit Jatia, vice-chairman of Westlife Development, the parent company of Hardcastle Restaurants, said here today.

"All modifications in the 'Good Food Story', have been a result of over three years of persistent re-engineering of our products, to offer wholesome balanced food choices to customers at a greater value," he added.

The company currently runs 270 restaurants in the western and southern markets, and is looking to double the



number in the next few years, according to Jatia.

"We are investing Rs 800 crore to Rs 1,000 crore in the next three years to revamp our offerings," he said.

It is also looking to double its customer base to about 500 million in the next five years, and making menu changes to cater to their needs, he added.

Some of these innovations include 20 per cent lower sodium in its foods, 40 per

cent lower oil content in mayonnaise, resulting in 25 per cent lower fat content and 11 per cent lower calories in its food.

It has also introduced 100 per cent artificial preservative-free patties, and fortified it with natural fibre, whole-grain wraps, and 96 per cent fat-free soft serve. Hardcastle Restaurants has also revamped the store formats, and introduced digital interventions, said Jatia.

*Source: PTI*

## BMW LAUNCHES LIMITED EDITION OF 3 SERIES SEDAN



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** German luxury carmaker BMW on Wednesday launched two limited edition variants of its 3 Series sedan priced at Rs 41.4 lakh and Rs 47.3 lakh.

The two editions—Sport Shadow and M Sport Shadow—are locally produced at BMW Group's plant in Chennai, the company said in a statement.

The Sport Shadow is powered by a two-litre four-cylinder diesel engine and priced at Rs 41.4 lakh.

On the other hand, the M Sport Shadow comes with a two-litre four-cylinder petrol engine and is tagged at Rs 47.3 lakh.

"These special editions combine the sporty yet elegant design with high everyday functionality," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah said.

The Shadow edition would make the BMW 3 Series even more attractive with confident style and exclusivity and induce more excitement in the segment, he added.

*Source: PTI*

## RBI CRACKS DOWN ON DIGITAL CURRENCIES, PLANS OWN CRYPTOCURRENCY

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 5 tightened the rules to discourage use of virtual currencies like Bitcoins and also announced a study to explore introduction of 'fiat' digital currencies which can be issued by it.

An interdepartmental group has been constituted to study and provide guidance on the "desirability and feasibility" to introduce a "central bank digital currency" and will submit its report by June, the central bank said.

"Several central banks are debating the possibility of introducing a fiat digital currency. As opposed to private digital tokens, these are issued by a central bank. They constitute liability of the central bank, and they will be in circulation in addition to the paper currency that we have," RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo told reporters during the customary post-policy address.

"We have decided to ring-fence the RBI regulated entities from the risks of dealing with virtual currencies. These operators are required to stop having a business relationship with the entities dealing with virtual currencies forthwith and unwind the existing relationships within three months," Kanungo said.

He further said that having such a currency will also reduce the cost of printing and circulating paper currency.

Kanungo said the blockchain or the distributed ledger technology, which is the backbone of the digital currencies like Bitcoins, has a lot of relevance for the wider economy and we need to embrace those.

"We recognise that blockchain technology or the distributed ledger technology that lies beneath the virtual currencies has a potential benefit for financial inclusion and enhancing the efficiency of the financial system."

"We also believe that they should be encouraged to be exploited beneficially for the economy," he said.

*Source: PTI*

## HMD GLOBAL UNVEils THREE NOKIA PHONES

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** HMD Global, which designs and sells Nokia brand of phones, on Wednesday unveiled three new devices—Nokia 6, Nokia 7 Plus and Nokia 8 Sirocco—priced between Rs 16,999 and Rs 49,999. "2017 was about bringing the Nokia brand back home. Nokia is a brand that has been loved by people here and we want to continue building on that," HMD Global VP India Ajey Mehta said. This year will be about enhancing the product portfolio across price points and expanding retail presence by 10-20%, he added. Priced at Rs 49,999, Nokia 8 Sirocco is the most premium phone from the HMD stable.

*Source: PTI*

**contd from Page 1**

## Trump deploys military to secure...

deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border would stay there until the border wall was built. Around 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard troops will be deployed to the area, Trump said, similar to actions by Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

"The situation at the border has now reached a point of crisis. The lawlessness that continues at our southern border is fundamentally incompatible with the safety, security, and sovereignty of the American people. My administration has no choice but to act," Trump said in his memorandum to the Defense Secretary, Attorney general and the Secretary of Homeland Secretary.

The threat is real, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen told reporters at a White House news conference. "We continue to see unacceptable levels of illegal drugs, dangerous gang activity, trans-national criminal organizations and illegal immigration flow across our border," she said.

This threatens not only the safety of American communities and children, but also the very rule of law, on which, the country was founded. "It's time to act. So, let's talk a little bit about that today," she said.

"In an effort to prevent such a consequence, the President has directed that the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to work together with our governors to deploy the National Guard to our southwest border to assist the Border Patrol," she said.

Border Patrol recorded 37,393 arrests on the southwest border in March, according to data released by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

In the last 15 months, she said the Trump administration has taken major steps to methodically strengthen border security.

"We began the first new border wall system construction in close to a decade, we modified our asylum system processing to more quickly adjudicate claims and we ended so-called temporary immigration program," Nielson said.

Ruing that the system rewards bad behavior, she said it does not punish law breakers. "It undermines our nation's economic interests. Make no mistake, interdiction without the ability to promptly remove those without legitimate cause is not border security, it is not national security," she asserted.

"We will not allow illegal immigration levels to become the norm. More than 1,000 people a day, 300,000 a year, violating our sovereignty as a nation will never be acceptable to this president," she said.

Meanwhile, President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico blasted President Donald Trump in a video message on Thursday, April 5, vowing that "nothing and no one stands above the dignity of Mexico" and adding that the U.S. president's main gripes were Congress's problem, not Mexico's.

"If your recent statements are the result of frustration due to domestic policy issues, to your laws or to your Congress, it is to them that you should turn to, not to Mexicans," Peña Nieto said in the message, according to a translation provided by his office. (*With inputs from PTI*)

## Salman Khan sentenced to...

Chief Judicial Magistrate (Jodhpur Rural) also imposed a fine of Rs. 10,000 on Khan. The actor was taken to the Central Jail in Jodhpur from the court. He has the option of filing an appeal in the Sessions Court, reports our correspondent Mohammad Iqbal from Jodhpur. Unless the sentence is suspended, he will spend the night in jail.

Khan is involved in four cases related to blackbuck/chinkara poaching. He has been accused of killing two chinkaras at Bhavad village in Rajasthan in September 1998, a chinkara at the Ghoda farms in the State the next month and two blackbuck near Kankani village in the State in the same month. In addition, he is also accused of using two firearms with alleged expired licenses.

### Judgement came as a surprise'

In an official statement, Mr. Khan's lawyer Anand Desai said that the judgement came as a "surprise."

### The statement reads:

"We respect the decision of the Hon'ble Court. While we are studying the judgement it just came as a surprise, as the entire investigation, and facts of this case were the same as those for which Salman has been acquitted by the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan in two cases, and even by the Hon'ble CJM in the Arms Act matter for the alleged offence

on the very same night as is the subject matter of the present case. Also, in the present case the Hon'ble Court has acquitted all the 5 co-accused which would imply that Salman was out hunting alone in the middle of the night in a remote area outside Jodhpur. We have preferred an appeal to the Hon'ble Sessions Court and applied for an urgent hearing today. The Hon'ble Sessions Court will hear the appeal for suspension of the sentence / bail at 1030 tomorrow."

### Khan to spend the night in jail

Salman Khan's counsel has moved bail application in the court of Additional Sessions Judge. It will come up for hearing on Friday morning. The actor will spend the night in Central Jail of Jodhpur.

### Four actors, Jodhpur resident acquitted

The co-accused, actors Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Sonali Bendre and Neelam, and Jodhpur resident Dushyant Singh have been given the benefit of doubt and acquitted as the evidence against them was not strong enough.

Public prosecutor Bhawani Singh said he would speak to the government on the acquittal of other actors and decide on filing appeals in the Sessions Court.

### Quantum of punishment

Khan has been convicted under Section 9 and 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act. The maximum sentence under the law is six years.

If the sentence is for three years or less, the magistrate's court is likely to suspend the punishment, reports Mohammad Iqbal. If more, Khan will have to move the Sessions Court for bail.

The charge against the other actors was under Section 149 (unlawful assembly) of the IPC. Their acquittal means the court has accepted that there is no sufficient evidence to prove this.

### A brief timeline of the cases:

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1998:** Khan, along with his co-stars of *Hum Saath Saath Hain*, are accused of killing blackbuck/chinkaras during the shooting of the film.

**FEBRUARY 2006:** Khan is convicted under the Wildlife Act and given a one-year jail term for killing two chinkaras at Bhavad in September 1998. This is overturned after an appeal.

**APRIL 2006:** A Jodhpur sessions court gives him a five-year-prison term in the second case, where he was accused of hunting a blackbuck in Ghoda farms. He spends three days in jail and gets bail.

**JUNE 2006:** A Jodhpur court frames charges against the actors in the third case. The charges were framed against Khan under Section 51 (hunting) of the Wildlife Protection Act and against Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Sonali Bendre, Neelam and Dushyant Singh under Section 52 (abettment) of the Act.

**NOVEMBER 2013:** The Rajasthan High Court suspends the five-year sentence.

**JANUARY 2015:** The Supreme Court sets aside the High Court's stay on the sentence.

**JULY 2016:** The High Court acquits Khan in the two chinakara poaching cases.

**JANUARY 2017:** A Jodhpur court acquits Khan in the Arms Case, where he was accused of possessing and weapons with an expired license during the hunt for chinkaras and blackbuck.

### Khan pleads 'not guilty'

Khan had pleaded "not guilty" in the case and claimed that only a forensic report saying that the endangered animal died of "natural cause" was true.

"The rest of the evidence [against me] is false," Khan said in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate in Jodhpur while recording his statement in the 18-year-old case accusing him of hunting the animals.

### Khan killed the deer, says driver

The man who was driving the jeep used by Khan reiterated in 2016 his claim that the actor shot the animal. The statement by Harish Dulani, who was reported to be "missing," came two days after the 50-year-old actor was acquitted by the High Court in two poaching cases. (*Source: The Hindu*)

## President Trump speaks of...

American tariffs. The Chinese, in response, detailed their own list of \$50 billion worth of American products, like soybeans and pork, that would be hit with levies.

"Rather than remedy its misconduct, China has chosen to harm our farmers and manufacturers," Trump said, adding

that he has instructed the United States trade representative to determine if another \$100 billion in tariffs were warranted and, "if so, to identify the products upon which to impose such tariffs."

The story was first broken by New York Times.

## Trump says he was unaware...

Mr. Trump also claimed he did not know where Cohen obtained the money for the payment. Cohen claims the money came out of his own personal funds.

In the past, Mr. Trump has ignored questions about the adult film star, who is suing over a nondisclosure agreement that she signed but claims, is invalid because Mr. Trump never signed it.

## Indian American inducted into...

Patel is also dedicated to the community of South Padre Island as he has served on numerous committees throughout the years and has been the Mayor of South Padre Island for the last three, while he continues to share his vision for the future of South Padre.

He is currently constructing a new Marriot Hotel on the Island and his numerous development projects have made the Island a premier tourist destination as well as a beautiful home to its residents.

Patel has also made the beaches of South Padre Island more beautiful and safe.

According to a Valley Morning Star report, Patel has been supporting local non-profit organizations, community events and public organizations, and currently serves as a Chairman on the Cameron County Beach & Dune Protection Committee along with being an active member of the Asian American Hotel Owner's Association.

Patel has also been recognized by the RGV Hispanic Chamber, the Indian Association of the RGV, the Gujarati Samaj RGV, the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce and the RGV Partnership.

He has a Bachelor's in Pharmacy from the University of Bradford in England, he began his career as a pharmacist from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and was registered in Texas, Florida and New York.

Patel's family includes five brothers and one sister, together they all have 11 children and six grandchildren, according to a Valley Morning Star report.

Patel is married to Jayshree Patel.

### contd from page 9

## Big thaw on the Korean peninsula

Having achieved a certain threshold in its nuclear and missile capabilities, North Korea can afford a pause in testing in return for sanctions relief but 'denuclearization' will only happen at the end of a long-drawn process which will involve discussions regarding the U.S. nuclear umbrella for South Korea, the presence of 23,500 American troops and converting the 1953 armistice into a peace treaty which will guarantee regime security.

South Korea would like to ensure that it has a veto over U.S. decisions regarding North Korea and gaining operational control over its own military forces, both of which will require protracted negotiations. Meanwhile, Mr. Moon will do his utmost to maintain credibility in Washington and Pyongyang to keep his 'sunshine policy' on track. In Europe, the two Germanys recognized each other in 1972 (the U.S. recognized East Germany in 1974) as part of Willy Brandt's 'ostpolitik', long before German unification was achieved in 1990.

North Korea's aggressive testing provided justification for the deployment of the THAAD missile defense system aggravating Chinese concerns. China would prefer lowering tensions though it is in no hurry to see Korean unification.

The big unknown is Mr. Trump's idea of what is an acceptable 'deal'. Will a process towards eventual denuclearization tempt him or will he reject it as 'fake news' and revert to relying on sanctions and military pressure as some of his advisers are inclined to? Major compromises will be needed for reconciling interests of all the key players for the high stakes summitry on the Korean peninsula to succeed.

(The author is a former diplomat and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. He can be reached at rakeshsood2001@yahoo.com)



### Shree Ganeshaya Namah

**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, launched 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)**

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE APRIL 09 - APRIL 15, 2018

### Aries:

Ganesha says many new trends are at work here. While you are as busy as ever, with work, money, family and several other obligations taking your time and energy, you are suddenly pitch-forked into a whirlwind romance that finally leaves you empty, more lonely, lost and dissipated. It starts beautifully and then takes an ugly turn with accusations and counter accusations. You feel cheated and let down.

### Taurus:

You get back to work and are motivated by money and the good things of life. You need focus as there are many expenses foreseen and you may also indulge in getting new acquisitions for yourself, the family and the office. You will also have to guard against excessive drinking or smoking, if you have these habits. If you don't look after yourself, there could be a serious health scare.

### Gemini:

You are swinging away and are the soul of the office and the party. There is no letting up on the work front though. You may be on the verge of a burn-out and you desperately need to de-stress. There are meetings, collaborations and many monetary deals waiting to be finalized by you. This is not the time for romance and friends as you burn the midnight oil and are on the rack. The situation will even out a bit soon, but this is a good time to cash in as the dividends will be there to see and relish before the period ends.

### Cancer:

The bull in this period goads you on. There is no slowing down in the enormity of the workload; if anything, it just increases. You have many responsibilities and need to put in great effort. I must add here that it is all not in vain because success is yours for the asking. You will make money and expand in a big way. Health will be good, and you will be filled with energy and zeal to go full throttle.

### Leo:

All that you embark on now leads to glory. It is a very successful period and you have to grab the high tide or, to paraphrase Groucho Marx, the low tide can get so low that you don't even see the water, and you don't want that for sure! So, Ganesha is offering you the best of the period and I suggest you grab it for all you are worth. Such great times don't come visiting often and right now you stand to embrace the joys of real success. Family life is fine, but you may not have much free time for loved ones.

### Virgo:

You are on a roll and the phase gets even more intense. All you need to guard against is stress which can take a toll and you don't want to be hospitalized at this juncture in particular. You decide to win the battle in the mind, and it's all mind over matter now. You have renewed strength and purpose. Money matters are handled with flair and intelligence and you will pore over every detail and get under the fine print to protect yourself from any financial damage later on.

### Libra:

The work phase is ebbing, and your mind wanders in different directions. Suddenly, you have time and you don't know what to do with it. You spend time with family and friends and even decide to leave it all and go away from the action for a bout of solitude. It has all been very demanding and you need the rest. Your mind is in a whirl and you need to do a recap of the events that have taken you by storm.

### Scorpio:

You can't remain from the scene of action for too long and you are back for the slog refreshed and ready to take on more like Charles Atlas. But there is more peace of mind, harmony and balance now and you don't go overboard with your expansion and money-making plans. The short break has been good for you and provided many valuable realizations. You know what you have missed out on the family suddenly becomes very special to you.

### Sagittarius:

With this new focus you manage to balance work and play well without going overboard in either area. You have learnt your lesson and try, at least for now, for a sense of balance in your life. You will be busy with the home and its myriad affairs like deeds, documents, legal issues, renovation and refurbishing. You are confident and work through all the details to be fully satisfied.

### Capricorn:

Many aspects of your life and work are calling for your attention and you don't know which to take up first. Expenses are mounting plus there is travel, collaborations and all kinds of communication. You do not have to show your vulnerable side this period and so it will be necessary to watch your emotions carefully. Please don't wear them on your sleeve as you are wont to. It can be a confusing and paradoxical period ahead and there are several pulls which could weigh on your mind and hold you back from progress.

### Aquarius:

Your emotions are still messed up. You are alienating yourself from the family, friends, associates, and from work. You seem harassed by the demons lurking within you. No one is responsible for this but yourself. It is self-created and it is up to you to solve it. It is difficult to fathom how it all started and what caused it but now that it is embedded in your psyche like an alien it is tearing you apart. You may take to music and art and spend time deep within looking for answers.

### Pisces:

The situation improves, and you focus on personal, social and professional relationships. There are many things needing your attention - family, financial matters, work, friendships and all the distractions of the world. There are many deals, transactions and fine interactions in the offing. There are responsibilities and liabilities to attend to and you need to be on the ball. But you are lucky and manage to steer the course.

# 2018 Commonwealth Games: Sanjita Chanu wins gold in women's 53 kg weightlifting

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Indian weightlifter Sanjita Chanu won gold in the women's 53 kilogram category at the 21st Commonwealth Games (CWG).

The Manipuri star lifted a total of 192 kg which included a CWG record of 84 kg in the snatch and 108 kg in clean and jerk. Defending champion Loa Dika Toua of Papua New Guinea was a distant second with 182 kg while New Zealand's Rachel Leblanc-Bazinet took bronze with 181 kg.

This was India's second gold at this year's CWG. Fellow Manipuri weightlifter Mirabai Chanu had won gold with spectacular record breaking attempts in the women's 48 kg on Thursday.

Sanjita was by far the most dominant competitor in both snatch and clean jerk. She took the lead in the snatch with an opening attempt of 81 kilograms. New Zealand's Rachel, who had managed 78 kg in her first attempt, joined Sanjita at the pole position by lifting 81 kg in her second attempt. But Sanjita showed her class by equalling the CWG record of 83 kg in her second attempt to regain the lead. The Kiwi, whose best lift in training has been 82 kg,



made a brave and futile attempt to match the CWG record.

The Indian then walked out to set a new CWG record at 84 kg and take the lead. The previous CWG record of 83 kg was set by compatriot Swarti Singh at the Glasgow Games in 2014. Things were even easier for Sanjita in the clean and jerk as none of her rivals managed to produce even a semblance of a challenge.

Sanjita took the lead with a successful opening attempt of 104 kg. She bolstered her lead with 108 kg in her second attempt. She then attempted to better the existing CWG record of 111 kg which was set by Loa in 2014. That however, was not to be as Sanjita failed to lift 112 kg in her third attempt.

Loa, who started with a successful attempt of 102 kg, failed to hoist 109 kg in her second attempt. She then went for 113 kg in her final attempt in a bid to better her own CWG record and retain the title which she had won four years ago. But she failed her third attempt despite a brave effort as the Indian camp celebrated Sanjita's triumph. Rachel meanwhile, needed two attempts to clear 98 kg before lifting 100 kg in her third attempt.

## Star bags BCCI media rights for one-billion dollar

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) decision to go for e-auction to sell Indian cricket's media rights has proved a stunning success.

On Thursday, BCCI laughed its way to the bank after the auction for five years (2018-2023) fetched a record Rs 6138.1 crore (USD 944 million) from Star India, which beat a spirited challenge from Sony Pictures Network to extend its grip on the lucrative deal.

E-auction was used for the first time in Indian sports and BCCI netting 60 percent more than the Rs 3851 crore Star India paid for the 2012-17 rights deal is sure to encourage other sports bodies to opt for it, instead of submitting bids in sealed envelopes, to get maximum value for their product.

A timeless process, the e-auction had the classic ebb and flow of a Test match as the three parties in the fray – Reliance Jio was the third – were locked in a slugfest for three days. Played at a slow pace initially, it picked up momentum midway before heading to a calm finish.

The move of the auction came on Wednesday afternoon when a straight jump of R900 crore plus was made. Till then, the trio was content to meet the minimum bid increase of Rs 25 crore plus. A senior BCCI official confirmed it was Star India's move. It wasn't just an attempt to speed up things, it was also to show intent and deliver a psychological blow to the rivals.

## Davis Cup: World record beckons Paes

**TIANJIN (TIP):** Veteran Leander Paes will make another attempt to create the Davis Cup record for most doubles wins as India take on China in their den in cold conditions. The tie, which will be for a place in the World Group Playoffs, starts on Friday.

The 44-year-old Paes is tied on 42 wins with Italian great Nicola Pietrangeli. Paes had a chance to break the record when India hosted New Zealand in Pune last year but doubles was the only match India lost in that tie.

What followed in Bengaluru against Uzbekistan was an avoidable controversy as captain Mahesh Bhupathi chose to keep Paes on the bench, fielding Sriram Balaji with Rohan Bopanna.

Paes has reclaimed his place in the team on the back of some solid performances in the last few months. After missing the chance to get the record in front of home fans, he has to do it in alien conditions. "Playing China in China will be tough," said Paes. "They have a tough doubles team, which beat a good New Zealand side. The Chinese play well together as a team. It's wonderful after 29 years to go for a world record for India."

The build-up to the second-round tie in the Asia/Oceania Group I had its share of controversy with Bopanna expressing reluctance to be on the same team with Paes before agreeing to travel to China. Paes believes that Bopanna's initial reluctance to pair with him will not be a hindrance. "I have always believed Rohan and I make a very good team — his power, my control, his big serve, my net game," Paes said.

India's top singles player Yuki Bhambri pulled out of the tie due to a minor abdomen injury, handing Ramkumar Ramanathan the responsibility to spearhead the singles



challenge along with Sumit Nagal.

The tie will be fought in a new two-day format with best-of-three-set matches instead of best-of-five. On paper, India are a strong side with both Ramanathan (132) and Nagal (213) better-ranked than China's top two singles players — Ze Zhang (247) and Di Wu (248). But the hosts have a very strong weapon in Yibing Wu, who is being hailed as China's next superstar. The 18-year-old is the current junior world No. 1 and made the world take note of him by winning the junior US Open last year.

Ramanathan will open India's campaign against Yibing and Nagal will take on Zhang on Friday. On Saturday, Paes and Bopanna will clash with Di Wu and Mao-Xin Gong and the doubles will be followed by reverse singles the same day.

Source: PTI

## Rabada ruled out of IPL with back injury

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada was on Thursday ruled out of the soon-to-start Indian Premier League (IPL) due to a lower back injury, which may keep him out of action for three months.

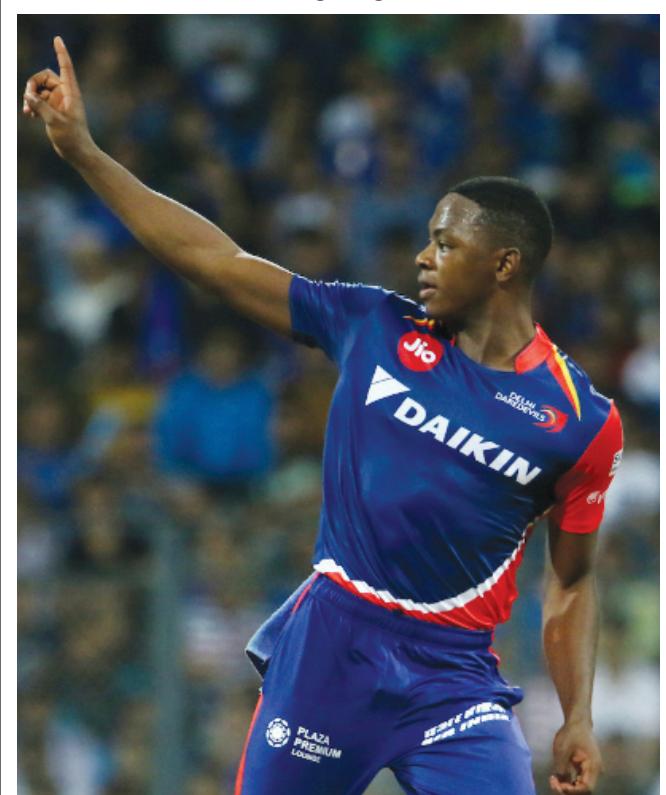
Rabada, who was to play for Delhi Daredevils, felt tightness and discomfort during the fourth Test against Australia in Johannesburg with subsequent scans revealing the injury.

Commenting on the injury, Proteas team manager Mohammed Moosajee said: "Kagiso has been diagnosed with a lower back stress reaction which will rule him out of cricket action for up to three months."

"He will need a month's break from all physical activity before commencing with a rehabilitation programme to get him ready for the series against Sri Lanka in July."

He is not the first star pacer to have been ruled out of the IP. Australia's Mitchell Starc too will miss the IPL for KKR due to a "tibial bone stress in his right leg".

Source: PTI



**W**orshipped by many who wish to gain courage and strength in their lives, Lord Hanuman is probably one of the most celebrated and revered figures in the Hindu Mythology. And although most of us know quite a bit about the deity's life, there are still many things that we don't really know about our beloved Bajrangbali.

Pawanputra Hanuman was an incarnation of Lord Shiva and is considered to be an exemplification of strength, devotion, and perseverance.

Anjana, a beautiful Apsara in celestial palace court of Lord Brahma was cursed by a sage that, the moment she fell in love her face would transform to that of a monkey. Lord Brahma thought of helping her and she took birth on Earth. Later, Anjana fell in love with Kesari, the monkey king and they both married each other. Being an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva, she continued with her tapasya to please the God. Lord Shiva was impressed and she wished him to be her son so that she would be freed from the curse of the sage.

Few days later, King Dasrath was performing a yagna after which the sage gave him kheer to feed all his wives. A portion of Kaushalya, his eldest wife, was snatched by a kite who flew all the way where Anjana was meditating. Lord Vayu (aka Pawan – Wind) on the signal of Lord Shiva kept the kheer in Anjana's hand. Thinking it as Lord Shiva's prasad Anjana ate it and thus gave birth to his incarnation – Pawan Putra Hanuman, the son of the Lord of the Winds.

The deity once applied sindoor all over his body for Lord Rama's long life.

Lord Hanuman was greatly devoted to Lord Rama. A particular incident was when Sita put sindoor on her forehead, Hanuman asked her why. To this, she replied that since she is the wife and companion of Lord Rama, the sindoor was a sign of her unconditional love and respect. Hanuman then covered his entire body with sindoor to prove his love for Lord Rama. Lord Rama was really impressed by this and granted a boon that those who worshiped Lord Hanuman in the future with sindoor would see all their difficulties go away.

The name, 'Hanuman' actually means 'disfigured jaw' in Sanskrit.

In Sanskrit, 'Hanu' means 'Jaw' and 'Man' means 'Disfigured'. No wonder, Hanuman's jaw as a kid was disfigured by none other than Lord Indra who had used his vajra (thunderbolt) against Anjaneya, who took sun as a ripened mango and even went to trace it up in the sky. It was there in the sky that Lord Indra had used his vajra which threw Hanuman straight on the Earth, damaging his jaw forever.

Although he was a brahmchari, Lord Hanuman had a son – Makardhwaja.

Hanuman's Son Makardhwaja was born to a mighty fish of the same name when Hanuman after burning the entire Lanka with his tail had dipped in the sea to cool off his body. It is said that his sweat was swallowed by the fish and thus Makardhwaja was conceived.

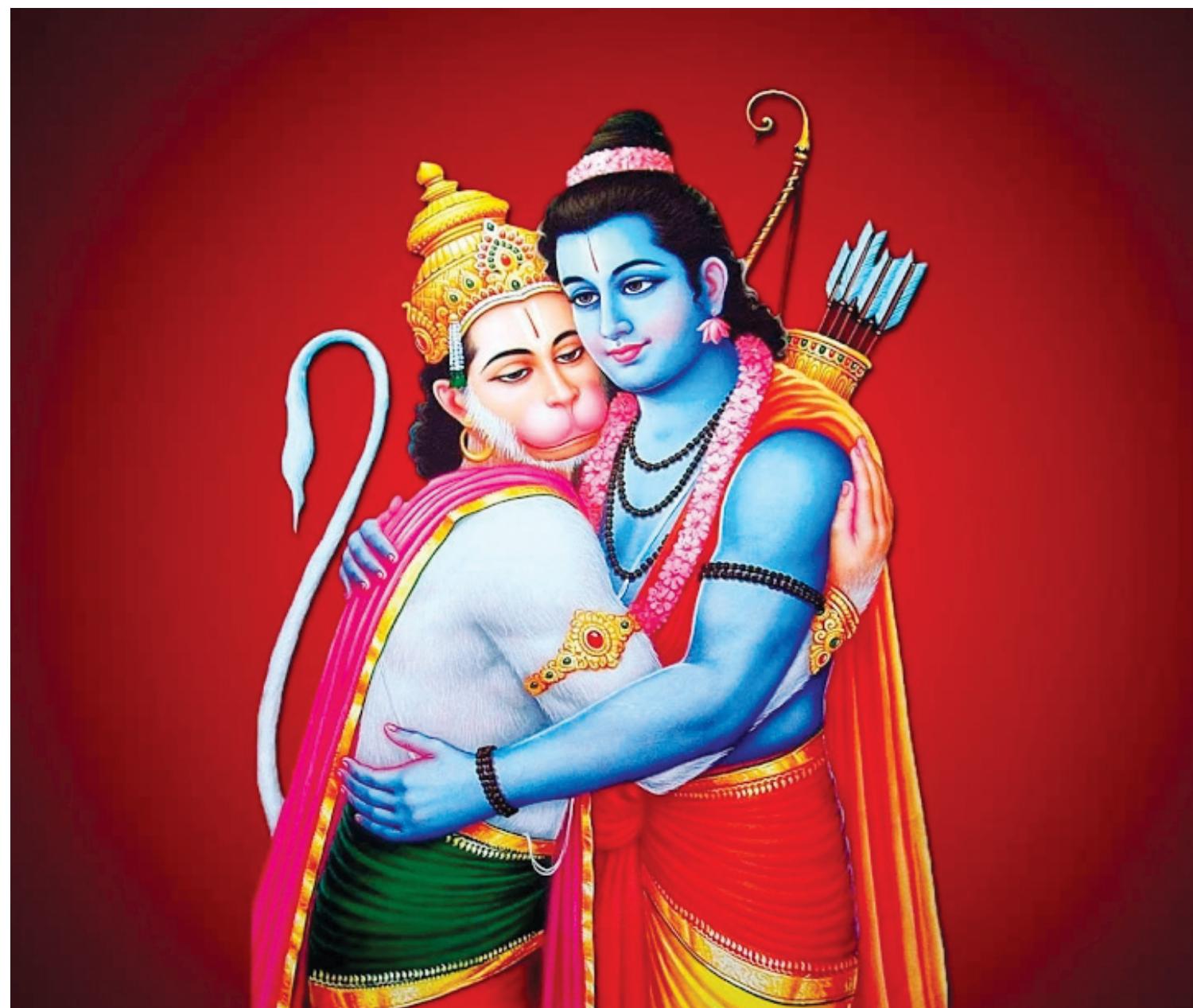
Once, Lord Ram issued a death sentence to Lord Hanuman!

After Lord Ram became the King, once, when the court was adjourned, Narada – known for creating disharmony between Ram and Hanuman – asked Hanuman to greet all the sages except Vishwamitra, since he was a King once. Hanuman did so, but it did not affect Vishwamitra.

Narada went on and instigated Vishwamitra, which angered him so much that he went to Ram and asked him to punish Hanuman to death. Vishwamitra being his guru, Ram could not ignore his command and punished Hanuman to death by arrows. Next day in the field, the statement was to be executed, but all arrows failed to do any harm to Hanuman as he kept chanting Ram!

Since Ram had to abide by his Guru's word, he decided to use the Brahmastra. To the

# UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT LORD HANUMAN



surprise of all, Hanuman's chants of Ram even failed the most powerful Brahmastra! Seeing this, Narada went to Vishwamitra and confessed his mistake, stopping the ordeal!

Hanuman also created his version of Ramayan – which was supposedly a superior version compared to that of Valmiki's.

After the war at Lanka, Hanuman went to Himalaya for continuing his reverence of Lord Ram, Hanuman etched his version of Ram's tale on the walls of the Himalayas with his nails.

When Maharshi Valmiki visited Hanuman to show his version of Ramayana, he saw the walls and felt sad as Valmiki believed that Hanuman's Ramayana was superior and that his ardently created version of the Ramayana would remain unnoticed. Realising this, Hanuman discarded his version. Taken aback, Valmiki said he would love to be reborn to sing the glory of Hanuman!

Lord Hanuman and Lord Bhima were both brothers.

Bhima was also the son of Vayu (the Lord of the Winds). One day, when Bhima was searching for a flower his wife wanted, he saw a monkey sleeping with his tail crossing the path. He asked him to move his tail. But the monkey didn't do it and asked Bhima to move it. Bhima was very arrogant with his strength. Nevertheless, he couldn't move or lift the tail. Therefore, he realized that this was not a mere ordinary monkey. It was none other than Hanuman. He lied there just to reduce the

arrogance of Bhima.

When Lord Rama's time of death was at hand, Lord Hanuman barred Yama from claiming him.

When Lord Rama decided to leave his earthly existence for his journey to Vaikuntha (heavenly abode of Lord Vishnu), he knew that Hanuman would not let him do so as he was a great devotee. So he instructed Hanuman to find his ring which had fallen on the ground and then disappeared in the Patal Loka. Hanuman went on the task of finding the ring and was met by the King of Spirits.

He told him that the falling of the ring signified that the time for the end of Lord Ram's avatar had come.

**Lord Hanuman Once Rejected Goddess Sita's Gift.**

When Sita gave Hanuman a beautiful pearl necklace as a gift he politely declined it saying he doesn't accept anything that is devoid of Ram's name. To prove his point, the ardent devotee then ripped off his chest to reveal an image of both of them.

There are 108 names for Lord Hanuman in the Sanskrit Language!

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