

BJP gets drubbing in Bypolls, losing 11 of 14 byelections



Samajwadi Party candidate Naim-ul-Hasan with supporters after winning the Noorpur Assembly byelection in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday May 31. Photo / Courtesy PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): Opposition unity got a booster dose on Thursday, May 31, as the BJP faced stunning defeats in 11 of the 14 byelections for which results were announced and regional forces emerged on top of electoral charts, signaling a new phase in Indian politics. The ruling BJP faced a crushing defeat in Uttar Pradesh's

contd on Page 20

Trump imposes steel and aluminum tariffs on the E.U., Canada and Mexico

Tensions rise over potential Trade War-US Allies Retaliate, American Businesses and Farmers Upset

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Trump on Thursday, May 31 imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum from the European Union, Canada and Mexico, triggering immediate retaliation from U.S. allies and protests from American businesses and farmers.

The tariffs - 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum - take effect at midnight Thursday, May 31, giving rise to fears of a major escalation of the trade war between the United States and its top trading partners.

The White House has said the U.S. tariffs -- 25 percent duties on steel and 10 percent on aluminum shipments from Canada, EU member states and Mexico -- are necessary to safeguard U.S. national security.

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"These tariffs will harm industries and workers on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border and will disrupt supply chains that have made steel and aluminum from North America more competitive across the whole world." - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott reveals plan to make schools safer



DALLAS (TIP): An Associated Press report says Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday, May 30, called for schools to have more armed personnel and said they should put greater focus on spotting student mental health problems but he proposed only a few small restrictions on guns following a shooting at a high school near

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Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's plan to make schools safer does not satisfy many

Indian American Karthik Nemmani is the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee Winner

DALLAS, TX (TIP): 11th year in a row, an Indian American has emerged victorious in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Karthik Nemmani, 14, an eighth grader at Scoggins Middle School of McKinney, Texas, has won the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee. His winning word was "koinonia".

Nemmani was all smiles after winning the Bee. When asked when he knew he won the competition, he responded "When I heard it [the word]". He thanked his parents and his coach, stating that "I wouldn't have

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A beaming Karthik Nemmani with trophy Photo / courtesy The American Bazar

International day of yoga
21st June
Yoga for Harmony & Peace
Get the Most out of Yoga **Page 20**

President Trump stops in Dallas for private fundraiser

DALLAS (TIP): President Trump, Thursday, May 31, attended a fundraiser at the Adolphus Hotel in downtown. Air Force One touched down in Love Field around 4 p.m. He arrived at the hotel around 4:30 p.m. and was greeted by supporters and protestors.

Trump's fundraiser in Dallas was originally supposed to happen on May 8, but it was rescheduled due to developments with North Korea at the time. Trump still came to the NRA Convention, but he did not mix that with raising money.

The Thursday night reception came at a minimum cost of \$2,700 per person. The dinner was \$25,000 a plate. Those who wanted to take a picture with the commander-in-chief had to pay \$50,000 for their ticket.

In anticipation of his visit, Dallas police closed down several roads



President Donald Trump made a short visit to Dallas Thursday, May 31 afternoon for a private fundraiser

around Downtown Dallas like Commerce, Field, and Griffin and Main Street near the hotel. They have since been reopened to traffic.

Early in the day, President Trump was in Houston for another private fundraiser. The White House said he

also made sure to add in his original schedule time to meet with the Santa Fe High School shooting victims and their families.

Trump departed Love Field around 6:15 p.m. as he headed back to the White House. (Source: Fox 4)

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Indian origin biochemist on UK's Most Influential Women list of Vogue magazine

LONDON (TIP): An Indian origin biochemist Priyanka Joshi has been named alongside the likes of actress-turned-royal Meghan Markle, human rights lawyer Amal Clooney and bestselling author J K Rowling as the 25 most influential and aspirational women in the UK by 'Vogue' magazine.

Joshi has been chosen for her cutting-edge research in the inaugural 'The Vogue 25' list released on May 31st, which includes artists, activists and executives across different fields.

"Priyanka Joshi had barely completed her PhD when 'Forbes' named her one of the most important young faces in science. A research fellow at Downing College, Cambridge, the 29-year-old sits at the cutting edge of Alzheimer's research, and has been praised for her ground-breaking work building a 'library' of drug-like molecules to target irregular proteins that cause degenerative brain diseases," notes the citation on the young biochemist.

"With dementia now the leading cause of death for women in England and Wales, her early breakthroughs and research could not be more vital," it adds in reference to Ms. Joshi, who completed her MSc in Biotechnology from University of



Priyanka Joshi has been named alongside the actress-turned-royal Meghan Markle

Pune before moving to the UK.

Indian American Preethi Kasireddy's startup TruStory raises \$3 million in seed funding

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Indian American Preethi Kasireddy who founded TruStory, an online fact-checking platform, has raised a \$3 million in seed funding.

The funding will help TruStory, a Los Angeles-based startup that was launched seven months ago, "build a world-class engineering, design, and community development team to work towards its mission", Kasireddy said in a blog post.

The funding, led by True Ventures, had participation from Pantera Capital, Kindred Ventures, Homebrew, Coinbase Ventures, Wonder Ventures, Abstract Ventures, Ausum Ventures, and Dream Machine (Alexia Tsotsis), among others, she wrote.

Several angels also invested in the round, among them Fred Ehrsam, David King, Scott Belsky, Josh Elman, Alok Vasudev and Jessica Verrilli. "It's an honor to have each of these partners on board," Kasireddy wrote.

The platform allows users to find out



TruStory platform allows users to find out and validate various claims people make online on blogs

and validate various claims people make online on blogs, website and social media posts.

"Unlike in today's web where the onus for fact-checking is on the reader, in TruStory, every 'story' or claim goes through a unique validation process that leverages a distributed network of

participants with robust economic and social incentives to surface the truth," the founder wrote.

Kasireddy, who grew up in Monroe, New Jersey, has a B.S. in industrial and systems engineering from the University of Southern California. She quit a Silicon Valley job to found the blockchain startup.

Kasireddy added that in her experience as a developer in the blockchain space, including at the digital currency exchange Coinbase, she has "been haunted by the proliferation of low-quality information, rampant inauthenticity, and sheer disinformation."

"There are no longer universally trusted central parties to keep tabs on what's real," she wrote, adding, "That's why I started TruStory. TruStory is a platform that uses the collective knowledge of the crowd, combined with the right incentives and disincentives, to validate and curate a better reality starting with the blockchain space."

Indian American doctor pleads guilty to Health care fraud

BUFFALO, NY (TIP): Indian American doctor Sreekrishna M Cheruvu, M.D., 58, of East Amherst, NY has been arrested and charged with health care fraud and submitting false statements relating to health care matters. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He has pleaded guilty, announced U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.

Assistant U.S. Attorney MaryEllen Kresse, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, the defendant treated patients for opioid addiction at his office in Williamsville, NY. Between January 2009 and December 2013, Cheruvu submitted false and fraudulent claims to private insurance companies seeking reimbursement for services allegedly



provided. Claims submitted by the defendant included reimbursement for individual counseling sessions when patients were actually seen in a group therapy setting, and reimbursement for services Cheruvu allegedly provided while he was, in fact, out of the country.

For example, some of the defendant's patients reported that between eight and fifteen patients attended the group therapy sessions that were billed as

individual counseling sessions. The patients also stated that counselors, not Cheruvu, led the group therapy sessions and that when the defendant did attend a session, he stayed for about 10 minutes at the beginning or end of the session.

In November 2013, a search warrant was executed at the defendant's Williamsville office. Records seized during the search revealed that on multiple occasions, Cheruvu billed insurance companies for therapy sessions that he did not attend.

According to the complaint, the defendant submitted false and fraudulent claims for payment to HealthNow, Independent Health and Excellus totaling approximately \$628,000. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin girl shot dead in car hijacking in South Africa



Sadia was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to her injuries

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Sadia Sukhra, a nine-year-old Indian origin girl was killed after being shot during a car hijacking in South Africa, outraging the community members and sparking angry protests in Durban.

Sadia, a grade four student from Chatsworth, was on her way to school with her father when three armed men allegedly ran into their car. They allegedly forced her father out of the car and sped away with her.

In an ensuing chase, the carjackers and community members shot at each other. The suspects later crashed the car near a park. The girl was found

shot and critically injured while one of the suspects tumbled out of the car dead.

Sadia was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to her injuries.

A second carjacker was arrested by an off-duty policeman. A third suspect remains at large.

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesperson Captain Nqobile Gwala confirmed that one of the hijackers was killed.

Following the incident, more than 3,000 members of the community gathered outside Chatsworth police station demanding swift police action.

As the small contingent of officers at the police station allegedly came under severe verbal abuse and threats of physical action from protestors, they resorted to firing rubber bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades to disperse the crowd, which included scores of children.

Chatsworth is an Indian township in Durban.

Mahendra Lillkan, chairperson of the local Crime Forum, said there had been a spike in crime in the area despite community patrols at night.

"It seems that the criminals have now resorted to striking at soft targets, such as parents taking their children to school, as we have seen with this tragic incident."

Police and community leaders have appealed for calm amid fears that the protests would escalate as the distraught family prepared for the funeral.

Tributes for the little girl have poured in on social media as news of her shooting went viral.

Indian American CEO of FutureNet Group Inc pleads guilty to bribery



Parimal (Perry) D. Mehta (Facebook image)

MICHIGAN (TIP): An Indian American former CEO of an IT company based in Detroit pleaded guilty for orchestrating a bribery scheme.

Parimal D. Mehta, 54, a former CEO of FutureNet Group Inc, made multiple cash payments worth more than USD 6,500 to Charles Dodd, the former Director of Detroit's Office of Departmental Technology Services between 2009 and 2016.

These payments include two cash bribes hand-delivered by Mr. Mehta to Mr. Dodd in the restrooms of Detroit-area restaurants in 2016 in return of preferential treatment for his company.

Mr. Mehta pleaded guilty to one count of federal program bribery before U.S. District Judge Robert H. Cleland of the Eastern District of Michigan. He is now expected to be sentenced on September 27.

Mr. Mehta is also alleged to have employed Dodd's family members at FutureNet and its subsidiaries. Mr. Dodd pleaded guilty to bribery on September 27, 2016. The previous indictment in the case indicated that Mr. Mehta and FutureNet benefited from Mr. Dodd's influence over the implementation of particular technological projects, the hiring and selection of contract personnel.

Furthermore, Parimal D Mehta obtained confidential information about Detroit's internal budgets for specific technology projects, which would benefit FutureNet in its dealings with Detroit.

TRUMP MEETS WITH FAMILIES AFFECTED BY TEXAS SHOOTING

HOUSTON (TIP): Seeking to comfort grieving families and shaken survivors, President Donald Trump spent more than an hour privately on May 31 with some of those impacted by a Texas mass school shooting that killed 10 and wounded more than a dozen on May 18.

The latest spasm of violence in a year marred by assaults on the nation's schools, the shooting at Santa Fe High School was the latest to test the president's role as national comforter-in-chief. Trump met with more than two dozen people affected by the shooting, and did not publicly share his message for the grieving families and local leaders during a meeting at a Coast Guard base outside Houston.

Pamela Stanich whose 17-year-old son, Jared Black, was among the eight students killed was one of the parents who met with Trump, presenting him with a family statement and a copy of her son's eulogy.

"Trump met with us privately and showed sincerity, compassion, and concern on making our schools safer across the nation," she wrote in a Facebook post after the meeting. "He spent time talking to the survivors and asking on what happened and what would have made a difference. Changes are coming for the good. Thank you Mr. Trump."

Rhonda Hart, whose 14-year-old daughter, Kimberly Vaughan, was killed at the school, told The Associated Press that Trump repeatedly used the word 'wacky' to describe the shooter and the trench coat he wore. She said she told Trump, "Maybe if everyone had access to mental health care, we wouldn't be in the situation." Hart, an Army veteran, said she also suggested employing veterans as sentinels in schools. She said Trump responded, "And arm them?" She replied, "No," but said Trump "kept mentioning" arming classroom teachers. "It was like talking to a toddler," Hart said.

Reporters were not permitted to witness the meeting. While the president was in Texas, Trump's school safety commission met



outside Washington, part of the president's chosen solution to combat the rising tide of bloodshed after his brief flirtation with tougher gun laws after February's mass killing at a high school in Parkland, Florida went nowhere. A White House spokesman said Trump was "moved" by the shooting at Santa Fe High School, which left eight students and two substitute teachers dead. A student faces capital murder charges in the attack.

"These events are very tragic, whenever they happen. And you know, the president wants to extend his condolences and talk about the issue of school safety," spokesman Raj Shah told Fox News Channel.

Also Thursday, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, whom Trump put in charge of the school safety commission, announced a \$1 million grant to the Santa Fe school district to help with post-shooting recovery efforts.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Sen. Ted Cruz, both Republicans, greeted Trump after Air

Force One landed at a Houston military base. Abbott joined Trump for the short ride in the presidential limousine to a Coast Guard hangar where the meeting took place.

Trump then headed to a fundraiser at a luxury hotel in downtown Houston, the first of his two big-dollar events in Texas on Thursday. A White House official did not immediately respond to requests for details about how much money was to be raised, and who was benefiting, from the fundraising events. After 17 teachers and students were killed during a February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Trump said he would work to improve school safety, but has not called for new gun control legislation. He created the commission to review ways to make schools safer.

Trump briefly strayed from gun-rights dogma after the Parkland shooting, but quickly backpedaled. Abbott, a Republican and a staunch gun-rights supporter, has called for schools to have more armed personnel and

said they should put greater focus on spotting student mental health problems. He's proposed a few small restrictions on guns since the shooting.

Investigators say student Dimitrios Pagourtzis, 17, carried out the attack with a shotgun and pistol that belonged to his father. Classes at Santa Fe High School resumed Tuesday for the first time since the shooting.

As the Parkland students became vocal advocates for gun control, embracing their public positions as few school survivors had before, Trump quickly became a focal point for their anger. In Trump's visit to Florida after the shooting, aides kept him clear of the school, which could have been the site of protests, and he instead met with a few victims at a local hospital and paid tribute to first responders at the nearby sheriff's office.

There has yet to be a similar outcry for restrictions on firearms from the students and survivors in deep-red Texas.

Displaying empathy does not come naturally to Trump, who has been criticized for appearing unfeeling in times of tragedy, including when he sharply criticized a mayor in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of a deadly hurricane and fought with a Gold Star military family. But Trump has at times displayed a softer side. On Wednesday, he returned a hug from an 8-year-old boy with muscular dystrophy who attended a White House event where he signed legislation to give patients the right to try experimental treatments. Before Thursday, Trump was most recently in the Lone Star State on May 4 to attend the annual National Rifle Association convention. He pledged in his address that NRA members' Second Amendment rights "will never, ever be under siege as long as I am your president."

He also touted the administration's "aggressive strategy on community safety" and mentioned armed guards, armed teachers, mental health and metal detectors, but did not mention assault rifles like the one used in Florida. (AP)

11 killed in Nicaragua protests, including attack on Mother's Day march

MANAGUA (TIP): Eleven people were killed on Wednesday in one of the worst days of violence since protests against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega began more than a month ago, a rights group said on May 31.

The bloodshed was condemned by the Central American country's episcopal conference of catholic bishops, who called it "organized and systematic aggression" and suspended talks with the government scheduled for Thursday.

Witnesses said pro-government armed groups opened fire on the marchers during a demonstration on Wednesday, Nicaragua's Mother's Day. The march was held to remember the children who were among the more than 80 killed since the start of protests more than a month ago.

The Nicaraguan Human Rights Center said six people were killed in the capital of Managua, with five others killed in other parts of the country and 79 injured. The army said it was treating some of the injured. The European Parliament on Thursday condemned what it called "brutal repression" in Nicaragua and called for elections to be held earlier, echoing other calls for Ortega make the 2021 presidential election earlier.

In a letter to Ortega published on Twitter, business association COSEP urged the 72-year-old president to push up the vote to a date agreed between the government and civilian representatives.

"Given the magnitude of this crisis, we urge you to undertake every effort in your power to find a peaceful solution before we find ourselves immersed in an even more tragic situation," the letter said.

Ortega told supporters that Nicaragua "is not private property" in response to the COSEP demand, local newspaper La Prensa reported.

Proposed changes to Nicaragua's social security system last month triggered the student-led protests. (Reuters)

US general says some Taliban interested in peace

WASHINGTON: Some elements of the Taliban in Afghanistan are showing interest in peace talks, the top US commander in Kabul said Wednesday, citing "off stage" contacts involving what he described as mid- and high-level leaders of the insurgency.

"A number of channels of dialogue have opened up between the various stakeholders in the peace process," Nicholson told reporters at the Pentagon. Speaking from his office in Kabul, Nicholson said he could not name names because the contacts are being pursued confidentially to improve the chances of advancing toward actual peace talks. "What you're seeing right now is a lot of the diplomatic activity and dialogue is occurring off the stage, and it's occurring at multiple levels," he said. "So you see mid-level, senior-level Taliban leaders engaging with Afghans." He added that unspecified international organizations, foreign governments and other interested parties also are involved. US officials have talked up the prospects for peace many times over the course of the 17-year war in Afghanistan, only to be disappointed. When President Donald Trump announced last August that he was committing to winning the war with a revamped strategy, he said the goal was to compel the Taliban — with help from Pakistan and other interested nations — to seek peace. However, a US government watchdog agency recently reported that it saw few signs that this strategy was working, while acknowledging that the Afghan security forces are getting better training.

Inside the Taliban, Nicholson said, there is a "robust dialogue" underway with regard to whether and how to end the war. He asserted there are "many points of intersection" between Taliban and Afghan proposals for pursuing peace.

"This is what, you know, leads me to the conclusion that there's tremendous potential to advance the reconciliation dialogue," he said. "And, again, I don't want to go any further. My diplomatic colleagues are the ones that are involved in this, and their ability to be successful depends in part upon the confidentiality of the process." Nicholson, who has commanded US and coalition forces in Afghanistan since March 2016, is due to leave his post this summer. The Pentagon on Tuesday announced that Trump nominated Army Lt. Gen. Scott Miller to succeed Nicholson.

While speaking hopefully of peace prospects, Nicholson also told reporters that US rocket artillery struck a gathering of Taliban commanders on May 24 in the Musa Qala district of Helmand province, killing "dozens." His spokesman, Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, said earlier that more than 50 were killed but that an exact count has not yet been established. Nicholson said the Taliban commanders had assembled upon returning from the western province of Farah, where their fighters had attacked multiple security checkpoints and briefly taken control of the provincial city of the same name. (AP)

Indian American Nima Kulkarni defeats the Democratic incumbent to be the Kentucky House District 40 Democratic nominee

KENTUCKY (TIP): Indian American Nima Kulkarni took everyone by surprise in the Democratic primary for Kentucky House of Representatives' District 40 on May 22, when she defeated Dennis Horlander who has served in the house for more than two decades.

She defeated the Democratic incumbent to secure her spot in the general elections, which will be held on November 6.

The other Democrats whom she defeated are Logan Gatti and Kelly Gibson.

Kulkarni won 46.59 percent votes against Horlander's 25.37 percent.

Kulkarni will now face Joshua Neubert, who was elected unopposed in the Republican primary.

Kulkarni was born in India and moved to the United States when she was six with her parents, Suhas and Surekha, and her brother Nikhil.

The family owned and operated the 8 to 8 grocery store in Germantown, Kentucky, where Nima and Nikhil worked delivering groceries.

Kulkarni graduated from Atherton High



Kulkarni will now face Joshua Neubert, who was elected unopposed in the Republican primary.

School and received a bachelor's degree in English and MBA from the University of Louisville.

She is a recipient of the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from David A Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia, in Washington, DC. She is a member of the Georgia and Kentucky bar associations.

Kulkarni founded the Indus Law Firm that specializes in immigration, employment, and business law. Kulkarni is also a member of both the Georgia, Kentucky and Louisville Bar Associations.

Kulkarni currently lives in the St. Joseph's neighborhood of the District 40, with her husband Raegan Maddox.

A community leader, she founded a non-profit, New Americans Initiative, to educate, engage and build awareness of immigration and immigration-related issues.

She serves on a number of boards, including that of Louisville Public Media, the Community Foundation of Louisville, the Indian Professional Council of Kentucky and the Beaded Treasures Project.

Indian American Jeremy Cooney is the NY 56th Senate District candidate



Cooney is taking on Sen. Joseph Robach

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Jeremy Cooney is one of the two such Democrats running for the New York State Senate this November. The other candidate is Kevin Thomas, who is challenging the NY 6th district incumbent Sen. Kemp Hannon, a New York state lawmaker since January 1977.

Like Thomas, Cooney is also taking on an Albany "lifer": Sen. Joseph Robach, who was first elected to the state assembly in 1991.

Cooney's incredible life story began with his adoption from an Indian orphanage by the late Anne Cooney, who worked as an English professor at Monroe Community College in upstate New York, for more than three decades.

Raised by a single mother Ann Cooney, Jeremy went on to graduate from the liberal arts Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, with a major in public policy and earn a JD from the Albany Law School.

The lawyer and Eagle Scout is no stranger to local and state politics in New York, having served as an aide to a number of officials at all levels. They include serving as Downtown Community Relations official for Gov. Andrew Cuomo (2016-2017), as chief of staff to Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren (2014-2016), and as staff assistant to US Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-NY, (2004-2005).

"I've spent the past few weeks meeting with people who are looking for change and for a representative that votes correctly on issues important to them, such as raising the minimum wage, common-sense gun safety, long-overdue bail reform, and providing educational opportunities for immigrant families," Cooney said about his run from the 56th district in a press release.

"For the past 15 years, we've been dealt short-term tax relief that's no substitute for real economic growth - the type of growth that creates stable, good-paying jobs that give people the confidence to buy a house, start a family, and continue to call upstate New York home."

The 56th district includes the County of Monroe and parts of the City of Rochester.

Cooney, who was named "Forty Under 40" by the Rochester Business Journal, has served in several leadership positions. While at the Albany Law School, he was a class president. For his other alma mater, Hobart Colleges, he served as a Manager for Campaign Leadership - a fundraising role. He was also appointed to the Young Leaders Congress of New York.

Trump plays down chances of quick North Korea breakthrough, talks conclude

NEW YORK/ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE: President Donald Trump on Thursday played down the chances of a quick breakthrough in talks with North Korea about its nuclear arsenal, as the top US diplomat and a senior official from Pyongyang wrapped up two days of negotiations.

Trump, in a brief interview with Reuters aboard Air Force One on the way to Texas, said he was still hoping to hold an unprecedented summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 12 in Singapore.

"I'd like to see it done in one meeting," he said. "But often times that's not the way deals work. There's a very good chance that it won't be done in one meeting or two meetings or three meetings. But it'll get done at some point."

It was not clear if Trump meant he would need a second summit with Kim to reach the US goal of persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear arms or if he believed more lower-level talks were needed.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and high-ranking North Korean official Kim Yong Chol concluded two days of meetings in New York on Thursday aimed at clearing the way for the summit.

"Our two countries face a pivotal moment in our relationship in which it could be nothing short of tragic to let this opportunity go to waste," Pompeo said after the talks.

North Korea, whose nuclear ambitions have been a source of world tension for decades, has made advances in missile technology in recent years but Trump has sworn not to allow it to develop nuclear missiles that could hit the United States.

He wants North Korea to "denuclearize," meaning to get rid of its nuclear arms, in return for relief from economic sanctions, but the leadership in Pyongyang is believed to regard nuclear weapons as crucial to its survival and has rejected unilaterally disarming.

Trump said the North Korean envoy would most likely visit the White House on Friday to present him with a letter from Kim Jong Un.

A letter from Kim might be in response to a comment from Trump last Thursday when he canceled the summit, accusing Pyongyang of hostility, but urged the North Korean leader to "call me or write" if he had a change of heart. There has been a flurry of diplomatic efforts in the past week to get the summit back on track.

DIPLOMATIC FLURRY: Trump and autocratic Kim traded insults and threats of war last year but in March the bellicose rhetoric gave way to a proposal for a historic summit.

If the North Korean delegation goes to the White House, it would be the first visit there by high-level Pyongyang officials since 2000 when senior figure Jo Myong Rok met President Bill Clinton.

Pompeo and Kim Yong Chol met for a second day in New York on Thursday. They shook hands at the start of their latest meeting at a condominium overlooking the East River.

Four officials from both sides sat across each other around a table in a room with a bay window that gave spectacular views of Manhattan, including the UN headquarters. (Reuters)

Indian American Raj Kohli on a bike ride from NY to DC to protest gun violence

NEW YORK (TIP): A 63-year-old Indian American realtor, Raj Kohli with two artificial knees is on a mission yet again and this time to create awareness about the rising incidents of gun violence in the United States by riding a bicycle from New York to Washington, DC.



Raj Kohli kick-started the bicycle ride on May 28th on the Memorial Day, near the Trump Tower, in New York.

Raj Kohli kick-started the bicycle ride on the Memorial Day, near the Trump Tower, in New York.

He said in a press release that, while more than \$7 trillion has been spent by the United States on fighting wars on foreign soil, the country has failed to curb the violence unfolding within its border. More than 35,000 American die each year due to gun violence and the country has not been able to stop it, he said.

The ride is sponsored by Jersey Bents.

He posted the first video about the ride at 9:00 p.m. on May 13, 2018. "I already have 133,000 views, on my Facebook page: RajRideForPeace," he says. "People are interested in supporting my cause. Most people. Some, obviously, are not. It is a democracy. We can disagree, hopefully not disagreeably." Kohli is asking people to do the following:

- Boycott the NRA
- Repeal the 2nd Amendment
- Boycott Amazon and Walmart for one day, on May 28, Memorial Day, because they sell guns.
- Boycott mutual funds and retirement funds that have gun-related stocks in their portfolio.

"The idea is to reduce gun violence in the US and around the world, by reducing available guns," Kohli explains. "The more guns we have, the more people will die. It's a numbers game!"

"I did a Peace Ride from 1981-1983, and last year again I rode my bike for Peace, from Tokyo to Hiroshima, in July/August 2017. There are 49 videos on the same Facebook page, 'RajRideForPeace,' relating to my Japan Peace Ride. For the Japan ride, a German bicycle company sponsored my bicycle," he says.

Kohli lost 115 pounds after weight loss surgery, and proudly sports two artificial knees.

CENTRE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP TO SGPC TO OFFSET GST ON LANGAR



CHANDIGARH (TIP): The Centre on June 1 decided to provide special financial assistance to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to offset the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on langar. The help would be provided under the Sewa Bhoj Yojana.

The SGPC and Lucknow Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (LGPC) have long been demanding waiver on langar items.

The GST is not levied on food served in the langar, but is charged on the purchase of raw materials used to prepare the food.

The Golden Temple has paid over Rs 2 crore in GST on langar items to date.

The purchase for the Golden Temple's kitchen, which feeds between 55,000 and 60,000 devotees daily, comes to around Rs 75 crore annually. *Source: The Tribune*

Security forces put on alert after reports of 20 militants sneaking into Kashmir

SRINAGAR (TIP): Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have been put on a high alert following reports of large scale infiltration of militants in the Valley from across the Line of Control, officials said here on June 1.

There are reports of infiltration of over 20 militants into Kashmir from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) recently, the officials said.

They said most of the militants are believed to be affiliated to Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit headed by Maulana Masood Azhar. The security grid is apprehending a spike in militant attacks in the state, particularly in the Valley, the officials said.

The security forces have been asked to remain on a high alert and maintain vigil around sensitive security installations across the state, they said.

The officials said it is rare for such a large number of militants to infiltrate in one go and indicated the desperation of their handlers across the LoC to keep the Kashmir pot boiling. *Source: PTI*

India to go ahead with S-400 air defence systems deal with Russia

NEW DELHI (TIP): India will push ahead with its deal to buy the S-400 air defence systems from Russia despite opposition from the US, defence ministry officials said on condition of anonymity.

According to them, the defence ministry will approach the apex Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for approval to purchase five units of Russian S-400 air defence systems.

They added that the ministry has received no instructions as of now to stall the contract in the wake of the US red-flagging the \$5.5 billion deal.

The Trump administration has warned India of the consequences of this purchase from Russia and said it could curtail military cooperation with the United States.

The officials said the CCS headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take the final decision now that both the countries have completed negotiations to close the deal.

The defence ministry's view is that Russia, which has already sold the system to China, could also sell it to



Pakistan, perhaps through China, if India reneges on the deal at this stage.

In the past decade, Russian RD-93 engines were supplied to Pakistan through the China route for JF-17 fighters despite objections in writing from India.

While India has taken note of objections raised by William Thornberry, the powerful Chairman of the US House Armed Services Committee and the ambit of the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CATSA), it is open to sharing each other's security concerns. The purchase of S-400 system

will be up for discussion at the two-plus-two dialogue between Indian foreign minister Sushma Swaraj and defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman with their US counterparts secretary of state Mike Pompeo and secretary of defense Jim Mattis on July 6 at Washington. It is learnt that at the two-plus-two dialogue the two sides will flag security concerns over the contract and how to best come out of a sticky situation without any ramification on the close bilateral ties.

The officials said that New Delhi has already used back channels to explain India's concerns and the need for a strong air defence system given the neighbourhood. The Indian Air Force (IAF), given the advance aerial capabilities of China and Pakistan, needs the S-400 to protect its air bases.

Prime Minister Modi's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is believed to have made quiet calls to both the White House and the Kremlin to convince both the countries that India is too big a nation to belong to any camp and that it takes all decisions in its own national interest. *Source: HT*

PM Narendra Modi discusses bilateral ties with Singapore PM, President

SINGAPORE (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong and discussed bilateral ties.

Modi, who arrived here on May 31 on a three-day visit, also called on Singapore President Halimah Yacob.

After his arrival at the presidential palace Istana, he was accorded a ceremonial welcome.

"Prime Minister Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome on his arrival at Istana-Presidential Palace of Singapore. Millennia old ties now powered by partnership in innovation and technology," said Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Modi received a 'guard of honour' at the palace.

During his talks with Singaporean leaders, Modi discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties.

Modi is in Singapore on the last leg of his three-nation tour. He earlier visited Indonesia and Malaysia. *Source: PTI*



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong, at Istana, Singapore on June 1, 2018.

Lok Sabha bypoll results: Countdown for Modi govt has begun, says opposition

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW (TIP): The reverses suffered by the BJP on May 31 in bypolls across the country including in Kairana where the united opposition won a third Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh this year sparked fresh calls from the opposition parties to forge unity in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress termed the outcome of the bypolls as the people's mandate against the four years of the Narendra Modi government and the "beginning of the end" of BJP's empire while the Samajwadi Party (SP) said people are giving a "befitting reply" to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) leader Jayant Chaudhary, whose party nominee wrested the Kairana seat from the BJP, said the united opposition had succeeded in halting the ruling party's "chariot of hate" in Uttar Pradesh. He hoped the combined opposition would keep its momentum to defeat the BJP in the next Lok Sabha polls.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said people are disenchanted and observed that regional parties are very strong now.

Opposition parties won 11 seats, restricting the BJP and its allies to just three, out of four Lok Sabha and 10 Assembly seats across 11 states.

The BJP and its ally NDPP won the Palghar (Maharashtra) and Nagaland parliamentary constituencies respectively while



in the Assembly segment the saffron party managed to retain the Tharali assembly seat in Uttarakhand by a slender margin. The NCP beat its nearest BJP rival in Bhandara-Gondiya parliamentary seat which the saffron party had won in the 2014 elections.

The Congress bagged three (in Meghalaya, Karnataka and Punjab) and others got six — JMM(2) in Jharkhand, while CPI (M), SP, RJD and Trinamool bagged one each in Kerala, UP, Bihar and West Bengal respectively.

"If the results of by-polls held in various parts of the country are any indication, the countdown for the BJP-led NDA at the Centre has begun," Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav said, adding his father Lalu Prasad has envisaged a united opposition to take on the BJP which is taking shape across the country.

The RJD wrested the Jokihat assembly seat in Bihar from BJP ally JD(U).

"This is a defeat for those who do not believe in democracy and play divisive politics. People have given a befitting reply to the BJP. This is a victory for the farmers, poor and dalits," Akhilesh Yadav told reporters in Lucknow. The SP won the Noorpur byelection in UP after its candidate, who was supported by other opposition parties, wrested the seat from the BJP. BJP lost the Gorakhpur and Phulpur parliamentary seats in bypolls early this year.

Yadav said the bypolls have ended the "divisive politics" of the BJP. "This success of the alliance (in UP) is a message for the entire country. All parties including BSP, RLD, Peace Party, AAP worked together for the victory," he added. *Source: PTI*

UN and Myanmar agree on outline of Rohingya return deal, no details

GENEVA/YANGON (TIP): The United Nations said on May 31 it had struck an outline deal with Myanmar aimed at eventually allowing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims sheltering in Bangladesh to return safely and by choice.

Since August 2017, about 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled a military crackdown in mainly Buddhist Myanmar, many reporting killings, rape and arson on a large scale, UN and other aid organisations have said.

"Since the conditions are not conducive for voluntary return yet, the MoU (memorandum of understanding) is the first and necessary step to support the government's efforts to change that situation," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement.

Myanmar's government said in a brief statement late on Thursday the MoU would be signed "soon" and UN agencies would "support access to livelihoods through the design and implementation of community-based interventions".

Myanmar civilian government spokesman Zaw Htay said he had nothing to add to the statement.

Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed in January to complete the voluntary repatriation of the refugees within two years but differences between the two sides persist, impeding implementation of the plan.

In a separate statement on Thursday, Myanmar's government said it would set



up an independent commission to investigate "the violation of human rights and related issues" in Rakhine State following the army operation there in response to attacks by Rohingya insurgents on security posts.

The commission will be assisted by international experts, the statement said without elaborating.

In the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, senior UNHCR official George William Okoth-Obbo told reporters after a five-day visit to Rohingya refugee camps along the border that conditions in Myanmar did not yet allow a "safe and sustainable return".

Okoth-Obbo said an immediate challenge for humanitarian agencies was to relocate 200,000 Rohingya refugees threatened by seasonal

monsoon flooding and landslides to a safer place.

The United Nations and aid agencies have described the crackdown on the Rohingya as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing", an accusation Myanmar rejects.

The Security Council asked Myanmar in November to ensure no "further excessive use of military force" and to allow "freedom of movement, equal access to basic services, and equal access to full citizenship for all".

Myanmar has for years denied Rohingya citizenship, freedom of movement and access to basic services such as healthcare. Many in Myanmar regard the Rohingya as illegal immigrants from mostly Muslim Bangladesh. (Reuters)

Pak govt to block Musharraf's national identity card, passport

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan government today directed the interior ministry to block the national identity card (NIC) and passport of former dictator general (retd) Pervez Musharraf, a media report said.

Complying with a special court's order, the government took the action to restrict the Dubai-based former president's travel and certain facilities available to him as he failed to appear before the court in the high treason case against him.

The National Data Base and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Immigration and Passport Directorate were directed to undertake the action, the Express Tribune reported.

Musharraf would not be able to travel abroad and would also be unable to avail the facility of banking transactions.

"He will also be barred from sale and purchase of his properties in Pakistan and abroad," the daily said quoting a source.

The special court had ordered the government to arrest the former president and confiscate all his properties while hearing the high treason case against the "proclaimed offender" for imposing emergency rule in the country in 2007.

The treason case was instituted on the charges of subverting the Constitution by imposing "emergency rule" on November 3, 2007.

On April 7, chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar proposed fresh composition of the special bench, led by Lahore high court chief justice Yawar Ali, but the federal government is yet to issue a formal notification. (PTI)

8 injured in blast in Pakistan

KARACHI (TIP): Eight people, including two policemen, were injured after terrorists on May 30 targeted their police vehicle in Pakistan's Dera Murad Jamali region in the troubled Balochistan province.

The police vehicle was targeted by an improvised explosive device in a motorcycle which was parked near the roadside from where the police vehicle passed. The eight injured in the blast were rushed to nearby Naseerabad hospital for medical treatment and an emergency was imposed in the hospital. The windowpanes of nearby shops and houses were smashed due to the impact of the blast.

Yesterday, two traffic policemen were gunned down in Quetta in a targeted killing. (PTI)

Sri Lanka releases new map with China-backed port city projects

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka on Thursday released its new map by incorporating major development projects undertaken in the island country over the past few years, including the Chinese built port city and the strategically-important Hambantota port.

The map was released by the Department of Survey General in the presence of the Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms Gayantha Karunathilake.

The new map, released after nearly 20 years, incorporates the changes made in the country's landscape due to the under construction port city project in Colombo and the port in Hambantota in the deep south.

The port city and the Hambantota port have changed the country's landscape and required a new map.

Surveyor General PPM Udayakantha said that the new map produced by the 1:500 ratio also includes the Moragahakanda reservoir and the new highways in Sri Lanka.

The port city, a new city under construction, seeks to reclaim 269 hectares of land adjacent to the Galle Face.

Land reclamation for the project is expected to be completed next year before construction begins on the new city.

He said the new map will see more changes over the next few years as the landscape of Sri Lanka continues to change with major development projects underway (PTI)

IS claims suicide bombing at Afghan ministry in Kabul

KABUL (TIP): An Islamic State suicide bomber struck outside the Afghan Interior Ministry on May 30, allowing several gunmen to pass through an outer gate where they traded fire with security forces, who eventually killed the attackers, officials said.

Gen. Daud Amin, the Kabul police chief, said seven attackers were killed and that cleanup operations were underway. Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said one policeman was killed and five were wounded. Danish said the attackers were wearing military uniforms.

Hours after the attack, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the bombing in a brief statement carried by its Amaq news agency. The statement called it an "immersion attack" on the ministry in Kabul.

It appeared to be a rare victory for Afghan security forces, who have struggled to secure the capital in recent months.

The Taliban and a local IS affiliate have carried out scores of attacks, mainly targeting security forces and the country's Shiite minority, that have killed hundreds of people in recent years.

Both armed groups seek to establish strict Islamic rule in the country. Their relentless assaults underscore the struggles that Afghan forces have faced since the United States and NATO concluded their combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Taliban attacked a district headquarters in the northern Takhar province, killing five security forces, according to provincial police spokesman Khalil Asir. He said another three people were wounded in the battle Wednesday. He said 10 insurgents were killed.

In the eastern Logar province, Taliban suicide bombers attacked a police station, killing at least three policemen. Among the dead were the commander of the police station and the deputy director of traffic police for Puli Alim, the provincial capital, said Khalid Safi, a spokesman for the governor.

Another four policemen and eight civilians, including two children, were wounded in the Logar attack early Wednesday, said Shah Poor Ahmadzai, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

He said the attackers set off a suicide car bomb at the entrance to the station before three suicide bombers tried to enter. He said all three were shot and killed by security forces within minutes of the initial attack, adding that a number of nearby homes were damaged. The Taliban claimed the attacks in both provinces. In the southern city of Kandahar, a roadside bomb killed three people and wounded another 13, said Daud Ahmadi, spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor. He said the victims included mechanics who had been contracted to repair Afghan army vehicles. No one immediately claimed the attack. (AP)

Nepal honours 9 guides for Everest successes on anniversary

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal honoured several Sherpa guides for their Everest successes on the anniversary on May 30 of the first conquest of the world's highest peak.

Government minister Bina Magar, herself an Everest climber, honoured the guides at a ceremony held every year on the date in 1953 that New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his guide Tenzing Norgay first set foot on the summit of the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) mountain.

Those honoured included Kami Rita, who just climbed the mountain for a record 22nd time. He said last week when he returned from the mountain that he plans to guide climbers to the summit next year as well. He first scaled Everest at age 24 and has made the climb almost every year since then.

The ceremony also honored Lhakpa Sherpa, 44, whose nine climbs are the most for a woman. She lives in West Hartford, Connecticut, for much of the year and works at a grocery store when she's not guiding foreign climbers. She and her brother guided some 50 climbers on Everest earlier this month.

The ceremony also honoured seven brothers who all have made it to the top of Everest and have combined for 61 total ascents.

A certificate issued by Guinness World Records was handed over to the brothers at the ceremony in Kathmandu.

Since Mount Everest was first conquered, thousands of climbers have reached the summit, while more than 300 have lost their lives on the unpredictable slopes. (PTI)


**GUEST
COMMENT**

Byelection results: BJP needs another wave in 2019

The loss in the Kairana Lok Sabha byelection has confirmed the erosion of voter enthusiasm towards the BJP in UP. As was the case in the election to the two Lok Sabha seats vacated by the UP CM and Deputy CM, respectively, well over 10 per cent of the 2014 voter in Kairana did not bother to vote. This dip in the BJP's poll percentage in all the three UP parliamentary constituencies leads to the logical conclusion about a loss in ardor among the saffron party's adherents after voting with their feet in the UP 2017 Assembly polls. This trend is confirmed by the 10 Assembly byelection results, exemplified by the Congress' comprehensive sweep in Punjab's Shahkot, Trinamool handsomely retaining the Maheshtala Assembly seat and the BJP's severe loss of vote share in two Jharkhand seats, Kerala's Chengannur and Karnataka's Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

The Lok Sabha election of 2019 may well tell a different tale because PM Narendra Modi, the BJP's sole vote-catcher, can be counted upon to invest all his might instead of leaving the battle to the local satraps, who have obviously been unable to deliver. Yet the fact that a candidate who wasn't fielded in 2014 because of poor performance in her previous term as Kairana MP handsomely won the seat suggests that it wasn't about the choice of the candidate. Rather, Gorakhpur, Phoolpur and Kairana show that opposition unity and a lower polling percentage have swung the caste and religion arithmetic away from the BJP in the crucial state of UP.

Another Lok Sabha polls which the BJP lost - Gondia-Bhandara in Maharashtra - has exposed the limits of poaching. The surprise resignation of the 2014 giant killer who had humbled Praful Patel and his joining the Congress had already put the BJP in a disadvantageous position. But the bottom-line in BJP's tepid performance could be because the party was unable to move much beyond policy formulation on livelihood issues. It needs a wave again in the Hindi heartland, but the strategy may involve a Faustian bargain: focus more on bread and butter issues at the cost of its accent on religion.

(Tribune, Chandigarh)



By Apar Gupta

While the Americans and Europeans both call a sport football, they play a very different game. This difference is rooted not only in culture but in the rules of the game that provide rewards for goals, and penalties for breaching allowances. In the case of privacy regulations too, such a marked distinction is visible. With the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) coming into effect on May 25, 2018, the absence of a comparable regulation across the Atlantic poses a question for India: What path should it take? Should it follow the U.S. or Europe? Or, in fact, should India take the lead in this regard?

American exceptionalism

Last year, in November, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Carpenter v. United States*, which many commentators termed as one of the most critical electronic surveillance case in decades. Among other finely threaded legal arguments was the "third party doctrine". It reasons that once a person turns over her data to a third party (such as a bank or a website), her expectation of privacy ends. This severely cripples the immunity that protects people from "unreasonable search and seizures", thereby permitting the government to requisition data from third parties such as banks. Our Supreme Court realized the error in this narrow doctrine, rejecting it more than a decade ago in the case of *District Registrar v. Canara Bank*, ruling that our privacy protections would continue to apply as they ultimately vest in a person rather than the possession of personal artefacts. Another area where the U.S. seems to be a poor defender of privacy and data protection is when it comes to the conduct of private parties. With revelations around Cambridge Analytica and growing concern around the power of technology companies, new concerns have come to the fore. The consumer interest approach enforced by the Federal Trade Commission for unfair and deceptive trade practices and a panoply of sectoral regulators and state laws are an ineffective substitute to a federal regulator that draws its power from a comprehensive data protection law. This is not only a deficiency in the absence of law, but a fundamental design error in which legal regulation has been designed to protect property, rather than people.

While the U.S. may present a dismal picture for data protection, it has seen an incremental movement towards surveillance reform after the disclosures made by Edward Snowden on surveillance programs. While data protection and surveillance may seem like separate issues, they build off each other since they both concern personal data - greater government surveillance weakens and hurts data protection offered by private companies.

AS I SEE IT

The Transatlantic Variants

"As India stands at a crossroads, it should chart its course picking up the best ideas and practices that promote user control over data. This requires adaptation from both the U.S. and the GDPR. Our challenges are extensive, and our interests diverse. Here virtue lies in the humility to learn from others and care to protect our residents. As a public policy goal, we should borrow freely but use such knowledge within legal regulation to enlarge individual liberty."

Even before the disclosures, the U.S. had an imperfect body under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which has the legal authority to pass interception orders. We in India have no such counterpart or even a bare acknowledgement that interception requires prior judicial sanction. Even existing procedures which are supposed to act as safeguards are flouted with little repercussions. For instance, evidence which is gathered illegally in the U.S. may eventually lead to an acquittal, but our courts have consistently reasoned that such an impropriety at best could lead to a departmental inquiry against the erring official. Even when it seems we are much more progressive in our constitutional doctrine, there always remains room for learning.

Growing European influence

In contrast, the GDPR seems like as a modern, progressive text. The GDPR is in a lot of ways closer to our constitutional understanding of data protection as articulated by the Puttaswamy judgement last August, in which nine judges of the Supreme Court unanimously held privacy to be a pivot for our fundamental rights. So, when the GDPR provides for an explicit consent-based mechanism and continuing control for users, it seems to be setting a legislative template for India. However, it is not as if there are no risks in parroting the European solution. When it provides a "strong law" for users, the GDPR also seems like a strong-arm law to trade and commerce. Two common business objections are made. The first cites a rise in costs that would impact users, in which a bureaucratic apparatus would require companies to pass on a data protection tax. Such an argument is clearly out of step with the realization of recent months that leaving personal data unprotected erodes trust in technology.

The second objection concerns the wider, sectoral ambitions of India's IT entrepreneurs who ideologize permission-less innovation. They argue that regulation will make them unable to compete globally. This is incorrect on several counts, besides being self-defeating. It ignores that privacy and data protection are inherent to the coming waves of innovation. Data protection will act as a regulatory springboard to the next generation of online products and services. This, in turn, will provide a cleaner, sustainable and rights-

friendly alternative to the existing theology of treating data as a fossil fuel. If anything, "strong" data protection is beneficial for the long-term health of the technology sector by improving user trust and sectoral competitiveness.

If we hasten, we are sure to fall. Blind adoption of the GDPR would present immediate peril for several reasons. As an ambitious project, the text of the GDPR has tremendous breadth and is riddled with business exceptions which may provide porous sieves for personal data. While refinements may be incrementally made in Europe, we in India at the outset need to have foresight in adopting the drafting choices of a foreign, even if influential, text. For instance, two areas where concern arises are its impact on the right to free speech and expression and the right to information laws. A joint statement by two of the leading digital rights organizations, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Article 19, have stated that in the context of the right to be forgotten, the GDPR "poses a significant risk of misuse to stifle free expression online".

Much closer to home, there has been constant worry by activists defending the embattled Right to Information Act. Their prior experience makes them wary, as the judiciary has been frequently citing privacy to undermine government transparency. For instance, in *Girish Deshpande v. Central Information Commissioner*, the Supreme Court upheld an order denying access to the income tax returns of a public servant. Hence, every effort should be made that the motivation to correct the absence of a data protection law does not end up hurting individuals by making government opaque and unaccountable.

Synthesize carefully

As India stands at a crossroads, it should chart its course picking up the best ideas and practices that promote user control over data. This requires adaptation from both the U.S. and the GDPR. Our challenges are extensive, and our interests diverse. Here virtue lies in the humility to learn from others and care to protect our residents. As a public policy goal, we should borrow freely but use such knowledge within legal regulation to enlarge individual liberty.

(The author practices law in New Delhi)

(Source: The Hindu)

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China and South Korea Pushing for Trump-Kim Summit-Advantage Trump



By Ven Parameswaran

"China and North Korea want the U.S. to withdraw its base in South Korea and recall 40,000 of its army. China and North Korea are asking for total denuclearization of the entire Korean Peninsula, including B-52 nuclear equipped bombers in South Korea. The U.S. could save by withdrawing, provided North Korea fully complies", says the author.



US-North Korea Summit may happen, after all, courtesy South Korea. South Korea's Moon (center) played a major role in bringing about a trust factor between Trump (left) and Kim (right)

The Korean War ended in the Armistice Agreement of 1953. This Agreement was made possible because V. K. Krishna Menon's proposal for the repatriation of prisoners belonging to different countries was accepted by the United Nations. President Eisenhower acknowledged and thanked India for its positive contribution that ended the Korean war.

President Trump deserves credit for his statesmanship and courage in negotiating with North Korean leader Kim-Jong-Un. This is made possible only because Ambassador Nikki Haley was able to convince China and Russia to vote for the severest sanctions against North Korea. Nobody knows why China changed its policy and decided to support the USA against its client State, North Korea. It must be pointed out that after the severest sanctions, North Korea has had no choice but to depend on China for its existence and political support. This is the reason Kim-Jong-Un made a private trip to Beijing by train before taking the initiative to seek a summit meeting with Trump. He also had meeting with Chinese leader Xi, after Trump canceled the meeting. Does this not show that China is more interested in getting along with Trump, and therefore, was prepared to be tough on North Korea? What are China's goals?

China and North Korea want the U.S. to withdraw its base in South Korea and recall 40,000 of its army. China and North Korea are asking for total denuclearization of the entire Korean Peninsula, including B-52 nuclear equipped bombers in South Korea. The U.S. could save by withdrawing, provided North Korea fully complies. The U.S. Naval power and airpower are second to none and because of the latest and sophisticated technology, the U.S. can win wars without a land base.

North Korea cannot afford to be the victim of the severest sanctions. North Korea is interested in economic development. Therefore, North Korea is trying to demonstrate that it can be trusted by destroying the nuclear test sites in front of the world media. Kim also created goodwill by releasing the U.S. prisoners. When Trump cancelled the June 12 Summit, Kim reacted positively. To prove, Kim of North Korea and Moon of South Korea met again, and the world saw mutual embrace and goodwill.

South Korea also seems to be more enthusiastic and positive about making sure the Summit takes place. Towards this end, Moon has been applying diplomatic pressure on Trump and the U.S. Secretary of State.

Trump has reiterated that the U.S. will not remove sanctions until North Korea is ready and willing to denuclearize North Korea first with international inspection control. Trump has also said that the US will be happy to help North Korea's economy.

So far, Moon and Kim have demonstrated to the world that they are interested in ending the war and signing a peace accord with the approval of the US and China. Reunification of Korea is also a possibility in the future as happened with the Germans.

Japan was almost defenseless when North Korea dared to test its missiles over Japanese airspace. Japan is also interested in denuclearization of North Korea.

As of now, it appears that the historic Summit may take place on June 12, 2018 in Singapore, based on President Trump's decision. Trump is a tough negotiator. He has decided to go for the Summit after calling it off. This is only because he could feel

the goodwill generated by South Korea, North Korea and China. Preparations are going on and the diplomatic intercourse is heavy between Beijing, Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington.

President Trump said that he was willing to take the risk for the sake of peace of the Korea and the world. If indeed the Summit takes place in Singapore as scheduled, Trump will be cheered by the world. " Presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush, and Obama tried and failed, but Trump succeeded" will be the headline of the world media on the 12th June.

This is a great and golden opportunity for Kim-Jong-Un of North Korea to create trust and demonstrate that he really wants peace. So far, Trump has succeeded in changing the attitude of Kim, who has been uncompromising. It is heartening to note that Kim changed though he was provoked by John Bolton, National Security Adviser and the remarks by the US Vice President.

(The author, a 64-year resident of the USA is a Diplomat-in-Residence and Senior Adviser for the New Delhi Think Tank, Imagindia Institute. He resides in New York, and can be reached at vparameswaran@gmail.com)

U.S.-North Korea: a deal that can be done



By Zorawar Daulet Singh

The Korean imbroglio reflects America's fear of any meaningful adjustment to the global balance of power

role in the world. Instead, the establishment, despite a popular domestic revolt in the 2016 U.S. presidential election that catapulted Mr. Trump to office, has scoffed at any meaningful adjustment to the global balance of power.

A viable deal

North Korea's search for state security and regime survival is well known. Nuclear weapons, as in most other cases, were deemed the only reliable card to security. Since 2006, when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea's official name) conducted its first nuclear test, the process of nuclearization saw sustained progress over a decade along with ballistic missile testing to demonstrate a path towards a credible deterrence capacity. But it was not until the July 2017 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test that Washington awoke to the reality of its own homeland being part of a deterrence equation with Pyongyang. The North Koreans shrewdly realized that only the possibility of a direct threat would stir the U.S. into serious talks. And it seemed to work. For after the usual "fire and fury" charade, Washington responded positively to the prospect of a nuclear deal.

The DPRK, for its part, was actively encouraged by its great power benefactors to pursue such an opening. As direct neighbors of the DPRK, both Russia and China have a self-interest in stabilizing the Korean peninsula and closing an unfinished chapter of the Cold War. South Korean domestic politics too was geared to tap this moment. In short, the regional context was conducive at all levels for a détente and bargaining process to ensue.

What a deal could look like

The contours of a deal remain viable. Pyongyang would cease its quest for intercontinental nuclear weapons capability in lieu of a gradual normalization of ties with the U.S. along with a lifting of multilateral economic sanctions. As a result, the DPRK would gain regime and national legitimacy, assurance of survival and an opportunity to economically transform itself. A deal would confine the DPRK to a regional nuclear power, which also enables Pyongyang to preserve a degree of autonomy from Beijing; it would stabilize the broader Northeast Asian setting and thereby increase the security of its two key allies, South Korea and Japan; and finally, it would eliminate a major potential flashpoint in China-U.S. relations. Such outcomes hardly seem adverse for the US.

Much attention has also been drawn to the mutually incompatible bargaining postures: the U.S.'s maximalist position of complete denuclearization versus the DPRK's bottom line, which probably reserves the right to retain an undefined level of nuclear weapon capability as an insurance measure of last resort. The issue, however, runs much deeper. The traditionalists in the U.S. establishment fear a shifting status quo that might produce new regional re-alignments or interdependent equations that gradually diminish the cohesiveness of U.S. military alliances in East Asia. For example, it is likely that China and Russia would actively leverage peace on the peninsula to pursue their ambitious goeconomic plans for the region. Koreans on both sides of the Demilitarized Zone would be spoilt for choice after living under the shadow

of prolonged tension and conflict. Put plainly, in the image of an American hawk, successful U.S.-DPRK talks translate to the U.S. no longer being the top dog in Northeast Asia and being compelled to share power and influence with others. But this is precisely what a multipolar world will look like in the foreseeable future.

An open window

The rhetoric from both sides suggests that the window for talks remains wide open. Even as he called off the summit on May 24, Mr. Trump maintained a high measure of respect for Mr. Kim and spoke about how a "wonderful dialogue was building up" between the two leaders and that he "very much" looked forward to meeting Mr. Kim in the future. In his oral remarks, Mr. Trump closed by intriguingly hinting that the "existing summit could take place or at a future date". Pyongyang has drawn a sharp distinction between a "bold" Mr. Trump who dared to tread in a new direction and his hardline advisers. Not mincing its words, the DPRK had previously expressed a "feeling of repugnance" towards National Security Adviser John Bolton and described Vice President Mike Pence as a "political dummy". Echoing Mr. Trump, Pyongyang concluded its May 25 statement by expressing "an intent to sit with the U.S." in any format "at any time", prompting Mr. Trump to welcome the "warm and productive statement" that could "lead, hopefully to long and enduring prosperity and peace."

(The author is a Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi)

The whirlwind U.S.-North Korean bromance hit a temporary roadblock last week. If American President Donald Trump's decision to open direct talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un a few months ago came as a surprise, last Thursday's dramatic somersault to pull the plug on a summit that could have ushered in a transformed Northeast Asia will not leave too many scratching their heads. After all, Mr. Trump's foreign policy since the outset of his administration has swayed erratically between his own pragmatism and the hawkish elements in the larger security establishment. At almost every stage, we have seen Mr. Trump succumb to the default worldview inside his administration and across the broader political spectrum.

If we accept the proposition that Mr. Trump remains stifled in a national security system still largely dominated by the traditionalists, the question then turns to what the calculus is of the policymakers really playing the strings. The traditionalists, in essence, fear change. Having been accustomed to a unipolar moment - fleeting as it was - when the U.S. held sway over all geopolitical and goeconomic matters, the changes in the past decade have come as a psychological shock to this self-belief in global preponderance. Mounting evidence of an emerging multipolar world and waning of American relative strength should have prompted a strategic reassessment of the U.S.'s

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOGA THE 3 STEP BLUEPRINT

BY ARUN GOEL



International Day of Yoga falls on June 21

Here is the second article in a series to commemorate
International Day of Yoga

There are several reasons why you may like to hop onto the Yoga bandwagon. The reasons are many; the goal ultimately the same (with or without your conscious knowing).

Whether you are looking at Yoga as a tool for physical fitness, or as an aid to disease management or even for mental peace and ultimate bliss, you should adopt a blueprint for long-lasting effects.

STEP 1: PURIFICATION AND DEVELOPING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

The maximum benefits of any Yoga practice can be had when the mind is 'purified' and the attitude is correct.

Yoga lays down clear pointers that the aspirant should adopt towards himself and the society. These are laid out as Yamas and Niyamas.

The Yamas are the social code of conduct which are 5 in number. They are Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (Truth), Asteya (Non-stealing), Brahmacharya (self-restraint), and Aparigraha (non-possession)

The Niyamas are the internal moral code. The 5 Niyamas are: Shauch (cleanliness), Santosh (contentment), Swadhyaya

(self-study), Tapas (austerity), and Ishwar Pranidhana (surrender to God).

These Yamas and Niyamas are to be understood, imbibed and practiced in everyday life, 24x7. This adherence brings about a remarkable purification process that makes the body most receptive to gain the maximum out of yoga practices.

Today, even modern medicine has inextricably linked the mind-body complex as a whole for personal health maintenance which only underlines the necessity of this purification process.

STEP 2: PRACTICE

While working constantly at step 1, one should commence the practices. It is important (though not easy) to find the right Yoga teacher.

In Yoga, the paths are many, but the goal is one. Accordingly, there are several schools which adhere to different paths as a focus. Examine your inclination and find the teacher from the path you are inclined. For example, if your primary reason for Yoga is physical fitness, then research yoga schools with an extensive emphasis on Asanas of the Hatha Yoga kind. Contact them to locate a suitable teacher in your area.

At HealthAndYoga, we are constantly building an exhaustive teacher directory that helps connect aspirants to teachers. You can also search this exhaustive database by clicking here.

Remember, finding a suitable teacher is not easy and you may have to resort to several trials before you find someone whom you intuitively connect to. Also, as you grow in practice, you may find the need to move on to find more accomplished teachers.

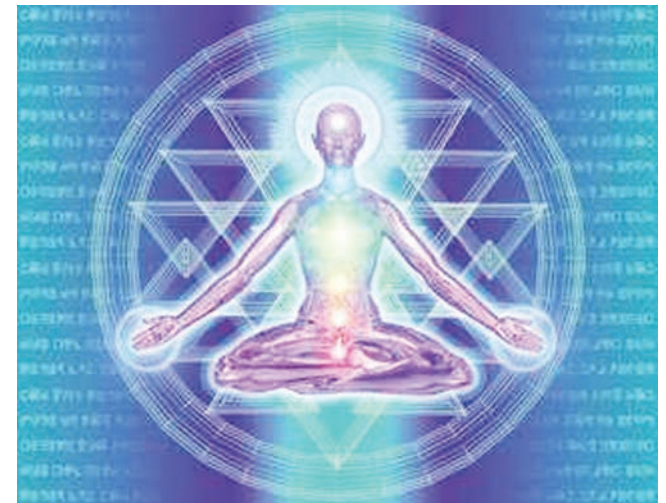
STEP 3: STUDY AND READING

Regular study of Yoga books and Scriptures are an important aspect of your personal development through Yoga.

Besides acting as motivational tools when your spirit is flagging, they provide important subtle insights which almost always spur you onto the next level.

Indeed, regular study is the only real way to grow in the absence of Guru, of whom most of us are sadly deprived in our modern lifestyle.

Making this 3-step process as your personal blueprint will



undoubtedly help you get the most out of Yoga.

BENEFITS OF YOGA:

It is an art of performing physiological, psychological and philosophical practices with a view to tone the body system for the attainment of permanent peace of soul and mind.

PHYSIOLOGICAL BENEFITS:

It includes like improvement of energy levels, immune system becoming stronger, endurance increases, improvement in the respiratory system, muscular strength increases, and reaction time increases and so on.

PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS:

It includes like concentration improvement, social skills increase, anxiety decreases, memory improvement, cognitive functions improve and many more.

PHILOSOPHICAL BENEFITS:

It includes like one feels the inner peace of mind, the practitioner becomes more proactive than reactive, feels excited and enthusiastic, behavioral modifications, etc.

Some feel that Yoga is the direct way to unite our soul with the god and for the attainment of peace and prosperity in day to day life. Getting your child practicing yoga at such a tender age benefits the overall health of your loved ones.

Yoga in the Office: A quick and effective stretch

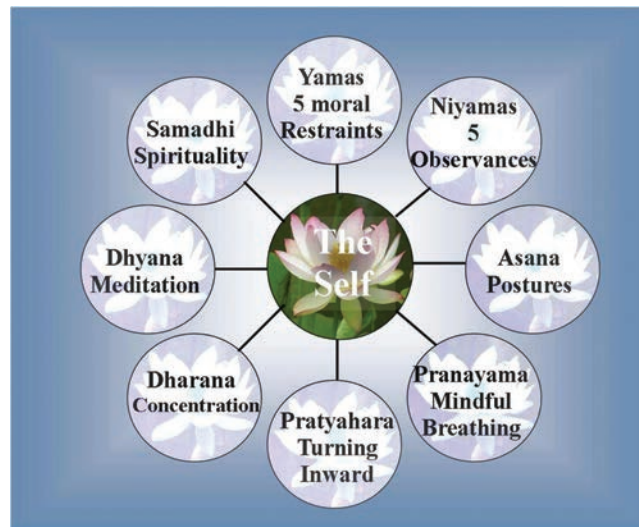
By Evamarie Pilipuf

It's great when we can escape to a full hour of yoga, be it in a class or at home in front of a video, but let's face it, that's not always possible. Enter Yoga in the Office, a series of simple but effective suggested positions to help stretch the wrists, neck, shoulders, back and legs.

Always talk to your doctor before starting any new exercise regime.

NEUTRAL POSTURE: Neutral posture is probably the most important position to understand and practice, for it is the position in which the spine is most stable and properly aligned. Whether standing or sitting, it means placing the feet hip-distance apart and facing forward. If you're sitting in a chair, your heels should sit right underneath your knees, so that your knees and hips are bent at right angles. Sit near the edge of your chair and sit tall. Lift your ribcage and roll your shoulders back to open the chest. Feel a slight arch to your low back and keep your chin level. Draw your belly button inward lightly, but not so much that your ribcage contracts downward. Breathe smoothly; hold this position for a minimum of 1-2 minutes, all the while concentrating on relaxing your shoulders.

ABDOMINAL BREATHING: As simple as it seems, a few minutes of proper abdominal breathing can do much to interrupt your stress levels and help you relax. Sit up in neutral posture and place your hands on your abdomen. As you inhale, feel your abdomen expand like a balloon, then slowly contract your abdomen by "sucking" in your belly button as you exhale. Relax your shoulders. Keep going: inhale with an expanding abdomen, and exhale while contracting your abdominal muscles. If possible, inhale through your nostrils, and exhale through pursed lips (think of the shape of your mouth when you're about to pronounce the letter "P"). Stop the exercise immediately if you feel at all light-headed (proper abdominal breathing should not cause this). When you inhale, try not to lift your shoulders; let the breath "move" into



your stomach.

Find the natural solutions to health disorders. Re-engineer your life to live in harmony with nature and you'll be surprised how many nagging problems just vanish into thin air! We provide a range of learning aids and practicing tools for helping you onto this path. To read more on our range of natural health management and yoga tools, visit our yoga supplies section.

NECK STRETCHES: With hands resting on your waist, gently lower your chin to relax the back of your neck. Be sure the rest of your body is still sitting or standing tall in neutral posture; the only area that is bent is your neck. After holding through 2-3 breaths, return upright to neutral posture, then lower your right ear down towards your right shoulder. Hold through at least 2-3 breaths and relax the left side of your neck thoroughly. Return upright and repeat on the other side. Finally, rotate your neck as far around towards the right as it feels comfortable, hold for 2-3 breaths, then return to center

and repeat on the left side.

SHOULDER SHRUGS: With your hands at your sides, lift your shoulders up towards your ears as you inhale, then release the shoulders back down as you exhale. Repeat: lift and tense the muscles of the shoulders and neck as you inhale, then relax them completely as you exhale. Repeat at least 4-6 times.

WRIST STRETCHES: Hold up one hand in front of you like you would when saying "stop." Interlace your fingers with your other hand and pull your fingers back gently to provide a stretch to your wrist. Relax your shoulders and hold through at least four breaths. Now, change the position of your hand so that your fingers point downward, and the back of your hand faces away from you. Take hold of the back of your hand with your other hand and pull gently toward you to stretch the back of your wrist. Hold through at least four breaths, then perform both stretches on the other hand.

CHEST STRETCH: Place your hands behind your back, holding a scarf, belt, or necktie in between them. Stand up tall in neutral posture, and gently squeeze your shoulder blades towards the center of your back as though trying to squeeze a pencil. Each time you exhale, raise your arms slowly behind you, going as high as feels comfortable, but not so high that your neck or shoulder posture is compromised. Try to relax your neck, shoulders, and chest as you perform this. Repeat at least 4-6 times.

To begin and stay motivated in your yoga practice, it is essential that you understand the method how yoga works upon you along with a progressive yoga schedule. A unique self-learning course helps you do that quite remarkably. Evaluate this yoga for beginner's course.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

(Another article in the series follows in the next weekly edition. Readers are invited to send in their comment)

(TIP Bureau)

Spain's govt poised to fall, Socialists prepare for power

MADRID (TIP): Spain's conservative government on May 31 appeared doomed to lose a no-confidence vote in parliament, with the center-left Socialist party poised to take power.

A Basque nationalist party's decisive announcement that it would vote in favor of the motion spelled the almost certain end of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's mandate and foretold the stunning collapse of his minority government in a parliamentary vote Friday, when it will be short of support to survive.

The impending downfall of Rajoy's government after ruling for nearly eight years came just days after his Popular Party's reputation was badly damaged by a court verdict that identified it as a beneficiary of a large kickbacks-for-contracts scheme.

The unexpected development injected a new element of tension into European Union politics and global financial markets, already unsettled by Italy's struggles to install a government since a March 4 election.

Under a Spanish law that prevents a power vacuum, Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez — who tabled the no-confidence motion — would immediately become the new leader of the 19-country eurozone's No. 4 economy and a prominent EU leader at a time when the bloc faces numerous challenges.

Unlike Italy's potential new leaders, Sanchez hasn't expressed skepticism about the EU nor the continent's single currency, both of which are broadly popular in Spain.

In the no-confidence debate, Sanchez, 46, called on Rajoy to step down over the kickbacks scandal.

"Are you ready to step down here and now? Resign and everything will end," Sanchez told the prime minister, who listened from his seat with an impassive face. "Mr. Rajoy, your time is up."

Rajoy was having none of it, accusing Sanchez of a power grab.

"Everybody knows that Pedro Sanchez is never going to win the elections and this is the



reason for his motion, his urgency," Rajoy told lawmakers, reminding them that the Socialists lost two general elections under Sanchez's leadership and warning that a Socialist government would endanger the country's financial stability.

Sanchez promised to abide by a national budget that was recently negotiated by Rajoy. It includes substantial benefits for the Basque nationalists whose promised votes in the no-confidence debate opened the door for Sanchez to oust Rajoy.

Sanchez also vowed to open talks with separatists in the Catalan regional government over their demands for independence. That issue has dogged Spain for the past eight months.

Rajoy has been in power since December 2011, successfully steering Spain out of its worst economic crisis in decades during the eurozone debt crisis and achieving some of the strongest economic growth in Europe. Last

year, gross domestic product growth reached 3.1 percent.

Rajoy, cultivating a stern image, faced down opponents who complained that the recovery came at the expense of austerity measures, just as he has faced down Catalan secessionists.

But the strong economy wasn't enough to keep Rajoy in La Moncloa palace, the seat of government in Madrid, and he was undone by the corruption scandal that brought verdicts last week. National Court judges delivered hefty prison sentences to 29 business people and Popular Party members, including some elected officials, for fraud, money laundering and tax evasion, among other crimes.

The PP was fined 245,000 euros (\$287,000) for benefiting from "an authentic and efficient system of institutional corruption." More damagingly for Rajoy, the judges questioned the prime minister's credibility when he said in court that the false accounting was unknown to him. (AP)

Women take abortion pills in Northern Ireland protest

LONDON (TIP): Pro-abortion rights campaigners have taken what they say are abortion pills outside a Belfast court as pressure grows to ease Northern Ireland's strict ban on terminating pregnancies.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK in which abortion is illegal in all but exceptional cases. Last week the neighboring Republic of Ireland voted to remove a constitutional ban on abortions, putting pressure on the north to follow suit.

Campaigners used a small robot Thursday to distribute pills, before three women swallowed the tablets.

Police officers seized the pills and robot, and attempted to lead one woman away. They eventually left without detaining her.

Organizers didn't say whether the women were pregnant, noting that it would be illegal for them to take the pills if they were. (AP)

Denmark bans Islamic full-face veil in public spaces

STOCKHOLM (TIP) : The Danish parliament today passed a law banning the Islamic full-face veil in public spaces, becoming the latest European country to do so. "Anyone who wears a garment that hides the face in public will be punished with a fine," says the law, which was passed by 75 votes to 30.

Presented by the centre-right government, the legislation, which is to take effect on August 1, was also backed by the Social Democrats and the far-right Danish People's Party.

Wearing a burqa, which covers a person's entire face, or the niqab, which only shows the eyes, in public will lead to a fine of 1,000 kroner (USD 156, 134 euros). Repeated violations will be fined up to 10,000 kroner.

It is not known how many women wear the niqab and burqa in Denmark.

"I don't think there are many who wear the burqa here in Denmark. But if you do, you should be punished with a fine," Justice Minister Soren Pape Poulsen was quoted as saying by Ritzau news agency in February.

The European Court of Human Rights last year upheld a Belgian ban on wearing it in public.

France was the first European country to ban the niqab in public places with a law that took effect in 2011. (AFP)

China places 10 seismometers in Indian ocean

BEIJING (TIP): China has successfully placed in the Indian Ocean ten ocean seismometers which are used to measure earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or the use of explosives.

China's 49th ocean expedition team on Sunday placed ocean-bottom seismometers in the southwest Indian Ocean, with five more planned, state-run Global Times reported. Fifteen ocean-bottom seismometers will be retrieved in the coming year, Science and Technology Daily reported on Monday.

Ocean-bottom seismometers can operate for extended periods of time on the seafloor to gather data from earthquakes and artificial vibrations in the deep sea.

Seismometer is used to measure the motion of the ground caused by an earthquake, a volcanic eruption or the use of explosives. (PTI)

UN warns of critical Syria refugee budget shortfall

AMMAN: The United Nations made an "urgent and critical" appeal on Thursday for donations to its main aid budget for Syrian refugees, currently four-fifths short of the total needed for the year.

"The mathematics are straightforward -- we asked for \$5.6 billion (4.8 billion euros)" for 2018, said Amin Awad, the UN refugee agency's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"We are in May and we have about 20 per cent of it." "UN programmes and government entities that are supporting refugees... are running out of funds," the UNRWA official told journalists in Jordan's capital.

Donors at an April conference in Brussels pledged some \$4.4 billion to help civilians affected by Syria's devastating seven-year war, but much of that money has yet to arrive, Awad said.

World Food Programme regional director Muhannad Hadi voiced gratitude "for all the support the donors have given us, but we stress on the importance of continuing this support until a political solution is found". Since war broke out in 2011, half of Syria's population has been displaced, including more than five million outside the country and another six million internally displaced. (AFP)

USING SATELLITES TO COUNT BUILDINGS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

HONG KONG (TIP): Shrouded in Chinese military secrecy and hidden from the eyes of journalists, Beijing's build-up of man-made islands on reefs deep in the maritime heart of Southeast Asia is a vexing story to report.

Reuters deputy head of graphics Simon Scarr, based in Singapore, had previously dealt with private sector satellite imagery providers but always felt more could be done within the highly competitive field. Late last year in a conversation with Earthrise Media, an independent group helping journalists obtain and analyze satellite data, Scarr wondered if it would be possible to count buildings on China's seven man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago of the hotly contested South China Sea.

During a six-week period, Earthrise digitally scrutinized hundreds of images dating back to 2014 when China started rapidly building up those islands. Reuters journalists checked the data with a range of military and academic contacts.

On a spread sheet of figures confirming extensive construction across the South China Sea, one number stood out – Subi reef was home to nearly 400 buildings, more than expected and nearly double the number on similar islands.

"It was great data to have, and it really helped us build-up the webpage, with imagery and information from other sources, too," Scarr said.

The Subi information helped journalists in Hong Kong, Beijing and Sydney research the story that would anchor the package on the islands.

It also provided insight into possible Chinese intentions for military bases on islands that Beijing once described as mostly civilian. The buildings on Subi, along with extensive facilities on Fiery Cross and Mischief reefs, appeared to match military bases inside China and could house up to 2,400 personnel.

Subi is the largest of China's seven man-made outposts in the Spratlys. The so-called "Big Three" of Subi, Mischief and Fiery Cross reefs all share similar infrastructure – including emplacements for missiles, 3km runways, extensive storage facilities and a range of installations that can track satellites, foreign military activity and communications.

Determined to use the package to test their innovations, a Reuters RTV team headed to the Hong Kong coast to shoot footage that would be overlaid with animation to illustrate the development.

"This was one of the most elaborate things we've done," said senior producer Ryan Brooks. (Reuters)



SANJU POSTER: ANUSHKA'S NEW AVATAR HAS LEFT US INTRIGUED

A new poster of the Ranbir Kapoor starrer Sanju just landed on the internet and it features the first look of actor Anushka Sharma in the biopic. While it is difficult to guess who Anushka is portraying in the film, her curly bob and blue eyes have already got us intrigued.

While Anushka is busy flashing a smile at the lens, her look is starkly different than any of the characters she has donned before. The poster also features another one of Ranbir Kapoor's look as Sanjay Dutt. And as always, he looks like an almost perfect replica of the actor. It seems like his avatar is inspired from the Sanjay Dutt of the early 2000s, post the release of Munna Bhai MBBS.

Sharing the poster on Twitter, director Rajkumar Hirani wrote, "And here is my dear friend Anushka. It's a special appearance....but she worked on every nuance of the role for days together. Can anyone guess who she plays?...Will reveal tomorrow at the trailer launch. @AnushkaSharma #RanbirKapoor #RajkumarHiraniFilms @VVCFilms @foxstarhindi." *Source: Indian Express*

HERE IS WHAT MOTIVATES PRIYANKA TO HIT THE GYM



Terming it as a 'great initiative', global star Priyanka Chopra has applauded the viral fitness challenge HumFitTohIndiaFit.

The Quantic star said the drive, initiated by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, has motivated her to get back to the gym.

"Thank you @Ra_THORe for a reminder that we all need to start living a healthier

lifestyle. #HumFitTohIndiaFit is a great initiative and it's motivating me to get back to the gym! #AustinCagley @breebranks are you listening?" tweeted the 35-year-old.

On May 22, Rathore took to his Twitter handle to urge Indian citizens towards adopting a fitter lifestyle by inviting them to post pictures and videos of their fitness attempts.

Along with his tweet, Rathore posted a video of himself wherein he could be seen

speaking about the significance of fitness as stressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi before he went down to do ten push-ups.

Since then, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Prime Minister Modi, Hrithik Roshan, Anushka Sharma, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju, and Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal have taken up the challenge and posted messages and videos supporting the cause. *Source: ANI*

Alia Bhatt is the undisputed queen of Bollywood, says Kangana Ranaut after watching Raazi

Actor Kangana Ranaut, who is busy shooting for Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi on Monday confirmed that the film will release this year. She made the announcement while interacting with media after stepping out of a suburban multiplex after watching Alia Bhatt starrer Raazi on Monday in Mumbai.

There was quite a buzz about the release date the film with some reports saying it was set to hit theatre screens in April this year but now the release date of the period drama has been pushed further.

On the delay in its release, Kangana said: "If you see, we started shooting of Manikarnika... in the month of May last year and now it's been only one year since we started shooting. "We launched the film in Varanasi on May 5 and we started shooting for it in June-July last year. I think when you make a film on huge scale, then it normally



takes one or one and half year but I can say that this year we will be able to release the film."

Praising Raazi, Kangana said: "I really liked Raazi. It was awesome. Meghna (Gulzar)



did a splendid job with the film. I have no words to express performance of Alia (Bhatt) in the film. She is so good in the film. Meghna and Alia invited me on the trial of their film but I couldn't attend it because I was busy

shooting for my film, then I promised them that I will watch the film soon. I am going to send Alia a congratulatory message for her film. I think Alia is most definitely undisputed queen. Its Alia's world and we are just living in it."

Asked if her Manikarnika... will create the same magic onscreen, Kangana said: "When I watch another actor's work, I don't compare my film with the film that I am watching and when I watch a film then, I only think about that actor. This film's cast and crew deserves all the credit for the success of the film."

Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi is an epic biographical film based on the life of Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi. It is being directed by Krish and produced by Zee Studios in association with Kamal Jain & Nishant Pitti. Kangana plays the titular role in the film, which also stars Sonu Sood and Ankita Lokhande in pivotal roles. *Source: IANS*



JULIANNE HOUGH PLANS PRE-VACATION FASHION SHOW

Actress Julianne Hough prepares for her holiday outfits with an at-home 'fashion show'. "Ooh, we're different, I bring way more clothes and outfits and put them together and now I've got him on that whole track. We do like a whole wardrobe, like I'll take pictures and stuff, so we know what we've got for the whole trip," Hough told.

And while she and her husband Ice hockey player Brooks Laich are in the process of planning, Hough likes to try on her outfits and said her trick is the "best thing she ever came up with" but Laich, 34, wasn't too keen on the idea at first, but now they never travel without them.

"He doesn't smile in them so he just looks so miserable in our little fashion show, it's the greatest thing I feel like I ever came up with. I have all these different folders for different trips. He was not into that when we first did it, but I do that now for him and he is obsessed with it," she said.

Source: IANS

OLIVIA MUNN WAS UNCONVINCED SHE COULD BECOME AN ACTION STAR



Actress Olivia Munn says she was not convinced she was suited to do action roles until she starred in 'X-Men: Apocalypse'. According to reports, the 37-year-old starred as Psylocke in the 2016 superhero film, and Munn said the experience has given her a thirst for more action roles.

"I really didn't realise how much I loved doing it until I actually was training for 'X-

Men'," told Munn, when asked what attracts her to do action parts.

She added, "When I signed on for 'X-Men', I wasn't sure if I wanted to do it and I was talking to (screenwriter) Simon Kinberg, and he was like, 'This is the introduction of the character, so it's going to be a smaller part and for this movie...'

"And I said, 'Well, that's cool as long as you could just have a fight scene'. And to

me, I grew up loving her so I know that they really didn't do her justice the first time that she was introduced. And I'd watched it and I was like, 'This is stupid'. The first time I saw it, I thought, 'You have to give her more.'"

However, Munn said that she did not initially appreciate just how much hard work was needed to star in an action film.

Source: IANS

Bryce Dallas Howard on 'Solo: A Star Wars Story': It's a hell of a movie

Actor Bryce Dallas Howard has praised his father Ron Howard for directing the 'awesome' film 'Solo: A Star Wars Story'. Ron, who has films such as 'A Beautiful Mind', 'Apollo 13' and 'Rush' to his credit, shared a video message from Bryce on Twitter.

"My dad was so privileged to be a part of this project, and I was so lucky because I got to actually go and watch him on the set and shadow him and learn from him. I can't remember the last time I saw him having this much fun, and this is a dude who has a lot of fun on a movie set," Bryce said in the video.

"The crew, the cast, the story, I mean, this is an awesome movie. I've seen it many times, so I definitely can vouch for it. Not like anyone needs me to vouch for it. I'm just saying, it's a hell of a movie. It's so good," she added.

Bryce, 37, who was recently in London to promote her film 'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom', urged people to go and see 'Solo' before her own movie opens in theatres. "Check it now because when 'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom' comes out, I want you to check that out. So, quick! Run!" she added.

'Solo: A Star Wars Story' was released on May 25, and features Alden Ehrenreich as the titular hero along with Donald Glover, Emilia Clarke, Thandie Newton and Woody Harrelson.

Source: PTI



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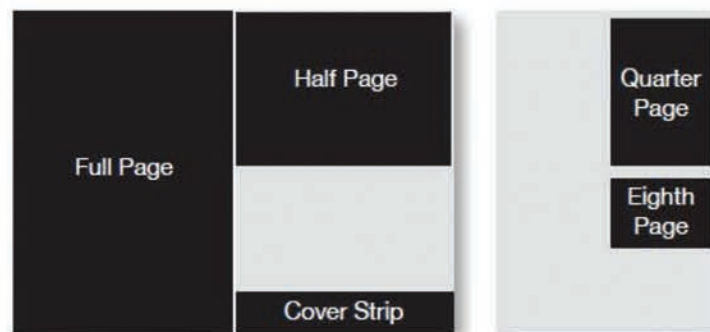


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WAYS A WOMAN CAN MAKE A MAN FALL IN LOVE WITH HER

Look good

Men are visual beings, work on the first thing a man sees when he looks at you. Highlight what is unique to you, dress appropriately for your body.

Smell good

Looking good will pull him towards you, smelling good will excite him.

Smile sincerely in front of him

When a woman smiles and shows warmth in front of a man, it encourages him to dig a little deeper.

Make his work progressively easy

Work with him, he cannot make any inch closer to you without your help.

Show him you respect yourself

When a man sees the woman respecting herself, he sees in her a woman worth the effort. He wants someone grown, who can hold her own; a woman with values and principles.

Throw him hints

Even though it's the man's role to pursue the woman, she should signal him that she wants to be hunted. Use suggestive words to him, throw a hint about what you like, indirectly tell him your preferences, he will get the point.

Be real with him

You expect him to impress you by him being real and so you make him fall for you by being real, don't pretend to be the woman you are not.

Be available but not desperate

When he asks you out, make time. Pick up his phone calls, let him be able to reach you but don't become possessive too early in his pursuit of you. A woman who appears to be desperate and in a rush confuses the man or even worse makes him hold back to stop or find a new pace.

Reward him

When he does something good for you,



acknowledge it. Say thank you, let him know he is on the right track.

Ask him questions

Men love it when the woman also shows interest in him. Don't make it always about you.

Surprise him

Suddenly plant a kiss on his cheek, buy him a nice gift, do something that shows you also got game. Men love a woman who can match their charm.

Trust him

The more a man feels the woman trusts him, the more he gets to trust her. Woman, you hold the secret to trust, he also has fears. Just like you are taking a risk in engaging him, he is taking a risk in pursuing you.

Give him the best hugs

Tight and intimate hugs plant the right

ideas in a man. He begins to want the woman more, to wonder what treasures lie ahead as he gets closer to her heart.

Be there for him

When he sees he can depend on you it stops being about a race to your heart but a connection with your heart. He melts for you even more when he feels that you care.

Work with his pace

Some men are slow at committing, others fast. Show him that you understand his pace.

Single him out

Cut off his competition for him, men may not express it but they get insecure when they are trying so hard to get to a lady but she doesn't look like she is paying attention.

Tease him

Arouse his curiosity.



HOW TO PICK RIGHT SUMMER SCENT

It is important to fight the unpleasant odour due to heat, but it is imperative that you choose the right fragrance suiting your skin and personality. Don't forget to sample the fragrance outside the store, unaffected by the effect of the store and the air conditioning inside, say experts.

Meera Gandhi, founder of fragrance Giving, and Ritika Jatin Ahuja, Chief Operating Officer at Big Boy Toyz, have listed a few tips:

- Lot of us overlook the percentage of pure perfume that is included in the concoction. As the summer months are upon us, it is important to choose a scent that has a higher concentration of pure perfume in order to ensure the scent can brave the heat and humidity as well as prove to be long lasting and effective.
- If you prefer lighter tones, you can pick up a flowery scent. You can also pick from the numerous oceanic and mint or 'citrusy' scents. It is perfect for a refreshing and uplifting feel and also helps you pull through humid conditions. If you prefer a darker tone with more earthy notes, you can opt for woody bases like sandalwood.
- When choosing a fragrance it is important to sample it outside the store, unaffected by the effect of the store and the air conditioning inside. Walk outside the store, finish some chores and sample it again to be sure of the actual scent.
- It is important to check the contents of the perfume, to make sure that the juices and essences are stabilised and not harmful to the skin. The summer heat makes us more susceptible to rashes and other unpleasant conditions due to our increased sensitivity during the time.
- Make sure you have compared and sampled different kinds of fragrances and perfumes in order to choose the best one for you. A perfume is an investment that lasts a long time, so make sure you will enjoy smelling like the one you chose all summer long. *Source: IANS*

FOOD CORNER

CHICKEN WITH SWEET POTATOES AND CAULIFLOWER

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup nonfat plain yogurt
- 1 teaspoon Madras-style curry powder
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, (about 1 1/2 pounds), trimmed
- 1 sweet potato, (about 1 pound), peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 3 cups cauliflower florets, (1 small head) or broccoli florets, 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, Freshly ground pepper, to taste, 1/4 cup chopped unsalted dry-roasted peanuts, or cashews, 1/4 cup loosely packed cilantro leaves

Method

- Combine yogurt, curry powder,

coriander, ginger, garlic, 1/2 teaspoon salt and cayenne in a shallow glass dish; mix to blend. Reserve 1/4 cup of this mixture; cover and refrigerate. Add chicken to the remaining yogurt mixture and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours or overnight.

- Preheat oven to 230°C. Lightly coat a large rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.
- Remove the chicken from the marinade and place on the prepared baking sheet. Toss sweet potato with the reserved yogurt mixture in a medium bowl and place on the baking sheet.
- Toss cauliflower with oil in a medium bowl and add to the baking sheet. Season vegetables with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper. Roast chicken and vegetables, uncovered, for



- 15 minutes.
- Carefully turn the chicken over and stir the vegetables. Roast until the vegetables are tender and chicken is
- cooked through, 10 to 15 minutes more. Arrange chicken and vegetables on a platter or individual plates and garnish with peanuts (or cashews) and cilantro.

POPULAR VITAMIN, MINERAL PILLS PROVIDE NO HEALTH BENEFIT

The most commonly consumed vitamin and mineral supplements provide no consistent health benefit or harm, a study has found.

Researchers from the St Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto in Canada conducted a systematic review of existing data and single randomised control trials published in English from January 2012 to October 2017.

They found that multivitamins, vitamin D, calcium and vitamin C - the most common supplements - showed no advantage or added risk in the prevention of cardiovascular disease, heart attack, stroke or premature death.

Generally, vitamin and mineral supplements are taken to add to nutrients that are found in food.

"We were surprised to find so few positive effects of the most common supplements that people consume," said David Jenkins, lead author of the study published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

"Our review found that if you want to use multivitamins, vitamin D, calcium or vitamin C, it does no harm - but there is no apparent advantage either," said Jenkins.

The study found folic acid alone and B-vitamins with folic acid may reduce cardiovascular disease and stroke. Meanwhile, niacin and antioxidants showed a very small effect that might signify an increased risk of death from any cause.



"These findings suggest that people should be conscious of the supplements they're taking and ensure they're applicable to the specific vitamin or mineral deficiencies they have been advised of by their healthcare provider," Jenkins said.

His team reviewed supplement data that included vitamins A, B1, B2, B3, B6, B9 (folic acid), C, D and E; beta-carotene; calcium; iron; zinc; magnesium; and selenium.

The term 'multivitamin' in this review was used to describe

supplements that include most vitamins and minerals, rather than a select few.

"In the absence of significant positive data - apart from folic acid's potential reduction in the risk of stroke and heart disease - it's most beneficial to rely on a healthy diet to get your fill of vitamins and minerals," Jenkins said.

"So far, no research on supplements has shown us anything better than healthy servings of less processed plant foods including vegetables, fruits and nuts," he said. *Source: PTI*



NEW BLOOD TEST TO DETECT LIVER DAMAGE IN MINUTES

Scientists have developed a quick and robust blood test that can detect liver damage before the symptoms appear.

The test developed by researchers from the University College London in the UK could address a huge need for early detection of liver disease.

It distinguishes between samples taken from healthy individuals and those with varying degrees of liver damage, researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Advanced Materials, describes the new method of detecting liver fibrosis, the first stage of liver scarring that leads to fatal liver disease if left unchecked, from a blood sample in 30-45 minutes.

"We hope that our new test could be used on a routine basis in GP surgeries and hospital clinics to screen people who face an elevated risk of liver disease, but don't yet show signs of liver damage to identify those with serious fibrosis, so that they can access treatment before it's too late," said William Rosenberg, a professor at UCL.

"This may open the door to a cost-effective regular screening programme thanks to its simplicity, low cost and robustness," he said.

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts in the US designed a sensor that uses large molecules called polymers, coated with fluorescent dyes that bind to blood proteins based on their chemical properties.

The fluorescent dyes change in brightness and colour, yielding a different pattern of fluorescence depending on the protein composition of the blood sample.

The team at UCL tested the sensor by comparing results from small blood samples (equivalent to finger-prick checks) from 65 people, in three balanced groups of healthy patients and those with early-stage and late-stage fibrosis.

They found that the sensor could identify different patterns of protein levels in the blood serum of people in the three groups. "By comparing the different samples, the sensor array identified a 'fingerprint' of liver damage," said William Peveler, who completed the research at UCL. *Source: PTI*

Faulty gene can accelerate heart failure due to drinking

Scientists have identified a gene mutation that can interact with alcohol to accelerate heart failure in some patients.

The researchers from Imperial College London, Royal Brompton Hospital, and MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences in the UK investigated faulty versions of a gene called titin which are carried by one in 100 people or 600,000 people in the UK.

Titin is crucial for maintaining the elasticity of the heart muscle, and faulty versions are linked to a type of heart failure called dilated cardiomyopathy.

The study, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, showed that the faulty gene may interact with alcohol to accelerate heart failure in some patients with the gene, even if they only drink moderate amounts of alcohol.

The team analysed 141 patients with a type of heart failure called alcoholic cardiomyopathy (ACM). This condition is triggered by drinking more than 70 units a week (roughly seven bottles of wine) for five years or more.

In severe cases the condition can be



fatal, or leave patients requiring a heart transplant.

The team found that the faulty titin gene may also play a role in the condition. In the study 13.5 per cent of patients were found to carry the mutation - much higher than the proportion of people who carry them in the general population.

The results suggest this condition is

not simply the result of alcohol poisoning, but arises from a genetic predisposition - and that other family members may be at risk too, said James Ware, from Imperial.

In a second part of the study, researchers investigated whether alcohol may play a role in another type of heart failure called dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). *Source: PTI*

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Life-like 3D mini brains for drug testing developed

Scientists have developed a life-like 3D mini-brain - containing all six major cell types found in normal organs including neurons and immune cells - that could help study diseases and tests new drugs.

In a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, researchers reported that their advanced 3D organoids promote the formation of a fully cell-based, natural and functional barrier - the blood brain barrier - that mimics normal human anatomy.

The blood brain barrier is a semipermeable membrane that separates the circulating blood from the brain, protecting it from foreign substances that could cause injury.

This development is important because the model can help to further understanding of disease mechanisms at the blood brain barrier, the passage of drugs through the barrier, and the effects of drugs once they cross the barrier.

"The shortage of effective therapies and low success rate of investigational drugs are due in part because we do not have a human-like tissue models for testing," said Anthony Atala, director of Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM) in the US.

"The development of tissue engineered 3D brain tissue equivalents such as these can help advance the science toward better treatments and improve patients' lives," said Atala. The development of the model opens the door to speedier drug discovery and screening, both for neurological conditions and for diseases like HIV where pathogens hide in the brain and avoid current treatments that cannot cross the blood brain barrier.

It may also allow for disease modeling of neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease so that researchers can better understand their pathways and progression. *Source: PTI*



WhatsApp to soon 'predict' which photos you will upload, share with friends

In a bid to make sharing images more efficient on WhatsApp, the micro-blogging platform is reportedly rolling out a 'Predicted Upload' feature for its users.

WhatsApp is now able to predict when a photograph is going to be sent in a chat. In fact, the purpose of this feature is to upload in advance a photo to the server, said the report. The messaging platform redirects users in the Edit Photo section, while it already sends in background the image to the server.

According to WABetaInfo, a fan site that tests new WhatsApp features early, the new feature was in the works for a very long time. Recently, WhatsApp allowed users to re-download deleted images.

"iOS users need to update WhatsApp version to the 2.18.61 iOS update, in order to benefit from all the advantages of the Predicted Upload feature," said WABetaInfo in a blog post on Wednesday.

"About Android, WhatsApp is slowly enabling the feature for a few users only since the 2.18.156 stable version and it will need a lot of time.. but the feature doesn't seem to work yet, although it is correctly enabled for some lucky users," the website added. *Source: IANS*

SUPER-ELASTIC ELECTRONIC FIBRE PAVES WAY FOR SMART CLOTHES

Scientists have developed tiny, super-elastic fibres that can incorporate electrodes, paving the way for smart clothing and artificial nerves for robots.

The fibres can detect even the slightest pressure and strain and can withstand deformation of close to 500 per cent before recovering their initial shape.

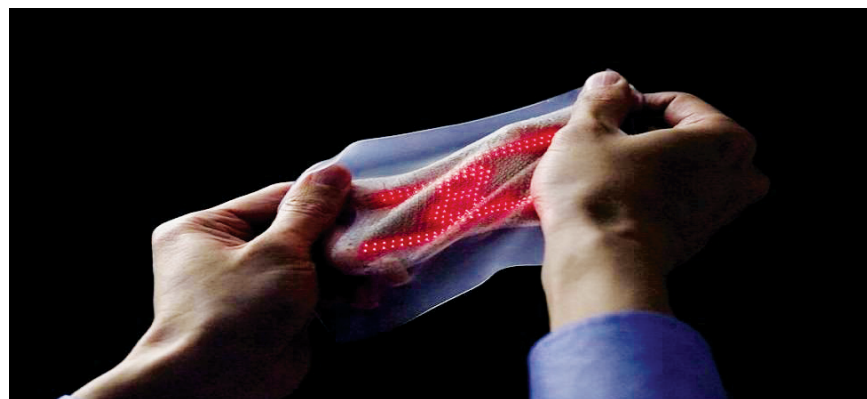
Scientists at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland came up with a fast and easy method for embedding different kinds of microstructures in super-elastic fibres.

For instance, by adding electrodes at strategic locations, they turned the fibres into ultra-sensitive sensors. The method can be used to produce hundreds of metres of fibre in a short amount of time.

To make their fibres, the scientists used a thermal drawing process, which is the standard process for optical-fibre manufacturing. They started by creating a macroscopic preform with the various fibre components arranged in a carefully designed 3D pattern.

They then heated the preform and stretched it out, like melted plastic, to make fibres of a few hundreds microns in diameter. While this process stretched out the pattern of components lengthwise, it also contracted it crosswise, meaning the components' relative positions stayed the same.

The end result was a set of fibres with an extremely complicated microarchitecture and advanced properties.



Until now, thermal drawing could be used to make only rigid fibres. However, researchers used it to make elastic fibres. With the help of a new criterion for selecting materials, they were able to identify some thermoplastic elastomers that have a high viscosity when heated.

After the fibres are drawn, they can be stretched and deformed but they always return to their original shape.

Rigid materials like nanocomposite polymers, metals and thermoplastics can be introduced into the fibres, as well as liquid metals that can be easily deformed.

"For instance, we can add three strings of electrodes at the top of the fibres and one at the bottom. Different electrodes will come into contact depending on how the pressure is applied to the fibres," said Fabien Sorin from EPFL.

This will cause the electrodes to transmit a signal, which can then be read to determine exactly what type of stress

the fibre is exposed to - such as compression or shear stress, for example," said Sorin.

Scientists integrated their fibres into robotic fingers as artificial nerves. Whenever the fingers touch something, electrodes in the fibres transmit information about the robot's tactile interaction with its environment.

The research team also tested adding their fibres to large-mesh clothing to detect compression and stretching.

"Our technology could be used to develop a touch keyboard that's integrated directly into clothing, for instance," said Sorin.

The researchers see many other potential applications. Especially since the thermal drawing process can be easily tweaked for large-scale production. This is a real plus for the manufacturing sector. The textile sector has already expressed interest in the new technology, and patents have been filed. *Source: PTI*

Apple to use OLED panels in iPhone 2019 models: Report

Apple Inc has decided to use OLED screens in all three new iPhone models planned for next year, according to South Korea's *Electronic Times* - a report that sent shares in Japan Display tumbling 10%.

Japan Display, one of the main suppliers of iPhone liquid crystal display (LCD) screens, has lagged its South Korean rivals in OLED production. By contrast, shares in LG Display Co Ltd surged.

Apple recently started planning new iPhone models and decided all three models would have organic light-emitting diode panels, the report said on Monday, citing multiple unnamed industry sources.

A representative at Apple's South Korea office was not available for comment. A Japan Display spokesman declined to comment.

The stock was down 10% at the end of Tuesday's morning session, giving it a market value of about 105 billion yen (\$965 million). At one stage it fell as much as 21%.

Cash-strapped Japan Display plans to start mass-producing OLED panels for smartphones only from 2019, and is looking for new investors who can finance investment to launch a production line.

"The Japanese government will continue to provide a lifeline to Japan Display, but the company has been just so slow in catching up with South Korean rivals in OLED," said Masayuki Otani, chief market analyst at Securities Japan.

It was formed in 2012 by combining the display businesses of



Hitachi Ltd, Toshiba Corp and Sony Corp in a deal brokered by the state-backed Innovation Network Corp of Japan (INCJ). Shares in LG Display gained 5%.

"If Apple uses OLED for all models for next year, that could raise hopes for LG Display to take a slice, as Apple may want to diversify its sources for OLED supply," said Lee Won-sik, an analyst at Shinyoung Securities in Seoul.

Source: Reuters

Moody's cuts India's growth forecast to 7.3% from 7.5%

NEW DELHI (TIP): Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday cut India's 2018 growth forecast to 7.3% from the previous estimate of 7.5%, saying the economy is in cyclical recovery but higher oil prices and tighter financial conditions will weigh on the pace of acceleration.

Moody's, however, maintained its 2019 growth forecast at 7.5%.

"The Indian economy is in cyclical recovery led by both investment and consumption. However, higher oil prices and tighter financial conditions will weigh on the pace of acceleration.

"We expect GDP growth of about 7.3% in 2018, down from our previous forecast of 7.5%. Our growth expectation for 2019 remains unchanged at 7.5 per cent," it said in an update of its 'Global Macro Outlook: 2018-19'.

Moody's said growth should benefit from acceleration in rural consumption, supported by higher minimum support prices and a normal monsoon.



"The private investment cycle will continue to make a gradual recovery, as twin balance-sheet issues — impaired assets at banks and corporates — slowly get addressed through deleveraging and the application of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code," it said.

Also, the ongoing transition to the new Goods and Service Tax regime could weigh on growth somewhat over the next

few quarters, which poses some downside risk to the forecast, it said. "However, we expect these issues to moderate over the course of the year." For the world economy, Moody's expected 2018 to be a year of robust global growth, similar to 2017. Moody's said downside risks to growth stem from emerging markets turmoil, oil price increases and trade disputes.

Source: PTI

ICICI ORDERS PROBE AGAINST ITS CEO CHANDA KOCHHAR

MUMBAI (TIP): The Board of India's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has ordered an independent probe into allegations of 'conflict of interest' and 'quid pro quo' in bank's MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar's dealing with certain borrowers.



There are allegations of involvement of Kochhar and her family members in a loan provided to Videocon group on a quid pro quo basis.

It was alleged that Videocon Group pumped money into NuPower Renewables, a firm owned by Deepak Kochhar, husband of Chanda Kochhar.

Last week, market regulator SEBI had served a notice on Kochhar on dealings of the bank with Videocon Group and Nupower.

The enquiry was ordered by the Board, at its meeting on Tuesday, on a complaint by an anonymous whistleblower against Kochhar, the bank said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday.

"...the enquiry to be headed by an independent and credible person (will) examine and enquire into an additional anonymous whistleblower complaint..." it said.

The enquiry, the bank said, will be conducted by an 'independent and credible' person.

Source: PTI

No takers for Air India on deadline day, govt's disinvestment plan challenged



NEW DELHI (TIP): The government's offer to sell stakes in Air India has failed to draw a single bid so far, underlining the challenge it faces in fixing the debt-laden state carrier, as well as meeting a broader target of stake sales in government-held firms.

The government said no bids were received for the distressed carrier, and it will decide on a further course of action.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government announced a plan in March to divest a 76% stake in Air India and offload about \$5.1 billion of its debt.

This month, it eased some terms and extended the period to make bids, but as the revised deadline loomed there were still no takers for the airline, which flies some lucrative routes but also has one of the industry's highest employees-per-aircraft ratios.

Civil aviation secretary, RN Choubey said on Wednesday that the government was unlikely to further extend the May 31 deadline, and that it expected bids to come in at the last minute. Selling the state carrier is key to Modi's plans to divest assets and help keep the fiscal deficit at 3.3% of GDP, a goal already under pressure from giveaways to farmers and other welfare benefits ahead of a national election in 2019.

If there are no bids for Air India, the government would need to step up elsewhere to meet its divestment target, said Renu Kohli, a Delhi-based independent economist.

"Relative to what we are seeing this year ... uncertainty in the financial markets, aggravated distress among banks and rising interest rates and oil prices, it does not seem like a very supportive time for people to come and buy such an asset," Kohli said, adding that Air India needed large investment.

The government may look to raise a record 1 trillion rupees (\$15 billion) from the sale of state assets in the current fiscal year that started on April 1, and Air India was expected to be a significant contributor.

While the government has not set any minimum price, the sale could fetch between Rs 80 billion and Rs 100 billion, (\$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion), banking sources have told Reuters.

Air India, known for its Maharaja mascot, has some of India's most lucrative international and domestic landing and parking slots that are key for airlines.

Source: Reuters

Goldman Sachs vice-president charged with insider trading in US

NEW YORK (TIP): United States federal prosecutors charged a vice-president at Goldman Sachs Group Inc on May 31 with making more than \$1,30,000 through illegal trades using inside information about companies advised by the investment bank.

Prosecutors said Woojae Jung, a 37-year old South Korean citizen, used confidential information about upcoming transactions he learned through his work for the bank, to trade in companies such as WR Grace & Co and Foresight Energy LP, according to a criminal complaint filed in Manhattan federal court.

Goldman Sachs could not immediately be reached for comment. A lawyer for Jung could not immediately be identified. Prosecutors said Jung engaged in those trades through a brokerage account in the name of a friend living in South Korea.

The insider trading continued until 2017, when the US Securities and Exchange Commission requested information from Goldman about which employees had access to confidential information about certain



transactions, they said.

Following that request, prosecutors said, someone called the brokerage firm whose account was used to make those illegal trades. Using the name of Jung's friend in Korea, the caller said that the account had been opened using stolen personal information, and he was concerned about the transactions in the account. Jung is charged with conspiracy and securities fraud. He also faces related civil charges from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC has accused Jung of making more than \$140,000 through insider trading in 12 companies.

Source: Reuters

Ramdev launches messaging app Kimbho that will rival WhatsApp

NEW DELHI (TIP): Yoga guru Ramdev on Wednesday launched a new messaging application called Kimbho under his flagship company Patanjali.

Patanjali's spokesperson SK Tijjarawala tweeted, "Now Bharat will speak. After launching sim cards, Baba Ramdev has launched a new messaging application called Kimbho. Now WhatsApp will be given a competition. Our o w n #SwadeshiMessagingplatform. Download it directly from Google Play Store." Kimbho application is touted to be a competitor of the messaging app WhatsApp.

Source: ANI

Reliance Industries to halt oil imports from Iran

NEW DELHI/LONDON (TIP): India's Reliance Industries Ltd, owner of the world's biggest refining complex, plans to halt oil imports from Iran, two sources familiar with the matter said, in a sign that new US sanctions are forcing buyers to shun oil purchases from Tehran.

Reliance's move, expected to take effect in October or November, came after US President Donald Trump abandoned a 2015 nuclear agreement this month and ordered the reimposition of US sanctions on Tehran.

Some sanctions take effect after a 90-day "wind-down" period ending on Aug. 6, and the rest, notably on the petroleum

sector, after a 180-day "wind-down period" ending on Nov. 4.

India has said it does not follow US sanctions but companies with links to the US financial system could be liable to penalties if they do not comply.

Reliance, an Indian conglomerate controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, has significant exposure to the financial system of the United States, where it operates some subsidiaries that are linked to its oil and telecom businesses among others.

Reliance, whose modern refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat can process about 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude, has told officials of the

National Iranian Oil Co (NIOC) that the firm would stop oil imports from Tehran in October or November, one of the sources said.

A second source said the company could halt imports from Iran earlier than that if European nations and Tehran failed to salvage the nuclear deal.

This source said that some insurance companies have asked Reliance to end exposure to Iran before November.

Global insurers have already warned about doing business with Iran while some shipping lines have said they would not take new bookings for Iran.

Source: Reuters

contd from Page 1

Trump imposes steel...

Stung by the U.S. action, the allies quickly hit back.

In announcing his country's response, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it was "inconceivable" that Canada "could be considered a national security threat to the United States," noting that U.S. fighter planes and tanks contain Canadian steel.

"These tariffs will harm industries and workers on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border and will disrupt supply chains that have made steel and aluminum from North America more competitive across the whole world," he said in a press conference in Ottawa.

Effective July 1, Canada will impose tariffs of 25 percent on shipments of U.S. steel and 10 percent on aluminum, as well as on other products, such as playing cards, inflatable boats and yogurt. Canada's finance ministry estimated the value of the U.S. goods subject to those tariffs at up to C\$16.6 billion (\$12.8 billion).

Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, said the European Union also will apply new tariffs on American goods, with the trading bloc signaling it would target products made in states represented by key Republican leaders. The EU has said it would respond with tariffs on \$3.3 billion in American imports as early as June 20.

"The U.S. now leaves us with no choice but to proceed with a [World Trade Organization] dispute settlement case and with the imposition of additional duties on a number of imports from the U.S. We will defend the Union's interests, in full compliance with international trade law," Juncker said in a statement.

E.U. said it would impose import taxes on politically sensitive items like bourbon from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's home state of Kentucky. Mexico said it would levy tariffs on American farm products, while Canada zeroed in on the same metals that Trump has targeted.

The Mexican government said it would levy import taxes on U.S. exports of pork bellies, apples, cranberries, grapes, certain cheeses and various types of steel.

Thursday's action was driven by the president's conviction that allies and adversaries routinely take advantage of the United States and that efforts to resolve trade disputes are doomed unless he wields a big tariff stick.

"The United States has been taken advantage of for many decades on trade," Trump said in a statement. "Those days are over. Earlier today, this message was conveyed to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada: The United State[s] will agree to a fair deal, or there will be no deal at all."

Officials from the three trading partners - among Washington's closest allies for decades - have dismissed the idea that their shipments to American customers endanger the United States - and some prominent Republicans attacked the tariffs as wrongheaded.

At home, some have expressed doubts about the position Trump has taken.

Sen. Ben Sasse was blunter in criticizing the tariffs.

"This is dumb. Europe, Canada and Mexico are not China, and you don't treat allies the same way you treat opponents," the Nebraska Republican said in a statement. "We've been down this road before -- blanket protectionism is a big part of why America had a Great Depression. 'Make America Great Again' shouldn't mean 'Make America 1929 Again.'"

BJP gets drubbing in...

Kairana parliamentary segment where Tabassum Hasan, the joint nominee of Rashtriya Lok Dal and Samajwadi Party - backed by Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress - defeated Mriganka Singh of the saffron fold by around 50,000 votes. BJP's loss in the communally sensitive Kairana stood out considering it had won the segment by over two lakh votes in the 2014 General Election when the Narendra Modi wave swept UP.

Of the four Lok Sabha seats where bypolls were held on May 28, the BJP managed to retain only Palghar in Maharashtra, where it defeated a Shiv Sena candidate. Kairana went to the kitty of a united Opposition; Congress' UPA partner NCP snatched Bhandara-Gondia in Maharashtra from the BJP and the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, a BJP ally in the North-East, bagged the Nagaland segment.

While the trend of BJP's losses in parliamentary byelections is not new (it has only won five of 27 Lok Sabha bypolls since its historic 2014 landslide), shockwaves for the saffron party came from states where regional satraps convincingly halted the BJP in nine of the 10 Assembly byelections.

The BJP managed to retain only Tharali in Uttarakhand. In UP, it lost the Noorpur seat to SP's Naim-ul-Hasan, who was propped up by the joint Opposition. Lalu Prasad's RJD claimed sweet revenge in Bihar by wresting the Jokihat seat from the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U), which deserted the Opposition ranks some time ago to go and settle with the BJP. Maheshtala in West Bengal went to the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC though the BJP was second, pushing the state's old players CPM and Congress far behind. In Kerala's Chengannur, the ruling CPM-led LDF won comprehensively while Silli and Gomia in Jharkhand went to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. In Punjab's Shahkot also, the Congress dealt a severe blow to BJP ally Akali Dal. An emboldened Opposition saw a clear message in BJP's multiple defeats. "Victory of a united Opposition," said Congress' Pramod Tewari. The results equally established the emergence of a new leader - RJD's Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar.

Though signaling a receding Modi wave, Home Minister Rajnath Singh put a spin on the saffron losses by saying, "You have to take two steps back for a big leap." Overall, it was a day of defense for the BJP, whose spokesman Sambit Patra came up with this reasoning: "We won 325 seats in UP and formed a government. How did we lose bypolls and win later... because bypoll is fought on local issues."

That said, ahead of the 2019 General Election, Thursday's most abiding message is that the time for bipolar politics may be over. A senior politician (name withheld) commented: "BJP ke acche din jaane wale hain". *(With inputs from Tribune, Delhi)*

Indian American Karthik..

been able to do it without her [his coach]".

Spelling Bee veteran, Nayasa Modi, 11, a seventh grader from Texas, finished second. She was stumped by the word "Bewusstseinslage," which she spelled "bewustsseinslage." Nemmani however, seemed to know the word, nodding along to every letter Modi spit, shaking his head once he knew she spelled it incorrectly.

Nemmani will walk away with a cash prize of \$40,000 and a trophy from SNSB, a \$2,500 cash prize and complete reference library from Merriam-Webster, a trip to New York City to appear on Live with Kelly and Ryan, a trip to Hollywood to appear on ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live! and a pizza party for his school sponsored by Pizza Hut and Book It!

Eleven-year-old Abhijay Kodali, the youngest speller of the evening, finished third. He was eliminated after misspelling "aalii."

The commencement of round 11 saw 7 spellers, all of whom were Indian American. 11 of the 16 finalists tonight were Indian American.

The 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee was held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland from May 29-31.

(Source: The American Bazar)

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott...

Houston that left 10 people dead. The Republican and staunch gun-rights supporter released a 43-page report following three days of mostly closed-door meetings last week organized with school district officials, shooting survivors and groups on both sides of the gun-control debate, among others.

The recommendations are voluntary, and some would require changes to state laws that would need approval from the Legislature, which doesn't come back into session until 2019. School districts wishing to make some of the changes could begin doing so, such as sending staff for free gun training this summer.

The lack of major gun control measures is not surprising in a state that embraces its gun-friendly reputation and has more than 1.2 million people licensed to carry handguns.

The only significant gun-related proposal was a possible "red flag" law, although Abbott gave it a tepid endorsement, asking leaders of the Legislature to "consider the merits." Eight states have red flag laws that allow family, law enforcement and others to file a petition to remove firearms from a potentially dangerous person. Florida, Vermont and Maryland passed such laws after the mass school shooting in Florida in February.

Abbott's report does not appear to depart much from the playbook of the powerful National Rifle Association following school shootings.

Alice Tripp, legislative director for the NRA-affiliated Texas State Rifle Association said Abbott's proposals wouldn't lead to weapons being seized without some protections for gun owners. "Gov. Abbott has pledged due process. He's a gun owner himself," Tripp said.

Abbott is proposing a change to the state law that says guns can't be accessible to children under 17, with exceptions such as hunting or parent supervision. He's encouraging the Legislature to consider making the law also apply to 17-year-olds. Authorities have charged a 17-year-old student, Dimitrios Pagourtzis, with capital murder in the May 18 attack at Santa Fe High School. Pagourtzis is accused of using a shotgun and .38 revolver that belonged to his father.

Abbott also wants a new law that would require gun owners to report a lost or stolen firearm within 10 days.

The report says the state will have access to nearly \$70 million through federal funding and state grants for the proposals. The state also expects to compete for an additional \$40 million from federal programs, and Abbott says he'll ask state lawmakers for a further \$30 million.

"We all share a common bond: And that is we want action to prevent another shooting like what happened at Santa Fe High School," Abbott, who is campaigning for re-election, said during a news conference at Dallas school district headquarters.

Abbott's Democratic opponent for governor, Lupe Valdez, said it's "astounding" how few of the proposals directly address gun violence.

So far, the governor has not been enthusiastic about calls for a special legislative session on gun laws - a sharp contrast to the response in Florida following the February high school shooting there that killed 17 people. Florida lawmakers, who were already in session, passed a gun-control package three weeks later, thanks in part to a lobbying campaign led by student survivors of the attack.

In Texas, any attempts to create a mechanism to seize weapons is likely to be met with skepticism in a Republican-controlled Legislature that has expanded the rights of gun owners in recent years and made it easier and cheaper to be licensed to carry a handgun.

Also, unlike the students in Florida, several students at Santa Fe High School have been vocal opponents of increased gun control, including some who were invited to meet with Abbott last week.

Kris Brown, the co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said: "The answer to preventing school shootings isn't some deep-seated secret. It's guns. It's the fact that it's frighteningly easy for dangerous people to get access to a gun, and this proposal does little to stop that."

Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria said he "strongly objects" to arming more teachers. "Teachers are trained to teach and to nurture, not double up as security guards," Candelaria said.

Abbott's recommendations include measures to "harden" campuses such as creating vestibules where doors must be remotely unlocked before visitors enter, installing metal detectors and having an alarm that would signal there's an active shooter.

Abbott is also recommending an expansion of a program that identifies students at risk of committing violence and provides help for them. He also wants to increase the number of people trained to identify signs of mental illness and increase awareness of a state system that allows people to report people who may be a threat and suspicious activity.

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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 JUNE 4 - JUNE 10, 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.

ICC World XI vs West Indies T20: Evin Lewis guides Windies to 72-run victory

LORD'S (TIP): Evin Lewis, Marlon Samuels, Denesh Ramdin and Andre Russell all made contributions as the West Indies comprehensively defeated a World XI by 72 runs in the Hurricane Relief T20 Challenge.

Around 15,000 turned up to Lord's for the match held to help raise funds for the cricket facilities devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean last year.

Those in attendance were treated to a masterclass from the West Indies, with Lewis' 58 setting the tone in their 199-4, while Samuels (43), Ramdin (44 not out) and Russell (21no) also starred.

Thisara Perera made 61 in reply for the World XI, but Kesrick Williams (3-42), Russell (2-25) and Samuel Badree (2-4) helped bowl them out for just 127.

Lewis' knock came off just 26 balls and included five sixes and as many fours, the opener putting on 75 for the first wicket with Chris Gayle (18), who was unusually outshone.

Samuels was also in the mood to swing, nailing four sixes and a couple of fours off 22 balls, before Ramdin and Russell boosted the tally at the end of the innings.

The World XI toiled in reply and were 8-4 after just 3.3 overs, Lewis taking a great catch at cover to send Tamim Iqbal back off



Evin Lewis was the top scorer for West Indies during their T20 encounter against ICC World XI at Lord's.

Russell's bowling, before Badree accounted for Luke Ronchi and Dinesh Karthik – the leg-spinner's double-wicket maiden the centrepiece of an implausibly miserly spell.

Russell had a second with the wicket of Sam Billings, before Perera delighted the

crowds with seven fours and three sixes in his 37-ball stay. But the flow of wickets never truly stemmed, Williams ending Perera's knock before sweeping through the tail, as the West Indies celebrated the win.

Source: Omnisport

ZINEDINE ZIDANE STEPS DOWN AS REAL MADRID COACH



MADRID (TIP): Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is leaving the European champions after two years in charge, he told a news conference on May 31.

Zidane claimed an unprecedented third consecutive Champions League title when Real beat Liverpool 3-1 on Saturday, capping a remarkable period in his first job in senior club management.

The Frenchman took over a divided dressing room after the sacking of Rafael Benitez in January, 2016 and immediately set about uniting the squad.

He claimed the first of his hat-trick of European triumphs two years ago when Real defeated local rivals Atletico Madrid on penalties in the final. A year later he led Real to their first European Cup and La Liga double in 59 years.

Real finished three points ahead of Barcelona as they won their first league title since 2012 before crushing Juventus 4-1 in the Champions League final to become the first side to win the competition in its current format in back-to-back seasons.

Source: Reuters

FRENCH OPEN

Maria vs Serena in offing, Rafa wins



PARIS (TIP): Maria Sharapova edged closer to a possible French Open Last-16 duel with old rival Serena Williams as top seed Simona Halep and Garbine Muguruza breezed into the third round.

Sharapova needed five match points to see off Croatia's Donna Vekic 7-5 6-4 in a tie which featured 10 breaks of serve. Sharapova will face Czech sixth seed Karolina Pliskova for a place in the fourth round.

Serena beat Australia's Ashleigh Barty 3-6 6-3 6-4 to enter the third round.

Williams, 36, defeated Barty in their only previous meeting, needing less than an hour to secure a straight sets win at the 2014 Australian Open.

Halep reached the third round with a comfortable 6-3 6-1 win over Taylor Townsend of the United States. Garbine Muguruza was too strong for France's Fiona Ferro 6-4 6-3.

Rafael Nadal beat Guido Pella of Argentina 6-2 6-1 6-1. Marin Cilic and Dominic Thiem struggled into the Last-32. Cilic reached the third round for the eighth time with a 6-2 6-2 6-7 3/7 7-5 win over Polish qualifier Hubert Hurkacz.

Source: AFP

Super Serena and her superhero catsuit

PARIS (TIP): A marvel on the tennis court, new mum Serena Williams is now sporting her own superhero outfit as she makes her return to Grand Slam tennis. "I call it like my Wakanda-inspired catsuit. It's really fun," the American laughed, referencing the fictional Sub-Saharan African nation which is home to superhero Black Panther in Marvel Comics.

"I feel like a warrior in it, like a warrior princess kind of, queen from Wakanda maybe," she said smiling, following her opening round victory over Kristyna Pliskova at the French Open on Tuesday. "I'm always living in a fantasy world. I always wanted to be a superhero, and it's kind of my way of being a superhero. I feel like a superhero when I wear it." Behind the jokes, there is also a more serious reason for the choice of skin-tight bodysuit outfit for the American who only had her daughter last September.

Serena has spoken about health concerns over blood clots in the days after giving birth, and on Tuesday said: "Yeah, the catsuit, I had a lot of problems with my blood clots, and, God, I don't know how many I have had in the past 12 months.

"So it is definitely a little functionality to it. I have been wearing pants in general a lot when I play so I can keep, you know, the blood circulation going. It's a fun suit, but it's also functional so I can be able to play without any problems."

Source: Reuters



CWG gold lifter Sanjita Chanu fails dope test



NEW DELHI (TIP): Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu, who won gold in the women's 53kg weightlifting event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, has failed a dope test for anabolic steroid, testosterone. According to the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), the Indian lifter has been provisionally suspended, and, if proved guilty, will be slapped with a four-year ban.

"IWF reports that the sample of Ms. Sanjita Chanu Khumukcham (IND) has returned an Adverse Analytical Finding for Testosterone (S1.1 Anabolic Agents). As a consequence, the Athlete is provisionally suspended in view of a potential anti-doping rule violation," the IWF stated in its website.

However, there is no clarity as to whether she tested positive for the banned drug in Gold Coast or some other international competition.

Chief national coach Vijay Sharma didn't respond to calls from HT, but Sahdev Yadav, general secretary of the Indian weightlifting Federation, confirmed the development, saying one of the top lifters had failed dope test, but said it was during the 2017 World Championships in USA.

Source: HT

OFFBEAT HIMALAYAN TREKS FOR ADVENTURE LOVERS

The Himalayas in India spread across 2,400 km is one of the most revered natural attractions, which is segregated into lesser, middle and greater Himalayas. There are numerous trekking opportunities across the length of this magnificent mountain range, and those who like adventure tourism can opt for such perfect trekking experience. Moreover, a trekking experience is an everlasting one, because as you go on in life, you take bits of that experience along with you.

Dayara Bugyal, Uttarakhand

One of most exciting treks in Uttarakhand is the Dayara Bugyal trek. Located at a height of 10,000 to 12,500 ft., Dayara Bugyal gives you highland meadow and more. It is lush green and beautiful to say the least, and in winter months it transforms into a skiing destination. Here you will find Barnala Tal, a mesmerising lake that sits against the backdrop of stunning Himalayan peaks. You would have to start the trek from Barsu located on Haridwar-Gangotri road, and be on your way to the location. You will be greeted by out-of-the-world natural vistas, with trek routes going through dense Oak forests.

Nag Tibba, Uttarakhand

The trek that takes you to Serpent's Park, Nag Tibba trek is a delight that takes adventurers on a path of beauty and serenity. The trekking route involves thick jungles and lovely meadows, and is not too well-known, which obviously means lesser crowd. A great way to get away from your daily routine and simply unwind amidst the Himalayas, Nag Tibba trek presents to you spectacular flora and fauna, and begs you to take note of the spectacular vistas. In fact Nag Tibba provides you with an opportunity to view Bandarpooch Peak, the Gangotri Peaks, Kedarnath Peak, Changabang Peaks and the Doon Valley.

Goecha La trek, Sikkim

This trek sees you travel from Tuksom to Dzongri and onward to the final location, Goecha La. Goecha La is a mountain pass and is not much explored. This trek will allow you to get a glimpse of the majestic Mount Kanchenjunga, along with Mount Kabru and Kabru Dome. The views alone are reason enough for you to take on this trek. The trek will also take you to the beautiful Samiti Lake. Your starting point of this trek is Yuksom, and it was the erstwhile capital of Sikkim. There are numerous trees and plants all over this place; here you can find magnolia, rhododendron, maple, oak and chestnuts. Truly a nature lover's paradise, this trek can open your eyes to the wonders of Sikkim. The trek should take around 11 days to cover.

Pin Bhaba, Himachal Pradesh

A glorious trek, Pin Bhaba is an obscure one, but it could be a top-notch experience for those who like to trek, but remember that this is a difficult one. The trek takes you to a height of 16000 ft, but you can be assured of spectacular views. Much like the other Himalayan treks, the Pin Bhaba trek takes you through the grasslands, and thick forests with enchanting flora. The Pin Bhaba gives you a wonderful view when you reach its highest point, and is therefore rewarding after the tiring trek. Your trek would start at Kafnu,



where you will be driven.

Tarsar Marsar, Kashmir

Yet another Kashmiri trek in the list, this

one is a special trek that is not too crowded most times. Perhaps, the highlight of this trek is the two alpine lakes, namely, Tarsar and Sundarsar. The beautiful trek allows you to

pitch your tent on open grassy fields, with spectacular high mountains all around you. A surreal environment ensues, as the sky plays and gets cloudy and dramatic. You will come across meadows, forests and lakes in this trek as you climb higher to Tarsar. You can head toward Marsar to see out-of-the-world Marsar Lake. Your base camp would ideally be Aru, which is around 12 km away from Pahalgam.

Buran Ghati Trek, Himachal

Often touted as one of the best hidden treks, Buran Ghati is a thrilling, adventurous and exciting trek like none other. At one point you would be required to abseil down a snowy wall, so what could be better than that! This is again followed by six snow slides that are just right to get your spirits high. Forests, grasslands, villages and more, await you on your trek to Burn Ghati, as you are in for one of the best treks of your life. The most striking thing about the trek is that it is a very scenic trek. At the very start, you get to trek to Dayara from Janglik. The wooden houses in the midst of tall pine trees can definitely evoke the artist in you. *Source: HappyTrips*



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