

Former Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Venditto acquitted in corruption case



John Venditto, after his acquittal in the corruption case commented, "I have had nothing but faith in our justice system and the events of today confirm that faith".

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP) Former Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto was acquitted Thursday, May 24, on all corruption-related charges as a federal jury delivered a partial verdict before continuing its deliberations on his co-defendants, former Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and his wife, Linda.

Venditto was cleared on 27 counts that included federal program bribery, honest-services wire fraud and

contd on page 32

Europe's landmark privacy law comes into force



data is used. It has been billed as the biggest shake-up of data privacy laws since the birth of the web. *contd on Page 32*

LONDON (TIP): The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on Friday, May 25, giving EU citizens new rights over how their personal

data is used. It has been billed as the biggest shake-up of data privacy laws since the birth of the web. *contd on Page 32*

No immigration deal unless 'real wall'

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump said May 24 he opposes any immigration legislation that doesn't include "a real wall" along the Mexican border and "very strong border security." Moderates House Republicans are pushing a deal that could lead to citizenship for young "Dreamer" immigrants brought to the US illegally. But Trump told "Fox & Friends" that unless any bill "includes a wall, and I mean a wall, a real wall, and unless it includes very strong border security, there'll be no approvals from me." *(Source / PTI)*

A bang and a whimper- Trump scraps Kim summit, citing NK's 'open hostility'

Trump's announcement came hours after North Korea carried out what it said is the demolition of its nuclear test site

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump on Thursday, May 24, called off a historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un scheduled for next month, even after North Korea followed through on a pledge to blow up tunnels at its nuclear test site.

Trump announced his abrupt withdrawal from what would have been a first-ever meeting between a serving US President and a North Korean leader in Singapore on June 12 in a letter to Kim. A White House official said a North Korean *contd on Page 32*



A rare opportunity for a historic meeting with hopeful consequences has been lost, with President Trump cancelling the scheduled summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un

NYPD gets first female turbaned Sikh auxiliary police officer

NEW YORK (TIP): The New York Police Department (NYPD) has got its first female turbaned Sikh auxiliary police officer, whose induction aims to motivate others to join law enforcement and help create better understanding of Sikhism.

Gursoach Kaur will join the New York Police Department as an Auxiliary Police Officer (APO), after having graduated last week from the New York City Police Academy. "We are proud to welcome first Sikh turbaned female Auxiliary Police Officer in the New York Police *contd on Page 32*

APO Gursoach Kaur, the first female turbaned Sikh auxiliary police officer with the New York Police Department Photo / Twitter



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New York International Punjabi Society organizes Vaisakhi Celebrations and Awards Gala Dinner



Sant Singh Chatwal receives his award. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Joseph Saladino, Sant Singh Chatwal, Tom Suozzi, CJ Arneja, Laura Curran, Jasbir Bhatia, Paul Kandhari

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): New York International Punjabi Society, Inc. held Vaisakhi Celebrations and Awards gala dinner, May 18 at Antun's in Hicksville.

Prominent Punjabis were honored for their contribution in various fields. The honorees included Dr. Urmilesh Arya (Community Appreciation Award); Sant Singh Chatwal (Punjabi Icon of the Year); Harry Singh Bolla (Punjabi Entrepreneur of the Year); Saleem Iqbal (Community Appreciation Award); and Mohinder Singh Taneja (Ambassador of Diversity Award).

Present on the occasion, besides community, were Congressman Tom Suozzi, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino, among others.

An attractive cultural program and a delicious feast added to the pleasure of the gathering.

Here are some pictures of the occasion.



Harry Singh Bolla and Mrs. Bolla receiving award from Tom Suozzi and NYIPS President Dr. Uppal. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Tom Suozzi, Mrs Singh, Laura Curran, Harry Singh Bolla, CJ Arneja, Dr. Uppal, Jasbir Bhatia



Mohinder Taneja receiving the award. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Jagjit Singh Bedi, Mohinder Taneja, Joseph Saladino, Tom Suozzi, Laura Curran, Dr. Uppal, Paul Kandhari



A lighter moment



A group photo of the occasion

Long Island University (LIU) Confers Honorary Doctorate Degree on ASR's President & CEO Rao Anumolu

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Long Island University (LIU), one of the largest private universities in the United States, conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree on Rao Anumolu, ASR's Founder, President & CEO, during LIU's 2018 Commencement ceremonies.

Mr. Rao Anumolu is the President & CEO of Long Island (New York) based ASR International Corporation. He obtained a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering and also an MBA degree from Illinois Institute of Technology. He has attended several Advanced Management Courses at Defense Systems Management College, Harvard University and Wharton School of Business Management. He is also an OPM graduate of Harvard Business School (HBS).

Mr. Anumolu is the only Asian Indian to have been cited by the US Congress for the contributions made by him and ASR International Corporation towards homeland security in USA. Mr. Anumolu is the recipient of



Ceremonial conferment of Honorary Doctorate on Rao Anumolu

the 2010 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This Medal recognized recipients for outstanding contributions to their communities, their nation and the world. It is the highest civilian award in the US for immigrants - for their contributions in the development of this country. Mr. Anumolu has held senior management positions directing commercial and government programs that included major aerospace design and development projects.

Mr. Anumolu founded ASR International Corporation in 1986 in Long Island, NY. ASR is a world renowned high technology company providing Engineering, Information Technology, Training, Project Management, Logistics, and Supply Chain Quality Management Support Services to global Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. ASR is ISO 9001:2015 certified and assessed at SEI CMMI Level 3.

The full citation from LIU may be viewed at <http://www.liu.edu/CWPost/Commencement/Honorary-Degree-Recipients>

Indian American Techie Srinivas Kuchibhotla's killer Adam Purinton pleads guilty to hate crime charges



Last month, Purinton was sentenced to life in prison after he was convicted in March of premeditated first-degree murder

KANSAS (TIP): Indian American Techie Srinivas Kuchibhotla's killer Adam Purinton, the navy veteran, has pleaded guilty to federal hate crime charges.

Kuchibhotla died in the shooting incident that happened on February 22 last year after Purinton opened fire at the two Indians under the assumption that they were Iranians.

Kuchibhotla was an aviation engineer at the Kansas-based technology company Garmin International and was living in the United States with his wife, Sunayana Dumala.

A third patron, Ian Grillot, a white American, was also wounded as he tried to intervene when Purinton tried fleeing from the bar after the incident.

Purinton, 53, entered the guilty plea to a three-count indictment on May 22nd at a Kansas federal court. He is slapped with hate crime and firearm charges.

The series of events that led to the killing of Kuchibhotla was mentioned the Department of Justice in a press release.

"Hate crimes are acts of evil, and the Department of Justice has prioritized their zealous prosecution," said Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio. "In this case, the defendant embarked on a murderous rampage with clear premeditation to kill on the basis of race, color, religion, and national origin. It was a hate crime, and he is being brought to justice. While we cannot ameliorate the irreparable harm to the victims and their families, we hope that securing this guilty plea brings them some measure of closure. And this prosecution sends a message across the nation: hate crimes will not be tolerated."

"Nothing we do can provide complete comfort and solace to the victims of this tragic crime and their families," said U.S. Attorney McAllister. "But our office hopes that the federal life sentence which Mr. Purinton has agreed to request and accept will give them some measure of closure."

"Although Purinton has already been convicted of murder in the State of Kansas, and sentenced to life in prison, today's plea in federal court speaks to his motive," said FBI Kansas City Special Agent in Charge Darrin Jones. "By his agreement to today's plea, Purinton acknowledges that his actions were motivated by his hatred of the victims' race, religion, color and national origin. This type of hatred will never be tolerated. I think it's important for the community to see and understand that the FBI is committed to aggressively protecting and preserving the civil rights of all of our communities."

Indian Student, Clicking Selfie, dies after Falling off Hill in Australia



Friends of Ankit who plunged to his death at The Gap in Albany have revealed the final photo taken before he died

MELBOURNE (TIP): In a tragic incident, a 20-year-old Indian origin student has died after falling off rocks into the ocean from a popular tourist attraction in Western Australia while trying to take a selfie, media reports said.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian Origin Gobind Singh Deo becomes Malaysia's First Sikh Minister

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): An Indian origin Sikh politician in Malaysia, Gobind Singh Deo, has become a cabinet minister. He is the first member of the minority community in the country's history to be appointed as a minister.

Mr. Deo, 45, who has been given the communications and multimedia portfolio, is among the two politicians of Indian descent included in the Pakatan Harapan coalition's Cabinet.

The other Indian origin lawmaker is M Kulasegaran from the Democratic Action Party, who has been made the human resource minister.

Mr. Deo represents Puchong constituency in the Malaysian Parliament and is the son of late Malaysian lawyer and politician Karpal Singh. He was sworn in during a



Mr. Deo, 45, who has been given the communications and multimedia portfolio, is among the two politicians of Indian descent included in the Pakatan Harapan coalition's Cabinet.

ceremony at the National Palace yesterday after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad included him in the new cabinet.

He was first elected as an MP in the 2008 general elections. Mr. Deo was re-elected to the lower house, with an increased margin, in 2013 and he again won this year's election with a margin of 47,635 votes.

The Punjabi community in the country has hailed the appointment of Mr. Deo as the minister.

"It is good to see Gobind Singh, a member of the Punjabi community in the cabinet. It is a proud and happy occasion for our community. Other than being a recognition of his abilities, it is also a recognition for the long established Punjabi community in Malaysia, Miri Indian Association president, Councilor Karambir Singh was quoted.

Malaysia has a Sikh population of nearly 1,00,000.

Indian American whiz kids winners of the 2018 National Geographic Bee

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): Indian American whiz kids won the top three awards at the 30th annual National Geographic Bee competition. Barring two, all the finalists were of Indian origin.

For the seventh consecutive year, an Indian American kid, Venkat Ranjan, 13, of California was crowned winner of the prestigious competition.

In second place was Anoushka Buddhikot, 13, of New Jersey, and the third-place finisher was Vishal Sareddy, 14, of Georgia. The winners were awarded one of three college scholarships totaling \$85,000 at the competition held at the National Geographic headquarters in the nation's capital.

Ranjan secured the top award of \$50,000, the title of National Geographic Bee Champion, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, including a subscription to the National Geographic magazine, and an all-expenses-paid expedition to the Galapago Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour II.

Buddhikot and Sareddy received \$25,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Following the preliminary round which was held on May 21st, each of the top ten winners was awarded \$500.

Upon winning the competition, Ranjan confessed to not knowing the answer to the final question and arrived at it by eliminating other options.

Ranjan started seriously preparing for the competition three years ago. This was the first time he was competing at the national level and he won.

Buddhikot, who is in eighth grade at Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School, says history is her favorite subject. "I think it's interesting to learn from the past and be able to bring that back to our future," she said.

About preparing for the National



Venkat Ranjan is crowned winner of the National Geographic Bee, Anoushka Buddhikot is in second place, and third place finisher is Vishal Sareddy

Geographic Bee, she mentioned studying for hours every day, especially over summer and the holidays, ever since she was in fourth grade.

Sareddy, in eighth grade at Riverwatch Middle School, Suwanee, was a returning contestant at the national level.

"Preparing for the competition was a lot of hard work," he said. Besides studying atlases and staying abreast of the news, "You have to have a passion for geography which is really your driving force to work this hard and win," he said. "You also have to have a coach like a parent. For me, it was my Dad."

"On stage, you have to be calm. You can't be stressed or nervous or even over-excited. That can really hurt your performance in the Bee," he said.

Sareddy started preparing for the

competition from first grade and more seriously from the fourth grade onwards. Given that geography has been his passion ever since he was a child, he would like to pursue a career in that field and cited possible options such as a National Geographic explorer, an international economist, marine biologist, or an archaeologist.

In school, his favorite subject is social studies, and in his spare time, he likes to play the violin, basketball, runs cross-country, and loves to travel.

The competition, also known as the Nat Geo Bee, is an annual geography contest open to students ages 10 to 14, organized by the National Geographic Society. It is tough and challenging, but also entertaining and very impressive! The aim is to inspire and reward children for their knowledge and curiosity about the world.



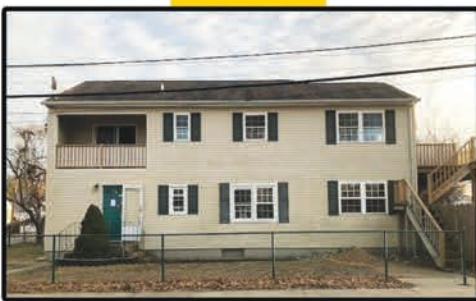
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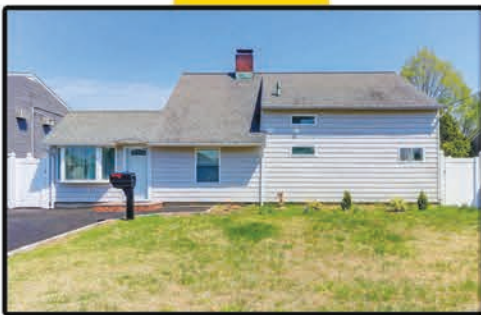
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Assembly Passes Weprin Anti-Hazing Bill-Legislation prompted by death of Baruch College student

ALBANY, NEW YORK (TIP): Assemblyman David I. Weprin (D - Fresh Meadows, Richmond Hill) announced passage of legislation prohibiting physical contact or activity in any organization's initiating ceremony. Introduced in 2014, after the hazing death of Michael Deng at Baruch College, A5200 aims to decrease the amount of dangerous hazing incidents that occur in New York each year.

Deng, who was pledging the Baruch College chapter of Pi Delta Psi when he died during a December 2013 fraternity retreat at a house in Pennsylvania, was subjected to a hazing ritual known as 'glass ceiling', in which he suffered a massive head injury after he was blindfolded and forced to lug a knapsack loaded with 20 pounds of sand as fraternity members repeatedly took him down.

Passage of Weprin's bill follows a November 2017 Pennsylvania court ruling finding Pi Delta Psi Inc. guilty of involuntary manslaughter, hazing, and aggravated assault, as well as the January 2018 sentencing of 4 of 37 individuals charged with aggravated assault, hazing and murder in Pennsylvania after Deng's death.

"The best way for us to prevent hazing is to ensure that no student is ever put in a situation where their safety is in jeopardy," said Assemblyman David I. Weprin. "By prohibiting reckless physical conduct and physical activities during initiation ceremonies, we can protect students and other individuals from the substantial risks caused by hazing. There is no better way to honor the death of Michael Deng, one of my constituents, by ensuring that this will never happen to another student again."

NYC to Expand Network of Electric Vehicle Chargers, Use New Technology to Charge Cars in as Little as 15 Minutes

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): The New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) will today announce a planned major expansion of the City's network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers. The City currently operates 500 EV chargers, which are used to charge City government vehicles. It is the largest network of EV chargers for any vehicle fleet in the country, and the City expects to add 100 new chargers. The new chargers will also be the City's first 'fast electric vehicle chargers,' which will keep electric vehicles in continuous use by reducing lengthy charging periods that can take vehicles out of commission. The new chargers can charge vehicles in as little as 15 minutes. Most of these new chargers will be located at existing City-managed fueling locations. This project is expected to be funded by \$10 million from the City's proposed capital budget with construction to begin early next year. The EV expansion is part of a series of announcements to be made today at the City's 30th Annual Truck and Equipment Show presented by the NYC Parks Department and DCAS at Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

"New York City government has the cleanest and greenest vehicle fleet in the country, and we're building upon our success by installing 100 new electric vehicle chargers that will significantly decrease charging times," said Lisette Camilo, Commissioner of the NYC Department of

Citywide Administrative Services. "In as little as 15 minutes, we'll be able to charge environmentally-friendly electric vehicles and get them back on the streets serving the people of New York City."

Construction of 50 new solar carports. Solar carports capture solar energy to fully charge EVs without any connection to the electric grid. In addition to environmental benefits, the solar carports offer an important resiliency measure if the City were to lose power and need to charge EVs. The City currently operates 37 carports that were put into operation over the last six months.

The City of New York has installed over 12,000 new safety features on City vehicles in the first year of the Vision Zero Safe Fleet Transition Plan. The plan, part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative to protect the public by reducing injuries and fatalities stemming from traffic collisions, formalized best practices to integrate vehicle safety technologies into City vehicles. Installed safety features include automatic braking systems, rear-view cameras, sideguards that prevent pedestrians and bicyclists from going under large trucks during side-impact collisions, and adaptive headlights, among other technologies.

These advances in greener and safer vehicle technologies are part of record investments in the specialized emergency and heavy fleet units that support NYC

government operations. In FY18, over \$380 million has been invested in new City fleet vehicles, including 662 sanitation trucks for the City of New York Department of Sanitation. This is the third consecutive year of record investments in the fleet that supports City government agencies. This includes \$1.1 billion invested in the last three years alone.

"NYC is one of the nation's largest procurers of safe and sustainable fleet technology," said DCAS Deputy Commissioner and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman. "At today's 30th Fleet Show, we celebrate our latest milestones including 1,500 electric vehicles, our first contract for hybrid police vehicles, expanding electric charging, and the safest fleet we have ever ordered. We thank our partner agencies and our vendors at the show."

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) ensures that all City agencies have the critical resources and support needed to provide the best possible services to the public. It does this in part by working with City agencies on recruiting, hiring, and training; providing facilities management for 55 public buildings; purchasing, selling, and leasing City property; purchasing more than \$1 billion in supplies and equipment annually; and implementing conservation and safety programs throughout they City's facilities and fleet.

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Edenwald YMCA Community and Wellness Facility Completes City's Public Approval Process

YMCA will create 100 permanent jobs and include two pools, a full basketball court, and programming for New Yorkers of all ages



Construction on 50K sf facility is slated to begin this fall

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) announced, May 24, that the Edenwald YMCA community and wellness facility has officially completed the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), allowing the project to move forward into the construction phase this fall. Following unanimous support by Bronx Community Board 12, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and the City Planning Commission, the project was approved by the City Council.

The 50,000 square-foot state-of-the-art center will provide local families and residents of all ages and income levels with a full-service facility that will include two pools, a full-length basketball court, a gymnasium, and other programming. The center will also provide after-school care and summer camps, health and wellness improvement classes, and activities to strengthen the community, including senior adult programs and civic classes for new Americans. The YMCA was selected in July 2016 to develop and operate a recreation center.

"All New Yorkers should have access to first-class recreation space, no matter where in the city they live," said NYCEDC President and CEO James Patchett. "The unanimous approval of the Edenwald YMCA will bring much-needed athletic facilities, wellness and after-school programming to Bronx residents, making the neighborhood both healthier and stronger. The YMCA will benefit community members of all ages, and I look forward to its opening."

"The YMCA is here for all New Yorkers, to empower youth, improve health, and strengthen community," said Sharon Greenberger, President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater New York. "This new Y will act as a true center of community in the Northeast Bronx. We are grateful to have this opportunity to work with local elected officials and community leaders to bring this project to fruition and to help more people in the Bronx learn, grow, and thrive."

Indian Americans Appointed by New York Mayor to Board of Advisors

NEW YORK (TIP): Two Indian American executives are among 19 people appointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio as members to an organization that addresses the city's most pressing challenges, with a particular focus on improving the lives of vulnerable New Yorkers. Hotel Association of New York City President and CEO Vijay Dandapani and Insight Venture Partners Managing Director Deven Parekh, along with 17 other individuals have been appointed members to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Board of Advisors.

Mr. Dandapani is a hotel industry veteran, recognized in 1998 as one of Crain's New York Business top 100 minority business leaders in New York City. In 2002, the Asian American Business Development Center, New York selected him as one of 50 outstanding Asian Americans in Business. He is an alumnus of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration.

According to its website, the Hotel Association of New York City is one of the oldest professional trade associations in the nation. Currently it represents 280 hotels, 80,000 rooms and about 50,000 employees. Mr. Parekh manages investments in vertical and horizontal software and consumer internet companies globally. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Economic Club of NY and the Greater NY Partnership.

He was nominated by former president Barack Obama and confirmed by the US Senate to serve on the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Board. In addition, he is chairman emeritus of Publicolor, a New York City based non-profit organization that focuses on inner city schools.

During the period 2010-2012, he served as a Member of the Advisory Board of the US Export-Import Bank which is the official export credit agent of the United States. Mr. Parekh is regularly featured on Forbes' list of the world's top venture capitalists.

For over 20 years, the Board of Advisors has provided expertise and critical support for the Fund as it pursues its goal of creating innovative and evidence-based approaches to address the City's most pressing challenges, a press statement issued yesterday said.

"To address the challenges facing our city, we need all New Yorkers pushing for progress together including those in our robust private sector," de Blasio said. First Lady Chirlane McCray, Chair of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City said the administration depends on New



Vijay Dandapani and Deven Parekh have been appointed members to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Board of Advisors.

York City's civic leaders to partner with government to make the city more vibrant and equitable.

Founded in 1994, the Mayor's Fund is a not-for-profit organization which annually works with an average of over 80 City programs, projects and initiatives; over 300 institutional funders; and more than 100 community-based organizations. The Mayor's Fund and its partners work on a diverse set of initiatives that address needs across the city's five boroughs, with a particular focus on improving the lives of vulnerable New Yorkers and New Yorkers in need.

The Fund has made strategic investments to promote mental health services for all New Yorkers, increase workforce development opportunities for young New Yorkers, and meet the needs of New York City's diverse immigrant community. Recently, the Mayor's Fund has supported relief work in response to the unprecedented natural disasters that hit Puerto Rico, Texas and the Caribbean, including collecting USD 1.7 million in aid for residents displaced by Hurricane Maria.

Mondello steps down

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): An era ended with the resignation of Joseph Mondello, who has chaired the Nassau County Republican Party for the past 35 years.

Although his announcement cites a desire to spend more time with his wife, kids and grandkids as the reason for stepping down, Mondello, 72, is up for an ambassadorship to Trinidad and Tobago, and has long been expected to give up the chairmanship.

He went out with one last salute to his allies and a final barb to his antagonists in the media. "No matter what the future holds, or where that future takes me a big part of me will always be here - at 164 Post Avenue - where so much history was made - and no matter what the media says - so much good was done for the people of Nassau County," he said in a statement.

What now for the future of the Nassau County Republican Party and its leadership? The county committee is expected to meet Thursday and a vote on leadership could come then. But in some ways, the future is as uncertain as it was when Mondello took over after the conviction of his predecessor, the late Joseph Margiotta, on extortion and mail fraud charges.

Indian American Former federal CIO Vivek Kundra joins Sprinklr as COO

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Former federal Chief Information Vivek Kundra has been named as the Chief Operating Officer of the social media management software provider Sprinklr.

He was earlier the president of Salesforce, until he left the company in December.

According to an official press release, with the appointment of Kundra, Sprinklr wants to provide brands a unified platform for customer experience management.

"I've been incredibly fortunate in my career to learn from amazing leaders running some of the largest companies and governments in the world. All of them share one goal: to build enduring relationships that create value for every one of their constituents," said Kundra.

"The social revolution has created an unprecedented disruption for these organizations, but when they overcome it, the results are transformational - for them, and for their customers. I couldn't be more excited to bring what I've learned to the only company that was built from the ground up to solve this problem, and to do so at massive, global scale."

Kundra, who was born in New Delhi, is a University of Maryland graduate.

He has experience creating ecosystems for partners and launching new apps to solve industry-specific challenges. Kundra also launched a new government cloud, opening up new markets and accelerating growth in the United States, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and the Asia Pacific region.

As the CIO of the Obama Administration, Kundra was responsible for managing \$80 billion in annual technology spending. He was responsible for moving the government to the



Kundra has expertise in chalking out strategies for key global verticals such as financial services, healthcare, retail, auto, communications, and the public sector

Cloud and strengthening the cybersecurity posture of the nation.

Sprinklr, which focuses on social media management and customer experience management, was founded by Indian American Ragy Thomas in September 2009.

"There are only a handful of execs in the world that have scaled SaaS companies at the level we aspire to, and even fewer who understand at their core, as we do, that the ability to create happy customers - listening to, engaging, and reaching them across dozens of digital channels - is the most strategic investment for the modern enterprise. To find both in one person is incredibly rare," said Thomas, who is also the CEO of Sprinklr. "With a foundation in social, Sprinklr was purpose-built to be the defining enterprise software company for CXM, and with Vivek in our corner, we're going to be relentless in our pursuit of that vision, executing with more momentum than ever."

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AS I SEE IT

IMMIGRANT-BASHING HELPS MS-13



By Tom Suozzi

I applaud President Trump's mission to combat MS-13. The gang must be disrupted, dismantled and defeated. There should never be any disagreement about that, and presidential involvement is incredibly beneficial.

MS-13 members are ruthless and depraved. The gang models itself on organized crime syndicates throughout history. It is a murderous and destructive force in too many good communities across America, including Long Island, where I'm from.

But Mr. Trump's failure to distinguish properly between MS-13 members and other immigrants, along with his divisive, discriminatory language, particularly against immigrants from Latin America, hampers efforts to rid our communities of MS-13. The president's inflammatory rhetoric is counterproductive to the goal that we the people, including new arrivals in America, seek to live in peace, security and happiness and to eradicate MS-13.

During my tenure as mayor of Glen Cove,

"The president's inflammatory rhetoric is counterproductive to the goal that we the people, including new arrivals in America, seek to live in peace, security and happiness and to eradicate MS-13", says the author.

N.Y., we enjoyed the lowest crime rate of any community with more than 20,000 people on Long Island. My city is a mashup of immigrants and multigenerational families. We achieved public safety and harmony by relying on two fundamental American credos.

First, all men and women are created equal. Not "all men and women with U.S. passports or green cards." All human beings are entitled to the same respect and dignity. Issues from public safety to immigration reform cannot become an excuse for racism or other forms of discrimination.

The second credo is "all men and women are equal under the eyes of the law." If you live in America, whether you are a newcomer or a descendant of the Pilgrims, you must obey the law.

And that's where our 45th president's words and actions become problematic. To protect those who obey the law, and to take down those who break it, particularly members of MS-13, community policing is central.

The key to community policing is a healthy, respectful and productive relationship between police officers and the community

they are sworn to serve and protect. Mr. Trump's approach-his sweeping rhetoric that lumps all immigrants together, his proposal to curtail legal immigration drastically, his failure to support a bipartisan permanent fix for beneficiaries of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, his elimination of temporary protection status safeguards-amounts to a war on immigrants, a war far beyond MS-13, which has a chilling effect on police-community relations with Latinos in America.

Police must be able to work with law-abiding people to identify MS-13 members and movements in their communities. While overseeing police departments as Glen Cove mayor and Nassau County executive, I saw community-policing stop MS-13 in its tracks. During my time as executive, Nassau was the safest county of more than 500,000 inhabitants in the U.S.

In contrast, when people are afraid to cooperate with the police because of Mr. Trump's words and his administration's crackdown on Latino immigrants, local leaders in the fight against MS-13 are pushed

into the shadows. It's a tragedy when people are afraid of the police and of government in general-afraid of reprisal from the officials every American relies on for protection.

My grandfather and father were immigrants from Italy. As a first-generation American, I could not be prouder or more inspired by their success as newcomers to this great nation. I am also keenly aware of how the criminal actions of a sliver of Italian immigrants were once used to disparage and deny opportunity to all Italian newcomers to America in the first half of the 20th century.

We cannot make the same mistakes by equating MS-13 with law-abiding immigrants from Latin America. Sadly, Mr. Trump-on a near daily basis-careens down this dangerous and destructive path. The president should put divisive language aside, support law-abiding immigrants, and make community policing more effective. And then he needs to be open to common-sense solutions for the DACA crisis and for comprehensive immigration reform.

(Mr. Suozzi, a Democrat, represents New York's Third Congressional District)

ALONG THE BORDERS



By Mini Kapoor

Unmindful, or perhaps too mindful, of the date, the U.S. inaugurated its new embassy building in Jerusalem last week, on May 14. Proceeding ahead full steam to shift its diplomatic mission in Israel from Tel Aviv to the disputed city, Washington sent Ivanka Trump to point proudly to the shiny plaque that had her father, U.S. President Donald Trump's name in inordinately large font. The timing was significant as it was the eve of Nakba Day, on which Palestinians mark the forced exodus 70 years ago of hundreds of thousands from their homes in what became the state of Israel in 1948. Just a few miles away, thousands of residents of Gaza had surged in protest towards the barrier that marks the border with Israel - Israeli forces fired at the crowd, killing at least 60 Palestinians.

The way borders operate

In that overlay of cheer at the new embassy in Jerusalem and the bloodshed in Gaza could be found the different ways in which borders are heeded. Jerusalem is not just a disputed city, it was divided by the Green Line till the Six-Day War of 1967, when Israeli forces occupied East Jerusalem, where crucially some of the holiest sites of Judaism, Islam and Christianity are. Palestinians are firm

that East Jerusalem be the capital of their state in the much recommended two-state solution. Many Israelis make a distinction between the West Bank and Gaza territories on the one hand and East Jerusalem on the other, contending that the city is an organic whole. The inauguration was a challenge to that old border. In Gaza, the barrier put up by Israel with inhumanely stern procedures to get past the checkpoints, and with the supplies of essential commodities so easily blocked in difficult times, the violence highlighted that fact that borders operate to the dictate of the militarily stronger party.

The Israeli wall - or security barrier or separation barrier as it's variously called, depending on your politics - is among the most contentious and photographed physical demarcations of a boundary, whether imposed or mutually agreed upon. In a new book *Divided*, Tim Marshall, a British journalist and writer, explains the theme in the subtitle: *Why We're Living in an Age of Walls*. The data bear him out: "At least sixty-five countries, more than a third of the world's nation states, have built barriers along their borders; half of those erected since the Second World War sprang up between 2000 and now. Within a few years, the European nations could have more miles of walls, fences and barriers on their borders than they were at the height of the Cold War."

Marshall's analysis

His analysis is sometimes unsatisfying, as he tries to see each wall (though in most parts they are not concrete walls, but fences, concertina wire, etc.) from the viewpoint of

those who erect it as well as those it seeks to keep out, and the space is too limited for local nuances to be explored enough in this around-the-world tour. That equation in itself is a comment on the 21st century world, but Marshall's tour of the great man-made barriers of today is instructive. Of course, he lingers at the Israeli wall - though as he points out, just 3% of the separation barrier is concrete. Other numbers are startling too: if the line drawn by the wall becomes a new fact on the ground, in a two-state solution, Palestinians would lose "at least 10 per cent of the West Bank land, as the wall's current position lies well inside Palestinian land". He describes the disparity in the checks that, say, Israeli settlers and Palestinian residents undergo, or those at the Palestinian end of the checkpoint and the Israeli. He explores the security dividend that's accrued to Israel on account of the wall, and he also visits British graffiti artist Banksy's *Walled Off Hotel* in Bethlehem overlooking, well, the wall.

Around the world

Marshall roams the globe, looking at "the longest border fence in the world" on the India-Bangladesh border, and also the issues of ethnicity, religion and humanitarian plight around the flight of the Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh in the most fraught conditions to cross international boundaries. He looks at the wall Iran has built along its border with Pakistan. He describes the 1,700-mile Moroccan wall through Western Sahara. There's the wall Trump wants to build/reinforce on the U.S.-Mexico border, the



Are we living through 'an age of walls'?

walls Hungary started building on its border with Serbia and Croatia. And so on.

And there is the memory of that wall in Berlin that came down. Marshall doesn't see the probability of a border-less world any time soon. But for now, he sees an antidote in the "great halls" that have been and are being built "to meet, discuss and try to resolve our differences". Call it the alphabet soup of our hopes: "The United Nations, the EU, the African Union, ASEAN, MERCOSUR, OPEC, NATO, the World Bank..." Keep adding.

(The author is a columnist with The Hindu)

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REVIVING 'NEIGHBORHOOD FIRST'

India's regional reset won't be complete without a change in its Pakistan policy



By Rakesh Stood



India is working on a neighborhood first policy. It will need to tread carefully with China, Nepal, and with Pakistan

“ Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi's critics acknowledge his uncanny ability to take bold decisions and this reflects in his foreign policy initiatives. Interestingly, he is also demonstrating an ability to undertake course corrections. The informal summit at Wuhan, China, last month and a visit to Nepal this month reflect a change aimed at reviving the 'neighborhood first' policy, announced in 2014. The big challenge, however, will be providing a sense of direction to the policy on Pakistan which has oscillated between 'jhappi' and 'katti'.”

Mr. Modi had received Chinese President Xi Jinping in September 2014 in Gujarat reflecting his personalized diplomacy even though the ongoing stand-off in Chumar in eastern Ladakh cast a shadow on the visit. The personalized diplomacy was reciprocated the following year when Mr. Modi visited China and Mr. Xi received him in Xian, but its limits soon became apparent.

In mid-2016, China blocked India's bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) despite a meeting between the two leaders in Tashkent on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. This was followed by China vetoing Masood Azhar's listing as a terrorist in the UN Security Council even though the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is a banned entity. China's veto continued even after the Uri Army camp attack by JeM cadres later that year, adding to India's growing annoyance. Hydrological data sharing stopped amid reports of diversion of Brahmaputra river waters. The 73-day stand-off at Doklam last year and accompanying rhetoric reflected a marked downturn. India responded through all this by voicing skepticism regarding Mr. Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), stepping up maritime engagement with the U.S. and Japan and reviving the Quad (with Australia) in Manila last year.

Both leaders soon realized the risks of the downward spiral of confrontation and were pragmatic enough to understand the need to restore a degree of balance to the relationship. Mr. Xi had emerged stronger after the 19th Communist Party Congress and the decision by the Central Committee to remove the restriction of two terms for a President made it clear that he would continue beyond 2023.

Significant messages were carried by Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Politburo member Yang Jiechi last December during their visits to Delhi. Follow-up visits to Beijing by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this year prepared the ground for the informal summit meeting in Wuhan last month. The leak of the government circular advising officials to stay away from events commemorating 60 years of Dalai Lama's exile in India and declining Australia's suggestion to participate in Malabar naval exercises indicated Indian interest in a reset.

The Wuhan summit was projected as 'informal' (something the Chinese have engaged in with U.S. Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump), without an agenda. Over two days, the two leaders met for 10 hours, four times one-on-one and twice with their delegations. Instead

of a customary Joint Statement, there were separate briefings by Mr. Gokhale and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou indicating the key takeaways. It is clear that messages have gone out to the Army to improve communications and understanding and prevent the stand-offs that were becoming frequent. Both sides have agreed to undertake a joint project in Afghanistan. No softening of Chinese position on the NSG or India's reservations on the BRI was visible though these issues would have figured in the discussions. However, with three more meetings likely during the SCO, G-20 and BRICS summits later this year, it is clear that there is an effort to bring the relationship on track.

Rebuilding trust with Nepal

A similar exercise appears to be under way with Nepal. Mr. Modi's visit in 2014 had generated considerable goodwill but subsequent decisions queered the pitch. India's public display of unhappiness with Nepal's new Constitution and support for the Madhesi cause created ill-will. The economic impact caused by the disruption of supplies of essential items such as liquefied petroleum gas, petroleum products and medicines fed the anti-Indian sentiment which K.P. Oli effectively exploited to score a decisive electoral victory late last year. Clearly, Delhi was disappointed with the election outcome but decided that the relationship with Nepal was too important to let past misunderstandings fester. A new beginning was necessary.

A couple of phone calls between Mr. Modi and Mr. Oli followed in December-January and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj was in Kathmandu even before Mr. Oli was sworn in as Prime Minister to convey congratulations and an invitation from Mr. Modi to visit India. Mr. Oli responded positively, and much was made of the fact that in keeping with tradition, he made Delhi his first foreign destination last month. A surprise one-on-one meeting with Mr. Modi on the first day provided the two leaders an opportunity to clear the air about the past and rebuild a degree of trust.

A return visit by Mr. Modi to Nepal within a month (on May 11-12) indicates that both sides are keen to show positive movement. Expectations are being kept low key, but the optics of positive messaging are evident. Included in the itinerary are a visit to Janakpur to offer prayers at Janaki Mandir and a public address which will announce the inauguration of the Ramayana pilgrimage circuit linking Ayodhya and Janakpur. The same idea had been shot down earlier when the Nepali authorities had cited 'security issues'. In addition, Mr. Modi will visit Muktinath and the pension

paying office at Pokhara, highlighting the historical, cultural and religious ties between the peoples of the two countries. Undoubtedly, the fact that he begins his visit to Nepal by landing in Janakpur, capital of the sole Madhes-ruled province will give comfort to the Madhesi community, but Mr. Modi realizes that his challenge is to repair ties with the wider Nepali community.

The Pakistan challenge

With Pakistan, after the opening when the then Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, visited Delhi in 2014 and Mr. Modi dropped in to have tea with him in Lahore in December 2015, relations stalled in 2016 following the Pathankot and Uri attacks. Firing across the Line of Control (LoC) has intensified leading to higher casualties on both sides, both civilian and military. In September 2016, India launched 'surgical strikes' as retaliation for the Uri attack but this has not reduced infiltration. Since Burhan Wani's death, local recruitment by radical groups is also on the rise. India has successfully stalled the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit since 2016 and Mr. Trump's tweets criticizing Pakistan have given Delhi satisfaction. But limits to the policy of isolating Pakistan are also apparent.

Elections are likely in July and the Army would prefer to keep Mr. Sharif's PML(N) out of power. Mr. Sharif's dismissal and disqualification for life from politics by the Supreme Court makes it clear that the Army is determined to control the political transition. Pakistan Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa has, on more than one occasion, emphasized the need for improving relations with both India and Afghanistan.

The resumption of the stalled Track II Neemrana Dialogue last month in Islamabad indicates that a shift may be likely. Pakistan realizes that the time frame for a shift is limited before India goes into election mode. The question is whether Gen. Bajwa can make good on his suggestion by showing forward movement on the issues flagged by India - curbing the Lashkar-e-Toiba and JeM, the Kulbushan Jadhav and 26/11 trials, etc. Faced with a similar situation, Gen. Pervez Musharraf had gone in for a unilateral ceasefire on the LoC in 2003. The guns fell silent, tensions were defused, and Pakistan hosted the SAARC summit in 2004.

A change in the Pakistan policy may well be the reset to enable Mr. Modi to reclaim his 'neighborhood first' policy.

(The author is a former diplomat and is presently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. E-mail: rakeshsood2001@yahoo.com)

Pakistan votes to bring tribal areas into political fold

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan passed legislation on May 24 paving the way for its restive tribal areas to enter the mainstream political fold, bringing an ending to a colonial-era arrangement that endorsed collective punishment and fuelled militancy.

The constitutional amendment received broad support from across the political spectrum in the National Assembly, with 229 voting to approve the measure and one voting against it.

Another 10 abstained, according to state media.

The legislation still needs final approval from the senate and the signature of the president - a formality that is all but guaranteed after receiving overwhelming support in the lower house.

The amendment will bring an end to colonial-era laws governing Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), extend the writ of Pakistani courts to its districts and increase development assistance to its residents.

"Today this house has approved a historic bill, which will have very positive effects for Pakistan. I thank the opposition for their support," Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told legislators after the vote.

Following the passage of the bill, FATA will be officially merged into neighbouring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Since the days of the British Raj, the territory has long been seen as a backwater ruled by hostile tribesmen that was kept as a buffer zone between Afghanistan and the settled territories that became Pakistan.

Following the 9/11 attacks the tribal belt along the Afghan border became a notorious focal point in the global war on terror, with Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters operating in the area with impunity.

The US has repeatedly accused Pakistan of allowing the tribal areas to host safe havens harbouring militants fighting in Afghanistan - an allegation Islamabad has consistently denied.

FATA residents have long complained its development has been overlooked by authorities, while appointed administrators were able to punish whole tribes for the crimes of an individual.

"Pakistan's tribal areas have long been neglected. The government has taken this decision very late," Rahimullah Yusufzai, a regional analyst and an expert on the tribal areas, told AFP.

Yusufzai predicted that implementation of the amendment could take months as Pakistan prepares for elections due this summer, which would leave the reforms in the hands of the incoming government.

The new amendment was largely celebrated across the FATA. (PTI)

Nawaz Sharif sends Rs 1 billion legal notice to NAB chief Javed Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif on May 24 sent a legal notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal for issuing a statement that accused him of laundering \$4.9 billion to India. The notice was in reference to a NAB press release issued after a news item published by a local newspaper incorrectly referenced the World Bank's 2016 Migration and Remittance Book to say that India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$4.9 billion due to huge cash inflows from Pakistan attributable to money laundering by the Sharif family, Dawn reported. In the notice to the NAB chairman, sent through his lawyer Barrister Manzoor Dogal, Sharif described the press release as an attempt to influence the upcoming elections, the paper said. The PML-N supreme leader demanded that Iqbal tender an apology for his "insulting" press release and pay Rs 1 billion as damages within the next 14 days.

He further demanded that the NAB chairman's apology be published in all leading Urdu and English newspapers as well. According to the legal notice, if the NAB chairman does not tender an apology or does not pay damages, legal action will be taken against him.

On May 17, a different lawyer, AK Dogar, had sent a legal notice to Iqbal on Sharif's behalf. In that notice, the NAB chief was asked to either apologise or resign from his post as NAB chief. Taking notice of a newspaper article based on a "flawed" report of the World Bank, NAB had said it has started looking into whether ousted premier Sharif was involved in the alleged laundering of \$4.9 billion to India. (PTI)

'Rohingya terrorists killed and robbed innocent villagers'

DHAKA (TIP): : Rohingya Muslim militants brandishing guns and swords massacred 105 Hindu men, women and children over two days in Myanmar last year, Amnesty International has revealed.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a Rohingya rebel group, terrorised, murdered and abducted Hindus in northern Rakhine state just before a disproportionate campaign of violence was carried out by Myanmar's security forces against the Rohingya, forcing some 700,000 of them to flee to Bangladesh.

On August 25, 2017, the same day that ARSA staged coordinated attacks on 30 police outposts and border guards, killing a dozen government forces and sparking the government crackdown, ARSA captured scores of Hindus and slaughtered them outside their own villages.

Twenty Hindu men, 10 women, and 23 children, 14 of whom were under the age of eight, were killed by ASRA in the village of Ah Nauk Kha Maung Seik, according to Amnesty. The same day all the 46 Hindus in the neighbouring village of Ye Bauk Kyar disappeared.

Based on dozens of interviews with survivors, as well as forensic pathologists' analyses of photographic evidence, Amnesty has revealed how at 8 am on August 25, 2017, the ARSA attacked the Hindu community in the village of Ah Nauk Kha Maung Seik in northern Maungdaw township. Armed men dressed in black and Rohingya villagers, who are predominantly Muslim, rounded up their Hindu neighbours, robbed, bound, and blindfolded them, before marching them to the outskirts of the village where ARSA fighters killed 53 of them, execution-style, starting with the men.

Eight Hindu women and eight Hindu children were abducted and spared after the Rohingya rebel fighters forced the women to agree to "convert" to Islam.



"The men held knives and long iron rods. They tied our hands behind our backs and blindfolded us. One of them said: 'You and Rakhine (Buddhist) are the same, you have a different religion, you can't live here. I gave them my gold and money,'" 22-year-old survivor Bina Bala told Amnesty.

Raj Kumari, 18, said: "They slaughtered the men. We were told not to look ... They had knives, spades and iron rods. ... We hid ourselves in the shrubs and could see ... My uncle, my father, my brother were all slaughtered."

Formila, 20, told Amnesty the fighters returned "with blood on their swords and hands" and told the women the men had been killed. Later, as Formila and the other abducted women were being marched away, she turned back and saw ARSA fighters kill the other women and children. "I saw men holding the heads and hair of the women, then they cut their throats," she said.

The survivors were forced to flee with the Rohingya fighters to Bangladesh, before being repatriated to Myanmar in

October 2017. On August 26, 2017, ARSA terrorists killed six Hindus, including three Hindu children, on the outskirts of Maungdaw, near Myo Thu Gyi village. Kor Mor La, 25, who survived, saw her husband Na Ra Yan, 30, and five-year-old daughter Shu Nan Daw executed. "The people who shot us were dressed in black. ... I could only see their eyes. ... They had long guns and swords," Kor Mor Lar said. "My husband was shot next to me. I was shot in the chest."

The bodies of 45 Hindus from Ah Nauk Kha Maung Seik were unearthed in four mass graves on September 28, 2017. The remains of the rest of the victims have not been found.

"It's hard to ignore the sheer brutality of ARSA's actions, which have left an indelible impression on the survivors. Accountability for these atrocities is every bit as crucial as it is for the crimes against humanity carried out by Myanmar's security forces in northern Rakhine state," said Tirana Hassan, crisis response director at Amnesty International. (TOI)

16 killed, 38 wounded by blast in southern Afghan city

KANDAHAR (TIP): At least 16 people were killed and 38 wounded on May 24 when a minivan packed with explosives detonated as security forces were trying to defuse it in southern Afghanistan, officials said.

Security forces in Kandahar had already cleared the area around a bus station where the van was found, provincial governor spokesman Daud Ahmadi said.

"As the security forces were trying to defuse the van, it detonated," said police spokesman Mohammad Qasim Azad.

"The latest figures show 16 dead and 38 wounded people brought to the hospital. We still have two ambulances at the site because there might be more people under the rubble," Dr Nehmat Barak, chief of the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar, said.

Ahmadi confirmed the toll, adding that the dead included four security forces personnel. At least five children and 10 members of the security forces were among the wounded.

The blast was so powerful that the majority of the casualties were passers-by outside the cleared area.

Ahmadi said security forces also found a large container of explosives, rocket-propelled grenades, suicide vests, and ammunition near the site.

The terrorists planned to conduct a big attack at end of Ramadan in the city among crowds of people as they went out shopping for Eid... security forces prevented a disaster from happening," one security official told AFP.

No group immediately claimed responsibility. (AFP)

Sri Lanka storms, landslides kill 5, leave 1,000 displaced

COLOMBO: Heavy monsoon rains in Sri Lanka have killed five people, prompting authorities to warn against landslides and floods in low-lying areas after spill gates had to be opened across the Indian Ocean island.

Lightning killed three people, a landslide a fourth, and the fifth death was the result of a fallen tree, said officials at the country's Disaster Management Centre.

The centre's spokesman, Pradeep Kodippili, said flooding has forced the evacuation of people in areas where several rivers are overflowing, while four districts are on "red alert" for possible landslides.

"People in those four districts have been cautioned to be vigilant," Kodippili told Reuters.

The army has sent more than 100 soldiers with more than 25 boats to tackle the emergency, its spokesman, Sumith Atapattu, told Reuters.

May kicks off the monsoon season in Sri Lanka's south, usually the region's wettest time of year, running until September. From November to February, the northwest monsoon also brings the island heavy rain.

Heavy rains and intermittent droughts have hit tea, the country's main export crop, which brings in earnings of more than \$1 billion. Tea output rose last year for the first time in four years. However, the weather this year has not been harsh enough to affect the stock market and companies, brokers said, although firms in the plantation industry could be hit. (Reuters)

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Former first lady Michelle Obama releases cover of her book

WASHINGTON (TIP): Former first lady Michelle Obama on May 24 unveiled the book cover of her highly anticipated memoir 'BECOMING'.

The book is scheduled to be published globally on November 13.

Michelle selected the cover photo for her book jacket from a photo shoot that was done earlier this year in Washington by renowned portrait photographer Miller Mobley, publisher Penguin said in a statement.

The 54-year-old former first lady shared on her Instagram account four previously unpublished family photographs that illustrate moments in her personal journey of becoming the woman she is today.

"I'm thrilled to share with all of you the cover for BECOMING," Michelle said.

"The process of writing this book has been so personally meaningful and illuminating for me. As I prepare to share BECOMING this fall, I hope you'll also think about your own story, and trust that it will help you become whoever you aspire to be. Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own," she said.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerising storytelling, Michelle invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address, Penguin said in a statement.

With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms, it said.

"Warm, wise, and revelatory, BECOMING is an unusually intimate reckoning from a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations and whose story inspires us to do the same," the statement added.(PTI)

Trump's son-in-law gets permanent security clearance

WASHINGTON (TIP): Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of US President Donald Trump, has finally received security clearance, media reports said on May 24.

The permanent security clearance for Kushner had been pending since last year.

"Having completed all of these processes, he's looking forward to continuing to do the work the president has asked him to do," Abbe D Lowell, attorney of Kushner, said in a statement.

He said Kushner's application was "properly" submitted, reviewed by numerous career officials and underwent the normal process.

According to The New York Times, Kushner was issued permanent security clearance by career staffers of the FBI, after the investigative agency completed its background check against the president's son-in-law.

Married to Trump's daughter Ivanka, Kushner is a special advisor to the President and his special envoy on the Middle East Peace Process.

Kushner was among several White House officials who spent the first year of the administration working on provisional clearances, meaning he was allowed to view classified information while his FBI background check was pending, the daily said.

Those clearances were stripped in February under a new White House policy, it added.

In another report, The Washington Post said the FBI's background check into Kushner's financial history and foreign contacts took more than a year, and his clearance level was downgraded in February, becoming a source of uncertainty for the West Wing aide and blocking him from approved access to some of the nation's most sensitive secrets.

Lowell said Kushner last year became "one of the first to voluntarily cooperate with any investigation into the 2016 campaign and related topics", the daily reported.

"Since then, he has continued this complete cooperation, providing a large number of documents and sitting for hours of interviews with congressional committees and providing numerous documents and sitting for two interviews with the office of special counsel," he added. (PTI)

Californians Protest 'Cow Culture' Conference Featuring Subramanian Swamy

MILPITAS, CA (TIP): On May 20, Indian immigrant communities from throughout California gathered to protest a "Cow Culture" conference at the India Community Center in Milpitas, CA which featured Indian Member of Parliament Subramanian Swamy.

"We welcome all cow lovers," announced the OM Sri Surabhi Campaign (OSSC), which organized the conference. "Join use for an engaging Cow Culture Conference for Global Auspiciousness in service to our universal mother, Sri Surabhi." The name "Surabhi" refers to the idea of a "divine mother cow." The conference called people to "adopt our universal mother."

Protesters who gathered outside the India Community Center claimed that "cow culture" is being used a political tool to coerce minorities. "Dalit and Muslim people stand here with our Bahujan brothers and sisters saying, 'enough is enough with this violence,'" declared Thenmozhi Soundararajan at the protest. Soundararajan, who is President of Ambedkar Association of North American, led the group of approximately 40 protestors in chants of "No more lynchings, no more rapes, Hindutva is a culture of hate."

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reports that the BJP embraces "an ideology of Hindutva, which holds non-Hindus as foreign to India." The BJP achieved national power in India in 2014, with Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. In 2017, Swamy praised Modi's work with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the BJP, stating, "If you peel off his exterior, it is all Hindutva." Explaining the BJP's victory, Swamy said, "We articulated this Hindutva - of uniting the Hindus and dividing the minorities."

Inside the conference, Swamy praised the benefits of cows. "Milk, urine, the gobar - excreta - is converted into fertilizer, pesticide, as well as bricks for building huts," said Swamy. "So here is an animal which gives you everything. Why is that you want this to be killed?" He said people do not have the right to eat what they want, stating, "In India, there is no such thing as an absolute fundamental rights to anything." Demanding that India pass a national law criminalizing cow slaughter, he added, "Anyone killing a cow should be prosecuted for murder."

Outside, protestors chanted, "Cow culture has got to go. Cow culture is hatred." They displayed signs and banners, including one featuring a photo of Mohammed Ikhlaq underneath the tagline, "Hindutva cow culture lynchings." Ikhlaq was a Muslim who was dragged from his home in Uttar Pradesh on the night of September 28, 2015 and beaten to death on suspicion of possessing beef. Citing a 2017 report by IndiaSpend, a public interest journalism website, the banner also stated, "Since 2010, 97% lynchings by 'cow protectors' happened after Modi's 2014 victory."

Expressing concern that "Hindu Sharia law" is coming to the United States, several protestors took to a bullhorn to deliver short speeches. "We love India," said Zafar Haq. Speaking on behalf of the Indian American Muslim Council, he continued, "India is our country. We cannot let Hindutva claim their share and say that, 'We will drive you out.' They cannot tell us that the cow is a deciding factor for life and death for so many



Protesters decried government of India's Hindutva agenda

Muslims. Just yesterday, in Madhya Pradesh, an innocent Muslim man was lynched and killed for allegations that he had beef in his house."

"Subramanian Swamy is the big culprit who is behind the policy of killing Muslims, killing minorities, and he's coming here to demand more killing of the minorities," warned Jaswant Singh Hothi of Milpitas Gurdwara. "We are here to send him a message that we will not put up with what he is doing. Cow culture is a culture of rape, it's a culture of hate, and we will not put up with this. We pledge to galvanize the Sikh Sangat of the Bay Area against this Hindutva."

Sandeep Singh of Turlock Gurdwara called the conference "an RSS program," adding, "Cow culture is against American values of liberty and equality." He joined in chants of "RSS, go away." Other slogans raised by the protestors included "RSS out of America," "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Hindutva has got to go," and "Hindutva out of India."

Inside the conference, leaders of Hindu Swayamevak Sangh (HSS) - the international affiliate of the RSS - took the podium before Swamy gave his keynote speech. "Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak at the cow conference which is so needed, especially in a country like the US," said Ajay Singhal. Sanjay Tripathi, assuring the conference that HSS stands ready to provide "whatever is needed," claimed, "The god came to serve cow."

Meanwhile, a few conference attendees stepped outside to engage protestors.

One large white man dressed as a swami walked up to the protest, saying, "My friends." He quickly turned to anger, however, and began screaming, "One cow is equal to a thousand humans." As he was escorted away by fellow conference attendees, protestor Bhajan Singh remarked, "This is the cow culture." Singh continued, "You saw his violent attitude. If this is the cow culture that is coming in America, where they're going to come and attack you like that, it's a scary thought for all of us."

Narayan Higgins, manager of Hawaii-based Krishna Cow Sanctuary, briefly engaged in debate with Soundararajan. "If the Hindutvas are as bad as you say they are, they will destroy you for acting like this," said Higgins. "They actually are killing our people," replied Soundararajan. They were then joined by Sriramadas Brs, the Continental Coordinator (Asia) of OSSC, who told Higgins, "We need to go." Higgins replied, "I was just trying to talk with them." Sriramadas quickly escorted Higgins away. Protestors then began chanting, "Hey, hey,

ho, ho, Brahmanism's got to go."

Delivering remarks from a bullhorn, Singh declared, "They have successfully fooled the world into declaring from the United Nations October 2nd as a Nonviolence Day. They then decided that wasn't enough. They then said they will declare International Yoga Day, which is now being celebrated all over the world. Guess what's coming next? International Cow as Our Universal Mother Day.... We do not want the universal cow mother day. I respect my mother. If I called my mother a cow, she would slap me."

"Subramanian Swamy is Hindutva in a cow mask," remarked Arvin Valmuci, a spokesperson for Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI). "The Bahujan Mulnivasi people of India are being oppressed and persecuted by Hindu supremacist elements who politicize cow worship and use it as a pretext for violence."

Laws in 21 of India's 29 states criminalize the slaughter of cattle to one degree or another. Violence related to cow protection has been a feature of Indian society for a long time, but the country has undergone a massive spike in incidents since 2014. IndiaSpend, which conducted the first statistical analysis of cow-related attacks and lynchings, documented and analyzed all reported incidents since 2010. "Of 63 attacks recorded since 2010, 61 took place under Mr. Modi's government," reported IndiaSpend.

Further data analysis reveals several shocking trends. Of 28 people killed, 24 were Muslim. Out of 63 attacks, 32 victims were Muslim, five were Dalit, and one was Christian. In 13 of 63 attacks, police pressed charges against the victims. In 23 of 63 attacks, the attackers were identified as members of Hindu nationalist groups. Of 63 attacks, 32 occurred in states governed by the BJP. Finally, 2017 has seen a 75% increase in attacks versus the same period in 2016.

Commenting in March 2018, Karnataka Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy accused the BJP of holding a double-standard by only seeking a ban on the slaughter of cows. "If they want to ban, let them ban everywhere and all animals," said Reddy. He added, "They say that they will ban cow slaughter if they come to power in Karnataka, while our country exports cow meat, beef to other countries. It has been four years since they came to power. Why have they not stopped these exports?"

Groups participating in the protest included OFMI, B. R. Ambedkar Sikh Foundation, American Religious Freedom Coalition, Ambedkar King Study Circle, Indian American Muslim Council, and Ambedkar Association of North America.x

Ambassador Navtej Sarna addresses Indian American community in Columbus

COLUMBUS, OH (TIP): Indian Ambassador to the United States Navtej Sarna addressed the Indian American community at an event organized by The Federation of Indian Associations of Central Ohio on May 18th and praised their contribution in the strengthening of the US-India relationship.

At the event, held in Columbus, Sarna also felicitated 7-year-old Indian American boy Arush Kristipati, who won the National Math Challenge in the Juniors category, conducted by Aloha, New Jersey.

The Federation of Indian Associations of Central Ohio is a volunteer non-profit organization established in 1983 to bring all the Indian American groups in Central Ohio under one umbrella.

Addressing the community, Sarna spoke about latest economic developments in India and answered a wide range of questions on India-US



Sarna, a 1980 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was appointed Ambassador of India to the United States of America in September 2016

relations. He thanked the federation for organizing the event.

The group announced that it will host the India Festival 2018 on August 25 at the Ohio Expo Centre.

The India Festival is celebrated each

year to create awareness about the Indian culture and to understand how it is adding to the cultural diversity of Ohio. The festival is a one-of-its-kind event presented by Indian community in central Ohio.

Indian American Aruna Miller received another big endorsement courtesy a Former Obama Chief of Staff Denis McDonough

MARYLAND (TIP): Indian American Maryland Democrat Aruna Miller received another big endorsement on May 22nd courtesy Denis McDonough, former Chief of Staff to President Barack Obama.

"I know first-hand what it takes to get things done in Washington," McDonough, who served as chief of staff during Obama's second term from 2013 to 2017. "Right now, we need experienced leaders who will stand up and fight for our values. Aruna came to this country as an immigrant and benefited from the American dream. I admire how she is giving back." said Denis McDonough.

"Denis McDonough led President Obama's team defending the Affordable Care Act and protecting our environment," Miller said. "I'm delighted to have his support. In Congress, I won't let Donald Trump undo the progress we've made."

Last week, Montgomery County Council Vice President Nancy Navarro



Miller, a Maryland state lawmaker, is running for the open 6th sixth congressional district, being vacated by the retiring Democrat Rep. John Delaney

had endorsed Miller, who has bagged a series of high-profile endorsements.

Among Democrats who have so far endorsed her include Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY; US Reps. Pramila Jayapal, D-WA, Ami Bera, D-CA, Ro Khanna, D-CA, and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi; Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett; former Maryland Lieutenant Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend; and Maryland Del. Kumar Barve.

The primary is on June 26.

One of Miller's primary rivals is millionaire David Trone, who spent more than \$13 million of his money when he ran unsuccessfully from the 8th congressional district two years ago. Trone has so far raised more than \$5.6 million and spent \$4 million, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Miller has remained competitive by doing well in a series of debates and also raising nearly \$1.2 million, which is more than the combined amount raised by the five other candidates in the Democratic primary.

Indian Americans Sri Kulkarni and Chintan Desai win Democratic congressional primaries in two different states



Both Kulkarni and Desai will face Republican incumbents in November

TEXAS & ARKANSAS (TIP): Indian Americans Sri Kulkarni and Chintan Desai have won Democratic party primaries held on May 22nd in Texas and Arkansas respectively.

Sri Preston Kulkarni, a former US diplomat, won the Democratic primary runoff for Texas' 22nd Congressional District defeating Letitia Plummer, his only rival.

In Arkansas, Chintan Desai, a school teacher, won the state's first congressional district unopposed.

In the 22nd district runoff on May 22nd, Kulkarni received 62.1 percent of the total votes polled, while Plummer got 37.88 percent votes.

The runoff was required after no candidate was able to secure the 50 percent threshold in the primary held in March.

Kulkarni and Plummer finished first and second in the primary with 31.81 percent and 24.30 percent votes respectively, resulting in a run-off to decide the Democratic nominee for the November election.

Now Kulkarni will face Republican incumbent Pete Olson in November.

Earlier, Olson had won the Republican primary in March defeating three candidates.

"On May 22nd, we made history in District 22. Our movement, uniting diverse communities through shared values, took us across the finish line and helped me become your Democratic nominee for US Congress," Kulkarni.

"None of this would have been possible without our hundreds of volunteers, from middle schoolers to senior citizens, and, of course, the thousands of voters who participated in this election," he thanked his volunteers for the unflinching support they provided, adding that "I am beyond thankful to be in this fight with you. I look forward to working with y'all to make sure our communities and our families get the representation they deserve in Congress."

Kulkarni, a former US diplomat, quit his State Department job to run for Congress.

"According to media reports, Texas 22nd is a Republican leaning district. Olson, a four-term incumbent, has a 10-point advantage in the district. However, Democrats see the district as a pick-up opportunity.

Arkansas 1st is a heavily Republican seat, which was carried by Trump by 35 points in the last presidential election. Desai's November opponent, Rep. Rick Crawford has been representing the district since 2011.

US House passes defence budget for fiscal 2019

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US House of Representatives on May 24 passed the annual defence spending bill for fiscal 2019, which among other things seeks better defence relationship with India and greater American commitment in the Indo-Pacific region in view of the challenge being posed by China.

The National defence Authorization Bill or NDAA-2019, was passed by the House of Representatives by 351-66 votes. It now needs to be passed by the Senate, before it can be sent to the White House for the President Donald Trump to sign it into law.

"In the Indo-Pacific region, the United States faces a near-term, belligerent threat armed with nuclear weapons and also a longer-term strategic competitor," said Congressman Mac Thornberry, Chairman of the House Armed

Services Committee.

"In fact, four of the five key security challenges - China, Russia, North Korea, and terrorism - reside in the PACOM area of responsibility. Critical to meeting all of the challenges in the region is our relationship with our allies and also with countries with whom we share interests," he said.

The bill seeks renaming US Pacific Command as Indo-Pacific Command. It seeks a better defence relationship with India.

NDAA bolsters the Department of defence's efforts to plan for and provide the necessary forces, military infrastructure, logistics capabilities, and bilateral and multilateral training in the region through the Indo-Pacific Stability Initiative.

It invests in critical military capabilities to

deter aggression and respond rapidly to crisis and supports strong missile defence systems to counter North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, including the DoD's development of new capabilities and efforts to provide for a layered defence of the homeland.

NDAA renames US Pacific Command to US Indo-Pacific Command to emphasise the Commands' responsibility across the Pacific and Indian Oceans and requires the Department of defence to conduct a study on the operational requirements needed for language expertise in Korean, Chinese Mandarin and Russian and a plan to address any shortfalls. To counter aggression in the region, NDAA requires the Administration to construct a whole-of-government strategy to address China's activities.

It requires as assessment and planned responses to address activities by the Chinese Communist Party to include the use of political influence, information operations, use of intelligence networks, economic and military tools, and cyber activities and a US strategic communication plan to counter Chinese influence.

It also highlights China's provocative military, maritime and air activities in the Indo-Pacific region by requiring a quarterly report to Congress that may be disseminated to allies and partners. NDAA modifies the Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative by renaming it Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative. It would include India as a covered country and allow for the inclusion of additional countries in the Indo-Pacific region. (PTI)

SUNANDA DEATH CASE SHIFTED TO SPECIAL COURT

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Delhi court on May 24 transferred the Sunanda Pushkar death case, in which her husband and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has been chargesheeted for abetting her suicide, to a special court designated to try lawmakers. Metropolitan Magistrate Dharmendra Singh transferred the case to Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal, who will take up the matter on May 28.



On May 14, Delhi Police had accused Tharoor, MP from Thiruvananthapuram, of abetting Sunanda's suicide and told a city court that he should be summoned as an accused in the case. Sunanda was found dead in a hotel room on January 17, 2014. *Source: PTI*

PNB fraud: ED files chargesheet against Nirav Modi, associates

MUMBAI (TIP): The ED on Thursday filed its first chargesheet in the over USD 2 billion PNB fraud case involving diamantaire Nirav Modi and his associates, officials said.

They said the about 12,000-page chargesheet or the prosecution complaint had been filed before a special court here under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

They added that the criminal complaint had been filed only against Nirav Modi, his associates and businesses and the entire gamut of issuance of fake Letters of Undertaking (LoU) by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to his firms in alleged connivance of bank officials.

It is expected that the agency would file a second chargesheet against Modi's uncle and jeweller Mehul Choksi and his businesses.

The chargesheet also details the attachments made by the agency against Modi and his associates in the last few months after it first registered an FIR in this case on February 14.

The CBI had earlier this month filed two chargesheets in this case.

Modi, who is absconding and has not joined the ED probe in the case till now, and others are being probed under various criminal laws after the fraud came to light this year following a complaint by the PNB that they allegedly cheated the nationalised bank of over Rs 13,000 crore, with the purported involvement of a few employees of the bank.

CRPF SI killed, jawan injured in IED blast in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR (TIP): An official of the CRPF's elite CoBRA unit was on Thursday killed and another jawan injured when a pressure bomb, planted by Naxals, went off in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said.

The blast occurred around 7.45 am in a forest near Puswada village when a road opening party of the 206th battalion of CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)—a specialised unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)—was out on patrolling, a senior police official told PTI.

"Sub-Inspector Rajesh Kumar, belonging to CoBRA 206th battalion, was killed in the explosion while constable Manik Tinpore of the same unit sustained minor injuries," he said.

The road opening party had launched the operation between Timilwada to Dornapal, around 500 km from here, he said.

While the security personnel were cordoning off a forest near Puswada, the CoBRA official came in contact with a pressure improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Maoists beneath the dirt track, that exploded leaving the two personnel, including him, injured, he said.

Reinforcement was rushed to the spot and the injured personnel were brought to field hospital of the CRPF in Chintagufa where Kumar succumbed to his injuries, he said.

The injured jawan would be airlifted to Raipur for further medication, he said.

Source: PTI

TUTICORIN VIOLENCE

Oppn-sponsored bandh in Tamil Nadu, seeks resignation of BJP govt

CHENNAI (TIP): The bandh called by the DMK-led opposition parties to condemn the Tuticorin violence in which 13 people lost their lives and to demand the resignation of Chief Minister K Palaniswami began in Tamil Nadu on May 25.

Demonstrations were staged by the DMK, its allies Congress, IUML and friendly parties like MDMK, VCK, CPI, CPI(M) and MMK in several parts of the state and neighbouring Puducherry.

Raising slogans denouncing the government and asking Palaniswami to tender his resignation, demonstrations were held at locations, including Egmore and Saidapet here.

Former Chennai mayor and DMK leader M Subramanian, party Rajya Sabha MP Kanimozhi, VCK chief Thirumavalavan, MMK leader MH Jawahirullah were among the leaders who participated in the demonstrations here.

In the wake of the protest, traffic was disrupted in several locations in the city and security was tightened in all the districts of the state.

Buses of the state-run transport corporations were being operated as usual and all steps were being taken to ensure that normalcy was not disrupted, according to government authorities.

No fresh violence was reported so far on Friday from Tuticorin, which witnessed large-scale violence on May 22



Tamil Nadu Commando forces deployed during the violent protest demanding the closure of Vedanta's Sterlite Copper unit, in Tuticorin. Pic courtesy: PTI

and 23. Buses with police security were operated to a few locations from Tuticorin city.

Violent protests erupted in Tuticorin on Tuesday as locals took to the streets demanding closure of a copper factory of the Vedanta group over pollution concerns. Meanwhile, in a BSE filing, Vedanta said its Tuticorin plant closure was ordered by the State pollution control board.

"The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) vide its order dated May

23, 2018 ordered disconnection of electricity supply and closure of the company's 'Copper Smelter Plant 1 at Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu' under provisions of Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Section 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1971, with immediate effect," it said.

"We would also like to inform that the plant was not operating since March 27, 2018," it added. *Source: PTI*

PM accepts Kohli's fitness challenge; Oppn leaders turn it into political dares

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's acceptance of a "fitness challenge" posed by Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli quickly took political overtones today as a host of opposition leaders dared him to tackle challenges of unemployment and security with Congress chief Rahul Gandhi leading the charge by asking him to reduce oil prices or face a nationwide agitation. One of the leaders went to the extent of taking a dig at Modi over his educational qualifications and dared him to post his degrees on Twitter.

While Gandhi dared the prime minister to take the fuel challenge by reducing fuel prices, saying the Congress will otherwise launch a nationwide stir, the party's communications in-charge Randeep Surjewala asked him to tackle challenges pertaining to national security, jobs, corruption and MSP to farmers.

"Dear PM, Glad to see you accept the @imVkohli fitness challenge. Here's one from me: Reduce fuel prices or the Congress will do a nationwide agitation and force you to do so. I look forward to your response," Gandhi wrote on Twitter.

The initiative, called the 'Hum Fit Toh India Fit' challenge, was started by Sports Minister Rajavardhan Singh Rathore, who posted a short video of himself on Tuesday doing push-ups. He tagged Kohli, shuttler Saina Nehwal and actor Hrithik Roshan in the video, challenging them to post their own exercise videos.

Accepting the challenge from Rathore, Kohli had last evening extended it further to his wife and actress Anushka, Prime Minister Modi and cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

In the morning, Modi accepted Kohli's challenge in a tweet and said, "...I will be sharing my own fitness challenge video soon."

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said before taking up the fitness challenge Modi should first dare to fill empty stomachs and provide jobs to the unemployed in the country.

The former deputy chief minister of Bihar also asked Modi



if he can promise "no violence against Dalits and minorities".

"Would you accept my challenge Narendra Modi Sir?"

CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury also tweeted using 'just jumlas' as hashtag, "Modi's tryst with crude prices should remind us of that old dictum: 'You know who is swimming naked when the tide runs out.' Now he is trying to distract us with newer tamashas like fitness challenge."

Rebel JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav reminded the prime minister of his 'promise' to bring back black money stashed abroad asking him to deposit Rs 15-20 lakh in the accounts of every Indian.

"Dear Narendra Modi, I challenge that as promised by you before coming to power to bring back black money stashed abroad to deposit Rs 15-20 lakh in the account of each citizen. Kindly accept my challenge," he said.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi posed "Tuticorin challenge" to Modi saying fitness challenges has priority enough in his mind, "but unfortunately the Prime Minister, Government of India, ruling party president you are all running on a treadmill but not getting anywhere." *Source: PTI*

12 die in Kerala, 10 deaths confirmed to be from Nipah virus

KOZHIKODE (TIP): Ten persons have so far lost their lives to the Nipah virus in the northern Kerala districts of Kozhikode and Malappuram, health department sources said. They said two more persons, who are suspected to contracted got the virus, have died. However it was yet to be confirmed if their deaths were due to Nipah, they said. The condition of Moosa, whose two sons had died earlier, is very critical and he was on ventilator support, while another person, undergoing treatment for nipa, was responding to treatment as of now, the sources told PTI. Of Moosa's two sons, samples of only one could be sent for testing and it tested positive for the virus, they said.

Another woman from the family had also died of the virus. A total of 116 persons, who had come in contact with the some of the infected persons, have been put under quarantine-94 in their homes and 22 in various hospitals, the sources said. A 21-year-old student hailing from Malappuram, who had gone to his hometown kozhikode recently, is under observation at the Thiruvananthapuram Medical college hospital.

One person is under observation in Waynad. Kerala Health minister K K Shylaja had told reporters earlier in the day that 10 deaths were due to the nipa virus and that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been informed about the outbreak of the virus in Kerala. Union Health Minister J P Nadda said the Centre was committed to extend all support to the state to tackle the problem. Two persons, who had tested positive, had died today.

Twenty-eight year-old nurse Lini, who passed away yesterday, had also contracted the virus, the minister added. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state



A total of 116 persons, who had come in contact with the some of the infected persons, have been put under quarantine-94 in their homes and 22 in various hospitals, the sources said.

government was taking all steps to control Nipah virus. "Precautions have to be taken and there is need to be vigilant. There is no need to panic," he said in a Facebook post. The Chief Minister said it had come to his notice that there was a campaign in the social media with regard to the virus, which was causing panic. This was unfortunate, he said and requested everyone to keep away from such campaigns, which would not only create panic, but was also against Kerala's interests.

Health Minister K K Shylaja said of the 18 samples sent for testing, 12 tested positive for the virus, of which 10 people died. Seven deaths were reported from Kozhikode and three from Malappuram districts, she said. Shylaja said union Health minister, J P Nadda, who is in Geneva, had called her and enquired about the situation in the state and has

promised all help from the central government.

An expert team from the National Centre for Disease -Control (NCDC), including its director, Dr Sujeet Kumar Singh and Head of Epidemiology, Dr S K Jain, are already in Kerala. A high-level team from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, visited Kozhikode Medical college today and gave doctors a protocol to be followed, the minister said. Surveillance has been increased in all districts. The outbreak of the virus is suspected to be from an unused well which was infested with bats and belonged to the Moosa family. Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family, Pteropus genus.

Source: PTI

DUTCH PM MARK RUTTE CUTS SHORT INDIA VISIT, TO RETURN TO NETHERLANDS



PM Modi with Netherlands PM Mark Rutte.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has cut short his India visit and is returning to the Netherlands tonight, official sources said. The Ministry of External Affairs has been informed about this "sudden decision" which had to be taken due to certain domestic issues, they said. The sources said only the Dutch Prime Minister and his advisers are going back and the rest of the delegation would attend all the engagements as per the programme. Rutte arrived here today on a two-day visit.

The visiting dignitary was scheduled to visit Bengaluru tonight to attend a series of engagements including the visit to India's space agency ISRO headquarters there tomorrow. Highly placed sources said the Prime Minister had to go back as an urgent Cabinet meeting has been called there tomorrow to discuss the new findings by a team of investigators from the Netherlands and other countries on the downing of passenger flight MH-17 over Ukraine in 2014.

They claimed that a Russian missile was used in shooting the plane on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 people on board. The airplane was travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur and had a large number of Dutch nationals on board. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rutte held delegation-level talks to step up economic and political ties between the two countries.

BSF men to undergo 'happiness test' to gauge wellness quotient



NEW DELHI (TIP): Troops of the BSF, country's largest border guarding force, will now undertake a "mandatory" test that will analyse the state of their happiness and wellbeing before deployment along the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, and in anti-Naxal operations.

The forces' headquarters here has prepared a multi-point wellness quotient assessment test (WQAT) tool that helps "identify stress precipitators and physical and mental health issues that need interventions".

"The WQAT is a special tool designed to understand the happiness quotient and mental wellbeing of an individual and this has now been made a compulsory part of the annual medical test for the troops," a recent directive issued by the force, accessed by PTI, says. The new policy measure has been introduced by BSF Director General (DG) K K Sharma after he got a major research project conducted by UK-based experts with the help of force Inspector General (IG) Satwant A Trivedi, to analyse various triggers behind suicides and other stress factors suffered by troops and their possible solutions.

The force has also published a 62-page booklet titled 'Happiness and Health: Endeavour towards holistic well being' chronicling the new standard operating procedures (SoPs) for undertaking physical, psychological and socio-economic interventions, and ways to address the grievances and overall health issues of the about 2.5 lakh personnel strong paramilitary force.

Source: PTI

4 YEARS OF MODI GOVT

As jobs assume focus, is Skill India a success? Here's what this RTI reveals

NEW DELHI (TIP): Even as the Narendra Modi-led government completes four years in power, and number of jobs created in the time-frame assumes heightened focus, data reveals that only about 30% of the skilled have found jobs under the mission in FY2018. An RTI filed by CNBC TV18 reveals that while there has been a big push on skill development, finding jobs has been the sore point. The RTI response reveals that there is a substantial increase in the number of people who were skilled in FY17 and FY18. Notably, the rise is phenomenal, it has risen more than four times times, from over 3.5 lakh people in FY17 to nearly 16 lakh people in FY18.

However, not every one who is getting skilled is getting placed. "In FY17 just over half of those skilled managed to find jobs and in FY18 this fell below 30%, meaning just about 3 out of every 10 person who undertook the Skill India mission in FY18 found a job," CNBC TV18 noted.

Getting into the details of the report, the channel said that the data received through RTI has been compiled from two short term training schemes: One, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2015-16, that had some spillovers in next fiscal and another, an

extension of this is the PMKVY 2016-20 where the government targets to skill 1 crore youth. It has budgeted 12,000 crore rupees for PMKVY 2.0. Clearly, job creation is one area where more needs to be done by the government. According to a report by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the unemployment rate in India has doubled between July 2017 and April 2018, whereas the number of jobs in the country in the last financial year 2017-18 also fell to 406 million from 406.7 million in the previous year.

The unemployment rate in the country rose from 3.39% in July 2017 to 6.23% in March 2018, and is projected to reach 6.75% in April 2018, according to the CMIE data.

According to a report by International Institute for Management Development (IMD) which ranked India at the 44th spot in Competitiveness, the unemployment rate in 2017 for India was 4.68%, and it ranked 20th in the parameter.

Source: FE



Broadway's CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD (Play)

Best Revival Of A Play: Drama League Award Nomination

Lauren Ridloff:

2018 Tony Award Nominee

2018 Drama League Award Nominee

2018 Outer Critics Circle Award Nominee

2018 Theater World Award

Joshua Jackson: 2018 Drama League Award Nominee

BY MABEL PAIS

Children of a Lesser God, in 1980, premiered on Broadway and asked: how can we truly communicate? Now, Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon (of plays, A Raisin in the Sun and Fences) is laying this question bare in a breathtaking new production of this landmark play starring Joshua Jackson (of the Golden Globe Award-winning television series *The Affair*, and *Dawson's Creek*), Lauren Ridloff (of the Palme D'Or-nominated 2017 film, *Wonderstruck*), and Anthony Edwards (Emmy Award-nominee for his role in *ER*, Screen Actors Guild Awards, and the 1998 Golden Globe Award).

Playwright Mark Medoff wrote *Children of a Lesser God* specifically for Phyllis Frelich, a deaf actress who made her professional debut as the character Sarah Norman in the 1979 production at the Mark Taper Forum and went on to play the part on Broadway the following year. The deaf actress Marlee Matlin appeared opposite William Hurt in the 1986 film version.

Medoff received the Tony and Olivier Awards for *Children of a Lesser God*, was nominated for an Academy Award for the movie of the same title, and received a Writers Guild of America (WGA) Best Adapted Screenplay Award for its film adaptation. His Obie Awards are *When You Comin Back* and *Red Ryder?* He is Distinguished Achievement Professor and Artist in Residence, New Mexico State University.

Now, Lauren Ridloff, who starred as Sarah in the Berkshire Theater (Stockbridge, MA) production last year, repeats the role on Broadway, continuing the tradition of deaf actresses who come out of nowhere and sweep us off our feet. A former Miss Deaf America, Lauren is of African-American and Mexican descent.

Lauren Ridloff has been nominated for the 2018 Tony award in the category: Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play, among Drama League and other nominations.

Joshua Jackson, Drama League nominated for his role plays that speech therapist, James Leeds, who is tutoring Sarah and falls in love with her. But "Sarah has a certain aversion to learning speech," as the school's headmaster played by Anthony Edwards (Mr. Franklin) delicately puts it, so human communication - the bedrock of civilization and the language of lovers - becomes a huge challenge for this mismatched couple. James eventually wins Sarah's heart in a cleverly pleasing way.

Winner of the Tony, Drama Desk, and Olivier Awards for Best Play, when it premiered in 1980, *Children of a Lesser God*, one of the most indelible love stories of the modern age, brings to life the passionate and personal connection the story of an unconventional teacher at a school for the deaf and the remarkable woman he meets there. As their relationship heats up, so does their need for control, igniting a thrilling exploration of passion, intimacy, and connection.

Watching the current production of *Children of a Lesser God* you immediately become a very active, implicated participant in its study of the relationship of a deaf-from-birth woman, Sarah Norman (Lauren Ridloff), and her hearing husband, James Leeds (*The Affair's* Joshua Jackson), a teacher at a State School for the Deaf.

The first-ever Broadway revival of Mark Medoff's groundbreaking play, *Children of a Lesser God*, is lead produced by Hal Luftig, starring film and television favorite Joshua Jackson and breakout star Lauren Ridloff, alongside Emmy Award winner and Golden Globe Award winner Anthony Edwards, Drama Desk Award nominee and Obie Award winner Kecia Lewis, Julee Cerda, Treshelle Edmond, and John McGinty.

"Fierce, crackling, passionate and profound. Lauren Ridloff gives a blistering, knockout debut performance. And, I am awestruck by Joshua Jackson." - *The New York Times*

"Intense, primal, and show-stopping" - *New York magazine*

"Lauren Ridloff is a silent storm. Luminous and expressive, she needs no spoken words to get across her emotions. Her Sarah is remarkable." - *The Boston Globe*



Lauren Ridloff and Joshua Jackson Photo / Matthew Murphy



Lauren Ridloff and Joshua Jackson Photo / Matthew Murphy

The pungency of sign language is a wonderful bonus to the play's fierce rivalry between those who promote spoken English as the highest attainable form of communication and those who are staunch partisans of silence.

To Sarah, as to many deaf people today, deafness is an identity, not a defect or a curse imposed by a lesser god.

Now, Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon (NPR) invigorates this landmark play with astounding new relevance and a pair of performances that cannot be missed. Jesse Green of *The New York Times* raves, "Joshua Jackson is a revelation in a tour de force role, and Lauren Ridloff is sensational and explosive." Leon received the 2010 Julia Hansen Award for Excellence in Directing by the Drama League of New York. Prior to co-founding True Colors Theatre Company, he served 11 years as Artistic Director of The Alliance Theater.

The creative team for *Children of a Lesser God* features Tony Award winner Derek McLane (set design), Dede Ayite (costume design), Tony Award nominee Mike Baldassari (lighting design), Jill BC Du Boff (sound design), two-time Grammy Award winner Branford Marsalis (original music), and Alexandria Wailes (director of artistic sign language). Casting for the production is by Telsey + Company.

The producing team is led by Hal Luftig and includes LHC Theatrical Development, Craig Haffner & Sherry Wright, Yasuhiro Kawana, James L. Nelderlander, Rodney Rigby, Albert Nocciolino/Independent Presenters Network, Blue Fog Productions, Suzanne L. Niedland, The Shubert Organization, Jhett Tolentino, Steve & Paula Reynolds, Nyle DiMarco, and Roundabout Theatre Company. Tamar Climan serves as

executive producer and Sandy Block as associate producer.

The production is the most accessible play in Broadway history with every performance featuring supertitles seamlessly incorporated into the show's scenic design and closed captioning available through the GalaPro app which is available on Apple or Android devices. Additionally, at select performances of *Children of a Lesser God*, American Sign Language interpreters are present.

For more information and tickets, please visit childrenofalessergodbroadway.com.

Tickets can also be purchased at telecharge.com, by calling 212-239-6200, or at the Studio 54 box office (254 West 54th Street). For groups of 10 or more, contact Broadway Inbound at BroadwayInbound.com or by calling 866-302-0995.

Location: Studio 54, 254 W. 54th St., Midtown West

Category: Broadway, Comedy/Drama, Play

Runtime: 2 hrs. and 20 min.

Credits: Written by Mark Medoff; Directed by Kenny Leon

Cast: Joshua Jackson, Lauren Ridloff, Anthony Edwards, Kecia Lewis, Julee Cerda, Treshelle Edmond and John McGinty

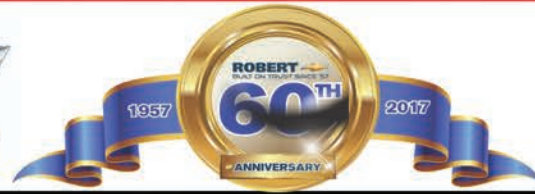
(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Health and Wellness, and Spirituality)



L to R: Joshua Jackson, Anthony Edwards, and Lauren Ridloff

Photo / Matthew Murphy

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KAREENA: I VALUE EVERY RELATIONSHIP IN MY LIFE

Bollywood actor Kareena Kapoor Khan says friends play an integral part in her life.

The actor talked about her friends during a conversation with actor Aparshakti Khurrana when she became a part of a two-hour special show Cricket Final Party Toh Banti Hai.

The Star Plus show Cricket Final Party Toh Banti Hai followed by the final match will be aired on the channel on May 27, read a statement to IANS.

"I value every relationship in my life, especially my friends. They are the most important people for me," Kareena said in a statement to IANS.

"In fact, I wouldn't have been married right now, if it wasn't for them. They have always loved and supported me and have been with me through thick and thin in life. They will continue to be an integral part of my life," she added.

Kareena Kapoor will next be seen in Veere Di Wedding. The film will be released on June 1, 2018.

Source: IANS

NOT FEELING THE HUNGER TO GO TO HOLLYWOOD: TAAPSEE

Taapsee Pannu says she never planned to enter the film industry and it just happened organically. "I have never planned to foray into any wood. I didn't have plans to foray into film industry, forget about Hollywood, South or Bollywood. It just happened organically," said Taapsee.

However, if she gets an opportunity in Hollywood which is worth putting effort and time, she would explore that, but would never approach anyone with her profile in hand. "It's not like I have anything against working in Hollywood, and it's also not like that I am going to go there with my profile searching for work," she said.

Several Bollywood actors, including Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra, have done Hollywood films.

When asked whether Taapsee would approach Hollywood with her profile if she finds a good project, Taapsee said that she already has several films in Bollywood and she is being cast in variety of roles. "I am already content here. I am getting wonderful roles here. I am doing all kinds of role I have thought of...That is why I am not feeling that hunger to go to Hollywood," she added.

Commenting upon the comparison between Bollywood and Hollywood, she said Indian film industry is moving in the right direction. "We can't keep comparing it to Hollywood, the resources in Hollywood are of very high standards," Taapsee said, adding it is very difficult in Bollywood to put that much amount of effort, money and time on making movies.

Taapsee said that 2018 is a very "decisive" and "eventful" year for her as she is doing three totally different movies. "This year will be quite eventful for me. I have Soorma, Mulq, and Manmarziyaan. They are extremely different from each other. One is hockey based biopic, other is social thriller and third is an intense love story. All different characters. So for me, 2018 will be going to help me to know how much the audience love me. So, 2018 will be



very decisive for me," she said.

Taapsee said that as she is a "moody" person, she never knows when she will quit from Bollywood. "If my films are not working, my audience don't want to see me,

I will decide to leave this and do something else," she added.

"My box office success will tell me, when I will be quitting," she said.

Source: PTI

UNICEF ambassador Priyanka Chopra urges the world to care for Rohingya refugees

Actor and global Unicef Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights Priyanka Chopra, who is on a field visit to Bangladesh, has urged the world to care for and support Rohingya refugees, among whom are a whole lot of children who she says are scarred for life because of their ordeal.

Priyanka visited Cox's Bazaar, one of the largest refugee camps in the world, and shared photographs of her experience with Rohingya children, on Instagram.

Almost 700,000 refugees have fled violence in neighbouring Myanmar and arrived in Cox's Bazaar since August 2017, according to the UN.

"In the second half of 2017, the world saw horrific images of ethnic cleansing from the Rakhine State of Myanmar (Burma). This violence drove nearly 700,000 Rohingya across the border into Bangladesh - 60 per cent are children! "Many months later they are still highly vulnerable, living in overcrowded camps with no idea when or where they will ever belong...even worse, when they will get their next meal," Priyanka wrote.

"And as they finally start to settle and feel a sense of safety, monsoon season looms...threatening to destroy all that they



have built so far. This is an entire generation of children that have no future in sight."

Priyanka, who had met Syrian refugee children in Jordan last year, says children are at the "forefront of this humanitarian crisis, and they desperately need our help".

"The world needs to care. We need to care. These kids are our future," she wrote.

Priyanka also shared a video talking about how the refugees had to travel by foot to enter Bangladesh.

"Their trip here was filled with many hardships and tremendous danger. Many of them made their journey on foot, walking for days through the hills, then floating across the Naf River or the Bay of Bengal on make shift boats... Many of them injured, pregnant, elderly.

"Their ordeal did not end here, after entering Bangladesh, they would often have to wait for days, sleeping in the open fields with no food or water, for aid workers to reach them. For a lot of the Rohingya children, this ordeal will leave them scarred, physically and emotionally, for the rest of their lives," she added. Priyanka asked for helping these children "because right now, their future is bleak".

Source: IANS



Charlize Theron to play Megyn Kelly in new movie

Actress Charlize Theron will reportedly star as Megyn Kelly in a new movie about the women who worked at a major news network under its former chairman Roger Ailes.

The presently untitled project was written by 'The Big Short' screenwriter Charles Rudolph and is being produced by Annapurna, the same production company currently filming a Dick Cheney biopic starring Christian Bale.

Theron, 42, is reportedly set to play Kelly, 47, a former lawyer who worked at the network for 10 years and became a superstar at the network hosting the hit series 'The Kelly Files'.

In her memoir *Settle for More*, Kelly detailed the sexual harassment she said she endured while working for Ailes. Ailes was accused of similar behaviour by numerous women, which he vehemently denied until his death in May 2017.

Kelly claimed in her book that after months of harassment, the media tycoon 'crossed a new line' in January 2006 when he grabbed her and repeatedly tried to kiss her. Upon shoving him away, Kelly alleged that Ailes asked her the "ominous question" of "When is your contract up?" before trying to kiss her for a third time.

Source: IANS

MEGHAN MARKLE WAS ONCE TURNED DOWN BY DESIGNERS



Newly anointed Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle was once turned down by popular designers on a press trip to London because she wasn't deemed famous enough to wear their creations.

According to reports, Markle, 36, married British royal Prince Harry on May 19 in a floor-length white silk gown designed by Clare Waight Keller, the artistic director of French fashion house

Givenchy. She was snubbed by many fashionistas who didn't think she was famous enough to wear their clothing on a 'Suits' press trip in London.

Stylist Juliet Angus, who starred in the reality show, posted a photograph of Markle in her Stella McCartney evening dress on Instagram and commented how things had changed for the former 'Suits' actress.

"I remember five years ago trying to help

my friend, who at the time was her stylist and no big designers wanted to loan to a Meghan Markle for her London press trip. Well done, you won't have that problem anymore. Big mistake, huge," Angus posted.

"I was simply mentioning a personal experience of how hard it was to get British designers she wanted to wear on her London press trip to loan to her," Angus added.

Source: IANS

Jodie Foster: Hollywood has a problem with female directors

Jodie Foster thinks Hollywood has a "problem" when it comes to female directors.

The 55-year-old actress and filmmaker has explained that she has a passion for directing that she wishes to continue with, but has slammed America and Hollywood for not hiring more women in directorial roles.

Speaking to *The Hollywood Reporter*, she said: "I said it and I'll keep saying it - I want to direct. And I will direct more than I acted."

"Europe has always been ahead. It's America that's the problem, and it has been for a very long time. We need to bang the head of America to let them know that it needs female directors. Just look at [the success of] 'Wonder Woman'."

Jodie made the comments as she appeared at the 'Hotel Artemis' premiere alongside her co-stars Sterling K. Brown, Sofia Boutella, Charlie Day, Brian Tyree Henry and

Dave Bautista.

The movie stars Jodie as a character known as The Nurse, who is embarking on a mission to take care of the city's criminals in a law-breakers-only hospital.

'Hotel Artemis' was helmed and written by Drew Pearce, who made his directorial debut on the feature.

Speaking about the movie, he said: "It was a kernel of an idea that I had seven years ago while drinking tea in the garden. To see it come to this, well, it really has been an amazing journey."

Whilst Sterling K. Brown added that he was impressed by Drew's "passion" for the project, as it made it "easier to trust" the director.

He said: "You know that when the person at the helm has the passion, it's easier to trust them. He really let us relinquish any anxiety we might have had."

'Hotel Artemis' is expected to hit cinema screens in the US on June 8.



MEMORIAL DAY IN THE UNITED STATES

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2018 occurs on Monday, May 28. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

EARLY OBSERVANCES OF MEMORIAL DAY

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

DECORATION DAY

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

MEMORIAL DAY TRADITIONS

Cities and towns across the United States



The practice of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom.

host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because it unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

What Do People Do?

It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half staff from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is combined with Jefferson Davis' Birthday in Mississippi.

Memorial Day has become less of an occasion of remembrance. Many people choose to hold picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend. This day is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season for cultural events. For the fashion conscious, it is seen as acceptable to wear white clothing, particularly shoes from Memorial Day until Labor Day. However, fewer and fewer people follow this rule and many wear white clothing throughout the year.

Public Life

Memorial Day is a federal holiday. All non-essential Government offices are closed, as are schools, businesses and other organizations. Most public transit systems do not run on their regular schedule. Many people see Memorial Day weekend as an opportunity to go on a short vacation or visit family or friends. This can cause some congestion on highways and at airports.

TIMELINE

MAY 5, 1866: Residents of Waterloo, New York, observe a Memorial Day in honor of all who died during the Civil War. Businesses are closed and soldiers' graves are decorated.

1868: General John Alexander Logan officially proclaims May 30, 1868, as Memorial Day in honor of the Union soldiers who died in the Civil War. Until after World War I, southern states celebrated a separate Memorial Day in honor of the Confederate dead.

1971: Congress declares Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.

DECEMBER 28, 2000: President Bill Clinton signs the "National Moment of Remembrance Act," which designates 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day each year as the National Moment of Remembrance.

US War Casualties

CIVIL WAR: Approximately 620,000 Americans died. The Union lost almost 365,000 troops and the Confederacy about 260,000. More than half of these deaths were caused by disease.

WORLD WAR I: 116,516 Americans died, more than half from disease.

WORLD WAR II: 405,399 Americans died.

KOREAN WAR: 36,574 Americans died.

VIETNAM CONFLICT: 58,220 Americans died.

OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM: 383 service members died.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM: 4,411 service members died.

OPERATION NEW DAWN: 73 service members died.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM: 2,346 service members died.

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL: 48 service members have died as of May 2018.

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE: 61 service members have died as of May 2018.





Everything you always wanted to know about Yoga



"In essence, Yoga is a process of creating a body and mind that are stepping-stones, not hurdles, to an exuberant and fulfilling life."

What is Yoga?

Yoga is essentially a spiritual discipline based on an extremely subtle science which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. It is an art and science for healthy living. The word "Yoga" is derived from the Sanskrit root yuj meaning "to join", "to yoke" or "to unite". According to Yogic scriptures, the practice of Yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with universal consciousness. According to modern scientists, everything in the universe is just a manifestation of the same quantum firmament. One who experiences this oneness of existence is said to be "in Yoga" and is termed as a yogi who has attained a state of freedom, referred to as mukti, nirv?na, kaivalya or moksha.

"Yoga" also refers to an inner science comprising of a variety of methods through which human beings can achieve union between the body and mind to attain self-realization. The aim of Yoga practice (sadhana) is to overcome all kinds of sufferings that lead to a sense of freedom in every walk of life with holistic health, happiness and harmony.

Brief history and development of Yoga

The science of Yoga has its origin thousands of years ago, long before the first religion or belief systems were born. According to Yogic lore, Shiva has seen as the first yogi or ?diyogi and the first guru or ?diguru. Several thousand years ago, on the banks of lake Kantisarovar in the Himalayas, ?diyogi poured his profound knowledge into the legendary saptarishis or "seven sages". These sages carried this powerful Yogic science to different parts of the world including Asia, the Middle East, northern Africa and South America. Interestingly, modern scholars have noted and marveled at the close parallels found between ancient cultures across the globe. However, it was in India that the Yogic system found its fullest expression. Agastya, the saptarishi who traveled across the Indian subcontinent, crafted this culture around a core Yogic way of life.

Yoga is widely considered as an "immortal cultural outcome" of the Indus Saraswati Valley Civilization - dating back to 2700 BC - and has proven itself to cater to both material and spiritual uplift of humanity. A number of seals and fossil remains of Indus Saraswati Valley Civilization with Yogic motifs and figures performing Yoga sadhana suggest the presence of Yoga in ancient India. The seals and idols of mother Goddess are suggestive of Tantra Yoga. The presence of Yoga is also available in folk traditions, Vedic and Upanishadic heritage, Buddhist and Jain traditions, Darshanas, epics of Mahabharata including Bhagawadgita and Ramayana, theistic traditions of Shaivas, Vaishnavas and Tantric traditions. Though Yoga was being practiced in the pre-Vedic period, the great sage Maharishi Patanjali systematized and codified the then existing Yogic practices, its meaning and its related knowledge through Patanjali's Yoga Sutras.

After Patanjali, many sages and Yoga masters contributed greatly for the preservation and development of the field through well documented

Fundamentals of Yoga

Yoga works on the level of one's body, mind, emotion and energy. This has given rise to four broad classifications of Yoga: Karma Yoga where we utilize the body; Jn?na Yoga where we

utilize the mind; Bhakti Yoga where we utilize the emotion and Kriya Yoga where we utilize the energy. Each system of Yoga we practice falls within the gamut of one or more of these categories.

Every individual is a unique combination of these four factors. Only a guru (teacher) can advocate the appropriate combination of the four practices and literature. Yoga has spread all over the world by the teachings of eminent Yoga masters from ancient times to the present date. Today, everybody has conviction about Yoga practices towards the prevention of disease, maintenance and promotion of health. Millions and millions of people across the globe have benefited by the practice of Yoga and the practice of Yoga is blossoming and growing more vibrant with each passing day.

Traditional schools of Yoga

The different philosophies, traditions, lineages and guru-shishya paramparas of Yoga led to the emergence of different traditional schools. These include Jn?na Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Karma Yoga, Patanjala Yoga, Kund? a? lini Yoga, Ha?ha Yoga, Dhyana Yoga, Mantra Yoga, Laya Yoga, Raja Yoga, Jain Yoga, Bouddha Yoga etc. Each school has its own approach and practices that lead to the ultimate aim and objectives of Yoga.

The widely practiced Yoga sadhanas are: Yama, Niyama, ?sana, Pr?n?y?ma, Praty?hara, Dh?rana, Dhy?na, Sam?dhi, Bandhas and Mudras, Shatkarmas, Yukt?h?ra, Mantra-japa, Yukta-karma etc. Yamas are restraints and Niyamas are observances. These are considered to be pre-requisites for further Yogic practices. ?sanas, capable of bringing about stability of body and mind, "kuryat-tadasanam- shairyam", involve adopting various psycho-physical body patterns and giving one an ability to maintain a body position (a stable awareness of one's structural existence) for a considerable length of time.

Pranayama consists of developing awareness of one's breathing followed by willful regulation of respiration as the functional or vital basis of one's existence. It helps in developin awareness of one's mind and helps to establish control over the mind. In the initial stages, this is done by developing awareness of the "flow of in-breath and out-breath" (sv?sa-prasv?sa) through nostrils, mouth and other body openings, its internal and external pathways and destinations. Later, this phenomenon is modified, through regulated, controlled and monitored inhalation (sv?sa) leading to the awareness of the body space getting filled (puraka), the space(s) remaining in a filled state (kumbhaka) and it getting emptied (rechaka) during regulated, controlled and monitored exhalation (prasv?sa). Praty?hara indicates dissociation of one's consciousness (withdrawal) from the sense organs which connect with the external objects. Dh?rana indicates broad based field of attention (inside the body and mind) which is usually understood as concentration.

Dhy?na (meditation) is contemplation (focused attention inside the body and mind) and Sam?dhi (integration).

Bandhas and Mudras are practices associated with Pr?n?y?ma. They are viewed as the higher yogic practices that mainly adopt certain physical gestures along with control over respiration. This further facilitates control over mind and paves way for higher Yogic attainment. However, practice of dhy?na, which moves one towards self-realization and leads one to transcendence, is considered the essence of Yoga S?dhana. ?a?karmas are detoxification procedures that are clinical in nature and help to remove the toxins accumulated in the body. Yukt?h?ra advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living.

General Guidelines for Yoga Practice

A Yoga practitioner should follow the guiding principles given below while performing Yogic practices:

BEFORE THE PRACTICE

- Sauca means cleanliness - an important prerequisite for Yogic practice. It includes cleanliness of surroundings, body and mind.
- Yogic practice should be performed in a calm and quiet atmosphere with a relaxed body and mind.
- Yogic practice should be done on an empty stomach or light stomach. Consume small amount of honey in

The First International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the United Nations on 21st June, 2015 (Sunday) at the UN Visitor's Plaza.

The Function was presided over by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India and attended by the UN Secretary General and the President of the 69th UN General Assembly. The event featured a special lecture cum demonstration by Founder of Art of Living Foundation, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The function was broadcast live globally on UN TV, as well as to an audience of thousands at Times Square, New York, where another celebration of the Solstice Day was observed with thousands performing yoga exercises.

lukewarm water if you feel weak.

- Bladder and bowels should be empty before starting Yogic practices.
- A mattress, Yoga mat, durrie or folded blanket should be used for the practice.
- Light and comfortable cotton clothes are preferred to facilitate easy movement of the body.
- Yoga should not be performed in state of exhaustion, illness, in a hurry or in acute stress conditions.
- In case of chronic disease/ pain/ cardiac problems, a physician or a Yoga therapist should be consulted prior to performing Yogic practices.
- Yoga experts should be consulted before doing Yogic practices during pregnancy and menstruation.

DURING THE PRACTICE

- Practice sessions should start with a prayer or invocation as it creates a conducive environment to relax the mind.
- Yogic practices shall be performed slowly, in a relaxed manner, with awareness of the body and breath.
- Breathing should be always through the nostrils unless instructed otherwise.
- Do not hold body tightly or jerk the body at any point of time.
- Perform the practices according to your own capacity. It takes some time to get good results, so persistent and regular practice is very essential.
- There are contra-indications/ limitations for each Yoga practice and such contra-indications should always be kept in mind.
- Yoga session should end with meditation/ deep silence / ?h?nti pa?ha.

AFTER THE PRACTICE

- Bath may be taken only after 20-30 minutes of practice.
- Food may be consumed only after 20-30 minutes of practice.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A few dietary guidelines can ensure that the body and mind are flexible and well-prepared for practice. A vegetarian diet is usually recommended, and for a person over 30 years, two meals a day should suffice, except in cases of illness or very high physical activity or labor.

HOW YOGA CAN HELP

Yoga is essentially a path to liberation from all bondage. However, medical research in recent years has uncovered many physical and mental benefits that Yoga offers, corroborating the experiences of millions of practitioners. A small sampling of research shows that:

- Yoga is beneficial for physical fitness, musculoskeletal functioning and cardio-vascular health.
- It is beneficial in the management of diabetes, respiratory disorders, hypertension, hypotension and many lifestyle related disorders.
- Yoga helps to reduce depression, fatigue, anxiety disorders and stress.
- Yoga regulates menopausal symptoms.
- In essence, Yoga is a process of creating a body and mind that are stepping-stones, not hurdles, to an exuberant and fulfilling life.

Celebrating the UK & India Special Relationship: Winners unveiled at The Indian Awards 2018 held in the Houses of Parliament



From L to R: Chairman of India Business Group Lord Patel of Bradford OBE, H.E. Mr Y.K. Sinha, Home Secretary the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Mr. Amarjit Singh, Founder of Indian Awards



Larger Business Award --Rolls--Royce PLC

LONDON (TIP): The second Indian Awards, organised by the India Business Group (IBG), a leading business advisory consultancy took place last night (17th May) in the Palace of Westminster. The awards, attended by UK Home Secretary, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, recognise UK-based individuals, businesses and organisations that have contributed to furthering the relationship culturally, socially or economically, between India and the UK. The Awards were founded by Amarjit Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the India Business Group (IBG), an established thought leader on UK - India business affairs and Special Advisor for India to the University of Southampton.

The UK Home Secretary, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP said:

"As Home Secretary, I am delighted to be able to attend the 2018 Indian Awards ceremony, which recognises outstanding contributions to the UK-India relationship. The UK is one of the world's oldest democracies, and India the largest. Our collaboration is a force for good - our shared values magnified by the 'living bridge' formed of a breadth of personal, professional, cultural and institutional ties. With so much in common, it's only natural that Britain and India continue working together to make our people, and the world, safer and more prosperous".

H.E. Mr Y.K. Sinha, The High Commissioner of India said:

"Commencing last year, The Indian Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding work done by individuals, businesses and



SME Award -- EnergyPro Limited

organisations in the UK, who have contributed to strengthening the UK-India partnership in recent years. I had the pleasure of presenting the Special Recognition Award to the former Prime Minister David Cameron last year. I would like to extend my best wishes for the second edition of these Awards."

Following last month's successful UK visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the gala invitation-only dinner and ceremony featured senior business leaders, Government officials, opinion formers and prominent members of the Indian community and guests from India and other parts of the World. Nominations were invited by members of the public and the handful of winners were chosen by a panel of esteemed judges and announced on the evening.

The UK's International Trade Secretary, The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP said:

"India is the world's seventh-largest economy and the fourth largest investor into the UK, while UK investment in India grew by 8.8% in the year to 2016. As an international economic department, the Department for International Trade continues to work closely with our Indian colleagues to maximise trade between our nations and I welcome this fantastic initiative, celebrating the historic trading ties between the UK and India."

The Awards ceremony was supported by a range of high profile partners, including Associated British Ports, Heathrow Airport, Invest India, the Institute of Directors Hampshire Cricket, the Lalit Hotel, Niine and Star TV Networks was the official media partner. The awards were also supported by Indus Net Techshu, Chivas Brothers, HCL,



Here&Now365 and Taylor Wessing.

The esteemed judging panel was made up of senior figures, including: Lord Patel of Bradford OBE, Chair of IBG, Virendra Sharma MP, Chair of the Indo-British APPG, Baroness Prashar CBE, Deputy Chair of the British Council, Rajiv Luthra, Founder and Managing Partner of Luthra & Luthra Law Advocates, Dr Catherine Raines, Former Director General of Department for International Trade, and Alan Fitzwater, Director of Regional Engagement at the Institute of Directors.

The Rt Hon Mark Field MP, FCO Minister of State for Asia said:

"As the Minister for Asia, I am delighted that the Indian Awards ceremony is happening again this year to recognise outstanding contributions to the UK-India relationship. While there is plenty in our shared culture that binds us closely together, what excites me is the relationship we can forge for the future, in technology, in tackling the many global challenges we face. Working together, the UK and India can be a powerful force for good in the world."

The Special Recognition Award which applauds 'an individual's outstanding commitment to building UK-India relations' was presented to Dr Rami Ranger CBE, Chairman of Sun Mark Limited.

On receiving the award, Dr Ranger said: "It is a great honour to receive this special recognition award from the India Business Group. I am grateful to the judges who considered me worthy of this accolade. I am privileged to receive the award as last year the same recognition was bestowed upon my hero, the Former Prime Minister of the UK, The Rt. Hon. David Cameron. This award also represents India's emerging stature and standing in the world as a positive economic and political force. The partnership between India and Britain is based on similar values and as a result, it will go from strength to strength".

"The India Business Group is delighted to present the second Indian Awards initiative," says Mr Singh. "The modern relationship between the UK and India is at a key juncture. Through The Indian Awards, we aim to inspire and encourage the next generation of UK and Indian entrepreneurs, facilitators and bridge builders who will take the bilateral relationship to greater heights."

THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS:

1. Larger Business Award --Rolls--Royce PLC
2. SME Award -- EnergyPro Limited
3. Professional Adviser Award -- Deepak Lalwani OBE, Founder and Chairman of Lalcap Limited
4. Entrepreneur Award -- Alpesh Patel, Founder of Praefinium Partners
5. Arts & Culture Award -- Gurinder Chadha OBE
6. Special Recognition Award -- Dr Rami Ranger CBE, Chairman of Sun Mark Limited

Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



Professional Adviser Award -- Deepak Lalwani OBE, Founder and Chairman of Lalcap Limited



Entrepreneur Award -- Alpesh Patel, Founder of Praefinium Partner



Arts & Culture Award -- Gurinder Chadha OBE



Special Recognition Award -- Dr Rami Ranger CBE, Chairman of Sun Mark Limited

No extra time; UK says Brexit transition will end in December 2020

LONDON/DUBLIN (TIP): Britain will end its implementation period with the European Union after Brexit in December 2020, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Theresa May said on May 24, denying a media report that the government was seeking a new transition until 2023.

The spokeswoman repeated Britain's stance that the transition period would end in December 2020 after The Times newspaper reported that May would propose another transition covering customs and trade to run from 2021 until 2023 to avoid the need for infrastructure or checks on the Irish border.

Northern Ireland will be Britain's only land frontier with the European Union after Brexit. Both sides say they are committed to keeping the border with the Irish Republic open, but finding a practical solution has proved elusive so far. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, who enjoys strong support from the other EU states, said Dublin could not agree to a time-limited solution.

"Well 2023 won't do. The Irish government won't be able to agree to a situation where we put off a fundamental decision like that," Varadkar told Ireland's Newstalk radio station.

The EU and Dublin insist the Brexit treaty must lock in a backstop arrangement in case a future trade pact does not remove the need for border controls. London signed up for this last month but disagrees with the EU's means of achieving it.



Varadkar said: "The whole purpose of having the backstop is that that's a guarantee that is there in perpetuity and just kicking the can down the road on the basis that maybe we can come up with some sort of legal or technological solutions that don't exist now, that's not something we could accept."

The British government says it will soon propose an alternative backstop idea to the EU, which would see Britain applying the bloc's external tariffs for a limited period beyond December 2020 if there is any delay on ratification or on introducing new customs arrangements.

May's spokeswoman said the government intends to be ready with new customs arrangements by the end of the transition period, despite a parliamentary report also saying that Britain may have to stay in the customs union.

In Brussels, EU Industry Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska urged London to give "at least some kind of predictability" for the period after it leaves the bloc next year.

"From the very beginning of these negotiations, it has been visible that it's not the European Union that is delaying this process. We are quite well prepared for this," she said. (Reuters)

INDIAN ORIGIN UK BASED MISSING BOY FOUND



Abhimanyu went missing from King Henry VIII Independent School in Coventry on May 18th after he scored 100 per cent marks in a mock test and was worried about getting into trouble.

LONDON (TIP): UK based 15-year-old Indian origin Abhimanyu Chohan who disappeared from his school after he was reportedly accused of cheating when he scored 100 per cent marks in an exam has been found safe and well, British police said.

Abhimanyu went missing from King Henry VIII Independent School in Coventry on May 18th after he scored 100 per cent marks in a mock test and was worried about getting into trouble.

West Midlands Police tweeted that he had been found "safe and well", the media reported.

On the day he went missing, Abhimanyu changed his clothes and walked out of school - he was caught on CCTV on the highway in the city.

Abhimanyu's father Varinder Chohan said his son had been worried about getting in trouble at school after accusations he had cheated on an exam paper.

His family believe he may have left Coventry and could have travelled as far as Oxfordshire - but he has no money, food or extra clothing.

"We just want him back safe, this is so unlike him. He's a bit of a high flyer, he's a smart kid but he's not street wise," Mr Chohan said.

"We're worried he may have thought he was in trouble because he got top marks on a mock exam paper."

"We think he might have seen the paper beforehand but we're not sure exactly what happened."

"He was allowed to sit for a completely new paper, so I don't think there was even a major problem with the school. He is due to sit his General Certificate of Secondary Education's next year and is on course to do well.

"But he was worried he might get in trouble because he's never been in trouble before at all. He's never been in detention, he's just a hard-working intelligent kid."

Abhimanyu's mother Navneet said that her son turned 15 about a week ago and "was so happy", the report said.

"I dropped him off and he must have then changed," she said.

"Police came and said, 'we can do more but have to wait until we are on high alert'."

"They said maybe he is taking time for himself and wants to clear his head."

Relatives have been joined by friends and neighbors to help search for the missing teenager. His aunt, Manjit Sahota, said the family just want him back "safe and sound" and that they "love him so much".

In a statement on King Henry VIII School's official Facebook page, head-master Jason Slack said, "We are all concerned about Abhimanyu's whereabouts and his safety and the school is working closely with the family and the police to locate Abhimanyu as quickly as possible."

North Korea says still open to talks with US

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea responded on May 24 with measured tones to US President Donald Trump's decision to call off a historic summit with leader Kim Jong Un scheduled for next month, saying Pyongyang hoped for a "Trump-style solution" to resolve the standoff over its nuclear weapons program.

On May 24, Trump wrote a letter to Kim to announce his withdrawal from what would have been the first-ever meeting between a serving US president and a North Korean leader in Singapore on June 12.

"Sadly, based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement, I feel it would be inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting," Trump wrote.

Trump's announcement came after repeated threats by North Korea to pull out of the summit over what it saw as confrontational remarks by US officials.

Friday's response by North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan was more conciliatory, specifically praising Trump's efforts.

"We had hoped a 'Trump-style solution' would be a wise way to relieve worries from both sides, meet our demands and realistically resolve problems," he said in a Korean language statement carried by state media, without elaborating.

North Korea has sharply criticized suggestions by senior US officials - including Vice President Mike Pence - that it could share the fate of Libya if it did not swiftly surrender its nuclear arsenal. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and murdered by NATO-backed militants after halting his nascent nuclear program.

Kim Kye Gwan said such criticisms had only been a "protest" against American rhetoric, and that it showed the need for talks with Washington.

"To announce the summit is canceled was a surprise for us and we couldn't help but feel it was a deep shame," Kim Kye Gwan said, while noting that North Korea remained open to resolving issues with Washington "at any time in any way."

NUCLEAR SITE DECOMMISSIONED :: Trump's letter came just after North Korea announced it had completely dismantled its Punggye-ri nuclear test facility "to ensure the transparency of discontinuance of nuclear test". (Reuters)

China extends currency swap deal with Pakistan

BEIJING: China on May 24 extended currency swap agreement with Pakistan amid reports that Beijing has given a \$1 billion loan to Islamabad to help it avert a foreign currency crisis.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said today it had extended a currency swap agreement with the State Bank of Pakistan.

The swap is sized at 20 billion yuan (\$3.1 billion) or 351 billion Pakistani rupees, according to a statement from the bank.

The two parties believe the extension will facilitate bilateral trade and investment to help economic development in the two countries.

Valid for three years, the agreement can be extended upon mutual consent.

A currency swap deal allows two institutions to exchange payments in one currency for equivalent amounts in the other to facilitate bilateral trade settlements and provide liquidity support to financial markets, state-run Xinhua news agency reported today.

In an interview with The Financial Times, the State Bank of Pakistan Governor Tariq Bajwa confirmed the loans were made by Beijing-backed banks in April on good rates.

"The money strengthens the financial, political and military ties between the two countries," the top Pakistani banker was quoted as saying by the paper.

"Chinese commercial banks are awash with liquidity," Bajwa said.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have dropped from \$18.1 billion in April last year to \$10.8 billion in May this year.

According to the report, Pakistani officials also hope that borrowing from Chinese banks will save the nation from seeking help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Lending money to Pakistan also favours China, said FT quoting Pakistani officials, as it does not wish to disclose details of the loans that are part of the China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC) project.

China is investing almost \$60 billion on building infrastructure in Pakistan. However, Beijing is reluctant to reveal the sum it is lending to Islamabad as part of the CPEC project.

According to the FT report, prior to last month's loan of \$one billion, Pakistan had borrowed almost \$1.2 billion from Chinese banks since April, 2017 and more loans might follow. (PTI)

WOMEN USE DATING APPS TO CONFIRM ATTRACTIVENESS, MEN FOR CASUAL SEX

Women on dating apps like Tinder are more often looking for confirmation of being attractive, whereas men desire for casual sex and short-term relationships, a study has found. "Women use dating apps to feel better about themselves more than men do," Mons Bendixen, Associate Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Being perceived as a potential partner by other users is regarded as positive, he said.

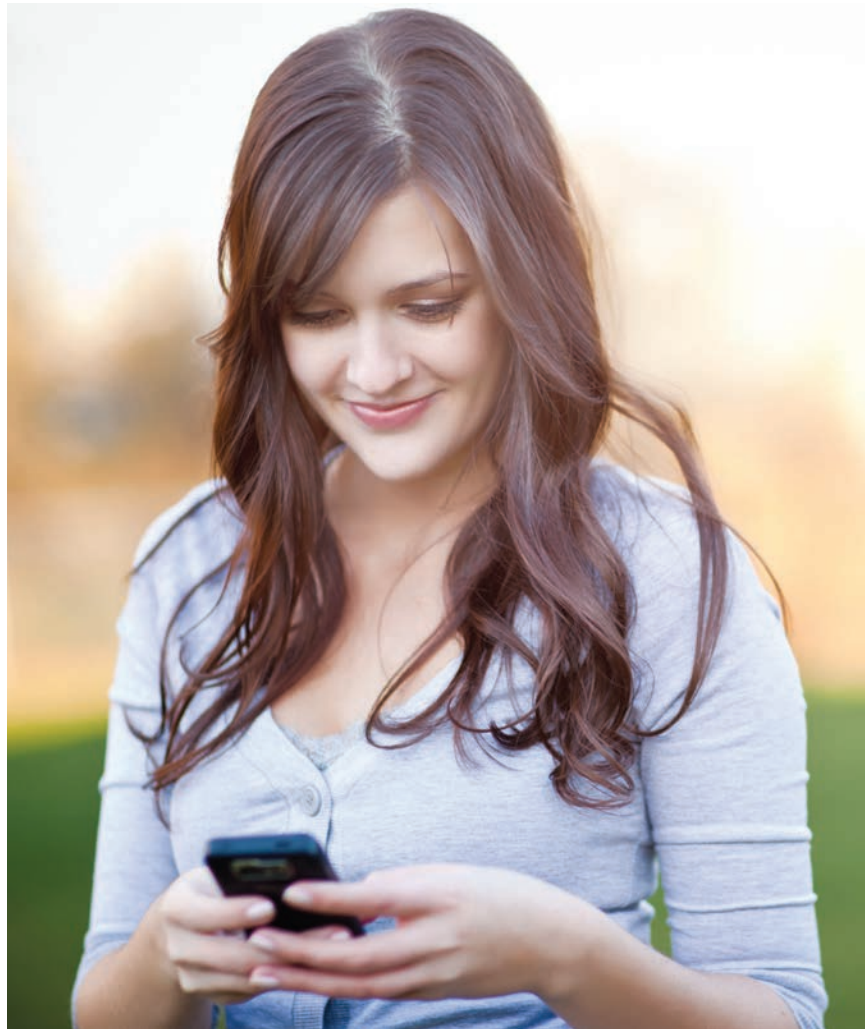
On the other hand, "men tend to report a desire for casual sex and short-term relationships as a reason for using dating apps", said lead author Ernst Olav Botnen, a clinical psychologist at the varsity. But, "men who use these apps also seek long-term partners, but to a lesser extent than short-term partners", he added.

Further, women tend to spend more time on dating apps like Tinder than men do. But this is because women take longer to consider each candidate before deciding to move on, whatever their decision turns out to be.

Conversely, men are more efficient. They pursue more candidates in less time and make more swift decisions about whether a candidate is someone they want to meet up with or not. They are also more likely to initiate contact than women are, the researchers said, in a paper published in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.

"Women are more discerning. Men are more eager. This has clear evolutionary reasons. Women have more to lose by engaging with low-quality sexual partners than men do. That's why men swipe right more often than women do," explained Leif Edward Ottesen Kennair, Professor at the NTNU.

The results were based on the study of 641 Norwegian university students aged between 19 and 29.



Further, women tend to spend more time on dating apps like Tinder than men do. But this is because women take longer to consider each candidate before deciding to move on, whatever their decision turns out to be

The new app technology is primarily a new arena for short-term sex, and not necessarily a development that is leading to a change in sexual behaviour, the researchers said, adding that users on these apps end up with the same number of casual sex partners as non-users. *Source: IANS*



DETAN NATURALLY USING MANGO PULP

Mango is not only delicious but also packs a host of health benefiting properties. It can do wonders for your overall health, provided it's consumed in moderation. Other than its consumption, mango can be used on the face as well in the form of face packs. Mango pulp when applied to the skin can treat a host of skin problems, one of which being tanned skin.

Mango Pulp Face Pack

Having an uneven skin complexion could be a nightmare for many. In order to get rid of the same, mango pulp can prove to be quite beneficial. Mango has exfoliating properties that can help in keeping the skin well hydrated. Just extract mango pulp and rub it over your face for around 2-3 minutes. Allow it to stay for 5 minutes and rinse off with cold water. Doing so will help you bring back the glow back after a tan, further improving your skin complexion. Repeat the procedure thrice a week to see effective results.

Mango And Besan Face Pack

This particular face pack can effectively keep tanned skin at bay. To make this face pack, you need to have pulp of ripe mango, two teaspoons of besan, 1/2 teaspoon of honey and few ground almonds. Take a bowl and add mango pulp in it. Then add Bengal gram flour (besan), almonds and honey into the pulp. Mix the ingredients properly to get a smooth paste-like consistency. Gently rub over the face and allow it to stay for around 10-12 minutes. Once it is done, rinse off with water. Use this face pack twice and watch out for results.

Mango And Curd Face Pack

If you happen to have an oily skin, then this face pack is just apt for you. Apart from the goodness of mangoes, this face pack has curd and honey as well. These ingredients are readily available in the kitchen and can help you fight with pigmentation and tanning in one go. Extract pulp from a ripe mango and add 1 tablespoon of curd and 1 teaspoons of honey in it. Mix the ingredients well. However, make sure that the face pack is of thick consistency. Apply this pack on your face and wash it off after 10 minutes.

FOOD CORNER

SPICED CHICKEN WITH TOMATO AND CREAM

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons ghee (clarified butter) or vegetable oil
- 6 chicken legs (drumsticks with thighs; about 3 pounds)
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 2 tablespoons finely grated peeled ginger
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons garam masala
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ground turmeric
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 3/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 8 cups low-sodium chicken broth



- 3/4 cup canned tomato purée
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 pound small Yukon Gold potatoes, sliced 1/4" thick

- Plain yogurt, torn fresh mint, and naan, flatbread, or cooked rice (for serving)

PREPARATION

- Heat ghee in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Working in batches, cook chicken, skin side down, until golden brown (do not turn), 8-10 minutes. Transfer to a plate.
- Add onion, garlic, and ginger to pot and cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is very soft and golden brown, 8-10 minutes. Add tomato paste, garam masala, cumin, turmeric, coriander, cayenne, and cardamom and cook, stirring often, until tomato paste is beginning to darken, about 4 minutes.
- Add chicken, broth, tomato purée, and cream to pot; season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer, partially covered, skimming occasionally, until chicken is almost falling off the bone and liquid is slightly thickened, 1 1/2-2 hours.
- Add potatoes to pot and cook, partially covered, until potatoes are fork-tender, chicken is falling off the bone, and liquid is thick enough to coat a spoon, 30-45 minutes. Remove skin and bones from chicken, if desired, and return meat to pot; season stew with salt and pepper.
- Divide stew among bowls, top with yogurt and mint, and serve with naan, flatbread, or rice.

EGG WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

WASHINGTON (TIP): When eating an apple can save you from a doctor then consuming an egg will significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death and disability worldwide, including China, mostly due to ischaemic heart disease and stroke (including both haemorrhagic and ischaemic stroke).

Unlike ischaemic heart disease, which is the leading cause of premature death in most Western countries, stroke is the most responsible cause in China, followed by heart disease.

Eggs are a prominent source of dietary cholesterol, but they also contain high-quality protein, many vitamins and bioactive components such as phospholipids and carotenoids.

Previous studies looking at associations between eating eggs and impact on health have been inconsistent, and most of them found insignificant associations between egg consumption and coronary heart disease or stroke.

Therefore, a team of researchers from China and the UK led by Professor Liming Li and Dr Canqing Yu from the School of Public Health, Peking University Health Science Center, set out to examine the associations between egg consumption and cardiovascular disease, ischaemic heart disease, major coronary events, haemorrhagic stroke and ischaemic stroke.

They used data from the China



Kadoorie Biobank (CKB) study, an ongoing prospective study of around half a million (512,891) adults aged 30 to 79 from 10 different geographical areas in China.

The participants were recruited between 2004-2008 and were asked about the frequency of their egg consumption. They were followed up to determine their morbidity and mortality.

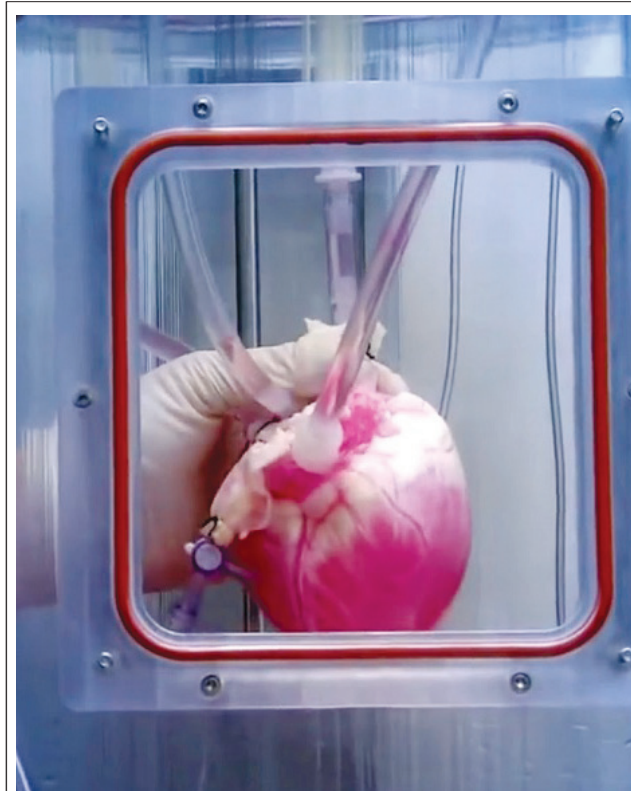
For the new study, the researchers focused on 416,213 participants who were free of prior cancer, cardiovascular disease (CVD) and diabetes.

From that group at a median follow-up of 8.9 years, a total of 83,977 cases of CVD and 9,985 CVD deaths were documented, as well as 5,103 major coronary events.

At the start of the study period, 13.1 per cent of participants reported daily consumption (usual amount 0.76 egg/day) and 9.1 per cent reported never or very rare consumption (usual amount 0.29 egg/day) of eggs.

Analysis of the results showed that compared with people not consuming eggs, daily egg consumption was associated with a lower risk of CVD overall. In particular, daily egg consumers (up to one egg/day) had a 26 percent lower risk of haemorrhagic stroke—the type of stroke with a higher prevalence rate in China than in high-income countries—a 28 per cent lower risk of haemorrhagic stroke death and an 18 percent lower risk of CVD death.

Source: ANI



RESEARCHERS OPERATE LAB-GROWN HEART CELLS BY REMOTE CONTROL

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Scientists have developed a technique that allows them to speed up or slow down human heart cells growing in a dish on command.

Researchers from University of California San Diego School of Medicine in the US operate on the heart cells simply by shining a light on them and varying its intensity.

The cells are grown on a material called graphene, which converts light into electricity, providing a more realistic environment than standard plastic or glass laboratory dishes.

“We were surprised at the degree of flexibility, that graphene allows you to pace cells literally at will,” said Alex Savchenko, a research scientist at UC San Diego School of Medicine.

“You want them to beat twice as fast? No problem - you just increase the light intensity. Three times faster? No problem - increase the light or graphene density,” Savchenko said.

The method, described in the journal Science Advances, could be used for a number of research and clinical applications.

They include testing therapeutic drugs in more biologically relevant systems, developing use-specific drugs that are more precise and have fewer systemic effects, and creating better medical devices, such as light-controlled pacemakers.

The researchers generated heart cells from donated skin cells, via an intermediary cell type called an induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC).

Then they grew these iPSC-derived heart cells on a graphene surface.

The researchers found a way to precisely control how much electricity the graphene generated by varying the intensity of the light to which they exposed it.

Savchenko and colleagues found they could likewise control heart activity in a living organism (zebrafish embryos) using light and dispersed graphene. Source: PTI

Smoking pot in early teens ups drug abuse risk later

TORONTO (TIP): People who start smoking marijuana in the beginning of their teens are at a higher risk of having a drug abuse problem by the age of 28, a study has found.

Researchers from by Universite de Montreal in Canada suggest that found that children in primary school need to be educated about the risks of starting pot smoking, especially now that the potency is much greater than it was in decades past and that public acceptance is being spurred by legalisation in many places.

The study found that those who started smoking pot between the age of 15 and 17 were at 44 per cent higher risk of developing a drug abuse problem. However, the risk was higher at 68 per cent for those who started at an earlier age.

“The odds of developing any drug abuse symptoms by age 28 were reduced by 31 per cent for each year of delayed onset of cannabis use in adolescence,” researchers said.

For the study published in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, researchers looked at data for 1,030 boys



from some of the city’s impoverished neighbourhoods begun in the early 1980s.

Every year between ages 13 and 17, the boys were asked if they had consumed cannabis at all in the previous year.

At 17, and again at 20 and 28, they were asked not only whether they consumed cannabis, but also other drugs, including hallucinogens, cocaine, amphetamines,

barbiturates, tranquilisers, heroin and inhalants.

Then the data were correlated with the age at which they started using cannabis.

The results confirmed the researchers’ suspicions: the younger they started, the more likely the boys had a drug problem later as young men.

Source: PTI

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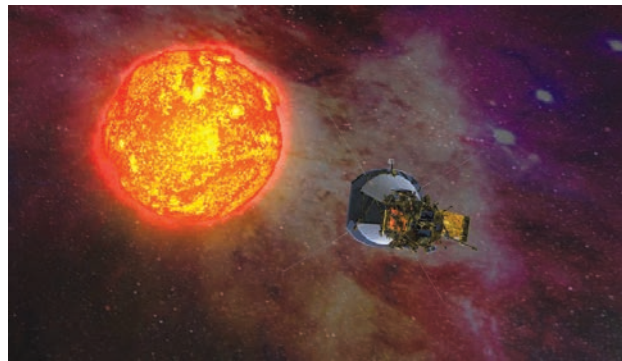
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NASA PROBE TO 'TOUCH' THE SUN WILL CARRY 1.1 MN NAMES



WASHINGTON (TIP): When NASA's Parker Solar Probe, humanity's first mission to "touch" a star, launches on July 31, it will carry more than scientific instruments on this historic journey — it will also hold more than 1.1 million names submitted by the public to go to the Sun, NASA has said.

Back in March, NASA invited people around the world to submit their names online to be placed on a microchip aboard its historic Parker Solar Probe. Submissions were accepted till April 27.

NASA this week revealed that a total of 1,137,202 names were submitted and confirmed over the seven-and-a-half-week period.

A memory card containing the names was installed on the spacecraft on May 18, the US space agency said.

The card was mounted on a plaque bearing a dedication to and a quote from the mission's namesake, heliophysicist Eugene Parker, who first theorised the existence of the solar wind.

Throughout its seven-year mission, the spacecraft will swoop through the Sun's atmosphere 24 times, getting closer to our star than any spacecraft has gone before.

"Parker Solar Probe is going to revolutionise our understanding of the Sun, the only star we can study up close," said Nicola Fox, project scientist for Parker Solar Probe at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland.

"It's fitting that as the mission undertakes one of the most extreme journeys of exploration ever tackled by a human-made object, the spacecraft will also carry along the names of so many people who are cheering it on its way," she added.

This memory card also carries photos of Parker and a copy of his groundbreaking 1958 scientific paper.

Parker proposed a number of concepts about how stars — including our Sun — give off material.

He called this cascade of energy and particles the solar wind, a constant outflow of material from the Sun that we now know shapes everything from the habitability of worlds to our solar system's interaction with the rest of the galaxy.

Parker Solar Probe will explore the Sun's outer atmosphere and make critical observations to answer decades-old questions about the physics of stars.

The resulting data may also improve forecasts of major eruptions on the Sun and subsequent space weather events that impact life on Earth, as well as satellites and astronauts in space, NASA said.

Source: IANS

NEW BATTERY CAN BE CHARGED WITHIN SECONDS

NEW YORK (TIP): Scientists have developed a novel self-assembling battery device that can be recharged within seconds and could power mobile devices of the future.

Researchers from Cornell University in the US created a new battery architecture to address the demands for energy storage devices that can be charged faster.

Instead of having the batteries' anode and cathode on either side of a nonconducting separator, they intertwined the components in a self-assembling, 3D gyroidal structure, with thousands of nanoscale pores filled with the elements necessary for energy storage and delivery.

"This three-dimensional architecture basically eliminates all losses from dead volume in your device," said Ulrich Wiesner, a professor at Cornell.

"More importantly, shrinking the dimensions of these interpenetrated domains down to the nanoscale, as we did, gives you orders of magnitude higher power density. In other words, you can access the energy in much shorter times than what's usually done with conventional battery architectures," said Wiesner.

Source: PTI

3D-PRINTED, DRIVER-LESS BOATS DEVELOPED

BOSTON (TIP): MIT scientists have designed a fleet of 3D-printed, driverless boats that could ferry goods and people, helping clear up road congestion in waterway-rich cities such as Amsterdam, Bangkok and Venice — where canals run alongside and under bustling streets and bridges.

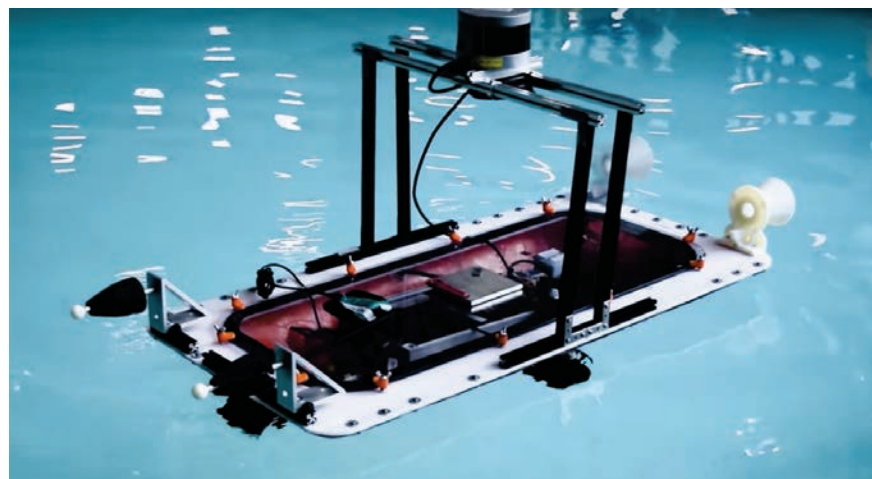
The autonomous boats offer high maneuverability and precise control. They can be built using low-cost printer, making mass manufacturing more feasible.

In the future, the researchers also envision the driverless boats being adapted to perform city services overnight, instead of during busy daylight hours, further reducing congestion on both roads and canals.

"Imagine shifting some of infrastructure services that usually take place during the day on the road — deliveries, garbage management, waste management — to the middle of the night, on the water, using a fleet of autonomous boats," said Daniela Rus, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US.

The boats — rectangular 4-by-2-metre hulls equipped with sensors, microcontrollers, location trackers, and other hardware — could be programmed to self-assemble into floating bridges, concert stages, platforms for food markets, and other structures in a matter of hours.

"Again, some of the activities that are usually taking place on land, and that cause disturbance in how the city moves, can be done on a temporary basis on the water," said Rus.



The boats could also be equipped with environmental sensors to monitor a city's waters and gain insight into urban and human health.

To make the boats, the researchers 3D-printed a rectangular hull with a commercial printer, producing 16 separate sections that were spliced together. Printing took around 60 hours. The completed hull was then sealed by adhering several layers of fibreglass.

Integrated onto the hull are a power supply, Wi-Fi antenna, GPS, and a minicomputer and microcontroller.

For precise positioning, the researchers incorporated an indoor ultrasound beacon system and outdoor real-time kinematic GPS modules, which allow for centimeter-level localisation, as well as an inertial measurement unit (IMU) module that monitors the boat's yaw and angular velocity, among other metrics.

The boat is a rectangular shape, instead of the traditional kayak or catamaran shapes, to allow the vessel to move sideways and to attach itself to other boats when assembling other structures.

Researchers used an efficient predictive-control platform to run their algorithm, which can rapidly determine upcoming actions and increases the algorithm's speed by two orders of magnitude over similar systems. While other algorithms execute in about 100 milliseconds, the researchers' algorithm takes less than one millisecond.

The innovations in design and fabrication, as well as faster and more precise control algorithms, point toward feasible driverless boats used for transportation, docking, and self-assembling into platforms, researchers said.

Source: PTI

Twitter shutting down most of its TV apps

After killing off apps used by a minority of its userbase including the "Twitter for Mac", the micro-blogging site is shutting down its TV apps on Roku, Android TV and Xbox from May 24.

"On Thursday, May 24, Twitter for Roku, Twitter for Android TV and Twitter for Xbox will no longer be available. To get the full Twitter experience, visit <https://twitter.com> on your device or desktop," the microblogging website tweeted.

This is due to the dismal feedback that users gave because these Twitter apps did not allow them to tweet from their account or fully interact with the Twittersphere in general, The Verge reported.

A report in Tech Crunch, however, said that Twitter has made the decision to kill off these apps as the micro-blogging platform works towards GDPR compliance.

"In addition, neither Xbox or Roku support a standard regularly supported video player, which made them more difficult to maintain. That also came into play with this decision," the report said.

As compared to other TV apps like Netflix, Twitter lacked on the "exclusive video content" front as well.

Twitter for tvOS (Apple TV) and Twitter for Amazon Fire TV will continue to be available.

Source: IANS



Novel robotic system can grow mini human organs

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists have developed an automated robotic system that can rapidly produce mini human organs required for medical research and drug testing.

The traditional way to grow cells for biomedical research is to culture them as flat, two-dimensional sheets, which are overly simplistic.

In recent years, researchers have been increasingly successful in growing stem cells into more complex, 3D structures called mini-organs or organoids.

These resemble rudimentary organs and in many ways behave similarly. While these properties make organoids ideal for biomedical research, they also pose a challenge for mass production. The ability to mass produce organoids is the most exciting potential applications of the new robotic technology, according to the developers.

In a study published in the journal Cell Stem Cell, researchers from University of Washington in the US used a robotic system to automate the procedure for growing stem cells into organoids.

Although similar approaches have been successful with adult stem cells, this is the first report of successfully automating the manufacture of organoids from pluripotent stem cells. That cell type is versatile and capable of becoming any type of organ.

Source: PTI

Modi govt's oil problem set to worsen ahead of 2019 elections with Saudi's \$80 a barrel goal

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has an oil problem. And it's set to worsen with Saudi Arabia rooting for the commodity to push through the \$80 barrier.

Modi's government made the most of cheap oil by substituting any fall in prices with taxes that kept retail fuel rates unchanged for consumers and boosted the federal revenue. Now, pressure is mounting to forego some of that windfall as pump prices of gasoline and diesel hit records, likely marring the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's prospects at the 2019 general elections.

"There is a strong case for the central government to take another excise duty cut, and ask state governments to reduce value added tax," Anil Sharma and Ravi Adukia, analysts at Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India Pvt. wrote in a note Tuesday.

Fuel prices have started to pinch as Brent, the benchmark for more than half of the world's oil, hit \$80 a barrel last week. It's still short of its all-time high of \$147.50. But cutting local taxes, which account for more than half of the retail gasoline and diesel prices, would stretch government finances at a time when the subsidy burden on kerosene and cooking gas is climbing.

Assuming an average oil price of \$70, the fiscal 2019 subsidy would total about Rs355 billion, or Rs 105 billion higher than budgeted, according to Kotak Institutional Equities. While Saudi Arabia has avoided pinpointing an exact price target for oil, Bloomberg reported



citing people familiar with development that it is aiming for \$80 to support the valuation of Saudi Aramco before an initial public offering.

Still, the political implications of cushioning the blow for motorists may be more compelling. State refiners that control more than 90% of the retail market, didn't raise gasoline and diesel prices for nearly three weeks ahead of the elections in the southern Karnataka state. Elections for at least four more state assemblies are scheduled later this

year.

Holding prices even for days weighs on the finances of the state refiners Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp. and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. They end up absorbing the losses since fuel prices have technically been deregulated and the government does not provide any subsidy. Not surprisingly, their shares have been among the worst performers on the NSE Nifty 50 Index this year.

Source: Bloomberg

Bad loans drag SBI down, Q4 net loss at Rs 7,718 crore

NEW DELHI (TIP): The country's largest lender SBI on Tuesday reported a record standalone net loss of Rs 7,718 crore in the fourth quarter ended March, mainly due to a sharp rise in provisioning for bad loans.

Besides, a lower investment income as well as higher provisioning for wage revision also dented the profits of the state-owned lender, the SBI said.

The bank had registered a net profit of Rs 2,815 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal ended March 2017. Compared sequentially, the loss in the March quarter widened from Rs 2,416 crore net loss in the December quarter. For the full year, the bank has reported a net loss of Rs 6,547 crore, while there was a net profit of Rs 10,484 crore in 2016-17.

"Due to an increase in provisions for non-performing assets (NPAs) and mark-to-market on investment portfolio, the bank incurred a net loss of Rs 6,547 crore in 2017-18," it said.

In the March quarter, the bank's provisions for NPAs jumped by 119 per cent to Rs 24,080 crore as against Rs 10,993 crore in same period of 2016-17,



showed the bank's regulatory filing to exchanges. Overall provisioning and contingencies were raised to Rs 28,096 crore for the fourth quarter compared to Rs 11,740 crore in the year-ago period. The bank also experienced decline in its operating profit, net interest income during the quarter. However, its non-interest income has improved.

The SBI said recovery in written-off accounts registered a robust growth of 21.18 per cent in the March quarter.

Citing the RBI circular of April 2017, the SBI said the banks are required to make provisions at higher rates in respect of advances to stressed sectors of the economy.

Besides, in cases of NCLT accounts the provisioning requirements is reduced from 50 per cent of secured portion to 40 per cent of secured portion as on March 31, 2018. "Based on the prospects of recovery, the bank has availed the relaxation in a few accounts," it said.

Income in the March quarter, however, was up at Rs 68,436 crore as against Rs 57,720 crore in the same period of 2016-17. For the full year, the total income stood at Rs 2,59,664 crore up from Rs 2,10,979 crore.

In the asset quality, there was a further dent on the bank's books with gross NPAs, as a percentage of gross loans, jumped to 10.91 per cent from 6.90 per cent as on March-end 2017.

The net NPAs rose to 5.73 per cent of the net advances compared to 3.71 per cent previous fiscal. In absolute terms, the gross NPAs soared to Rs 2,23,427 crore as on March 31, 2018, from Rs 1,12,343 crore by the March-end 2017. The Net NPAs were Rs 1,10,855 crore compared to Rs 58,277 crore.

Stock of SBI closed 3.69 per cent up at Rs 254.15 on the BSE. Source: PTI

FORTIS REMOVES BOARD MEMBER BRIANTEMPEST



NEW DELHI (TIP): Fortis Healthcare on May 23 said its shareholders have voted in favour of removal of Brian Tempest from the Board of Directors in the company's extraordinary general meeting (EGM) held on Tuesday.

Tempest is among the four directors of cash-strapped healthcare chain whose removals were sought by two institutional investors. Three directors — Harpal Singh, Sabina Vaisoha and Tejinder Singh Shergill — had already resigned before the EGM.

The development has cast a shadow over the ongoing attempt to sell Fortis as these four directors were among the five who had voted in favour of Munjals-Burmans' Rs 1,800-crore bid for the healthcare firm.

The Board of Fortis on May 10 in a 5-3 decision opted to go with the offer from Munjals-Burmans combine.

In a regulatory filing, Fortis said the resolution for removal of Tempest as director of the company was passed with requisite majority with 87.91% votes in favour.

Tempest has been a long time associate of the erstwhile promoters of Fortis Healthcare, the Singh brothers through their earlier business Ranbaxy, which they later sold to Japan's Daiichi Sankyo.

He started working for Ranbaxy Laboratories in 1995 and held various positions, including Managing Director and CEO, till he retired in 2008 as chief mentor, vice-chairman and non-executive director.

Source: PTI

SoftBank confirms selling 'entire stake' in Flipkart to Walmart

NEW DELHI (TIP): Japan's SoftBank has decided to sell its over 20% stake in e-commerce major Flipkart to US retailer Walmart for an estimated US \$4 billion.

"SoftBank confirms the sale of its entire stake in Flipkart to Walmart," a

SoftBank spokesperson said. While the spokesperson declined to spell out the details of the transaction, the company is estimated to rake in about US \$4 billion from the sale. The move by SoftBank ends nearly two weeks of suspense over whether the Japanese telecom and Internet powerhouse would exit or stay invested in Flipkart post the deal with Walmart.

Walmart had, on May 9, announced that it will pay about US \$16 billion to buy about 77% stake in Flipkart. While significant shareholders in the Bengaluru-based company like Naspers, venture fund Accel Partners and eBay had agreed to sell their shares, SoftBank had not taken a final call.

A statement issued by Walmart on May 9 had identified Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, Tencent Holdings Ltd, Tiger Global Management LLC and Microsoft Corp as those who would continue to be investors in Flipkart.

However, SoftBank took more time to arrive at its decision taking into account several factors including the tax that it would have to pay on profits it would earn from such share sale.

SoftBank had invested US \$2.5 billion in Flipkart last year. Sources familiar with the development said Softbank has taken the final call that is in the best interest of the company and its investors.

On May 9, hours before Walmart was scheduled to announce the Flipkart acquisition, SoftBank chief executive Masayoshi Son told during an investor call on his company's earnings that Walmart had agreed to buy a controlling stake in the Indian e-commerce company. "Last night, (they) reached a final agreement and it was decided that Flipkart will be sold to America's Walmart," Son had then stated in Tokyo, according to an AFP report.





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, lunched one of Bejan's books, '2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama (New York and Texas). Bejan's predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.



Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone 011-91-8141234275 www.bejandaruwalla.com

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE MAY 28- JUNE 3, 2018

Aries:

Emotions continue to run high. You are traipsing an electric wire, ready to snap. Nothing works out your way completely and several compromises will have to be made in all your dealings. Sometimes, you feel defeated but Ganesha advises you to just hang in there and wait patiently for the tide to change. You do spend time at work and at home solving various domestic issues, but you are not all there.

Taurus:

You make a conscious effort to handle the situation that is slowly getting out of hand. This results in dividends, and a type of parity is restored in your affairs. There are splendid opportunities for advancement and this is a good time to strike. There is money to be made and new ventures waiting to be started. You are looking at achievements and recognition. You identify areas of potential growth and go for it.

Gemini:

The hard work phase continues. You do well and earn plaudits from your peer group. You are moving ahead uncompromisingly and are meeting all your targets and schedules. There are expenses, wining and dining and affairs of the heart. You could be embroiled in an office affair and this disturbs the peace. You are much more alert, lively and healthy and filled with new found zeal. You are driven to make a success of your life and your hormones are also flying off in different directions.

Cancer:

A lot of quality time will be spent with family and friends in this period. There could be weddings, engagements and other family functions to attend. While a lot of time is spent with family, I must hasten to add here that it may not all be happy. There could be illnesses and some strife in the form of divorce or some problem in an alimony suit. You will either be the mediator or one of the parties needing help; any which way you will be in the thick of it.

Leo:

There is sharpness in your life, an edge that was never there. You realize that you have been procrastinating and postponing the settlement of various pending issues in your life. So, this period, you try to set your house in order. Friends and new and old romances show up, but you are preoccupied with the nitty gritty. Your life is on the verge of an upheaval and if you don't plug the corners now, it may just be too late. So, you go about cleaning the stables with single-mindedness.

Virgo:

A lot is happening in your life now. You are in the edge of many cross-currents and will participate in all kinds of social activities. You feel wanted, cherished and loved. You realize that you are really popular and don't have to be the lone wolf any more. You don't have to carry the cross and chafe your shoulders. You are publicly feted and are the cynosure of all eyes. You feel blessed, loved, humbled and feel at peace and in gratitude to existence for making this happen.

Libra:

No full lasts long, and work calls. You'll get back to business and profession in a really big way now. Work is on an upward swing and you will be actively involved in new business enterprises and undertakings. You make good money and will feel secure. There will be travel too. Collaborations, purchases, comforts, luxuries and vestiges of the good life infuse you with fresh enthusiasm. You display awesome stamina and can move mountains during this period.

Scorpio:

You continue with a scintillating performance and consolidate your gains. There will be expenses and a hectic social life. Family ties will be strengthened, and you will be busy renovating, redecorating and refurbishing. You will be the center of attraction at family gatherings and you will enjoy it. Your interactions will be stronger and more meaningful, and life will acquire a pleasant hue.

Sagittarius:

This can be a period of new beginnings both at home and at work. You will make money and also spend it. Lending / borrowing, funds, capital-raising, loans, stocks, realty and buying and selling will occupy your time. This is the tie to plan and strategies for the coming period. There are many new openings on the anvil and a lot depends on how you optimize the chances that come your way. This can be a very profitable phase and it all depends on how you cash in on it.

Capricorn:

You spend time helping the poor and the downtrodden. You visit old people's homes, hospitals, hospices, shelters, half-way homes and other such institutions and help out with cash and kind. You have great empathy for the underdog and frequently take this route. Even if you don't have the resources to do this you spend time helping out family members, friends, colleagues and others in distress. You feel god about it and the world is a better place thanks to souls like you.

Aquarius:

You scatter your energies and they don't result in much. Money comes in through one hand and goes out with ease through the other. You while away time merrymaking and hanging out with friends as though you have no care in the world. Momentarily, at least, your life has lost direction. You look for approval, but it isn't forthcoming. You are told in no uncertain terms, by friends and family that you need to get your act together, and fast. You value their opinion and make amends.

Pisces:

The period sees a thread of intensity in all your dealings. You are pushing ahead without stops with a new resolve and ambition. You are confident and charismatic, full of magnetism and drive. Your popularity soars and all that you embark on or consolidate leads to success. You don't have much time for the family now, but work and its rewards are appetizing. Ganesha sees you turbo charged as you successfully accomplish one task after another.

MOUNT KAILASH: ABODE OF LORD SHIVA

Mount Kailash is the one of the most revered mountains on this planet owing to the fact that Lord Shiva has chosen this mountain for His residence. Lord Shiva is known as the master of the material world. Parvati Devi is the consort of Lord Shiva who administers the material world as Durga Devi on His behalf. He is in charge of tamo-guna i.e. mode of ignorance as well as in charge of dissolving the material world at the end of a fixed cycle. Mount Kailash is located in the north-eastern direction i.e. the direction of Sri Kubera, the treasurer of the devatas. Geographically, the Kailash Parvat lies in the Tibet region of China at an altitude of 21778 feet, approximately 6638 mtrs above the sea level. It is also the source of Asia's four important rivers i.e. Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali (known as Ghaghaara in India). Kailash Parvat is also referred to as Sitachala – the pure white mountain. Over a thousand devotees make a pilgrimage to this sacred mountain in their Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to receive the blessings of Lord Shiva.

THE ORIGIN OF MOUNT KAILASH

In a conversation between Lord Brahma and Narada Muni on the topic of the creation of the universe, Lord Brahma tells Narada Muni the following – “First water was created and then the enormous cosmic egg manifested which consisted of the twenty four elements. To bring that egg into consciousness, I performed tapasya for twelve years to please Lord Vishnu. Pleased by my tapasya, Lord Vishnu appeared before me and then entered into the cosmic egg as a result of which all the world's including the Mount Kailash came into existence.”

LORD SHIVA CHOOSES MOUNT KAILASH AS HIS ABODE

In the ensuing conversation, Narada Muni asks Lord Brahma as to when did Lord Shiva make Kailash His abode and how did Lord Shiva and Sri Kubera become friends. Lord Brahma narrated the following history –

A Brahmin by the name Yagyadutt who was proficient in the performance of Somayagya lived in Kampilyanagar. Yagyadutt had a son named Gunanidhi who was a scholar but indulged in sinful activities such as gambling. He was irreligious and kept bad company. Yagyadutt's wife used to lie about Gunanidhi's activities whenever Yagyadutt would ask her about his conduct, being completely unaware of what was going on. Yagyadutt got Gunanidhi married to a girl from a well to do family but this didn't deter Gunanidhi from continuing his activities in spite of his mother's advice to stop indulging in such activities.

One day, Yagyadutt saw a gambler on the street wear his ring. Being surprised, he went up to the gambler and asked him about the same. Yagyadutt was told by the gambler that his son Gunanidhi had lost the ring in a gambling match. Similarly he had lost many other valuables on earlier occasions too. Infuriated by what he heard, Yagyadutt disowned his wife and son, and then married another woman. Upon hearing about the actions of Yagyadutt, Gunanidhi started feeling remorseful about what he had done and kept on walking until he was tired and sat under a tree. Suddenly, he noticed some villagers walking towards the village temple with offerings of food. He started following them and reached the temple sitting down at the temple entrance. He waited for the pujas to get over and then slowly entered the place where the food offerings were kept. As the light wick in the temple was getting dim and being unable to see, he tore his own cloth, made a thick wick and put that in the lamp which enabled him to see properly. Gunanidhi picked up the food offerings and started moving out stealthily when he suddenly dashed against a devotee who was sleeping. The devotee woke up and seeing Gunanidhi



fleeing away with the offerings, called out everyone branding him a thief. Everyone present there beat him up badly to death.

After Gunanidhi's death, the Yamadutas came to take away his soul, but the Shivaganas came there immediately and prevented the Yamadutas from taking him away saying that Gunanidhi had observed the Shivaratri fast with devotion, listened to the narration of Lord Shiva's pastimes and even prevented the lamp from burning out. The Yamadutas were also informed that Gunanidhi would become the King of Kalinga in his next birth. Thus, he was taken to Shivaloka and in the next life born as the son of Arindam, the King of Kalinga and named Dama. King Arindam died when Dama was very young and thus, Dama succeeded the throne as the King of Kalinga. The new King passed a decree to renovate all the Shiva temples under his jurisdiction and made it mandatory for all his subjects to worship Lord Shiva.

KING DAMA BECOMES KUBERA WITH

son – Vishrawan (Gunanidhi and King Dama in previous lives) ruled over Alkapuri, which was constructed by the celestial architect Sri Vishwakarma. During the kalpa called Meghawan, Vishrawan did severe tapasya for ten lakh years to please Lord Shiva. Being pleased with the tapasya, Lord Shiva appeared along with Parvati Devi before Vishrawan and told him that he could request for any boon that Lord Shiva could fulfill. Hearing Lord Shiva's voice, he opened his eyes but was unable to see owing to Lord Shiva's radiance. He requested Lord Shiva to give him power of sight. After getting back his eye sight, Vishrawan was astonished to see that Parvati Devi, who was more important than Vishrawan himself was standing beside Lord Shiva. He became jealous of this fact and thus lost his eyesight of the left eye. Parvati Devi being astonished at the way in which Vishrawan looked at Her, asked Lord Shiva for the reason. Lord Shiva replied that Vishrawan was her son and thus he was astonished at what Parvati Devi had achieved with Her rigid tapasya.

Lord Shiva thus blessed Vishrawan to be the King of the Kings and promised to live near Alkapuri forever. After being blessed with the boon, Vishrawan offered his respects to Lord Shiva and Parvati Devi. Parvati Devi said the following to Vishrawan – “Since you have looked at me angrily, your hatred and enmity towards me is clearly visible. For this reason, you shall be known as Kubera.” After this, Lord Shiva and His consort Parvati Devi went away to live in the Kailash Parvat which is situated near Alkapuri in Himalayas.

SHIVA TAKES HIS RESIDENCE AT KAILASH

When Lord Shiva heard about the severe tapasya done by Kubera, he started playing on His Damaru (drum), the sound of which reached the three worlds. Lord Shiva reached the place where Kubera was doing his tapasya. Hearing the sound of the Damaru, Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu appeared too. When Kubera saw Lord Shiva before him, he offered Lord Shiva his seat and worshipped Him. Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu too were given respects and worshipped. Being pleased with His devotee's devotion, He decided to stay in his vicinity and hence, ordered Vishwakarma, the celestial architect to construct His abode at Kailash Parbat. After the construction was over, Lord Shiva went to live in Mount Kailash at an auspicious moment, during which He was worshiped by the other devatas too.

THE BLESSINGS OF LORD SHIVA

During the Padma Kalpa, Sage Vishrawa was born to Sage Pulastya. Sage Vishrawa's

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contd from page 1

A bang and a whimper...

official's condemnation of US Vice-President Mike Pence as a "political dummy" was "the last straw" that led to cancelling the summit.

"Sadly, based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement, I feel it would be inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting," Trump wrote to Kim.

"Please let this letter serve to represent that the Singapore summit, for the good of both parties, but to the detriment of the world, will not take place." Trump called it "a missed opportunity" and said he still hoped to meet Kim someday. However, the chances for a quick rescheduling appear remote and cancellation of the summit will renew fears of a return to conflict on the Korean peninsula.

Earlier on Thursday, North Korea had repeated a threat to pull out of the summit with Trump next month and warned it was prepared for a nuclear showdown with Washington if necessary.

South Korea's presidential Blue House appeared taken off guard by Trump's letter and an official said it was "trying to figure out what President Trump exactly meant." South Korean President Moon Jae-in had met with Trump at the White House on Tuesday, May 22, to urge him to follow through on the summit and not let a rare opportunity with reclusive North Korea slip away.

A few hours before Trump announced the cancellation, a small group of international media selected by North Korea witnessed the demolition of tunnels at the Punggye-ri site on Thursday, May 24, which Pyongyang said was proof of its commitment to end nuclear testing.

Meanwhile, alarm bells began to ring at the world body. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General said, "I am deeply concerned by the cancellation of the planned meeting in Singapore between the President of the United States and the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Both the parties must continue their dialogue so as to find a path to the peaceful and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula".

Former Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Venditto...

securities fraud in the trial now nearing the end of its 11th week. Prosecutors had alleged that Venditto, 68, of North Massapequa, accepted free limo rides and other perks from Singh and, in exchange, helped Singh obtain the more than \$20 million in business loans pegged to Oyster Bay's creditworthiness.

"Mr. Venditto, you are excused. Good luck," Azrack said after his verdict was read.

"Thank you," he replied.

He remained stoic in the Central Islip courtroom as, count by count, the "not guilty" findings became a refrain.

"From the very first day I started in law school, I have had nothing but faith in our justice system and the events of today confirm that faith," Venditto told the gathered mediapersonafter he was dismissed with the well wishes of U.S. District Judge Joan M. Azrack.

Meanwhile, Jury is set to deliberate on Mangano and Linda cases on Friday, May 25.

Europe's landmark...

The pan-EU law aims to give its citizens more rights to control over their online information. It has a list of technically

demanding requirements, and threatens fines of up to 4% of a company's annual revenue for serious infringements

The law covers companies that collect large amounts of customer data, including Facebook and Google. It won't be overseen by a single authority but instead by a patchwork of national and regional watchdogs across the 28-nation bloc

The new privacy law (GDPR) seeks to harmonize the scattered data protection laws in the EU and envisages stringent penalties under it. It replaces the existing EC Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC). GDPR seeks to enhance the data privacy rights of users and imposes certain new responsibilities upon data controllers and processors.

The new law endeavors to create a model for a data protection and privacy framework that will be able to keep pace with rapid advancements in technology. Most importantly, GDPR attempts to give back to individuals control over their personal data, while recognizing the protection of one's personal data as a fundamental right. Here are some key elements of GDPR:

NEW DEFINITION OF PERSONAL DATA : Under the GDPR, personal data is anything that relates to an identified or identifiable individual. For example: name, address, email address, location data or computer IP address. Sensitive data, such as religious beliefs, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or trade union membership, are subject to extra protections.

Higher penalties

The GDPR foresees fines of 2 to 4 per cent of a company's annual revenues or 20 million euros (\$24 million), whichever is higher.

Stricter rules on consent

Companies will need to get freely given, specific, unambiguous and informed consent from individuals to process their data. They will also need users to opt in to the processing of their data - simply giving them an opt out will not be valid. In other words, companies will no longer be able to ask consumers to tick a box after a long set of terms and conditions that most people never read.

Global scope

The GDPR will apply to any company that has customers in the EU, whether the firm was established in the bloc or not.

New rules for data processors

The GDPR distinguishes between data "controllers" and data "processors". A data controller determines why personal data must be collected and processed as well as how. A data processor only processes personal data on behalf of the controller and is usually a third-party company.

For example: A retailer that hires a human resources company to handle payroll and other functions is the data controller, while the human resources company is the data processor.

Under GDPR, data processors must guarantee the same standards as controllers and ensure they meet the requirements of the law. There must be a legal contract between a processor and a controller, and a processor may not engage another company to process data without the controller's consent.

Data breach notifications

Companies must notify data protection authorities of data breaches within 72 hours of becoming aware of it, if it is likely to impact the rights of individuals. If the breach carries a high risk for individuals, then the company must notify the affected people without undue delay.

One-stop shop

The GDPR introduces a "one-stop shop" mechanism to make it easier for companies operating across the EU, for example Facebook, Google and Mastercard.

Companies processing data across the bloc will have a lead authority in the country where they have their main establishment, for example Facebook in Ireland.

The lead authority will be the main point of contact for the company and responsible for ensuring its compliance with GDPR. In cases involving citizens from several countries the lead authority will coordinate with other "concerned" authorities. If there are disputes between authorities, a new body, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB), can make binding decisions. - Reuters

Lawfulness of data processing

Companies processing personal data must ensure it is lawful, fair and transparent. They may not use data for purposes other than those for which it was collected, with limited exceptions. Data processing is lawful if:

An individual has consented to it

It is necessary for the performance of a contract

It is necessary to meet a legal obligation under EU or national law

It is necessary to protect the vital interests of an individual

It is necessary to carry out a task in the public interest under EU or national law

It is in the company's legitimate interest, as long as it does not override an individual's fundamental rights and freedoms

If a company collected data on the basis of consent, then it may not use it for other purposes

Stronger rights for Europeans

People living in the European Union will get the right to:

Receive clear and understandable information about who is processing their data and why

Access data an organization holds about them

Ask for personal data to be erased if there is no longer any legitimate reason to keep it

Have data corrected if it is incorrect

Move data from one service provider, such as an email service or social network, to another

NYPD gets first female...

Department. APO Gursoach Kaur and other Auxiliary Police Officers graduated from the academy. We are proud of you. Stay safe. #sikhsinlawenforcement," the Sikh Officers Association tweeted.

Sikh Officers Assoc.

@SikhOfficers

We are proud to welcome first #Sikh Turbaned female Auxiliary Police Officer in the @NYPDnews. APO Gursoach Kaur and other Auxiliary Police Officers graduated from the Academy. We are proud of you. Stay safe. #sikhsinlawenforcement

The association said in a Facebook post that it is "proud" to welcome Kaur to the Police Department.

"Your service will be a motivation for others to join the Law enforcement Family," it said.

The association is the nation's first organization to represent Sikh Officers in Law Enforcement.

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri also tweeted about Kaur, expressing hope that a turbaned lady officer will help create better understanding of Sikhism in the US.

@HardeepSPuri

Follow @HardeepSPuri

Delighted to see a turbaned lady officer in NYPD. Hope this fosters better understanding of Sikhism & Sikhs & corrects perceptions in US so that incident which happened with me in 2010 & recently with @Canada minister @NavdeepSBains do not recur. Sikhs are ambassadors of harmony.

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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.

So the sultry summers are already here and people in the plains are desperately looking for the best of wildlife destinations in India and cool places to relax and rejuvenate. Some seek shelter in the snow-clad mountains, some fancy tiny little hamlets in the hills but there are some who seek adventure, go into the wild and live with the animals in the wildlife sanctuaries in India.

A country like India, renowned for its rich and diverse wildlife, has myriad destinations that will fill your adventurous soul with a new kind of excitement and energy. So this summer, all the animal lovers must plan their trips to these remarkable and thrilling wildlife destinations in India. Here is a list of the most prominent national parks in India, where you can seek refuge this summer and quench your thirst for adventure.

Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand

A perfect retreat from the heat of plains, the Jim Corbett National Park is quite a rage among adventure seekers. With its breathtaking landscape and natural uniqueness, this place has captured the imagination of various nature and animal lovers. Also one of the oldest in the country, this park was earlier known as Hailey National Park, but was renamed after the famous James Edward Corbett. He was a well-known hunter-turned-conservationist of his time. The park is home to a myriad of wildlife species and enthusiasts mainly come here to spot tigers and tuskar elephants. The entire park is divided into six ecotourism zones, namely Bijrani, Dhikala, Jhirna, Sonanadi, Durgadevi and Dhela. Staying options are various but make sure to book beforehand.

NEAREST RAILHEAD: RAMNAGAR RAILWAY STATION

PROMINENT ATTRACTIONS/THINGS TO DO: Jungle safari, elephant ride, Corbett Museum and birdwatching

Kaziranga National Park, Assam

Assam, as we are all aware of, is noted for its breezy weather and diverse wildlife. Spread across the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam, the Kaziranga National Park is home to exotic one-horned rhinoceros along with elephants, tigers, swamp deer and wild buffaloes, which combine to become the 'Big Five'. This world heritage site attracts nature enthusiasts, wildlife photographers and animal lovers from all across the globe in hordes, each year. There are several lodging options available inside the park, where travellers can stay and experience the life amidst wilderness.

NEAREST RAILHEAD: GUWAHATI JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION

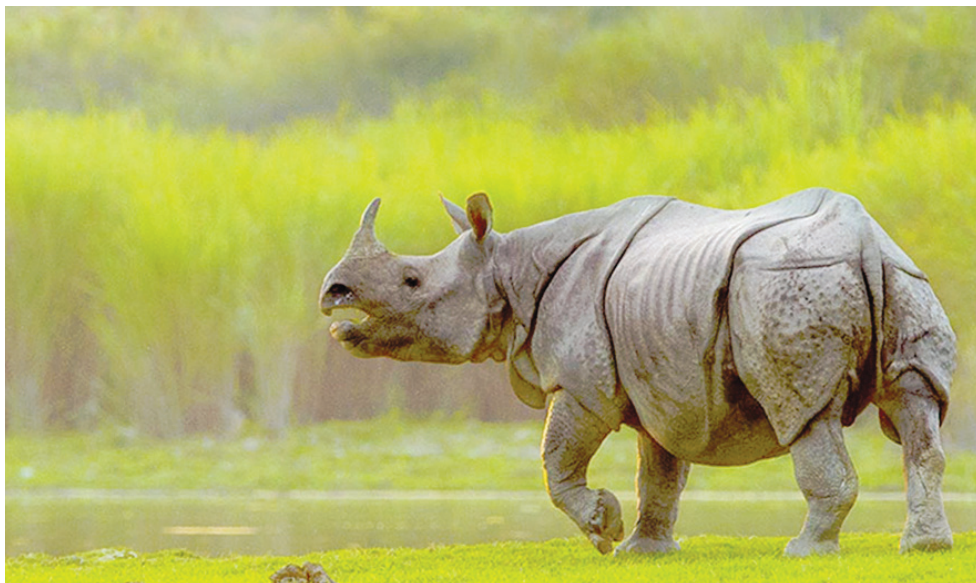
PROMINENT ATTRACTIONS/THINGS TO DO: Jungle safari, elephant ride, birdwatching and explore the tea gardens

Periyar National Park, Kerala

Periyar National Park or the Periyar Tiger Reserve is perfect for those wishing to escape to greenery and tranquillity. The park bewilders everyone with its mystic charm, abundant natural bounty and rich biodiversity. Picturesque to the core and filled with mystery, you won't have a single dull moment while exploring this park. Just be ready with your camera and tripods as you can easily spot elephants, leopards, sambar and, of course, tigers here. Keep your eyes and ears open or else you might experience 'blink and miss' moment! Here, you can also opt for Periyar Lake boat safari, which is another fun moment. Staying options in Periyar are many so you need not worry, but it's advisable to have your accommodations booked in advance.

NEAREST RAILHEAD: ERNAKULAM JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION (KOCHI)
PROMINENT ATTRACTIONS/THINGS

INTO THE WILD: BEST DESTINATIONS



TO DO: Jungle safari, bird watching and boat safari

Hemis National Park, Jammu Kashmir

One of the famous high-altitude national parks in India, the Hemis National Park in Ladakh district is recognised for its unique bio diversity. The park is home to a number of endangered species such as Eurasian brown

bear, leopards, Asiatic ibex, Tibetan wolf and red fox. The entire region is simply astounding and reminds you of some romantic Hollywood movies.

A treat for the sore eyes, this place will have your heart after you have been here. Though reaching here is another story. The nearest railheads are at Kalka and Jammu; from there, one will have to hire a cab or taxi to reach somewhere close to the park. Also,

staying here might be a little problematic as there are no hotels in proximity or inside the park; but there are a few villages around where travellers can take shelter and stay in the basic facilities available. Sounds like real adventure, right?

NEAREST RAILHEAD: KALKA AND JAMMU TAWI RAILWAY STATIONS
PROMINENT ATTRACTIONS/THINGS TO DO: Jungle safari, trekking, camping, visiting Hemis Monastery,

The Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh

Awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2014, The Great Himalayan National Park is noted for its conservation of rich bio diversity. Located in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, this national park is a must visit for every nature and wildlife aficionado as the destination is a natural habitat to myriad flora and around 375 species of animals. Is that not just amazing? Surrounded with snow-clad mountains and verdant forest, this national park will have you enthralled throughout your expedition. Besides, exotic birds, one can also spot snow leopards, musk deer, Asiatic brown bears, blue sheep, red fox, black bear, goral and Himalayan tahrs. Also keep your eyes open for the Western tragopan, the state bird of Himachal Pradesh, little forktail and blue whistling thrush. Staying here won't be an issue as there are a few modest accommodation options (government) available inside. Book before though!

NEAREST RAILHEAD: THERE'S NO RAILWAY STATION NEARBY SO ONE WILL HAVE TO TAKE A BUS TILL KULL-MANALI AND KULLU IS WELL-LINKED WITH MAJOR INDIAN CITIES VIA ROAD

PROMINENT ATTRACTIONS/THINGS TO DO: Trekking, walking along the jungle, boating in Tirthan River, camping, jungle safari

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Uttarakhand

Away from humid sun and pollution, the Nanda Devi National Park in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand is a boon for weekenders from Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and other neighbouring regions. Founded in the year 1982, this national park is built around the majestic Nanda Devi peak. The park was given the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988 and later, in the year 2005, got renamed as Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks. Animals that can be easily spotted here include Himalayan musk deer, Himalayan tahr, langurs, snow leopard, Himalayan black bear, and if you get lucky, you can also get up, close and personal with a brown bear (remember the famous movie 'The Revenant'). The destination binds you with its exotic collection of wilderness and captivating views of the surroundings. Staying inside can be a little tricky as there aren't much options inside. Nevertheless, there are various hotels available in Joshimath and Badrinath (close to the park), catering to all kind of budget.

NEAREST RAILHEAD: RISHIKESH RAILWAY STATION
PROMINENT ATTRACTIONS/THINGS TO DO: Hiking till Nanda Devi Peak, walking in the valley, jungle safari

KOHLI'S SURREY MOVE OFF BECAUSE OF NECK INJURY

NEW DELHI (TIP): India captain Virat Kohli's much-hyped participation in the English County Championship was today ruled out due to a neck injury, throwing his meticulously planned build-up for the UK tour into disarray. Kohli will require a three-week rehabilitation to recover from the injury, the severity of which was not specified by the Indian cricket board (BCCI).

The 29-year-old will undergo a fitness test on June 15, BCCI said. That test will confirm his availability for the initial phase of the limited-overs tour, starting with two T20 Internationals against Ireland in the last week of June. India will begin the series against England with T20Is in early July.

"Virat Kohli suffered a neck injury while fielding during the match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 17 in Bengaluru," BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary said in a press release. "Kohli, who was scheduled to play for Surrey in the month of June, has been ruled out from participating. This decision was taken following assessments by BCCI's medical team, subsequent scans, and a specialist's visit," the release further stated. The Indian captain will now undergo a period of rehabilitation under the supervision of BCCI's medical team, and subsequently undergo a fitness test at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) on June 15. "The medical team is confident that Kohli will regain full fitness ahead of India's upcoming tours of Ireland and England," Choudhary stated.

India's limited-overs series against England starts on July 3 with the first T20 International at Old Trafford. The marquee five-match Test series starts on August 1 in Birmingham.

It won't be out of place to take a glance at Kohli's workload, which is massive indeed.



In the last one year, he has played nine Tests, 29 ODIs and 9 T20Is. In all, he played 47 international matches, with only Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya (48 each) playing a match more than him. Add to it the 14 IPL matches, and his tally goes up to 61.

Was his workload being monitored and managed well? NCA is responsible for monitoring and managing the workload and injury issues of the centrally-contracted cricketers. The IPL franchisees' physios and trainers are supposed to give weekly updates about their (contracted players) workload and fitness to the national team trainers and NCA. Yet, the injury struck.

Both Kohli and Surrey would be

disappointed at the turn of events. The stint would have helped as far as Kohli's preparations for the England tour are concerned. The Indian skipper, who had scored just 138 runs in 10 Test innings in England four years ago, appears desperate to change the script this time around. Missing the stint, therefore, is quite a big setback for him.

Surrey was hoping to benefit from Kohli's visit, so they also must be feeling let-down. England's team, especially its bowlers, however, would be happy with the development. For them, a missed Surrey stint means a less-prepared Indian skipper.

Source: Agencies

STEVE SMITH RETURNS TO CRICKET WITH CANADIAN T20 LEAGUE



MELBOURNE (TIP): Banned Australia captain Steve Smith, whose reputation lay in tatters after the ball-tampering scandal, is poised to make a comeback to cricket after being named among the marquee players for the inaugural Global T20 Canada event beginning June 28.

Smith will be playing alongside other international stars such as Chris Gayle, Andre Russell and Shahid Afridi in the six-team tournament beginning June 28, organisers Cricket Canada said in a statement.

The 28-year-old, who was suspended for 12 months in March for his role in the South African ball-tampering scandal in March this year, is allowed to play domestic tournaments outside Australia by Cricket Australia.

David Warner, who was the vice-captain, was also banned for 12 months and Cameron Bancroft was suspended for nine months for their role in ball-tampering during the third Test in Cape Town. Dwayne Bravo, Lasith Malinga, Chris Lynn, Darren Sammy, David Miller and Sunil Narine were also named as marquee players.

Smith, the then world's number one Test batsman, was sacked and sent home in disgrace after the third Test against South Africa in March.

In the wake of the ball-tampering controversy, he also stepped down as skipper of Indian Premier League franchise Rajasthan Royals before the BCCI banned him from the cash-rich league. Smith is also serving a ban for two years from holding a leadership position within the Australian team and he must undertake 100 hours of voluntary service in community cricket.

Source: PTI

AB de Villiers quits international cricket

South African talisman AB de Villiers has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket, saying he is tired and wants to step out while still at the top.

"After 114 test matches, 228 one day internationals and 78 T20 internationals it is time for others to take over. I've had my turn and to be honest I'm tired," he said in a Twitter video and a statement on Wednesday.

"This is a tough decision, I have thought long and hard about it and I'd like to retire while still playing decent cricket. After the fantastic series wins against India and Australia, now feels like the right time to step aside.

"It would not be right for me to pick and choose where, when and in what format I play for the Proteas. For me, in the green and gold, it must be everything or nothing," he added.

The 34-year-old, whose swashbuckling batting style and razor sharp fielding has made him one of the sport's leading lights, only returned to Test cricket in December after a lengthy hiatus where he focused on the limited overs formats of the game. "Everything comes to an end. To the cricket fans around South Africa and the world, thank you for your kindness and generosity, and today, for your understanding," he said. "I have no plans to play overseas, in fact, I hope I can continue to be available for the Titans in domestic cricket. I will continue to be the biggest supporter of (captain) Faf du Plessis and the Proteas."



KKR beat RR by 25 runs, to meet SRH in qualifier 2

KOLKATA (TIP): Despite their dominance throughout the league stage, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) will have to bring their best to the table when they take on buoyant Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL's Qualifier 2 on Friday. The winner of Friday's game at the Eden Gardens will take on MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the final on Sunday in Mumbai.

Sunrisers finished on top of the points table after 14 matches and have been the team to beat with an exceptional bowling battery and solid batting. But the Kane Williamson-led side have lost four games on the trot, including their two-wicket loss in the Qualifier 1 to CSK and the last league clash against KKR.

Dinesh Karthik's KKR, on the contrary, have won four games on the trot, the latest being a 25-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in the Eliminator to reach the Qualifier 2. Since suffering an embarrassing 102-run defeat against Mumbai Indians, their heaviest in terms of runs, KKR have not looked back with skipper Karthik leading from the front and



the likes of Andre Russell and the wrist-spinners stepping up to the occasion. In the last four outings, KKR have made comebacks from slippery situations, reflecting the hunger and character of the side. The Sunrisers, on the other hand,

bank on their bowling. Against CSK, it was in full bloom as the trio of pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Siddarth Kaul and leggie Rashid Khan brought their rivals to their knees before Faf du Plessis rescued them.

Source: PTI



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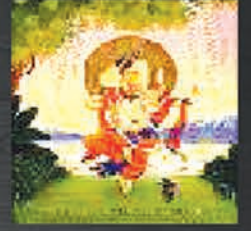
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SUNDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2018 AT 5:00 PM

Venue: **ADELPHI UNIVERSITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**
1 South Ave, Garden City, NY 11530

For Ticket Information Please Call: **MAMTA PANDYA: 631-335-9988 | SWATI VAISHNAV: 516-395-1209**



Grand Sponsors:

AMIT & KALPANA DOSHI
MR. HARISH MISTRY



Bhavan's Nartanrang Dance Academy is dedicated to the loving memory of Matushri Anasuya Amritlal Shukla.

* Program is subject to change without any prior notice.