

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 32*

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. *contd on Page 32*



"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

Mangano Corruption Case- U.S. District Judge Joan M. Azrack declares a mistrial **Page 03**

Yoga for Harmony & Peace
Get the Most out of Yoga **Page 20**

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" *contd on Page 32*

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

Indian American Film Makers' Movies to Watch

Jyoti Singh's 'Yadvi: The Dignified Princess'; Tirlok Malik's 'On Golden Years' premiere on June 1

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Two movies by Indian American film makers are being premiered in the coming days.

Jyoti Singh's Yadvi: The Dignified Princess will run from June 1 to 7 at New York City's Cinema Village at 22 East 12th Street.

For more information, visit <https://www.cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/yadvi-the-dignified-princess.html>

Emmy Award nominee Tirlok Malik's 'On Golden Years' will have television premiere on TV Asia. The movie will be shown on Friday, June 1 at 8 PM and, again, at 9.30 PM.

It will be shown again on Sunday, June 3 at 1 PM and at 2.30 PM. Incidentally, Jyoti Singh stars in both the movies.

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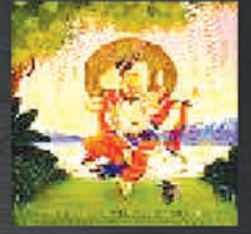
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Member of India's Parliament Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra Meets with SAD leaders

Assures the Sikh community of solving passport and visa related issues



Sardar Ajit Singh Subhanpur honoring Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra



Prof. Chandumajra with Subhanpur family

NEW YORK (TIP): Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Shiromani Akali Dal leader and Parliament Member from the historic Anandpur Sahib Parliamentary constituency visited New York recently and held a meeting

with the local Shiromani Akali Dal leaders at the residence of SAD leader Raghbir Singh Subhanpur. A large number of party members attended the lunch meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof.

Chandumajra said that he was aware of the problems the Punjabis, particularly, the Sikhs were having in respect of passport and visa and would take up the issue with the Consul General in New York. He said he had, on his visit to California, where he had gone to attend a wedding, taken up the matter with the Consul General in San Francisco, too. He blamed the government of India for not being sensitive to the difficulties the Sikhs faced for being denied the passport and visa.

Speaking about the situation in Punjab under the Congress government of Captain Amarinder Singh, he said people were already fed up with the Congress government working. He accused the Punjab government of total inaction and said the State was being pushed in to deeper economic and social morass.

Earlier, welcoming the visiting leader, SAD President Raghbir Singh Subhanpur said that the SAD leaders and workers in the US were always ready to support the party in Punjab. He spoke of the need to getting back in to the driver's seat in Punjab in order to protect the interests of the Sikhs and the Sikh religion, which he said, was under threat from the present Congress government. He also spoke of the problems in getting passport and visa and requested the visiting leader to take up the issue with appropriate authorities here and in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Master Mohinder Singh, one of the patrons of the SAD in USA had a long list of the infirmities of various systems in the State of Punjab. He bemoaned lack of basic infrastructure in schools and in hospitals. He spoke of the enormous inconveniences faced by NRI's in courts in India, where cases were kept pending for long.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Mohan Singh Khatra, President of New York unit of SAD, Himat Singh Sarpanch, one of the senior leaders of the party, and Kashmir Singh Pehowa, a general secretary of New York SAD.

Sardar Ajit Singh Subhanpur, father of Raghbir Singh Subhanpur, honored the visiting leader with a siropao.



Mangano Corruption Case- U.S. District Judge Joan M. Azrack declares a mistrial

Jurors fail to reach a consensus on the charges against Edward and Linda Mangano. The judge set a June 28 status conference to schedule a new trial

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY (TIP): The federal corruption trial of former Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and his wife, Linda, ended Thursday, May 31, in mistrial.

The jury of seven women and five men failed to come to a consensus on the charges that Edward Mangano faced, including federal program bribery, honest-services wire fraud and extortion, after nine days of deliberations.

U.S. District Judge Joan M. Azrack set a June 28 status conference to set a new trial.

(Source: Newsday)

2018 GLOBAL PUNJABI Awards Presented

HS Panaser from the US and Lord Swaraj Paul from UK honored

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY (TIP): 2018 GLOBAL PUNJABI DIVAS was held on 11th April 2018 at Hotel Leela Palace, New Delhi. The GPS ACHIEVERS AWARDS for the year 2017 were presented on the occasion as an ode to all those Punjabis who have loved and made India Proud even while staying beyond the boundaries of the Nation. The occasion was a Charity Dinner and an Award Ceremony. After the death of S. Jagmohan Singh, the founder of GPS his son Mr. Manu Jagmohan Singh has now taken the reigns as the Secretary General at Global Punjabi Society

The Global Punjabi Society is a forum to celebrate the achievements of Indians in general and Punjabis in particular living in India and Abroad and honor them for the pride they have brought to their Motherland.

The GLOBAL PUNJABI SOCIETY was launched in January 2010 by the Union



Minister of State for External Affairs, Preeti Kaur at a Gala Function in New Delhi. The SOCIETY's aim is to celebrate the very spirit of Punjab, Punjabi and Punjabi and achievements of Punjabis in particular. The Punjabis' symbolize the freedom of spirit and daredevilry. They are the perfect reflection of attitude filled with supreme confidence and conviviality. They are capable of strenuous work, yet nothing seems to sap them of their infectious zest for life.

Global Punjabi Society has chapters in Doha, Kuwait and Thailand. Last year GPS launched UK Chapter at House of Lords. We are shortly going to launch the USA Chapter.

contd on Page 7

Lord Swaraj Paul presenting the 2018 award to H S Panaser. Seen, from L to R: HS Panaser, Lord Swaraj Paul, Manu Jagmohan Singh

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.

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)*



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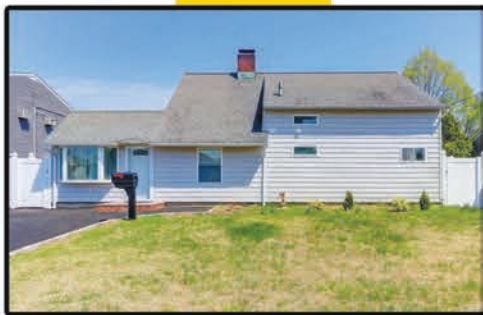
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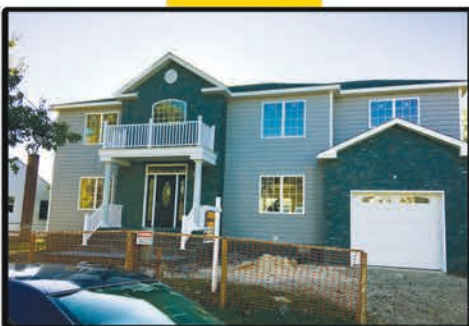
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Van Drew, Gopal, O'Scanlon Bill to Include 'Move Over' Law & Police Stop Protocol in Driver's Ed Advances

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Legislation sponsored by Senator Jeff Van Drew and Senator Vin Gopal that would expand driver education and testing to include the driver's and law enforcement officer's responsibilities during a police stop and the driver's responsibilities under the "move over" law was passed by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee today. "With deadly encounters between law enforcement and motorists around the country on the rise, educating new drivers on what to expect when stopped by a police officer will help reduce the likelihood of such incidences," said Senator Van Drew (D-Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland). "Increasing awareness of the "Move Over" law is imperative to protecting our police officers, first responders and others."

"Several states around the country are starting to require that students in driver's education be taught appropriate interactions with law enforcement officers," said Senator Gopal (D-Monmouth). "However, some of these states found problems after bills were implemented. New Jersey is in the position to benefit from these glitches. We can see what has worked and what hasn't in order to create the best possible outcome."

The bill, S-1688, would require the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to revise the driver's manual to include information on the responsibilities of the driver and the law enforcement officer during a police stop. It would also require the manual to include information on driver responsibilities under

the "Move Over" law.

The driver's manual would instruct drivers to pull to the far-right side of the road, turn off their car and radio, avoid sudden movements, and keep their hands in plain view when stopped by law enforcement. It would also explain the officer's responsibility to ask for identification documents regarding the driver and the car, and to inform the driver of the reason for the vehicle stop. Further, the manual would advise drivers that law enforcement must conduct the stop in line with the driver's rights as outlined by the New Jersey Law Enforcement Handbook and the Attorney General's Safe Stop Initiative.

The revised driver's manual would also include that drivers are required to change lanes or reduce speed when approaching cars with flashing, blinking, or alternating lights pulled over on the side of the road, as outlined by the "Move Over" law.

The bill would call for the driver's license exam to be expanded to include a question regarding responsibilities during a police stop. Questions about the "Move Over" law could be included as part of 20 question that may be added to the exam on subjects of particular relevance to young drivers.

The bill would take affect the first day of the seventh month after enactment. The Motor Vehicle Commission would be permitted to distribute any remaining copies of the current driver's manual before printing the revised manual. The bill was approved 5-0 and next heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

BAPS Charities Hosts Walk Green 2018: Annual Walkathon

What: BAPS Charities' Annual Walkathon

Who: BAPS Charities, Melville, Long Island, NY

When: June 3rd, 2018, Sunday, Start time 11 AM

Where: 2, Deshon Dr. Melville, NY 11747

Details:

On June 3rd, 2018, BAPS Charities, BAPS Long Island NY, will host its annual walkathon in support of NewsDay Charities and The Nature Conservancy.

Strengthening its commitment to protect the environment, BAPS Charities will contribute \$165,000, an equivalent of planting 130,000 trees, to The Nature Conservancy to support their initiative to plant a billion trees globally by 2025. The Nature Conservancy believes in active conservation of the lands and waters on earth to sustain life for upcoming generations.

Nearly 800 participants are expected to join in this act of community service. This event will help instill consciousness in community members surrounding their actions, in turn, inspiring global harmony with nature. All members of the community are invited to participate and may register as a walker at <https://Goo.gl/PpEvSv>. There is no registration fee. Parking available on site and lunch will be served. Registration starts at 9 AM and walk would start at 11 AM.

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GET READY FOR 100% LIFE

NEW YORK (TIP): A new book is here to rock the literary world. 100% Life by Rajan Thapaliya is a book unlike any other. Its ability to inspire and heal will change your life. If you want to heal and achieve a better state of existence, then this book is a must-read. If you don't want to change your life, then put this book down and walk away.

100% Percent Life was published by Lulu Press in Raleigh, North Carolina. Written by Rajan Thapaliya, this book is meant to inspire and encourage people on their path through life. Each chapter is a story of redemption, survival, and gratitude that will melt your heart.

Far beyond the average self-help book, 100% Life is real and raw. It offers frank and candid advice about discovering your purpose in life, becoming happy, and finding love both within and without. It will show you how to cleanse your body and soul for your maximum health, and how to attract the opposite sex. There is even advice about how to deal with life's ickier parts, such as cheating partners or lack of motivation.

Written in a simple, concise style, you will fly through this book. You won't want to set it down. When you finally do set down this book after the last page, you will possess all of the tools that you need to make your life amazing. Nothing can stop you now. You will take over your own life and use your own power to excel at life. 100% Life is now available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Ebay.com.

Rajan Thapaliya is a motivational, inspirational, and self-help author. He is the author of several books about love, life, and success. He now studies medicine in New York City. Many of his stories and articles deal with life or adjusting as an American immigrant.

Link:

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TRIBUTE

Prof. I.S. Saluja

Sant Baba Prem Singh - A Social Reformer who changed the course of history

Rarely has a social reformer in Punjab in recent history been as revered as Sant Baba Prem Singh. He singlehandedly changed the course of history of the Lobana community in Punjab. His stellar contribution brought him recognition as the mentor of a proud community which today has presence and voice among the Sikhs all over the world.

His death anniversary is enthusiastically observed all over the world by the Lobana community, in particular. In New York, his followers organize the event in a number of Gurdwaras, the main being the Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Gurdwara in Richmond Hill, a neighborhood of Punjabis.

Sant Baba Prem Singh (1882 - 1950) was an important social, political and religious leader who was also a visionary and a social reformer. Sant Prem Singh proudly preached Sikhism and promoted Amrit Sanchar. He also played an important role in revitalizing the Lobana community. He always stressed the importance of education and opened many educational institutes for this purpose. He was greatly respected in the Sikh community.

Born in 1882 at Khori Dunna Singh, a village in Gujrat district, of Punjab in house of Sardar Vasva Singh and Mata Nihal Kaur, a very devout Sikh Couple of Lobana tribe. His mother died when he was very young.

It was at Dera Murala Sahib that he began his spiritual path where he had learned Panjabi and Kirtan and came to admire the Spiritual Personality of Baba Bishen Singh. Sant Prem Singh had faith in nishkam seva (selfless service), nitnemi jeewan (regulated life), and leen in gurushabad (absorbed in guru's words).

In 1908 he was nominated as the new Sant of the Dera by Baba Bishan Singh Muralawale, but others remember the date as 1905, saying it was two years later; in 1907, that Baba Bishen Singh left for his heavenly abode. Whichever



date is correct, Sant Baba Prem Singh ji increased his already keen interest in the community, as he worked for the dera and even aided in the construction of a new building and langar hall.

Sant Baba Prem Singh's main motive was to do amrit sanchar. In 1911 - 1912 he started this great work from his village Khori Duna Singh and other villages in district Gujrat (now in Pakistan). In 1921, he constructed a Sikhi Bunga in Nankana Sahib. In 1945 he became an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and went to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Hazur Sahib and did amrit sanchar.

Sant Prem Singh preached Sikhism enthusiastically and remained a member of the

Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee from 1926 to 1950. He also became a member of its executive committee in 1948.

In 1926, he became a member of SGPC and in 1937 he became a member of Executive Committee of SGPC. While involved with the construction of Takhat Patna Sahib Baba ji was also a member of 5 Member Committee. At Harmandir Sahib Baba ji did seva for har ki pauri.

In 1937, he was elected MLA of Gujrat district, then of Sargodha district. Sant Prem Singh was an active Lobana participant in the Akali Movement. He sent a Jatha of 25 Sikhs for the Morcha under Giani Chet Singh. He campaigned for the membership of Legislative Assembly and was elected twice, in 1937 and then in 1946. He remained its member till his death in 1950. The important religious issues like theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib from village Agroa, Tehsil Phalia, district Gujrat and setting fire to the Gurudwara at village Dhok Nawan Loks, district Gujrat were raised by him in the Punjab Legislative Assembly in 1937.

He got a number of gurdwaras constructed in villages inhabited by the Sikh Lubanas. He also got constructed two bungas at Nankana Sahib and Baba Bakala.

He was a prominent leader of Vihar Sudhar Movement. Baba Ji organized various conferences for social reform.

He raised his determined voice against many malpractices and customs which impacted the life and future of men, women and children.

He advocated vociferously for abstaining from consumption of drugs, alcohol and intoxicants. He spoke against various rituals performed during marriages and called upon his followers to shun dowry. Casteism was

another practice which he condemned and reminded the Sikhs time and again how Sikh Gurus had raised their voice against Hindu caste system and had preached oneness of humanity and equality of all human beings.

Baba Ji is remembered as one of the greatest champions of education. He regarded education not only as the best means of upward social mobility but also as a means to gaining information and knowledge

Therefore, he called upon his followers to open schools and educate their children. In 1921 he opened first Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa Lobana High school in Tanda village of district Gujrat (now in Pakistan). Incidentally, my late father Sardar Tarlok Singh was Babaji's student at Tanda school.

In 1944, he opened Sant Prem Singh Khalsa High school at Babakwal in district Sheikhpura (now in Pakistan).

In 1945, Sant Prem Singh Khalsa High school, at Khori Dunna in district Gujrat (now in Pakistan) was opened.

In 1946, Sant Prem Singh Khalsa High school in Bhatnura Lobana Jalandhar was started.

Later, a number of schools were started in Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur districts of Punjab.

Today, the Lobana community which before Sant Baba Prem Singh uplifted, was known as a backward and impoverished community, can legitimately boast of a high percentage of educated men and women, and with a level of prosperity which could easily be the envy of other communities.

Sant Baba Prem Singh died in 1950, leaving behind him a rich legacy which is cherished by his followers the world over.

(With inputs from SikhiWiki)

contd from page 3

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**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)

THE INDIAN PANORAMA

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www.theindianpanorama.news
Published by Prof. Indrajit Saluja

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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

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 (ret'd) 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)

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)

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)

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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*

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ET Poster



Elliott encounters E.T. Photos / Courtesy NJSO

Relive the magic of *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial* on the big screen accompanied by a magnificent, live performance of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank on June 1, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark on June 2 and State Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey on June 3.

Director Steven Spielberg's heartwarming masterpiece is one of the brightest stars in motion picture history. Filled with unparalleled magic and imagination, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*

follows the moving story of a lost little alien who befriends a 10-year-old boy named Elliott. Troubled Elliott summons the courage to help friendly E.T. escape Earth and return to his home world.

Experience all the mystery and fun of their unforgettable adventure in the beloved movie that captivated audiences around the world, complete with John Williams' Academy Award®-winning score performed live by a full symphony orchestra in sync to the film projected on a huge HD screen.

FROM THE COMPOSER: Composer John Williams writes: "Steven Spielberg's film *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* has always held a special place in my heart, and I personally think it's his masterpiece. In looking at it today, it's as fresh and new as when it was made in 1982. The performances, particularly by the children and by E.T. himself, are so honest, timeless and true that the film absolutely qualifies to be ranked as a classic."

"What's particularly special about [these concerts] is that we'll hear one of our great symphony orchestras, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, performing the entire score live, along with the complete picture, sound effects and dialogue."

"I know I speak for everyone connected with the making of E.T. in saying that we're greatly honored by this event ... and I hope that the audience will find great joy in experiencing this magical film."

JOHN WILLIAMS, COMPOSER: In a career spanning more than five decades, John Williams has become one of America's most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage, and he remains one of our nation's most distinguished and contributive musical voices. He has composed the music for more than 100 films, themes for four Olympic Games and received the Olympic Order in 2003. He served as music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra for 14 seasons and remains their laureate conductor. Williams has received five Academy Awards and 51 Oscar nominations, seven British Academy Awards, 24 Grammys, four Golden Globes and five Emmys. For more information, visit www.johnwilliams.org.

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS, CONDUCTOR: Constantine Kitsopoulos is a conductor whose musical experiences comfortably span the worlds of opera, symphony, musical theater and film with live orchestra. To learn more about Kitsopoulos, visit kitsopoulos.com.

TICKETS: To learn more about the concert or for tickets to the NJPAC or Count Basie Theater performance, visit online at www.njsymphony.org, by phone at 1. 800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person at the NJSO Patron Services office in Newark.

For tickets to the State Theatre concert, visit online at www.stnj.org, or in person or call by phone at 732. 246.SHOW (7469).

Season Finale

(NJSO is) "a vital, artistically significant musical organization" -
The Wall Street Journal

(Xian Zhang is a) "dynamic podium presence" -
The New York Times

"Gil Shaham (is) one of today's greatest and most admired violinists"

NJSO

A captivating end to a season of wonders!

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) and Music Director Xian Zhang close the 2017-18 season with a blockbuster program featuring works by Brahms, Mahler and Bernstein, in Newark and Red Bank, June 7-10.

In celebration of Bernstein's role in bringing Mahler's music to mass audiences-and of the 100th anniversary of the American composer's birth

- the program opens with the Overture to *Candide*. Fittingly, Mahler's monumental First Symphony marks Xian Zhang's first NJSO performance of his music. Gil Shaham, one of today's greatest and most admired violinists, scales the heights of Brahms' Violin Concerto with dazzling virtuosity.

Lauded violinist Gil Shaham returns to New Jersey for Brahms' Violin Concerto. In her first NJSO performances of Mahler's work, Zhang conducts the composer's monumental First Symphony.

THE PROGRAM

Shaham Plays Brahms
Thu, June 7, at 1:30 pm | NJPAC in Newark
Fri, June 8, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark
Sat, June 9, at 8 pm | Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, June 10, at 3 pm | NJPAC in Newark
Xian Zhang, conductor
Gil Shaham, violin
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
BERNSTEIN Overture to *Candide*
BRAHMS Violin Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No. 1

NJSO ACCENTS:

Prelude Performance-Fri, June 8, before the concert
Come an hour before the concert and cheer on the young performers from NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project), as they perform in the lobby of NJPAC.
Prelude Performance-Sun, June 10, before the concert
An hour before the concert, the extraordinary Anne Lieberman Ensemble from the NJSO's Youth Orchestras will perform in the lobby of NJPAC.
Full concert information is available at www.njsymphony.org/shaham
For further information on the NJSO visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org; and for tickets, visit online at www.njsymphony.org or call 1. 800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

THE ARTISTS

XIAN ZHANG, CONDUCTOR: In an acclaimed first season as Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Xian Zhang "clearly made her mark," NJ Advance Media writes. "Now it's time to see how high [the Orchestra] can soar." Zhang continues her tenure in 2017-18 with performances of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, Mahler's First Symphony and Dvořák's Ninth Symphony, among others.

In September 2016, Zhang assumed the position of Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales, becoming the first female conductor to hold a titled role with a BBC orchestra. Born in Dandong, China, Zhang made her professional debut conducting *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Central Opera House in Beijing at the age of 20. She trained at Beijing's Central Conservatory, earning both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and serving one year on its conducting faculty before moving to the United States in 1998.

GIL SHAHAM, VIOLIN: Gil Shaham, Illinois-born and Israeli-bred, Grammy award winner, is one of the foremost violinists of our time: his flawless technique combined with his inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit has solidified his renown as an American master. For more information on Shaham, visit www.gilshaham.com.

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



Conductor Xian Zhang bows with NJSO



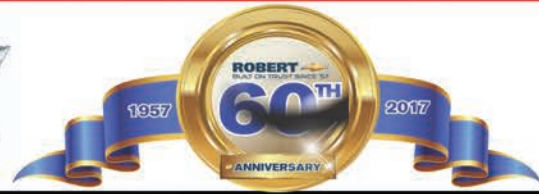
Violinist Gil Shaham

Photos/ Courtesy NJSO

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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 Quantico 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



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.

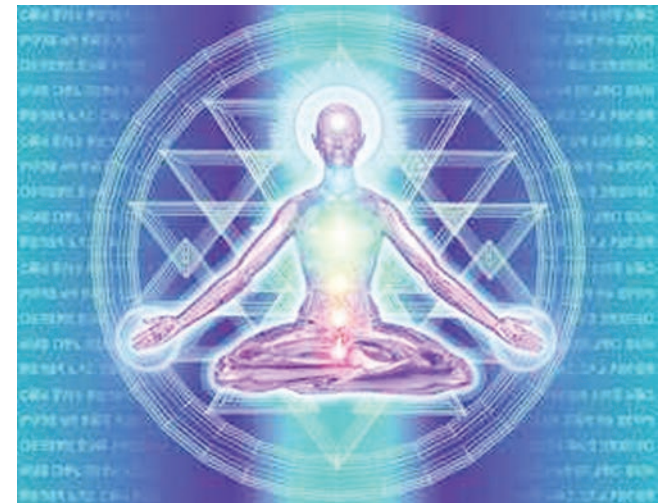
STEP 3: STUDY AND READING

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

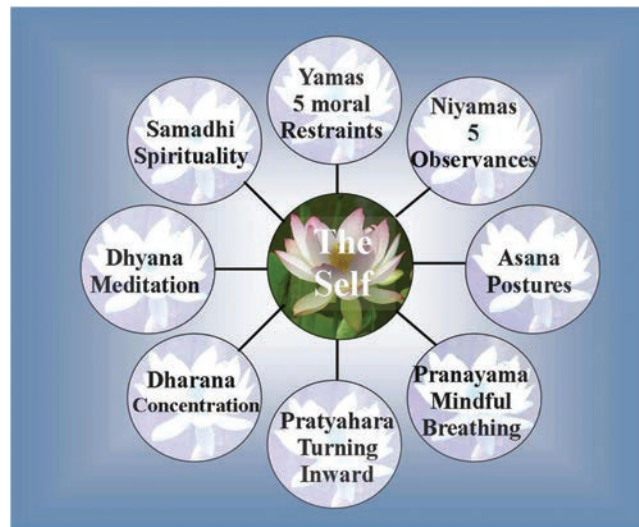
By Evamarie Pilipuf

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)

Jyoti's Yadvi, The Dignified Princess comes to life in NYC on June 1

BY MABEL PAIS

"Strength of character isn't always about how much you can handle before you break, it's also about what you do after you have broken." Robert Tew

"We cannot change situations in life, but we can change our attitudes towards them." Mata Amritanandmayi

This English language movie is based on the story of Yadvi - a real-life princess, granddaughter of the then internationally renowned Maharaja Bhupinder of Patiala, Punjab, who though grown-up in one of the wealthiest families of the world ends up losing all such privileges in her middle age. How and why does she become forced to prepare her food and collect wood for the winter? In 1940's India, before a hint of feminine assertiveness, how does a woman not only uphold her own dignity but also raise three refined daughters in the face of unexpected adversity?

The pure personification of integrity, Yadvi, will take you on her journey through the India of Kings and Queens, of Princes and polygyny. Her deep internal strength bolstering her family honor will inspire you!

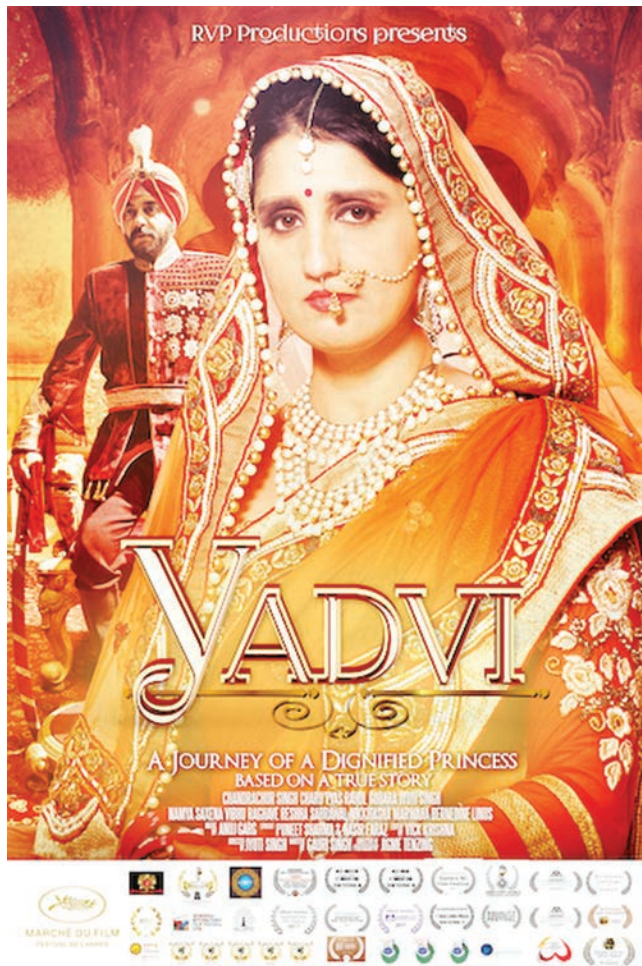
His Highness Maharaja Bhupinder Singh (1891-1938) who took the throne of Patiala in 1901, is one royal name that is indelible in the archives of Indian history. Among his several contributions and achievements to Punjab, India and the world was his grandiose lifestyle: he was the first individual in India to own an aircraft; had a fleet of 20 Rolls Royces at his disposal; created and wore a custom-made Cartier necklace encrusted with 2,930 diamonds, which today sits in a museum; built several prominent buildings in the state; traveled the world holding important offices; was captain of a cricket team and donated the Ranji Trophy (used until today) to the game of cricket. Further, he worked tirelessly for his subjects' betterment and introduced many social reforms in Patiala.

So why would one of his daughters spend her life as a commoner?

Maharaja Bhupinder Singh's great-granddaughters Jyoti Singh and Gauri Singh bring alive the struggles in the life of their grandmother Rajmata Yadhuvansh Kumari's (Yadvi, for short), detailing her journey from a princess to a commoner in their film, *Yadvi: The Dignified Princess*.

It's a true story of enduring personal and financial hardships but never giving up on life.

The film is the tale of Princess Yadvi (also named Alice after "Alice In Wonderland") from Patiala, a woman dealing with the complexity of the social norms that permeated post-independence Indian society. She, the daughter of the Maharaja of Patiala, was set to marry a Rajput prince from Maiher, Madhya Pradesh, to fortify the political ties between her kingdom and that of the prince. The impediment,



Yadvi poster

however, was that she would move to the prince's kingdom only on turning 21. What unfolds from this point on is a story wrought with unexpected twists and turns, putting into light questions about relationships, norms and traditions that characterized royalty and Indian society in an era of the past. It is the story of a woman who loved and stuck by her convictions in the face of adversity.

"YADVI: The Dignified Princess," set in India and New York, also touches upon the political upheavals at the time, especially when the princely states were being integrated into India, revealing an unseen side of the royalty.

Gauri Singh, Jyoti Singh's real-life older sister wrote the film, Jyoti Singh plays the title role of her grandmother Princess Yadvi, the daughter of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh and Maharani Bimal Kaur. Jyoti Singh along with Vick Krishna, has directed the film. The melodious music has been composed by the talented Anuj Garg.

Jyoti Singh, star of the 2011 Indo-American film, *9 Eleven*, said she decided to play Princess Yadvi since, having spent 14 years of her childhood with her, nobody knew her better than she did.

Another highlight of the film is Maachis actor Chandrachur Singh, who plays the Maharaja of Patiala. The cast includes Dina Rosenmeier, Siraj Huda, Vibhu Raghav, Aishwarya Raghav, Nikkithasha Marawaha, Rahul Godara, Resha Sabarwal, Bernadine Linus, Marianne Borgo, Gauri Singh, Kuvam Handa, and Yadvi Handa.

The movie is produced by RVP Productions by executive producer Sumeet Verma.

YADVI: The Dignified Princess, screened at various film festivals across the country, has been warmly embraced by viewers. Some of the film festivals where the film has been honored in various categories include the North Carolina International South Asian Film Festival, Rishikesh Art & Film Festival, Rajasthan International Film Festival, 4th Indian Cine Film Festival and Global Film Competition.

The first-time director recently won the "Best Emerging Female Director" award at the Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival.

The director believes that her "love towards animals and kids, humanity to help out the world, punctuality, strength, patience, spirituality, and perseverance; the pillar of strength to survive all obstacles with a smile; humility and peace" come from Yadvi.

Every day, she would do gardening with the grandchildren, never acted like a royal person. She would make them do household chores, even when they had help. Jyoti never understood why. Yadvi always said, "You never know where your life takes you," Jyoti Singh recalls.

Yadvi was inspired by and followed the magic keys to life (by Robert Tew): "Wisdom is knowing the right path to take; integrity is taking it.... strength of character isn't always about how much you can handle before you break, it's also about how much you can handle after you've broken...having courage to face the truth...do the right thing simply because it is right."

The movie runs from June 1 to 7 at New York City's Cinema Village at 22 East 12th Street.

For more about the movie and its schedule, visit <https://www.cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/yadvi-the-dignified-princess.html>

<https://www.cinemavillage.com/meet-and-greet/yadvi-q-a.html>

To learn more about Jyoti Singh, visit www.jyotisingh.net.

To get a sneak peak, watch the trailer of the movie at

<https://youtu.be/OMbWdfwqZjQ>

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



Yadvi with husband Gobind



The Dignified Princess on Sitar

Photos / Courtesy Jyoti Singh

For more information
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<http://shreeramsharnam.azurewebsites.net>
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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)

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.

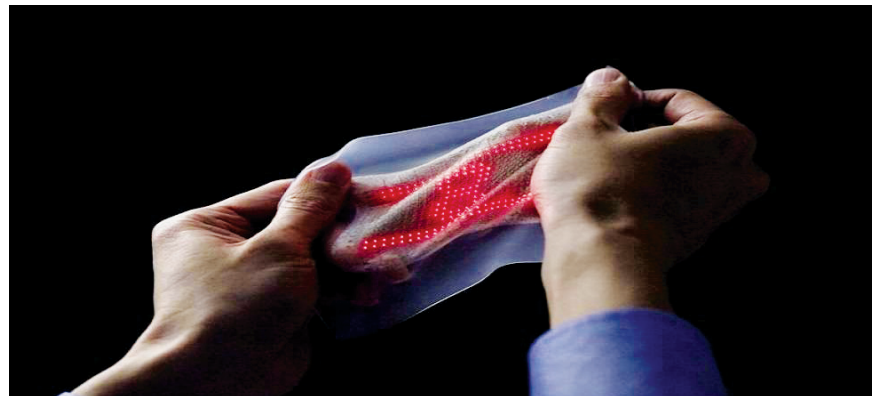
Scientists at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland came up with a fast and easy method for embedding different kinds of microstructures in super-elastic fibres.

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

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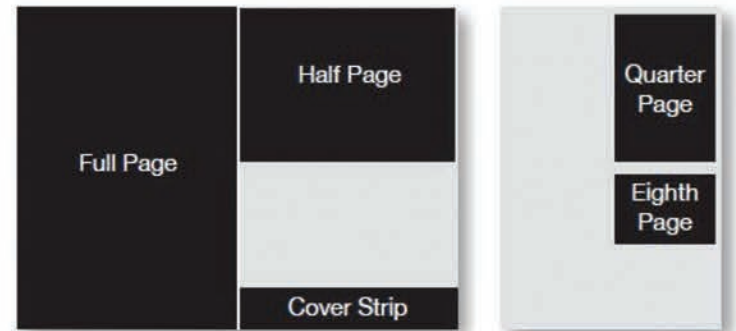


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MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIVA LINGAM

Shiva Lingam is the most prevalent icon of lord Shiva and is virtually found in all Shiva temples. A holy and divine symbol of the lord, which is considered sacred by the devotees of the lord Shiva or by the Shaivaites. In fact worship of this Linga is considered superior as it helps us believe that god does not have any definite form yet he is so powerful.

The Shiva Lingam is rounded, elliptical iconic image set on a circular base or Peetham or the parashakthi, the manifesting power of the god. The lingas are usually made up of stone some of which are carved accordingly while the others are naturally existing called the Swayambhu and gets shaped by a swift flowing river. Some lingas can also be made of metal, precious stones, gems, wood or transitory material like ice. Some literature believe that the transitory Shiva linga can be made from 12 different materials like from sand, rice, cooked food, river clay, cow dung, butter, rudraksha seeds, ashes, sandalwood, darbha grass, a flower garland or molasses. The supreme lord does not have any form and in fact every form is his form. Just like how when we see smoke we know that there is fire, the very moment we see a Shiva lingam we can visualise the presence of the ultimate and supreme lord.

Myths about Shiva Lingam

However the common myth exists between people that the Shiva lingam depicts the male genital organ. However this is absolutely misleading and baseless and such irrelevant misinterpretation was done during the later part of the vedic period when the Indian literature came into the hands of the foreign scholars. Thus Shiva lingam is just a differentiating mark and certainly not a sex mark. According to the Linga Purana which states that the lingam is devoid of colour, taste, hearing or touch and is considered as prakriti or nature.

Another very popular belief among the people is that they consider lord Shiva as a destructor only. However the nature itself is a lingam or symbol of the lord. The Shiva lingam is a clear mark of Shiva who is the creator, sustainer and the destructor.

Another quote from the Skanda Purana depicts that the whole universe is created from the supreme Shiva and it finally gets submerged there.

Significance of Shiva Lingam

The Linga denotes the ascending powerful and radiating energy of consciousness and life in our nature. This energy can be seen in the mountain, the thundercloud, the trees and even in human beings. In fact the most important Shiva site in the Himalayas at the Kedarnath are rocks in the shape of small mountains. There are 12 Jyotirlingas or in other words the light forms of Shiva at 12 special temples throughout the world which is extremely well known and popular. The great enlightened sage Ramana Maharshi who stayed in the Himachals is said to be the place for fire linga of the supreme lord. The state of Tamil Nadu has lingas for the five elements mainly for earth, water, fire, air and ether at special temples in the region known as Panchabhoota Sthalam.

Just like how lord Shiva himself is considered to be pure light in its primal undifferentiated state called the Prakasha



Matra, even the Shiva linga is described most often in terms of light transparent and crystal like. The linga is often considered as the pillar of light and hope. According to the Vedic rituals, they believed that fire could be made to rise in the shape of a pillar and eventually take the shape of a man. Dharma refers to something that upholds things and the Shiva linga is the universal pillar of dharma. This pillar is an inner symbol demonstrating the erect spine and the concentrated mind. With regards to the human nature there is the force of the Prana linga or the pillar which upholds the physical body to the currents that emanate from it and is thus called so. Then the deeper intelligence which provides us the power of insight to discriminate the right and wrong is called the Buddhi Linga and lastly the Atma linga is the ultimate or the determinative force of our nature that always remains steady and elevated throughout our lives and is termed as the Atma linga.

In addition the Linga and the yoni which is the standing stone and the ring base always go hand in hand. This also depicts the union of the male and female energies or the shiva and shakti principles. They also believe that the linga and yoni are united like the chakra or the wheel with the linga as the axis and the yoni as the circumference. In fact each chakra depicts the union of the Shiva Shakti energies at its particular level of manifestation with the Shiva energy running upward through the spine and the Shakti energy is the horizontal current forming the various lotuses of the chakra. Both these forces are essential to create a dynamic motion.

While practicing yoga the divine experience of the Shiva linga can create a pillar of light, energy, peace and eternity and helps to expand the mind and bring deep peace and steadiness to the heart and the soul. Even the waves of Shakti that radiate can help us acquire grace, love and wisdom. It has been proved that the linga is one the best ways of meditation and to calm the mind and be in touch with our inner being and go way beyond all the materialistic needs, agitations and sorrows of the world. However according to the Ayurvedic treatment, they believe that the creation of the Prana linga allows deep

healing and rejuvenation. The Vedic science considers the Shiva linga as the power of light behind the sun, moon, planets and the stars. In accordance with the Vastu shastra, the Shiva linga is the spiritual and the vital energy in the house that stabilizes everything.

The two common forms of the Shiva lingam are the Chala or the moveable form and the Achala or the fixed form.

Chala lingam is the one which is usually kept in the shrine at one home or is prepared temporarily with materials like sand, clay, dough and is often dispensed after the worship. Some consider that the lingas worn on the body in the form of pendent as Chala lingam and is usually made up of mercury, metals or quartz. The Achala or the fixed lingam are the ones that are installed in temples and are not moveable. There are certain rules which need to be obeyed for the Achala lingams like they need to be offered prayers at fixed time without being failed even once and complete sanctity must be maintained. They are usually made up of black stone.

Puja of Shiva Lingam

It is considered that the Shiva linga helps to connect the devotee with the supreme lord. The Linga puja helps in better understanding



of the lord. Since the lord is formless and we still say that he is without a beginning and an end it might be difficult for a devotee to understand. And hence lord Shiva appeared in the form of Jyothirlinga before Brahma and Vishnu and thus is a pure symbol of the lord.

It is extremely important to be pure and hence the devotee needs to take a bath and wear clean washed clothes before commencing the puja. Hymns praising the lord are chanted to create a mood of worship followed by blowing the conch or ringing bells after sitting in front of the lingam and thus denoting the beginning of the puja. The Panchamrit abhishekam is done where in five holy liquids is poured over the lingam which can include either water from the river Ganges, honey, sugarcane juice, milk, yogurt, ghee, seawater, coconut water, milk, fragrant oils, rose water. Usually only milk of cow is used for the puja. While pouring the liquid Om Namah Shivaya is chanted repeatedly while others chant the lord's name 108 or 1008 times. This is followed by cleaning the linga with the water from the Ganges and is then smeared with sandalwood paste and is decorated with flowers. It is believed that water and sandalwood paste helps to keep the lingam cool as lord Shiva is always in a highly inflammable state. In some temples it is noticed that a cooling liquid is placed above the lingam and water constantly trickles down from it. Sweets, fruits, coconuts are offered to the lord followed by lighting of the camphor and the aarti is commenced. Ringing of the bells and blowing the conch marks the end of the puja. White ash is rubbed on the forehead of the linga and it is distributed among the devotees.

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Kim says committed to denuclearisation of Korean peninsula: KCNA

SEOUL (TIP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov he was committed to denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, the official KCNA news agency reported on June 1.

"Kim Jong Un said that the DPRK's will for denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula still remains unchanged and consistent and fixed," KCNA reported after their meeting in Pyongyang on Thursday.

Kim hoped US-North Korean relations and denuclearisation of the peninsula "will be solved on a stage-by-stage basis" and "he hoped that the solution of the issues will progress through effective and constructive dialogue and negotiation," the report by the North Korean news agency said.

Lavrov's visit came as US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a top North Korean official held talks on planning a historic summit between Kim and

President Donald Trump in Singapore.

The key task ahead of the June 12 summit is to settle the agenda. The main stumbling block is likely to be the concept of "denuclearisation" -- both sides say they are in favour of it, but there is a yawning gap between their definitions.

Washington wants North Korea to quickly give up all its nuclear weapons in a verifiable way in return for sanctions and economic relief.

But analysts say North Korea will be

unwilling to cede its nuclear deterrent unless it is given security guarantees that the US will not try to topple the regime.

Kim's comments seem to indicate he is hoping for a phased approach to solve the problem.

Lavrov warned against setting expectations too high, urging all sides to "avoid the temptation to demand everything and now," according to a transcript released by the Russian foreign ministry. (AFP)

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 news 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.

Maheshwari 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 "bewusstseinslage." 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)

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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*

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



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