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Indian American Neel Gonuguntla among The Dallas Business Journal 2018 Women in Business Awards honorees

The 30 honorees, including US India Chamber of Commerce President, Neel Gonuguntla represent a variety of industries and roles



US India Chamber of Commerce President, Neel Gonuguntla has been chosen for the Dallas Business Journal's 2018 Women in Business Award.

DALLAS (TIP): The Dallas Business Journal has announced the honorees for its 11th annual Women in Business Awards program. These 30 individuals, including Indian American Neel Gonuguntla represent a variety of industries and roles that are crucial to the Dallas-Fort Worth ecosystem, including financial and legal services, commercial real estate and construction, and non-profit organizations.

From leaders of global institutions, like Frito-Lay Chief Marketing Officer Jennifer Saenz and AT&T Business' Anne Chow, to entrepreneurs behind innovative startups, like Elyse Dickerson of Eosera, the 2018 class of Women in Business touches on a concentration of transformative ingenuity and enterprising imagination that can only be found in North Texas.

Four members of the Women in Business Awards class - Betty Garrett, Linda Kunz, Sandy Phillips, and Courtney Sinelli - have been selected to receive the distinction as a "Tourism, Travel and Hospitality" honoree. This category highlights the vital role that these verticals play in keeping North Texas a contender in national and international spheres. The 2018 honorees will be honored at a luncheon and trade show on Thursday, August 23, at the Omni Hotel Dallas.

New York attorney general sues Trump Foundation for 'illegal conduct'

The lawsuit seeks \$2.8 million in restitution and additional penalties



NEW YORK (TIP): New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood sued President Donald Trump and his charitable foundation on Thursday, June 14 alleging that the president and his adult

contd on Page 20

Salman Khan among 5 Bollywood stars sued for 'million-dollar breach' in US

The Chicago-based Vibrant Media Group in its lawsuit against the Bollywood artists, their agents alleged 'breach of contract'.



Salman Khan and his ensemble are scheduled to be on a US tour starting June 22

NEW YORK (TIP): Superstar Salman Khan and a host of other Bollywood artists including Katrina Kaif, Sonakshi Sinha, Ranveer Singh and Prabhu Deva have been sued by an Indian-American promoter, which alleged that they refused to

contd on Page 20

Half of Americans back Trump's handling of North Korea: Poll

WASHINGTON (TIP): According to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Wednesday, June 13, just over half of all Americans say they approve of how President Donald Trump has handled North Korea, but only a quarter think that his summit this week with Kim Jong Un will lead to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, according to a

In a joint declaration following their meeting in Singapore on Tuesday, June 12 the North Korean leader pledged to move toward complete denuclearization of the peninsula and Trump vowed to guarantee

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Trump and Kim held a historic summit in Singapore and displayed rare statesmanship. It may well be the beginning towards détente.



200% RISE IN INVITES TO INDIANS FOR CANADIAN PERMANENT RESIDENCY

Canada has emerged as a coveted destination for India's diaspora

NEW YORK (TIP): Indians appear gung-ho about Canada's Express Entry program which invites top ranked candidates - under the country's point-based immigration system - to take up permanent residency. Express Entry is Canada's flagship program for key economic migration.

Under the scheme, out of the 86,022 invitations sent in 2017, nearly 42% (or 36,310) were to those holding Indian citizenship. The total number of invitations sent in 2017 was more than double the previous year - 33,782.

In 2016, the number of invites sent to those having Indian citizenship in Canada was merely 11,037, showing an increase by more than 200% a year later.

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Agents raid Texas 'stash house' and find 62 undocumented immigrants, says border patrol

DALLAS (TIP): Agents found and arrested 62 undocumented immigrants hidden inside a home in Laredo, Texas Tuesday, June 12, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The immigrants were processed and found to be from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Laredo Sector Border Patrol found the "stash house" after receiving a tip that a large number of people were being held at a residence and awaiting transfer to the interior of the United States.

This is one of several raids completed by border patrol in Texas this week. On Sunday, agents found 50 undocumented immigrants hiding inside a house in Mission, Texas. The following day three more houses were raided resulting in the discovery of 109 undocumented immigrants, according to a press release.

Those men, women and unaccompanied children were from Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Belize.

The arrests come amid a national conversation about the Trump administration's new "zero tolerance" policy towards undocumented immigrants which requires federal prosecutors to criminally charge anybody caught illegally crossing the border. The policy has resulted in the separation of families, drawing outcry from immigrant advocates.



Yoga for Harmony & Peace

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Indian origin school girl achieves top score on Mensa IQ test, beats Einstein, Hawking

SURREY (TIP): Snnehal Vijay, a schoolgirl aged 11 just has achieved the highest possible score in a Mensa IQ test, even surpassing that of famed scientists Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein.

The student, from Stanwell, Surrey, shocked her parents by scoring 162 on the Cattell III B paper, something only one per cent of all entrants achieve.

Although her score is higher than Einstein's, there is a catch. Adults can only score a maximum of 161 while children can get 162.

Snnehal's parents, Swatantra and Nitika, said they were 'over the moon' when they opened the letter containing her exam score.

It turns out that Snnehal has also been accepted into Henrietta Barnett School, one of the country's top-performing grammar schools, where she will begin in September.

Swatantra said he had the idea of entering his daughter for the Mensa test after seeing her revise for the pre-entry exams into Henrietta Barnett.



© Surrey Advertiser/BPM MEDIA
Snnehal Vijay, from Stanwell, Surrey, shocked her parents by scoring 162 on the Cattell III B paper, something only 1 per cent of all entrants achieve

The Cattell III B test, which examines verbal reasoning, is one of two Mensa use in their entry exams.

The other test, called Culture Fair, is

a diagram-only test which is more suitable for people who do not have English as their first language or who are dyslexic. (Source: Deccan Chronicle)

Indian-American woman to become CFO of US carmaker General Motors

NEW YORK (TIP): Dhivya Suryadevara, currently the vice president of corporate finance, will succeed Chuck Stevens, the GM's present CFO, on September 1, the company said in a statement.

Chennai-born Suryadevara, 39, has been GM's vice president of corporate finance since July 2017. She will report to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mary Barra, 56, who has been head of the automaker since 2014.

Barra and Suryadevara are the first women in their respective positions in the auto industry, as no other major global automaker has a female CEO, nor a CEO and CFO who are both female.

He earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in commerce from the University of Madras in Chennai, India. She moved to the US at the age of 22 to pursue her MBA from Harvard University.

She is a chartered financial analyst and accountant and worked at UBS and PricewaterhouseCoopers before joining the Detroit-based GM in 2005 at the age of 25.

"Dhivya's experience and leadership in several key roles throughout our financial operations positions her well to build on the strong business results



An Indian-American woman, Dhivya Suryadevara has been named the Chief Finance Officer of the US' largest automaker, General Motors

we've delivered over the last several years," Barra said in a statement.

Stevens, 58, has been CFO at the largest US automaker since January 2014 and will retire in March next year as a more than 40-year veteran of the company.

He will remain with the company as an adviser until his retirement, the statement said.

Stevens began at the Buick division in 1978 and, like Barra, was educated at General Motors Institute, which became Kettering University. He had a key role in GM establishing its joint venture in China with SAIC Motor Corp. and was a crucial player in GM selling its long-struggling Opel business to French automaker PSA Group.

Gujarat NRI shot dead near his store

ATLANTA (TIP): A man from Vadodara, Gujarat, settled in the US was shot dead in Atlanta on June 9 evening.

Forty-eight-year-old Harikrishna alias Harish Mistry was shot thrice by an African-American man near his store at about 4pm.

Police are yet to make an arrest in

the case. Mistry moved to Atlanta with his family about 15 years ago and ran a gas-station-cum-store. "Our relatives in the US informed us about the killing on Sunday morning," said Dilip Mistry, a cousin of the deceased.

"We were told that Harikrishna was leaving his store when the attack

occurred. Our relatives said the man who shot Harikrishna used to work at his store and was pulled up for misconduct a few days ago."

Harikrishna Mistry is survived by his wife Sheetal and two children - Nancy, 19, and Nayan, 4.

Mistry's two sisters are also settled in the US.

Indian origin New Zealand based Radio Jockey dares Akal Takht Jathedar to open debate

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Akal Takht on Thursday, June 14, excommunicated New Zealand-based Harnek Singh Neki for "derogatory" remarks on Sikh Gurus and for distorting Gurbani while hosting a radio talk show.

The "hukamnama (edict)" by the five Sikh high priests was pronounced by Giani Gurbachan Singh. The Jathedar directed the Sikhs to initiate legal proceedings to scrap Neki's project - Radio Virsa - for running a relentless "propaganda" against the Gurus.

Speaking to The Tribune on the phone 12,000 km away, an unruffled Neki invited the Akal Takht chief to his show for an open discussion on the origin of Sikhism and its principles. "I do not acknowledge the authority of the Akal Takht Jathedar or the SGPC. Both have lost their credibility. I never saw myself as part of the community governed by them. I challenge the Akal Takht Jathedar or any SGPC representative to a debate on my show on Sikh ethics and principles. Let the listeners decide for themselves."

Mocking the clergy, he said the 'Taksali' Sant Samaj and SGPC representatives had approached the New Zealand High Commissioner in New Delhi to demand that his radio 'license' be cancelled, "little knowing that in New Zealand, it is not required to run a small radio channel as Radio Virsa which I run in collaboration with a group of Sikhs settled there."

Jathedar Gurbachan Singh stressed that Neki was given three chances to appear before Akal Takht, but he did not respond. "He has been 'distorting' Gurbani and using objectionable language for the Sikh Gurus on his radio shows. The Sikh community must sever social, political and religious ties with him."

Neki was first summoned by the Akal Takht on May 16 and asked to respond to the allegations in writing within 10 days. Thereafter, he was called on June 1 and for the third time within the next one week. Parallel 'Jathedar' Dhyan Singh Mand too had excommunicated Neki on May 30 on the same charges.

Indian American named finalist for Sammies People's Choice Award

NEW YORK (TIP): Parimal Kopardekar, a NASA senior technologist for Air Transportation System, has been selected as a finalist, among 12, for the 2018 Sammies People's Choice Award by the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals.

Kopardekar, who is also a principal investigator of the Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management at the Moffett Field, Calif.-based NASA Ames Research Center, was named a finalist in the Promising Innovation category.

According to a report put together by the Heyman Service to America Medals, the Federal Aviation Administration estimates that there could be more than 700,000 commercial drones flying at a low-altitude to deliver packages, monitor traffic, track storms, inspect power lines, aid search and rescue operations by 2022. However, it will require a sophisticated air traffic management system for unmanned aircraft that will prevent accidents and airborne congestion, working efficiently to serve public and commercial interests.

Kopardekar and his team of engineers and scientists at NASA has designed a system that will safely manage multiple unmanned aerial vehicles flying in the same area at the same time and he has created a program with an \$18 million annual budget, which has set the stage for an entire new era in unmanned aviation with the potential to unleash a multibillion dollar U.S. industry.

"PK is the principal architect, researcher and engineer of the unmanned traffic management system. He has acted as a catalyst for government and industry, and has brought people together," said Sean Cassidy, the director of safety and regulatory affairs at Amazon.

Kopardekar became interested in aviation when he was a graduate student and it was then that he went to work for the FAA and then NASA.

He then started developing a system for managing drones in 2012 and held a conference on drone traffic management issues in 2014. By 2015, a convention on the topic drew nearly 1,500 people. Kopardekar's management system is an open-source system that uses software, the internet and cell service, instead of air traffic controllers, to keep the aircraft spaced apart, according to his bio report.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news.



The banished Radio Jockey Harnek Singh Neki

Trump administration reconfirms its intent to rescind H4 rule

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration has reconfirmed its intent to rescind H-4 rule regarding employment authorization to certain spouses of H-1B visas, popular among Indian IT professionals.

The move will have a major impact on Indian-American women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

"Removing H-4 Dependent Spouses from the Class of Aliens Eligible for Employment Authorization," said the Department of Homeland Security's Unified Agenda in the federal register notification of its semi-annual regulatory agenda.

As per the notification published on Monday, the Department of Homeland Security is proposing to remove from its regulations certain H-4 spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants as a class of aliens eligible for employment authorization.

It was in February 2015 that it had published a final rule extending eligibility for employment authorization to certain H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants who are seeking employment-based lawful permanent resident (LPR) status.

The federal register notification said that the notice of proposed rulemaking or NPRM would be published in June.

However, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) insisted that "No decision about H4 visas is final until" the rulemaking process is completed.

USCIS will alert the public when the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) has been posted for public comment.

An NPRM is posted for public comment and after comments have been considered USCIS will post the final rule, a USCIS official told PTI requesting anonymity.

"The agency is considering a number of policy and regulatory changes to carry out the President's Buy American, Hire American Executive Order, including a thorough review of employment-based visa programs," Michael Bars, USCIS Spokesperson told PTI.

"USCIS is focused on safeguarding the integrity of our immigration system and ensuring its faithful execution so that the wages and working conditions of US workers are protected," he said.

"USCIS is committed to reforming employment-based immigration programs so they benefit the American people to the greatest extent possible," Bars said.

Meanwhile, scores of Indian-Americans who have been waiting for years to get their Green Card met Congressman Paul Tonko in Albany, New York to press for an early reform of the Green Card backlog and not to rescind H-4 rule on employment authorization.

Activist Renuka Rajkumar addressed the gathering about the impact of revoking employment permits for spouses who have been waiting on green cards for a long time.

In her speech, she recalled despairing for a decade before she was afforded the opportunity to work.

In spite of her higher education and prior professional experience, it took her almost a year to find a job in her chosen profession. Hardik Chirra spoke passionately about the challenges faced by Children on H4 dependent visas.

Hardik, a 10th grader who has been studying in Albany schools for the last decade spoke about the challenges faced in college admissions, anxiety about having to self-deport, leaving his family behind when he turns 21.

Watchdog report blasts FBI but doesn't hand Trump total win

WASHINGTON (TIP): An inspector general report condemning the FBI's actions in the Hillary Clinton email investigation blasts former FBI Director James Comey but also denies total vindication to the president who fired him.

The 500-page document stops far short of endorsing the attacks levied at Comey for the last year by President Donald Trump.

Although Trump has alleged that a politically tainted FBI tried to undermine his Republican campaign, the report found nothing to suggest that political preferences influenced how the investigation was conducted.

Trump has suggested anyone less politically connected than Clinton would have been charged for the same behavior, yet the report does not second-guess the FBI's decision to spare her from prosecution.

And while the president has said Comey's deputy, Andrew McCabe, should have recused himself because of Democratic political contributions to his wife, the report said he acted appropriately in flagging the issue inside the bureau.

"We found no evidence that the conclusions by the prosecutors were affected by bias or other improper considerations; rather, we determined that they were based on the prosecutors' assessment of the facts, the law and past department practice," the report says.

Yet there's no doubt the report gave Trump fresh ammunition for continued attacks on Comey and for his defense that Comey's firing in May 2017 an act now central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether the president sought to obstruct justice was wholly justified.

The report branded Comey as insubordinate for repeatedly breaking with Justice Department protocol in his handling of the email probe in the explosive final months of the 2016 presidential campaign. It also sharply rebuked FBI officials who traded politically charged, anti-Trump text messages even as the investigation into the campaign was underway.

The report released Thursday documents in painstaking detail one of the most consequential investigations in modern FBI history and reveals how the bureau, which for decades has endeavored to stand apart from politics, came to be entangled in the 2016 presidential election.

It underscores efforts by FBI and Justice Department leaders to juggle developments in the Clinton investigation — she had used private email for government business while



secretary of state with a separate probe that was then unknown to the American public into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Comey, whom Trump fired shortly after taking office, bore the brunt of much of the report's criticism.

It says the FBI director broke from Justice Department protocol when he announced in July 2016 that Clinton had been "extremely careless" with classified material but would not be charged with any crime, and again months later when he told Congress just days before the election that the investigation into Clinton's emails had been reopened.

Though it says those mistakes weren't politically motivated, Trump supporters seized on the report's description of Comey as "insubordinate." And they quickly focused on the report's recounting of anti-Trump text messages from two FBI officials who worked the Clinton probe and later the Russia case, including one from August 2016 in which an agent says, "We'll stop it," with regard to a possible Trump victory.

The report suggests that text from Peter Strzok, who was later dropped from Mueller's team, "implies a willingness to take official action to impact the presidential candidate's electoral prospects." It did not find evidence that those views seeped into the investigation.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the report "reaffirmed the president's suspicions about Comey's conduct and the political bias amongst some of the members of the FBI."

FBI Director Chris Wray told reporters the FBI accepted the report's findings and was making changes, including requiring further training for FBI employees and re-

emphasizing the importance of objectivity. In a New York Times opinion piece released after the report, Comey said he disagreed with some conclusions but respected the watchdog's work.

The inspector general faulted Comey for his unusual July 5, 2016, news conference at which he disclosed his recommendation against bringing charges, even though cases that end without prosecution are rarely discussed publicly. Comey did not reveal to Attorney General Loretta Lynch his plans to make an announcement.

"We found that it was extraordinary and insubordinate for Comey to do so, and we found none of his reasons to be a persuasive basis for deviating from well-established Department policies in a way intentionally designed to avoid supervision by department leadership over his actions," the report says.

Comey has said he was concerned that the Justice Department itself could not credibly announce the conclusion of its investigation, in part because Lynch had met days earlier aboard her plane with former President Bill Clinton. Both said they did not discuss Hillary Clinton's case.

Concerned about the "appearance that former President Clinton was influencing" the probe, Lynch began talking to her staff the next morning about possibly recusing herself from overseeing the investigation, the report says. She told the inspector general she decided not to step aside because it might "create a misimpression" that she and the former president had discussed inappropriate things.

Bill Clinton, also interviewed in the IG investigation, said he had "absolutely not" discussed the probe. (AP)

GOVERNOR SET TO SIGN SIX GUN-CONTROL MEASURES IN NEW JERSEY

TRENTON (TIP): New Jersey on Wednesday is set to become the latest state to enact measures to tighten its already strict gun laws.

Democratic Governor Phil Murphy says he will sign the half-dozen bills that began advancing after the fatal high school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in February that left 17 people dead.

Murphy also mentioned the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando in a tweet, saying "our hearts are heavy" on the two-year anniversary of the attack. "I will sign into law some of the toughest gun laws in the nation in honor of all those lost to senseless gun violence," the first-term governor said.

New Jersey joins other states, including Florida and Vermont, enacting gun control measures since the Parkland shooting, which set off a series of rallies across the country aimed at reducing gun violence through tighter laws.

The legislation went through an emotional hours-long meeting that included moms who support tighter gun laws wearing red T-shirts that read Moms Demand Action, self-identified National Rifle Association members and even a former Indy Car racer who worried about his rights being eroded.

"I do fear in the next 50 to 100 years a tyrannical government," former racer PJ

Chesson told lawmakers earlier this year, adding that he wants to keep his right to body-armor-piercing bullets and higher rounds.

While the legislation has earned the praise of gun control advocates, including Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, they have also merited scorn from gun rights advocates who say the measure won't increase safety.

Murphy, who succeeded term-limited Republican Chris Christie this year, campaigned on the promise to strengthen the state's laws. Current state law bans assault weapons, limits magazine clip sizes and requires permits to carry a concealed weapon. (AP)

SAHAVE Announces Global Launch

Futuristic technology platform for Nonprofits and Non-Government Organizations Launched Globally and unveiled in US.



NAPERVILLE IL (TIP): SAHAVE announced the official global launch of The Platform for Social Change at an invitation only reception at the Sheraton Naperville June 11. Five years in the making, the dream of its Founder and CEO Pradeep Kandimalla is officially a reality with the global launch of the first two of thirty-two modules as well as four applications supporting them. Pradeep Kandimalla stated, "there is great need in the world for social change, where neighbors help neighbors, as they did long ago, when there were no charities. People relied on their neighbors when things got difficult, and SAHAVE is designed to bring communities together through Nonprofits, and NGO's, and cutting-edge technology."

The Global Launch Reception held at the Naperville Sheraton gave invited guests a glimpse into the platform and its ease of use, impressive flexibility and power to change lives through advanced tech not available anywhere else in the world. SAHAVE brings together individuals, education institutions, businesses and the Nonprofit. Each can impact their local communities through collaboration and mutual goals for a better community and the world.

With the release of the Volunteering and Blood Donations modules, SAHAVE offers automation to grow social change and help save lives by automating the logistics involved with identifying and fulfilling needs of both people to support projects and get much needed blood to those when they need it seamlessly.

Many charitable organizations in the U.S. struggle to survive and fail to fully execute their missions due to inadequate financial and human capital. Of the more than 1.5 million tax-exempt organizations registered in 2016 - 70% of which were public charities - 66% of those had less than \$500,000 in annual donations. Many earned less than \$50,000 a year and operated with systems and staffing unable to serve their populations or allow them to grow to their full potential. A new digital platform now being tested promises to improve both by connecting these small to mid-size

charities with individuals, businesses and institutions that can support them.

SAHAVE's Kandimalla was frustrated to see that only large foundations and organizations could afford the solutions necessary to operate effectively, and smaller nonprofits were left to struggle, unable to maintain strong donor and volunteer bases. With over 20 years' experience in information technology, including Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, the Internet of Things, Mobile Technologies and Enterprise Resources, he was determined to level the playing field.

"I've committed my life to serving my communities and individuals who need help," Kandimalla said. "With SAHAVE we've created a platform that will revolutionize the way nonprofits operate. It will help them become more efficient, grow capacity, and improve sustainability. And it will be a solution that all nonprofits can afford."

Called SAHAVE (Sa-ha'-vay), the mobile-first application platform is being developed by an international team of technology, business and non-governmental organization experts in the U.S. and India who are creating a way for organizations to effectively engage their communities in real time to communicate their needs, coordinate volunteer efforts, raise funds and execute mission strategies. While there are software packages that address some of these areas, none are as inclusive as SAHAVE and most are cost-prohibitive for smaller organizations.

The platform, its technology patent-pending, addresses the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 16.6 to "Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels."

SAHAVE is a suite of integrated application software modules that link nonprofits with individuals, businesses and educational institutions. Individuals can find organizations with which they would like to volunteer or donate; businesses can demonstrate corporate social responsibility by supporting community projects and campaigns; and educational institutions can

provide opportunities for their students to develop soft critical skills such as interpersonal communication, teamwork, decision making and empathy.

SAHAVE will provide a single, real-time mobile platform for everyone in the community service system. Any of the four groups can initiate and promote causes or campaigns. They can also easily communicate and collaborate with each other and among themselves.

For example, nonprofits can connect with individuals, multiple businesses and other nonprofits. Using artificial intelligence and predictive analytics, the software will suggest potential campaigns and identify viable partners in the local area, including individual community members and service providers. Additionally, data from linked social media accounts will be used to recommend campaigns and partners and to educate users on current issues in the community.

Realizing the impact that even small shifts in operational efficiencies and donations can have on an organization, Kandimalla offered this big-picture observation. "If we can improve the operational efficiency of 20,000 nonprofits by 20% using SAHAVE, that could free as much as \$800 million for mission execution. And if we can also increase donations by even 5%, we could generate another \$1.25 billion in usable capital. This is the benefit that SAHAVE will provide in just its startup phase. Think of the kind of impact it will have when it has matured!"

Initially, SAHAVE will offer free applications to build brand awareness and relationships, and to demonstrate the value of the system. Each user group can also implement additional modules including sponsor management, donor management, social media integration, volunteer management, grant management and predictive modeling, among others, for an affordable fee. The software will first be available this year in the U.S. and India with plans for global expansion in late 2019.

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

President Donald J. Trump has Restored American Leadership on the World Stage: White House

"All the nations of the world - friend or foe - will find that America is strong, America is proud, and America is free." - President Donald J. Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): White House Press Secretary's office issued a statement on June 14 claiming Trump has restored American leadership on the world stage

MOMENTUM FOR POSITIVE CHANGE WITH NORTH KOREA: President Donald J. Trump has taken a bold first step to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

- President Trump held a historic summit with Chairman Kim Jong Un.
- The summit marked a bold first step to achieving the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
- During the summit, North Korea reaffirmed its commitment to complete denuclearization, agreed to help the United States recover POW/MIA remains, and committed to destroying a missile engine testing site.
- The summit built on the progress President Trump had already achieved, including:
- The return of three Americans detained in North Korea;
- The March pledge by North Korea to refrain from any further nuclear or missile tests; and
- The apparent closure of North Korea's nuclear test site.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE UNACCEPTABLE IRAN DEAL: President Trump has ended United States participation in the disastrous Iran deal.

- President Trump terminated United States participation in the Iran deal, as it failed to protect America's national security interests.
- The one-sided "deal" gave Iran a windfall of cash, enabling its malign behavior.
- The President directed his Administration to immediately begin the process of re-imposing sanctions on Iran.
- The Trump Administration has issued serious sanctions targeting Iranian entities and activities, including:
- Financial and procurement networks supporting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force.
- Iranian entities engaging in human rights abuses and censorship on behalf of the Iranian regime.
- Iranian individuals providing ballistic missiles and technical expertise to Yemen's Houthis.

DESTROYING ISIS: The Trump Administration has worked with allies to destroy ISIS and liberate territory previously occupied by the self-declared caliphate.

- President Trump has empowered United States commanders with broad authority to defeat ISIS.
- ISIS has lost nearly all of its territory, more than half of which has been liberated under the Trump Administration.
- In December 2017, the Iraqi government announced all Iraqi territory had been liberated from ISIS control.
- ISIS' self-proclaimed capital city Raqqah was recaptured in October 2017.

RESPONDING TO SYRIA'S USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS: President Trump has forcefully responded to the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons.

- The President authorized military strikes, responding to the Syrian regime's savage chemical weapons attacks.
- In April 2018, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France launched strikes against targets associated with the Syrian regime's chemical weapons capabilities.
- In April 2017, President Trump directed United States military forces to strike a Syrian airfield used in the regime's chemical weapons attack earlier that month.
- President Trump has joined with allies to call on Syria to fully declare and dismantle its chemical weapons arsenal and to deter chemical weapons use worldwide.
- Since February 2017, the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control has rolled out sanctions targeting 284 individuals and entities responsible for supporting the Syrian regime's use of military force and chemical weapons against civilians.

RECOGNIZING JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL: President Trump followed through on his promise to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and open the United States Embassy there.

- President Trump acted on his pledge to recognize the reality that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and open the United States Embassy there.
- In December 2017, President Trump announced the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
- In May 2018, the United States officially opened its Embassy in Jerusalem.

VAJPAYEE CONTINUES TO BE IN ICU OF AIIMS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee continues to be in the ICU of AIIMS, and his condition is being monitored by a team of doctors round the clock, sources at the hospital said.

AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria had yesterday said the 93-year-old leader has shown significant improvement and doctors are hopeful of his full recovery in the next few days.

Vajpayee was admitted to the premier hospital on June 11 with kidney tract infection, chest congestion and his urine output being on the lower side.

"He was immediately evaluated by a team of doctors and was put on injectable antibiotics," Guleria had said.

Vajpayee, a diabetic, has one functional kidney. He suffered a stroke in 2009, weakening his cognitive abilities. Later, he developed dementia.

Political leaders, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, RSS general secretary Bhaiyyaji Joshi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje visited the ailing leader at the hospital today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and H D Deve Gowda, and Congress president Rahul Gandhi have visited Vajpayee at the AIIMS over the past three days.

Vajpayee was thrice elected the prime minister between 1996 and 1999 and is the only non-Congress prime minister to complete the full term of five years, from 1999 to 2004. As his health deteriorated, he had slowly withdrawn himself from public life and was confined to his residence for years.

Source: PTI

Lok Sabha 2019 polls: Akhilesh Yadav to contest from Kannauj, Mulayam from Mainpuri



LUCKNOW (TIP): Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav will contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj, which is represented at present by wife Dimple Yadav, while his father Maulayam Singh Yadav will contest from Mainpuri.

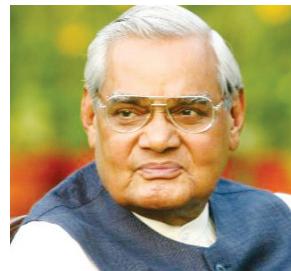
Akhilesh made the announcement at a meeting of SP workers at the party headquarters in Lucknow.

He said: "I will contest from Kannauj while netaji (Mulayam) will contest from Mainpuri."

He said that the opposition has charged the SP with 'pariwarwad' (nepotism) due to which his wife Dimple Yadav will not contest the election this time.

To a question related to alliance and seat-sharing, he said, "With whosoever our alliance will take place, the party workers will ensure our victory and defeat of the BJP. This time, they will not get support of the people as they stand exposed. They only paid lip service to the people and did nothing on ground."

Source: PTI



Centre challenges lower court order to compensate Op Bluestar victims

NEW DELHI (TIP): The central government has filed a petition in Punjab and Haryana High Court challenging an order passed last year by the Amritsar court instructing state and Union government to pay Rs 4 lakh compensation per head to 40 Sikhs who were allegedly detained and kept in illegal custody at temporary prison after their arrest from Golden Temple complex after Operation Blue Star.

Victims were allegedly kept in illegal detention initially in Amritsar and then in Jodhpur jail after Operation Blue Star had ended. In its plea, Centre has said that it was not in jurisdiction of Amritsar court to hear the petition and the plaintiffs had, in fact, joined terrorists during Operation Blue Star. In its defense, the government also said that the Golden Temple was not attacked and the Army had stepped in on the request of civil administration.

"The question of attack on Golden Temple did not arise, rather defendants held the holy Harmandir Sahib in utmost esteem. In fact, terrorists had entrenched themselves in and around Golden Temple complex, which had been declared as distributed area vide government of Punjab gazette notification and conditions of insurgency was created..... Army authorities were requisitioned in the aid of civil administration to maintain law and order in and around Golden Temple, to flush out militants, to seize arms, ammunition and explosives, which were illegally stored by terrorists in Golden Temple complex," the Centre said in its petition. Court will hear the petition filed by Centre on July 2.

Officially, total 379 Sikhs were arrested from the premises of Golden Temple and adjoining inns after Operation Blue Star in 1984. Out of 379, 365 were alleged first time offenders. Police had registered FIR against these 365 persons on June 10, 1984. Then the case was held over to Central Bureau of Investigation and another FIR was launched against these Sikhs under various sections of Indian Penal Code, Explosive Act and Arms Act on June 14, 1984.

After coming out of jail, 71 of these 365 Sikhs filed a case to demand compensation from government in 1991. While CBI won it in 2011, 41 out of 71 again filed a civil appeal with district and session court, Amritsar, in 2011.

In his April 12, 2017, verdict Gurbir Singh, District Judge, said, "In view of my discussion, the appeal, in hand, is allowed and impugned judgment and



Make Operation Bluestar-related files public, orders UK judge

LONDON (TIP): A UK judge has ordered the declassification of documents that are expected to shed further light on Britain's involvement in Operation Blue Star in 1984, dismissing the British government's argument that the move could damage diplomatic ties with India.

Judge Murray Shanks, who presided over a three-day hearing of the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) in London in March, ruled on Monday that a majority of the files relating to the period must be made public and rejected the UK government's argument that declassifying the Downing Street papers would damage diplomatic ties with India.

The judge, however, did accept that one file marked "India: Political", from the UK's Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), could contain information that relates to British spy agencies MI5, MI6 and GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) and therefore the Cabinet Office was entitled to rely on a technicality that exempts such material from the Freedom of Information (FOI) request appeal.

"We recognise that the period we are concerned with was a highly sensitive one in India's recent history and the strength of feeling it continues to evoke it should also be remembered that the fact that 30 years has gone by is bound to have reduced any prejudice that may have resulted from release of the withheld material," the judgment notes.

The FOI appeal was handled by KRW Law on behalf of freelance journalist Phil Miller, who has been investigating the exact nature of the then Margaret Thatcher-led government's assistance to the Indian Army operation on Golden Temple in Amritsar.

In 2014, UK government documents declassified under the 30-year rule to make such material public had revealed that British military advice was given to Indian forces prior to Operation Blue Star.

Then British Prime Minister David Cameron had ordered a review into this discovery, named as the Heywood Review, which led to a statement in Parliament declaring that Britain's role had been purely "advisory" and the advice provided by the country's Special Air Service (SAS) had "limited impact in practice".

But Miller, the author of 'Sacrificing Sikhs: The need for an investigation' report released last year, says only "full transparency" would reveal the exact nature of Britain's involvement.

Source: PTI

decree as rendered by the trial court are set aside and suit of the plaintiff is partly decreed, with costs for recovery of Rs 4,00,000 as compensation against defendants No.1 and 2 (state and central government). The plaintiff is also held entitled to interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from the date of filing the suit till today. The plaintiff is further held entitled to future interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from the date of decision till actual realization of the decretal amount."

Source: The Indian Express

Tamil Nadu: Split verdict on MLAs relief for ADMK

CHENNAI (TIP): In a huge relief to the AIADMK government, the Madras High Court on Thursday gave a split verdict on petitions challenging the disqualification of 18 MLAs loyal to sidelined party leader TTV Dinakaran, a ruling that would maintain status quo in the corridors of power in Tamil Nadu.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice M Sundar delivered divergent verdicts on whether the MLAs deserved to be disqualified under the anti-

defection law for seeking the removal of Chief Minister K Palaniswami. The court ruled that the seniormost judge after the CJ would now pick a judge to hear the matter afresh.

The verdict came as a massive relief for the Palaniswami government as restoration of the MLAs' membership could have brought it perilously close to losing majority in the event of their joining hands with the DMK-Congress-IUML alliance, which has 98 MLAs in the 234-member House.

Source: PTI



Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami

UN report on Kashmir slams both India and Pak; India rejects it

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a first, the UN body OHCHR (UN Human Rights office of The High Commissioner) published a report on human rights situation on both sides of Kashmir and slammed both India and Pakistan.

"The 49-page report—the first ever issued by the UN on the human rights situation in Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered Kashmir—details human rights violations and abuses on both sides of the Line of Control and highlights a situation of chronic impunity for violations committed by security forces," says the report.

The report asks both sides to adhere to the ceasefire agreement and asks India to repeal AFSPA and release political prisoners, among others.

It also recommends, "Fully respect the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir as protected under international law."

In response to a question on the Report, the official spokesperson said: "India rejects the report. It is fallacious, tendentious and motivated. We question the intent in bringing out such a report. It is a selective compilation of largely unverified information. It is overtly prejudiced and seeks to build a false narrative."

"The report violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the Indian state through aggression. We have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to vacate the occupied territories. The incorrect description of Indian territory in the report is mischievous, misleading and unacceptable. There



The report asks both sides to adhere to the ceasefire agreement and asks India to repeal AFSPA and release political prisoners, among others.

are no entities such as 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Gilgit-Baltistan'.

"Terrorism is the most egregious violation of human rights. Yet the authors have conveniently ignored the pattern of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and territories under its illegal control. Cross-border terror and incitement is aimed at suppressing the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, disrupting its political and social fabric and undermining India's integrity."

"It is disturbing that those behind this report have chosen to describe internationally designated and UN-proscribed terrorist entities as "armed groups" and terrorists as "leaders". This undermines the UN-led consensus on zero tolerance to terrorism."

"The motivated report deliberately

ignores that fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution to every Indian citizen, including in the state of Jammu & Kashmir, are protected also by an independent judiciary, human rights commissions, free and vibrant media and an active civil society.

"Our protest and views in the matter have been conveyed unequivocally to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We are deeply concerned that individual prejudices are being allowed to undermine the credibility of a UN institution."

"Such malicious reports cannot undermine the will of the people and the Government of India to take all measures necessary to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country from cross-border terrorism."

Kejriwal refuses to budge from dharna, L-G Baijal meets Rajnath



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and state ministers Satyender Jain and Gopal Rai during a sit-in protest at L-G Anil Baijal's residence.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and three of his cabinet colleagues continued their sit-in protest inside the lieutenant governor's office for the fourth straight day on Thursday even as L-G Anil Baijal met home minister Rajnath Singh over the standoff that has brought the Capital's administration to a standstill.

Kejriwal and three ministers, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, public works department minister Satyender Jain and rural development minister Gopal Rai, have been camped at Raj Niwas since Monday, and have refused to leave until the L-G orders IAS officers posted in the Delhi government to call off an alleged strike.

Baijal briefed Singh about the protest, a home ministry officer said on the condition of anonymity.

"The L-G also briefed the minister about the ongoing police investigation into an alleged assault on chief secretary Anshu Prakash in February this year. Baijal also informed the minister about his communication with the bureaucrats on the issue," the ministry official said.

The IAS Officers' Association denied they were on strike and released photographs that purportedly showed them working in offices inside the Delhi secretariat, which also houses the office of the chief minister.

On Thursday, as Kejriwal and his ministers protested at the L-G's office, a meeting to discuss Delhi's rising dust pollution was held. The meeting was attended by the government's environment minister Imran Hussain and Prakash in attendance. This was the first important meeting since the sit-protest started began four days ago.

Source: HT

Ramzan ceasefire in J&K may not extend beyond Eid

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government is not likely to extend the month-long ceasefire in place during Ramzan in J&K, but it may refrain from publicly announcing the resumption of operations, BJP sources said.

"The announcement on halting of operations was till Ramzan, and the unilateral suspension will end on Eid. The government is unlikely to extend it because the Amarnath Yatra will begin within days, and we have to sanitise the corridors. We cannot keep the hands of the Army tied," said a top leader of the party.

The ceasefire will "automatically" end on Eid, the leader said. "The government may not come out with an explicit announcement on resuming operations. But in effect, it will end, and the implication will be resumption of operations," the leader said.

However, sources said, the Centre's special representative to J&K, Dineshwar Sharma, will meet separatist leaders in the Valley after Eid. "We are expecting some positive developments after Eid (for dialogue)," sources said. Although there were indications that the Centre would be open to extending the ceasefire beyond Eid, the top leadership of the ruling party and the government seem to have concluded that the time was not right to continue the "goodwill gesture".

On Tuesday, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav was in Srinagar and met party leaders as well as those from the ruling alliance partner PDP, including Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. On Wednesday, Madhav hinted that the government may not favour the extension of ceasefire. "Ramzan is the holy month for Muslims so the Indian government had decided to announce suspension of operations during this period as a goodwill gesture. We also wanted that the same be reciprocated but there was no change in the actions of separatists and terrorists," Madhav was quoted as saying by ANI.

Rising Kashmir editor Shujaat Bukhari shot dead in Srinagar



Srinagar (TIP): A senior journalist and chief editor of a popular Kashmiri newspaper was killed on Thursday by unidentified gunmen in a drive-by shooting in Srinagar that put an already tense state on edge and led chief minister Mehbooba Mufti to describe the attack as a "new low for terrorism".

Shujaat Bukhari, 48, the editor-in-chief of Rising Kashmir, was targeted by three gunmen on a motorcycle while he was in his car, having just left his Press Colony office just before Iftar. He was accompanied by two security guards, Abdul Hameed and Mumtaz Ahmad, who were also killed as multiple bullets were sprayed at them.

Union home minister Rajnath Singh said "there is no doubt that terrorists have killed Shujaat Bhukhari." He also spoke to the Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti late on Wednesday, and said she was "distraught".

Jammu and Kashmir Police released pictures of the assailants, asking the public to help identify them.

A journalist for three decades, he had

worked for 15 years at The Hindu and was known in the state and the rest of the country as an important Kashmiri voice. No militant organisation had taken responsibility for the attack by the time of going to print. Bukhari was an advocate of a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue and was instrumental in organising several conferences involving former diplomats and generals from India and Pakistan.

He was also part of the Track-II diplomatic process with the neighbouring country.

The killing led to an outpouring of

condolence messages from people on all sides of the political spectrum, including separatist leaders.

"The killing of @RisingKashmir editor, Shujaat Bukhari is an act of cowardice. It is an attempt to silence the saner voices of Kashmir. He was a courageous and fearless journalist. Extremely shocked & pained at his death. My thoughts and prayers are with his bereaved family," the home minister tweeted.

"I'm anguished to hear about the killing of Shujaat Bukhari, editor of @RisingKashmir. He was a brave heart who fought fearlessly for justice and peace in Jammu & Kashmir. My condolences to his family. He will be missed," said Congress president Rahul Gandhi in a tweet.

Chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who went to Bukhari's house to meet his family, broke down while speaking about him. "This is really shocking. He came to meet me a few days back. This is upsetting..." she said. Bukhari is survived by his wife and two children.


**GUEST
COMMENT**

Trump-Kim summit - Can the virus of informal summits proliferate?

Practitioners of old-style diplomacy are yet to catch their breath after the curtains had come down on the Trump-Kim summit in Singapore. No black-suited diplomat sat across the table to thrust and parry, no preparatory meetings of the alphabet soup of security advisory bodies burnt the midnight oil. Yet, by all accounts the summit concluded on a positive note. This is a huge takeaway, for the Korean Peninsula dispute is rated as among the world's intractable, frozen-in-time animosities that bigger statesmen have opted to tip-toe around. That Kim and Trump, both looked down upon as neophytes among the hard-bitten big boys of global diplomacy, appear to be cracking open a puzzle that eluded past deal makers like Bill Clinton, may well be a pointer to political leaders taking matters into their hands rather than wait for tenured diplomats and intelligence officials to conduct the preliminary spadework.

PM Modi has also tried his hand at springing diplomatic surprises: the invite to all SAARC heads of government at his prime ministerial swearing-in ceremony and the surprise touchdown in Pakistan were meant to unlock a dispute through an informal approach. Modi unlike Trump, however, missed a vital trick - he failed to consult other players who also have equally interested fingers in the South Asian pie. The US and North Korea avoided a pushback or a spoiler attempt like the Pathankot attack by whirlwind diplomacy that drew in Russia and China. PM Modi now seems to be taking a similar approach by long deliberative sessions with Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, the two major players in the region.

Old-school diplomats would look askance at these unusual efforts to break ice. But similar acts of creativeness - Indira Gandhi-Bhutto clinching the Simla agreement without aides or Henry Kissinger's secret visit to Beijing that unfroze the Sino-US deadlock - establish that history is made with acts of political will, with or without the diplomatic entourage. The subcontinent needs one such moment in its backyard. If the Trump-Kim bromance endures, PM Modi won't be averse to a second informal shot at enduring peace in the neighborhood.

(Tribune, India)



By Rakesh Sood

Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't," wrote Mark Twain. Nothing proves it better than the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore on Tuesday. No reality TV show could have scripted an episode with greater suspense and drama than what the two leaders successfully imparted to their meeting.

Mr. Trump, the 72-year-old leader of one of the world's oldest democracies, an \$18 trillion economy with a 1.3 million strong military, of whom 28,500 troops are deployed in South Korea, and Chairman Kim, at 34 the third-generation leader of a totalitarian state with an impoverished economy estimated at less than \$40 billion and a military force of 1.2 million with a newly acquired nuclear capability, make for an unusual couple. And yet, as Mr. Trump said, "From the beginning we got along." Describing Mr. Kim as "very talented", he recalled with a degree of empathy that the North Korean had faced a challenge when he took over his country at just 26 years.

ART OF MAKING FRIENDS: Less than a year ago, the heightened rhetoric on both sides had led to growing concerns about the possibility of a nuclear exchange as North Korea ramped up its nuclear and missile testing programs. In September 2017, it conducted its sixth nuclear test, declaring it a thermonuclear device, a claim that has been disputed. However, with a yield of 100-300 kt (kiloton), it marked a significant improvement from earlier tests. Four of the six tests have been undertaken by Mr. Kim with a view to miniaturizing the device to fit a missile warhead.

Simultaneously, he accelerated the missile program conducting over 80 flight tests during the last seven years, compared to 16 undertaken by his father from 1994 to 2011. At least three new missiles have been successfully tested and inducted. These include the Musudan (around 3,500 km), Hwasong 12 (4,500 km) and Hwasong 14 (around 10,000 km). Last November, Hwasong 15 was tested with a range estimated at 13,000 km, making it clear that North Korea was close to developing the capability to target the U.S. mainland.

Mr. Trump warned North Korea with "fire and fury like the world has never seen". North Korea responded by threatening to hit Guam "enveloping it in fire". Mr. Trump announced that "military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded". The UN Security Council met repeatedly, tightening economic sanctions on North Korea. Mr. Trump described Mr. Kim as a "rocket man on a suicide mission for himself and his regime" while North Korea vowed to "tame the mentally deranged U.S. dotard with fire". Russia and China appealed for restraint, proposing a "freeze for freeze", calling on the U.S. to stop military exercises with South Korea in return for North Korea halting its nuclear and missile testing.

AS I SEE IT

AN IMPROBABLE FRIENDSHIP

"Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un have stunned the world. They may yet surprise us by pulling off a détente."

"With Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim, it is difficult to predict how the process will unfold but it is a new opening. One can almost visualize Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim telling each other as they said their goodbyes in Singapore: 'I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.'

treaty and security guarantees to be concluded. The process collapsed when the U.S. imposed new sanctions, and in 2006 North Korea conducted its first nuclear test.

CHANGED SITUATION: Since then, the situation has changed. The old process is dead; North Korean capabilities have grown dramatically, increasing anxiety especially in South Korea and Japan and Chinese worries about U.S. deployment of missile defense in South Korea. There are challenges too. The U.S. would ideally like complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament as would Japan. North Korea seeks regime legitimacy and regime security together with sanctions relief while reducing its dependency on China. China would like to prolong the process to ensure its centrality. And South Korea would like to lower tensions while retaining the American presence. Reconciling these needs time and sustained dialogue.

The Joint Statement in Singapore is shy on detail but carries political promise. Instead of obsessing on the nuclear issue, it reflects clear recognition that a new beginning in U.S.-North Korea relations is possible only by replacing the 1953 Armistice Agreement with a permanent peace treaty and that regime security guarantee for North Korea is a prerequisite for denuclearization. Mr. Trump has accepted that the denuclearization process will take time, but he wants to take it to a point that makes it irreversible. The affirmation of the Panmunjom Declaration (signed between the two Korean leaders in April) means that bilateral normalization between the two Koreas will move apace and a meeting involving the U.S. and possibly China to conclude a peace treaty can happen by end-2018.

Two senior South Korean officials visited Pyongyang in early March. Over a long dinner conversation, Mr. Kim indicated continued restraint on testing and willingness to discuss denuclearization of the Korean peninsula if military threats to North Korea decreased and regime safety was guaranteed. The testing restraint was formally declared on April 21, a week before the summit between the two Korean leaders on April 27 in Panmunjom, which was acclaimed a success.

The U.S. was kept fully briefed by South Korean officials and in early March Mr. Trump indicated readiness to meet Mr. Kim, leading to heightened speculation about mismatched expectations all around. Even after two visits by Mike Pompeo (first as CIA chief and then as Secretary of State) and the release of three Americans sentenced for spying, there were hiccups when National Security Adviser John Bolton held up the "Libyan model" for North Korea's disarmament and the U.S. launched air combat exercises together with South Korea. North Korea responded angrily. The summit was put off, followed by an exchange of conciliatory letters between the two leaders amid mounting suspense, and on June 1 the summit was reinstated.

There have been previous attempts by the U.S. to address concerns regarding North Korea's nuclear program. The first was the 1994 Agreed Framework after North Korea threatened to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This was annulled by the Bush administration in 2002 with the 'axis of evil' speech. Consequently, North Korea withdrew from the NPT. The Six Party talks (second round) were initiated in 2004, resulting in a joint statement the following year reiterating commitment to denuclearization, with a peace

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Dinesh D'Souza, Once Ousted from Job for Adultery, Now Pardoned by President Trump



By M. P. Prabhakaran

"Let me put in my two cents worth: Donald Trump issued the pardon because he wants Dinesh D'Souza out there, continuing his favorite job of spewing anti-Obama venom", says the author.

First, a clarification: The pardon President Trump issued on May 31, 2018, has nothing to do with the adultery Dinesh D'Souza committed a few years ago. The adultery did cost this Indian-American his job as president of an evangelical college in New York. But for Donald Trump, himself an adulterer and philanderer, it's no big deal. More about the adultery, in a little bit.

Trump and D'Souza have one thing in common. They both hate former President Barack Obama. Each has been engaged in his own character assassination campaign against Obama for nearly a decade now. Since Obama left office and Trump entered it, the latter added one more goal to his campaign: to erase all traces of the achievements Obama had during his eight years in office. The pardon he issued last month, absolving D'Souza of the crime he committed during the 2012 election, is his way of rewarding him for the stupendous work he did in spreading anti-Obama venom. It is also aimed at enabling him to continue that work. More about the pardon, in a little bit.

Trump's destroy-Obama campaign started even before Obama became president, soon after he became the Democratic Party nominee for president. It started with a lie. The lie was that Obama was born in Kenya and hence ineligible even to enter the presidential race, let alone be president. The only basis for Trump's claim was that Obama, though born to an American mother, had a Kenyan father. And since Trump became president, he has been making every effort to demolish the legacy the Obama presidency has left behind.

D'Souza Questions Obama's Patriotism

Though the lie was exposed, with documents proving that Obama was a native-born American, the fact that Obama was born to a Kenyan father gave both Trump and D'Souza ample material to build a conspiracy theory questioning Obama's patriotism. Building conspiracy theories based on figments of their imagination has been a favorite pastime of both Trump and D'Souza. To cite a few such theories D'Souza bandied about: Obama is against business because of the anti-colonial trait in his character, which he inherited from his Kenyan father; the 9/11 terrorist attacks happened because of "America's moral decadence" caused by liberals; the scandalous incident at the Abu Ghraib, Iraq, prison was the fault of liberals, because the soldiers who did those despicable things, Lynndie England and Charles Graner, were divorced, sex-crazed partiers, acting out "the fantasies of blue [Democratic] America"; the liberal billionaire-financier-philanthropist George Soros, who was a Jewish child in Nazi-occupied Hungary, was really a Nazi collaborator; etc., etc.

When D'Souza, a native of India who became a naturalized citizen of America, questioned the patriotism of a native-born American, he may have evoked chuckles in many quarters. But he knew full well that playing the patriotism card is the surest way of getting accepted in the ultra-right wing of the Republican Party.

According to D'Souza, all economic policies Obama adopted, and actions he took in pursuance thereof, could be traced to his anticolonialist mind-set. He dwelt at length on this theorizing in a cover story he wrote for Forbes magazine. The story, titled "Obama's Problem with Business," was published in the September 27, 2010, issue of the magazine. It portrays anticolonialism as evil and elaborates on his outlandish idea that President Obama was executing in this country the anticolonial agenda of his Kenyan father. A person born and brought up in a former colony portraying anticolonialism as evil did come as a shock to many. I was one of them. I wrote a response to D'Souza's Forbes article and published it in this space, on September 21, 2010, under the title "An Indian of Quisling Ancestry Ridicules Obama's Anticolonialist Ancestry." The most important point I made in my response was:

"If anticolonialism is evil, Mahatma Gandhi of India, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and even the founding fathers of America were guilty of having espoused an evil ideology."

D'Souza's article in Forbes ended thus: "Incredibly, the U.S. is being ruled according to the dreams of a Luo tribesman of the



Dinesh D'Souza

1950s. This philandering inebriated African socialist, who raged against the world for denying him the realization of his anticolonial ambitions, is now setting the nation's agenda through the reincarnation of his dreams in his son. The son makes it happen, but he candidly admits he is only living out his father's dream. The invisible father provides the inspiration, and the son dutifully gets the job done. America today is governed by a ghost."

D'Souza dwelt at length on the same idea in his book, *The Roots of Obama's Rage*, published in 2010, and a documentary based on the book, released in 2012. Though many in the country found the idea stupid and sickening, the book sold very well. The documentary, titled *2016: Obama's America* and produced with financial help from another Obama-hating conservative, billionaire Joe Ricketts, "was one of the highest-grossing political documentaries of all time, behind only Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*," according to *The New York Times*. D'Souza was happy to note that spreading hatred for Obama pays.

The ideas he promoted through his numerous articles, nearly a dozen books, two documentaries (the second documentary, *Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party*, was released on July 22, 2016) and appearances on radio and television talk shows won him a large following among conservatives in the Republican Party. With the publication, in 2007, of the book *What's So Great About Christianity*, he also became the darling of the evangelical wing of the party, making him a much-sought-after speaker at mega-churches in the country. His career also rose meteorically. His new-found status among evangelicals won him the top-most position at The King's College, an evangelical institution in New York. The presidency of the college came with a seven-figure salary.

Extramarital Affair

But the fame and prestige, which the presidency of an evangelical college brought him, lasted only two years, from August 2010 to October 2012. On September 28, 2012, the man who masqueraded as a holier-than-thou-Christian was spotted in an un-Christian-like act. He was seen sharing a room with a woman at a hotel in South Carolina. His explanation that he had already been divorced from Dixie Brubaker, his wife since 1992, and that Denise Odie Joseph II, the woman he was with, was his fiancée turned out to be only half-true. Nobody believed, either, his plea that "nothing happened" in the hotel room between him and Denise.

Reporter Warren Cole Smith from *World Magazine* broke the story on the illicit affair in the October 16, 2012, issue of the magazine. *World* is a biweekly Christian news magazine published by God's World Publications. Smith later discovered that D'Souza filed for divorce from Dixie only on the day his story appeared in *World*. In the wake of the controversy the scandal stirred, The Smith's College forced D'Souza to resign.

I had written an article on the controversy and D'Souza's fall from grace and published in this space, under the title "Obama-Baiting Indian-American Eased Out of His Job for Adultery." The article, among other things, said:

"A man losing his job for an extramarital affair may come as a surprise to many, especially in this day and age. But we are

not talking about just any man and just any job. The adulterer we are talking about is one who steadily advanced his career by extolling Christian values and kissing up to the extreme right wing of the Republican Party. And the job he has been eased out of is the presidency of an evangelical college whose mission statement emphasizes a "commitment to the truths of Christianity and a biblical worldview."

That the immoral act took place at the conclusion of an event at which 2,000-odd people had gathered "to hear high-profile Christians speak on defending the faith and applying a Christian worldview to their lives," as the Smith story, puts it, made it all the more appalling. Dinesh D'Souza was the keynote speaker at the event and Smith's report exposed his hypocrisy.

Illegal Campaign Contribution:

It seems 2012 was the cruelest year thus far in D'Souza's career. While the immoral act mentioned above cost him his job and the prestigious position he enjoyed among evangelicals, an illegal act he committed the same year made him a liability for the Republican Party. Until President Trump came to his rescue, that is. Let's briefly go through what happened:

In the 2012 mid-term election in the country, the Republican candidate for Senate from New York was Wendy Long, a friend of D'Souza's since his Dartmouth College days. Ms. Long had requested him to help her raise campaign funds by appealing to wealthy Indian doctors in Westchester. D'Souza knew that he was the last person whom even Republicans among Indians would lift a finger to help. So, he found another way of helping his friend. He persuaded the woman he was having an affair with (the same Denise Odie Joseph II, married and 22 years his junior, who shared a hotel room with him in South Carolina) and her husband; and another couple (a young employee working under him and her husband) to contribute to Long's campaign fund. The total contribution came to \$20,000. Strictly speaking, there was nothing illegal about it, the legally permitted limit of individual contribution being \$5,000. But the \$20,000 which the four individuals contributed was reimbursed by D'Souza, as per his prior arrangement with them. In other words, he used the four people as straw donors, a practice prohibited under campaign finance laws.

Sometime in 2013, when the F.B.I., while going through the campaign records of Wendy Long, spotted large sums appearing in the middle of small contributions. It raised a red flag. On further investigation, the Justice Department was able to trace the source of the \$20,000 donation to D'Souza. He was charged with breaking campaign finance laws, "willfully and knowingly," and causing a false statement to be made to the Federal Election Commission. The fact that his friend lost the election to her opponent, the incumbent Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, did not make his illegal contribution less of a crime.

For four months D'Souza refused to plead guilty, arguing that he was a victim of "selective prosecution." He was being targeted, he said, because he was a "sharp critic of the Obama presidency who has incurred the president's wrath."

Richard M. Berman, the judge who presided over the case, dismissed D'Souza's arguments as "all hat and no cattle." On September 23, 2014, he issued his verdict. D'Souza was fined \$30,000 and sentenced to five years' probation, including eight months in a supervised "community confinement center."

He was languishing in infamy, at least in the eyes of many, when he received the heart-warming news about his being pardoned by the president. The first thing D'Souza did, after he heard of the pardon, was to send out tweets thanking Trump and railing at President Barack Obama. His tweet to Trump said: "Obama & his stooges tried to extinguish my American dream & destroy my faith in America. Thank you @realDonaldTrump for fully restoring both."

The next tweet, sent out on the same day, was directed at Preet Bharara, the Indian-American who prosecuted his case. It read: "KARMA IS A BITCH DEPT: @PreetBharara wanted to destroy a fellow Indian American to advance his career. Then he got fired & I got pardoned."

contd on Page 20

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Boris Becker claims diplomatic immunity in bankruptcy case

LONDON (TIP): Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker is claiming diplomatic immunity from ongoing bankruptcy proceedings in the UK on the basis that he is an ambassador for the Central African Republic, British media reported on June 15.

Lawyers for Becker, a former world number one, lodged a claim Thursday in the UK's High Court asserting immunity after he was appointed a sports attache for the Central African Republic in April, the Press Association said.

Becker - who won six Grand Slams in the 1980s and 90s - was declared bankrupt by a London court in June 2017 for failing to pay a long-standing debt.

But his position as attache to the European Union on sporting, cultural and humanitarian affairs is covered by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

This means the consent of UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and his counterpart in Bangui is needed before Becker is subjected to any legal proceedings, his lawyers said, the Press Association reported.



"The decision to commence bankruptcy proceedings against me was both unjustified and unjust," Becker said, according to the Press Association.

"A bunch of anonymous and unaccountable bankers and bureaucrats pushed me into a completely unnecessary declaration of

bankruptcy, which has inflicted a whole heap of damage on me, both commercially and professionally, and on those close to me."

"I have now asserted diplomatic immunity as I am in fact bound to do, in order to bring this farce to an end, so that I can start to rebuild my life."

The German shook up the tennis world at Wimbledon in 1985 when, as an unseeded player, he became the then youngest-ever male Grand Slam champion at the age of 17, defending the trophy the following year.

He went on to a glittering career and amassed more than \$25 million in prize money.

Becker's tangled private life has also kept him in the news.

He has a daughter conceived in a brief but now famous encounter with a Russian model who claimed she met Becker at a London bar and had sex with him in a broom cupboard at a nearby Japanese restaurant.

In January, Becker appealed for help in tracking down five missing Grand Slam trophies which he said he needed to sell to help pay off his debts. (AFP)

Nirav Modi got Mallya-like stay permit to stay in UK?



India has asked UK if Nirav Modi has been given a stay permit just as Mallya was given

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has asked the UK to clarify whether fugitive jeweler Nirav Modi has permission to stay indefinitely in that country even as the Enforcement Directorate plans to file extradition requests with multiple countries as Modi has changed his location frequently in the past few months.

Sources said India has asked the UK home office if Modi has been granted an 'ILR' (indefinite leave to remain). That would be a critical piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

An ILR is like a long-term visa that grants a person legal protection against deportation. In simpler terms, Modi's status in the UK would, with an ILR, be similar to that of Vijay Mallya, and would require India to file for extradition under the bilateral treaty.

If, however, Modi has not been granted such a privilege, India would be on much stronger ground to seek his deportation. The UK has not yet responded to the query.

The government had revoked Modi's passport in February. However, he had more than one passport and is believed to have travelled to the UK and Belgium on a different Indian passport. His second passport has also been revoked.

Modi does not qualify for asylum, sources said, because India doesn't feature in the list of countries which persecute their citizens enabling them to seek asylum in other countries. In addition, it has been established that Modi did indeed commit large-scale fraud, which would also rule out any grant of asylum.

Meanwhile, the ED is ready with legal paperwork for its extradition requests, having filed a chargesheet against Modi and obtaining a non-bailable warrant from a special Mumbai court two days ago. The agency has received information about Modi's presence in Belgium after his recent trip to London.

However, a source said it was contemplating filing extradition requests with multiple countries since the diamantaire was constantly switching locations.

Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi of Geetanjali Gems are accused in the Rs 13,000 crore PNB swindle. Both fled the country with their family members just before PNB filed a case against them with the CBI. Immediately after, the ED registered a money laundering case against them under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED has received information that Modi travelled to the UK multiple times using his revoked Indian passport in March. The ED had given details of Modi's six passports to the foreign ministry. However, it could not be ascertained how he travelled on a revoked passport. The ED has also approached Interpol through the CBI for a red corner notice against Modi. The agency has seized assets worth over Rs 3,000 crore belonging to Modi and his associates. A source said Mehul Choksi is currently in the US and a similar extradition request against him will be filed after the ED files a chargesheet against him.

(Source: PTI)

British gay rights activist arrested in Russia before World Cup



MOSCOW (TIP): British gay rights activist Peter Tatchell was arrested on June 14 in Russia for holding a one-man protest against the country's record on LGBT rights, hours before the kick-off of the World Cup.

The veteran campaigner was led away by police shortly after unfolding a poster that said President Vladimir "Putin fails to act against Chechnya torture of gay people" near Red Square in central Moscow.

"There can be no normal sporting relations with an abnormal regime like that of Vladimir Putin," he said before being approached by three officers.

Tatchell told one of the officers he was demonstrating for the Russian people and said a number of celebrated Russians, such as the composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky, were gay.

After a brief discussion about the legality of the protest, the 66-year-old was escorted to a police car next to the walls of the Kremlin.

He was held at the central Kitai-Gorod police station and released two hours later, he told AFP. Officers ordered Tatchell to appear in court on June 26, the activist said, but added he planned to leave the country before the hearing.

The British embassy in Moscow said its staff was offering the campaigner assistance.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was following the situation but believed it was an issue for law enforcement, in comments reported by news agencies.

In 2007, Tatchell was beaten by rightwing

demonstrators as he attended Moscow's second-ever gay pride parade, in an attack he says has left him with brain damage.

Last year gay men in Chechnya, a majority Muslim republic in southern Russia ruled by strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, said they had been tortured by law enforcement agencies.

A controversial "gay propaganda" law brought in by Russia in 2013 officially forbids the promotion of "non-traditional sexual relationships" to minors but effectively bans gay rights activism.

Tatchell said the law had been used to

criminalise peaceful protests, sack teachers and suppress organisations that offer support to the LGBT community, in a written statement released to the media.

Russian campaigners have previously been charged for sharing information about LGBT rights on social media and detained for carrying rainbow flags at demonstrations.

Russian authorities have insisted lesbian and gay fans should feel safe travelling to the country for the World Cup, but some LGBT supporters told AFP they had received violent threats ahead of the tournament. (AFP)

China carries out missile drills in South China Sea amid heightened tensions

BEIJING (TIP): China's navy carried out drills in the South China Sea to simulate fending off an aerial attack, state media said on Friday, as China and the United States trade barbs over who is responsible for heightened tensions in the disputed

waterways. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed concern during a visit to Beijing on Thursday over China's efforts to militarise the seas.

His remarks came after a flurry of US activity in the region, including reports last week that US Air Force B-52 bombers had flown near disputed islands that drew a sharp rebuke from China.

China's navy carried out a simulated missile attack in an unspecified area of the South China Sea using three target drones making flyovers of a ship formation at varying heights, the official army newspaper said.

The drills were part of efforts by an also unspecified training base to prepare for real-life combat against aerial targets after China's leadership said some training failed to prepare troops effectively, the paper said.

The United States and China have frequently sparred over who is militarising the South China Sea, with Beijing blaming tensions on actions such as the "freedom of navigation" operations carried out by the US navy.

Washington says such operations are necessary to counter China's efforts to limit nautical movement in the strategic waterway. (Reuters)



REKHA TO PERFORM ON STAGE AFTER 20 YEARS AT IIFA 2018

Veteran star Rekha is all set to perform on stage after 20 years at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) event.

At the press conference of IIFA here last night, actor Varun Dhawan made the announcement and said it will be the "highlight" of the ceremony.

"For me, it is going to be such a big highlight to see her (Rekha) perform live. I know a little bit of her act and to see that live is going to be a huge thing," Dhawan said as he invited Rekha on stage.

Asked which songs she would be performing on, the veteran actor said, "I have a second name-mystery. If I tell you now, then what's the point?"

Apart from Rekha's special act, IIFA will witness performances by several Bollywood stars including Ranbir Kapoor, Shahid Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Kriti Sanon and Iulia Vantur.

The main ceremony will be hosted by Karan Johar and Riteish Deshmukh.

The celebrations will kickstart with IIFA Rocks and will have a special medley by music director Pritam along with Sreerama Chandra, Amit Mishra, Shalmali Kholgade, Antara Mitra, Nakash Aziz and Nikitha.

Source: PTI

DAISY SHAH: DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT SALMAN

Actress Daisy Shah, who is busy promoting her forthcoming film 'Race 3', said that she didn't want to disappoint her mentor and co-star Salman Khan in the action film.

Interacting with media on Wednesday during a promotional event, Daisy, who started her career in the entertainment industry as an assistant to choreographer Ganesh Acharya for 10 years before Salman gave her break in 'Jai Ho' before she is again sharing screen space with him, said, "I think life is about challenges. You have to face challenge since your birth."

"For me, to get break in 'Jai Ho' was a challenge and my journey after that depends on my work and luck so, I think blessing of my parents has helped to reach this stage and I am really fortunate that Salman Khan lifted me from one level and helped me to reach another level."

"After that things depend upon my hard work to lift that level further. Salman Khan is loved by a million people and if he has put his faith on me so, I don't want to disappoint him. Today, there is sense of confidence and belief in me only because Salman sir believes in my abilities."

Sharing her experiences on the film, Daisy said, "We are very thankful to the audience that they are giving a good response to our film's trailer and songs, so it feels nice. Only name 'Race' is matching with the earlier parts of this franchise, but other than that, everything is different..."

She said that this film not only has a new star-cast, but its story is also completely different, since the earlier films were about two brothers but "in this film, there is a story of entire family. Flavour of the film is same and this film also has many twists and turns".

About her character, Daisy said, "I am playing character of Sanjana in 'Race 3' and it is very a dark character in the initial phase of the film but towards the end, it gets transformed into a positive character."



Seen doing high-octane action sequences in 'Race 3', she, about her experience doing action for the first time, said, "I had so much fun doing action for 'Race 3'. All of us know that for actresses in Bollywood only get few scenes and songs but 'Race' is one such franchise where female actors are given equal importance and they are presented equally with their male counterparts so, this film is not about any specific actor, it's about performance."

"Doing stunts all by myself has been deliberate decision because I wanted to do all stunts by myself because female actors

don't get opportunity to work in action films and I think when you get such an opportunity, then you have to make most of it. I fractured my ankle while practicing for an action scene and due to that, we had to postpone fight sequence between me and Jacqueline (Fernandez) for one month but when we shot for that, it came out very well as we got some extra time to practice."

'Race 3', directed by Remo D'Souza and produced by Salman and Ramesh Taurani, stars Salman, Jacqueline, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Daisy, Saqib Saleem and Freddy Daruwala in lead roles.

Source: IANS

Priyanka Chopra apologises for Hindu terror plot in Quantico

Actor Priyanka Chopra on Sunday tendered an apology for the recent controversial episode in her American TV series Quantico, that showed Indians as terrorists.

Taking to her Twitter handle, the actor said that her intention was not to hurt the sentiment of the people and that she was a proud Indian.

"I'm extremely saddened and sorry that some sentiments have been hurt by a recent episode of Quantico. That was not and would never be my intention. I sincerely apologise. I'm a proud Indian and that will never change," Priyanka tweeted.

The episode which aired on June 1 drew flak on social media, with fans questioning how Priyanka, an Indian, could even agree to be a part of the controversial plot.

The Baywatch star made her US television debut in Quantico in 2015. The crime drama was recently cancelled by the ABC Studios.

ABC, the Disney-owned network behind the spy thriller show Quantico, has also issued an apology about a controversial scene that showed Indians as terrorists. A



recent episode of the show, starring Priyanka Chopra as a CIA operative, involved a plot in which a disgruntled Indian MIT professor pretended to be a Pakistani national who plots a nuclear attack in New York.

Apologising for the episode, which drew criticism from certain sections of Indians online, ABC said in a statement to Washington Post: "ABC Studios and the executive producers of Quantico would like to extend an apology to our audience who were offended by the most recent episode, The Blood of Romeo. The episode has stirred a lot of emotion, much of which is unfairly aimed at Priyanka Chopra, who didn't create the show, nor does she write or direct it. She has no involvement in the casting of the show or the storylines depicted in the series. Quantico is a work of fiction. The show has featured antagonists of many different ethnicities and backgrounds, but in this case we inadvertently and regrettably stepped into a complex political issue. It was certainly not our intention to offend anyone."

In the episode, Priyanka foils the plot by spotting a 'rudraksha' - prayer beads - on the perpetrator, identifying him as a Hindu. Hindu nationalism, as well as the violence in Kashmir - which was the central issue of the summit targeted by the terrorist in Quantico - have been controversial topics in India.



REESE WITHERSPOON CONFIRMS LEGALLY BLONDE 3 WITH POOLSIDE VIDEO

Reese Witherspoon has confirmed that she will be reprising her role of idealistic Elle Woods in Legally Blonde 3. The actor took to Twitter and shared a video of herself clad in a pink bikini, floating in a pool in a nod to a scene in the film.

"It's true," Witherspoon captioned the video. Witherspoon, 42, last played the character in 2003's Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde.

After the actor's tweet, MGM Studios announced that the third part will release on Valentine's Day in 2020.

"Back in Pink in 2020! #LegallyBlonde3," read a tweet from the studio's official Twitter handle. Witherspoon's production company Hello Sunshine is also expected to produce the film.

Source: PTI

BROOKE SHIELDS WAS BRANDED 'FAT' BY MOTHER

Actress Brooke Shields, who is known for her beauty and a career that has spanned decades after she shot to fame as a child model when she was 12, said that she was constantly called fat by her mother and that lowered her confidence.

Reportedly, Shields, 53, said, "My mother would get drunk and say, 'Why don't you move your fat a**?' So, I've always believed I had a fat a**."

"I modelled swimwear when I was 15, and even then, I didn't think I had a swimsuit body," she added.

"I was a cover girl, not a supermodel. I was neck-up - the face, the eyebrows - and I was always described as athletic, not rail-thin, not a runway model... Those messages, they seep into your consciousness." Subsequently, Shields embarked on an ill-fated marriage to tennis ace Andre Agassi, whom she divorced in 1999 after just two years, to escape the clutches of her overbearing parent, who also served as her manager.

"I needed Andre to separate from my mother. I'd spent my life, 24/7, being so worried that my mother was going to die, and my whole world was wrapped around keeping her alive," she said.

"But that probably saved me and kept me on the straight and narrow. I needed to get past that, so that I could start at square one and be a less encumbered version of myself. But I still had so much growing up to do," she added.

She soon started to feel better about herself after embarking on a romance with screenwriter Chris Henchy, with whom she celebrated 17 years of marriage in April.

"I would walk backwards out of rooms, and he'd say, 'No, I want to grab onto you'. He really celebrated my womanliness and my body. And I needed a man to celebrate me," said Shields.

While Brooke endured such issues, she feels proud to say that her daughters Rowan, 15, and Grier, 12, are both so much more "mature" and "confident" than she was when she was their age.

Source: IANS



Olivia Munn opens up about her battle with depression

Hollywood star Olivia Munn has revealed she has dealt with 'anxiety and sporadic bouts of depression' for most of her adult life.

The 37-year-old actor opened up about her struggles on Instagram following the death of celebrity chef and food critic Anthony Bourdain, who died aged 61 after committing suicide in a hotel in France.

"I have lived with anxiety and sporadic bouts of depression for most of my adult life. 10 years ago I tackled it, learned to fully understand it and haven't felt the dark depths of depression in about a decade. But before that, thoughts of suicide crossed my mind more than a few times. For those who don't understand depression, when someone is in that place it's not because they want to die... It's because the ongoing, relentless darkness is too painful to endure anymore," she wrote.

Munn urged people to talk someone about their troubles.

"You don't have to suffer from anxiety and depression to feel that low. Something very sad or traumatic can happen to you just once to bring about that feeling of despair. But please listen to me- from someone who is telling you that she's been where you are- when I say that SUICIDE IS NOT THE RIGHT CHOICE."

"...Even if you think you don't want to get involved or don't want your friend to be mad at you or if you're the one suffering and don't want to be talked out of it or feel insecure about asking for help. Those are temporary consequences. With suicide, there's no do-overs. Please try every single option you can before making a choice that cannot be undone," she added.

Source: PTI



Pakistan Election Commission seeks army's help for general polls

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's Election Commission on June 14 sought the help of the army for security at sensitive polling stations during the general election on July 25 besides overseeing the printing and distribution of ballot papers across the country.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the official body responsible for organising the polls.

Sources in the ECP said that Army personnel will be deployed at places where violence may erupt due to local rivalries or which can be targeted by militants.

The army will also be deployed to oversee the printing of ballot papers and later their distribution across the country.

It is not for the first time that army will be deployed to maintain peace on the election day. Soldiers were also deployed during 2013 elections.

The ECP is currently scrutinising the nominations filed by candidates for deferral parliament and provincial legislatures.

The electoral watchdog has also decided to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at more than 20,000 polling stations throughout Pakistan, according to a local media report.

A total of 105 million people constitute the electoral roll across the six provinces Pakistan, which has a population of over 200 million, according to data on the website of the ECP.

A triangular contest between the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) led by prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan's PTI and former president Asif Ali Zardari's PPP is on the cards. (PTI)

TPP chief Mullah Fazal Ullah killed in US drone strike: Reports

KUNAR (AFGHANISTAN) (TIP): Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Mullah Fazal Ullah has been reportedly killed in targeted drone strikes conducted by the United States, a US military official informed the Voice of America (VOA).

Army lieutenant colonel Martin O'Donnell told VOA that counter terrorism strikes were carried out on June 13 in Kunar province which lies close to Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Further, Pentagon officials refused to comment on whether the strike was successful.

The officials further said that Mullah Fazal Ullah had directed numerous high-profile attacks against the US and Pakistan. He had also conducted many other deadly attacks including December 2014 attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar that claimed lives of 151 people, out of which 130 were children.

The US further underscored that it was Mullah Fazal Ullah who had ordered the 2012 attempted assassination of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai.

The US Department for State offered a \$5 million reward for Fazlullah in March soon after his son was killed in a US drone strike on TTP training facility.

The official said the status of Fazlullah was unclear. Further, there was no confirmation, as of reporting time, from the TTP regarding the strike and reports of Fazlullah's death. (ANI)

Blast at India-developed hydroelectricity project in Nepal

KATHMANDU (TIP): A bomb has exploded at the office of a major hydropower project being constructed with Indian assistance in Nepal, the second such incident at the facility in over a month. An unidentified group exploded an improvised explosive device in the office of Arun III hydropower in Tumlingtar, nearly 500 km from here, on June 13. The explosion did not cause any serious damage and no one was injured in the incident, according to the police. Security arrangements have been intensified following the incident, he said. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the blast. On April 29, a CPN Maoist faction had exploded a bomb at the office of the project weeks before its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (PTI)

Former Maldives president, chief justice get 19 months in jail

MALE (TIP): A court in the Maldives on June 13 convicted former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and the sitting chief justice for obstruction of justice and sentenced them to 19 months in prison.

The trials are widely seen as part of a plan by President Abdulla Yameen to tighten his grip on power ahead of elections in September at which he seeks a second five-year term against an opposition yet to decide on a single candidate. The government denies this.

The country of 400,000 people is popular with tourists but has seen political unrest since its first democratically elected leader, Mohamed Nasheed, was forced to quit amid a police mutiny in 2012.

Nasheed was convicted of terrorism charges in 2015 and sentenced to 13 years after a trial criticized as unfair.

Gayoom, who is the country's longest serving leader, Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed and Supreme Court Justice Ali Hameed were found guilty on Wednesday after they were charged for refusing to hand over their mobile phones for a police investigation.

They received sentences of 19 months and six days. The Indian Ocean island chain has faced upheaval since February, when Yameen, half brother of Gayoom, imposed a 45-day state of emergency to annul a Supreme Court ruling that quashed the convictions of nine opposition leaders, including Nasheed.

During the emergency, authorities arrested the three men and a Supreme Court administrator on charges of trying to overthrow the government. They still face those charges.

Saeed and Hameed refused the opportunity to make a closing argument



saying their lawyers had earlier quit, citing grave procedural defects with the trial.

Criminal Court Judge Hassan Najeeb refused multiple appeals by the defendants to be given time to appoint new lawyers.

Najeeb said it was clear from "anonymous testimonies" that the defendants had mobile phones and refused to comply with a police investigation and requests to hand over their devices and this represented obstruction of justice.

The opposition has accused Yameen's government of jailing leaders who could challenge Yameen's re-election bid, a charge the government denies.

Reacting to the political situation in Maldives, the Indian foreign ministry in a statement said, "It is, therefore, with deep dismay that we learned that the former President of the Maldives as well as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are being sentenced to long prison terms without fair trial. This casts doubt on the commitment of the Government of the Maldives to uphold the rule of law

and will also call into question the credibility of the entire process of Presidential elections in September this year."

Rights group Amnesty International said in a statement the convictions are politically motivated and should be quashed because the trials did not meet international standards.

Athul Keshap, the US Ambassador for Maldives said in a tweet that an unfair trial with no defense witnesses or defence lawyers would always result in an unfair sentence.

"Judges cannot serve the cause of fair and impartial justice if they fear the Executive. When will the people of #Maldives see the restoration of rule of law?" Keshap said on Twitter.

Gayoom told the court he denied the charges and said the trial was unfair. Najeeb said the trial was conducted in accordance with the law.

Dunya Maumoon, the daughter of Gayoom, who resigned from Yameen's government after her father was arrested, said her family was deeply shocked by the convictions. (agencies)

Taliban kill Afghan officials as government's ceasefire kicks in

KABUL: Taliban fighters killed a district governor in northern Afghanistan and kept up the pressure to seize control over some parts of Faryab province, ignoring the temporary ceasefire announced by the government that came into effect on Tuesday.

Last week Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had announced for the first time an unconditional ceasefire + with the Taliban, coinciding with the end of the Muslim fasting month. In response, the Afghan Taliban announced a surprise three-day ceasefire + over the Muslim Eid holiday in the middle of June.

The government's eight-day ceasefire started on Tuesday and the Taliban's three-day ceasefire will start on Friday.

The Taliban has not stopped their attacks. Insurgents killed Abdurrahman Panah, the district governor of Kohistanat district in Faryab province.

At least eight Afghan security officials have been killed in the ongoing clashes, two officials said.

Javed Bedar, spokesman for Faryab province confirmed the death of a district governor and that the district centre had fallen to Taliban.

"We know that the ceasefire has been announced but we have the right to defend ourselves," said Bedar, adding that they were seeking immediate reinforcements.

In Ghazni, a southern province, insurgents placed a Humvee vehicle car bomb near the house of a district governor on Tuesday.

Mohammad Arif Noori, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghazni, said the Taliban fighters hit the first checkpoint of a district governor house's compound that left five Afghan security forces dead and 26 others injured, including the district governor.

Fighting was also underway in Sar-e-Pul, a northern province where the insurgents had captured two checkpoints.

At the onset of the ceasefire Pakistan's army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa arrived in Kabul to meet President Ghani.

Afghanistan has blamed Pakistan for giving assistance to the Taliban and other insurgent groups. Pakistan has denied the accusations.

"Pakistan wishes to see a national unity government in Kabul and US/NATO succeeding to bring peace in Afghanistan," Asif Ghafoor, the official spokesman Pakistan's Armed Forces tweeted. Ghani in February offered recognition to the Taliban as a legitimate political group in a proposed political process that he said could lead to talks to end more than 16 years of war. The Taliban have rejected the offer. (Reuters)

Overloaded boat capsizes in Indonesia, at least 13 dead

JAKARTA (TIP): A rescue official says a boat overloaded with people heading home to celebrate the end of Ramadan has capsized off Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing at least 13 people.

Amiruddin of the local search and rescue agency said the Arista was traveling from Paotere in South Sulawesi to the nearby island of Barrang Lombo when it capsized after being battered by a 3 meter (10 foot) wave.

Amiruddin, who goes by one name, said rescuers saved 22 people but eight others were still missing. Thirteen bodies were recovered.

The wooden boat was carrying 43 people, but was designed for just 20.

Millions of people throughout Indonesia, the world's largest predominantly Muslim country, travel each year to their home villages for a holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month. (AP)

MAHABALESHWAR HILL STATION

Mahabaleshwar is a hill station in India's forested Western Ghats range, south of Mumbai. It features several elevated viewing points, such as Arthur's Seat. West of here is centuries-old Pratapgad Fort, perched atop a mountain spur. East, Lingmala Waterfall tumbles off a sheer cliff. Colorful boats dot Venna Lake, while 5 rivers meet at Panch Ganga Temple to the north.

PLACES TO VISIT

There are many places to visit in Mahabaleshwar, which add to the laidback vibe of this gorgeous hill town. From the serene Venna Lake (where you can go boating too), and the cliff-tops which are the best vantage points here, to the Pratapgarh Fort soaked in history, and the lush Mapro gardens—there's lots to do here. Ideal for family vacationers, backpackers and couples, Mahabaleshwar is an ideal getaway for those who want to immerse themselves in nature's splendour and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Mapro Garden

One of the most popular tourist places in Mahabaleshwar is the Mapro Garden. It is located at Gureghar on Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani road which is approximately 11 km from Mahabaleshwar. This isn't an ordinary garden; it encompasses attractions that would entice both children and adults like a Chocolate factory, a small nursery and a children play area. There is a restaurant serving mouth watering refreshments like sandwiches, fruit salads, strawberry shakes and ice creams.

Visitors can also purchase the Mapro products like jams, preserves, marmalade, toppings, syrups and squashes, from the retail outlet here. Around March/April, the Mapro conducts a fascinating four days, Strawberry Festival. Where they present variety of strawberry based delicacies like strawberry pizza, strawberry bhel, chocolate dipped strawberries and strawberry sandwiches. This would make an amazing time to visit the Mapro Garden.

Wilson Point (Sunrise Point)

Stand tall at 4,710 ft above the sea level and mesmerise yourself as you watch the sun rise from the Wilson Point. The rising sun brightens up your life and rejuvenates you for the journey ahead. There are three stone platforms built for tourists to sit and conveniently admire the pristine nature.

The Wilson point, which is also known as the Sunrise point is the highest point in Mahabaleshwar. It is named after Sir Leslie Wilson, who was the Governor of Bombay when the British ruled. This Sunrise point has three watch towers, from where tourists can see the breath taking scenic beauty of Mahabaleshwar.

Mumbai Point

The Sunset Point at Mahabaleshwar is known as the Mumbai Point, as it is situated on the old road to Mumbai. Several tourists consider this as one of the must places to visit in Mahabaleshwar. Each time the sun sets it paints the sky with varied colours luring its spectators.

Standing atop the hill you see the sun submerge in the valley and vanish. The soothing atmosphere and a pleasant weather, makes this place a perfect spot for rejuvenation. One can plan a picnic with friends and family at this the Mumbai Point, an age old tourist attraction. The Mumbai Point is open for visitors on all days.

Arthur's Seat



Amongst the several places to visit in Mahabaleshwar, one of the most popular is the Arthur's Seat. It is also known as the Queen of the Points or the Madhi Mahaal. The Arthur's seat is at a height of 1470m and is located approximately 13 KM from the market

in Mahabaleshwar. The speciality of this point is that, in case you throw light weighed thing in the valley, it comes up again due to air pressure.

The Arthur's seat is situated amidst fascinating panorama, one can admire the Konkan and the Deccan on another. The best time to visit the Arthur's Seat is from the month of October to the month of June. The temperature throughout is moderate, the winters are cool and the summers are moderate.

Mahabaleshwar Temple

The Mahabaleshwar Temple that is located 6 km to the north of the main city is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple is one of the significant pilgrimage sites for the Hindus. It was built in the 16th century and it portrays a typical South Indian architectural style. The temple is very beautifully built, it has stone walls and is divided into two parts, one being the sanctum sanctorum and the other is the central hall. I

Enclosed by a 5 ft high stone wall, this temple is divided into two areas, the sanctum sanctorum and the central hall.

The Mahabaleshwar temple also has several mythologies associated to it, like the legend states that the Maratha ruler, Shivaji weighed his mother Jijabai in gold in this temple and then gave away the gold in charity. This temple is also an abode to Lord Shiva's trishul, Rudraksha, damru and a bed which are approximately 300 years old.

Kamalgad Fort

The Kamalgad Fort is located approximately ten miles to the west of Wai. It is surrounded by steep rocky area, which is a challenge to tread. The fort is built in a very unusual way, there are no protective walls built around it, since the perilous sharp rocks around give enough protection.

There is an 18- 20ft deep hole, which is a naturally formed well in the rock. All you explorers, hungry to witness the extraordinary, should surely visit the place. For adventurers and thrill seekers this is a perfect destination for trekking and camping.

MANICURE MISTAKES YOU'RE MAKING

No beauty look is complete without a flawless manicure. It's the finishing touch everyone needs for a balanced look whether you favor bright polish and nail art or keep your nails entirely bare. And if you happen to treat yourself to a professional mani regularly, chances are you want to extend the life of it as long as possible.

Following simple rules for upkeeping your mani is key when a salon visit isn't in the cards. We all know the importance of the standard nail filing and using quality polishes to achieve a clean and neat look.

Don't apply too many coats

Applying thick coats of nail paint gets you one step closer to ruining your perfect manicure. Slapping on layers of polish will increase your chances of getting smudges and nicks as the paint will take much longer to dry completely. To avoid such accidents, apply thin coats of the paint to ensure faster drying.

Always wait for a few minutes before adding more layers of polish. Also, paint it in just one direction to achieve a smooth finish.

Avoid hot water

If you're looking for a manicure that lasts, then avoid contact with hot water for at least six hours after getting a manicure. Hot water can ruin your hard work, so wear gloves while doing water related chores and save your polish from chipping.

On the other hand, cold water will be your savior. Dip your nails into a bowl of ice water for 1-2 minutes. This will set and dry your polish in a matter of minutes.

Don't shake the bottle

DO NOT shake your bottle before applying the nail paint. Shaking creates air bubbles which should always be



avoided if you're looking for an immaculate manicure. When air gets trapped inside the bottle, it creates froth making your nails chip faster.

Instead of shaking, roll your bottle in your hands and see the difference.

Don't skip the base coat

Just like a good primer can keep your make-up looking flawless every day, using a base coat will provide the same service to your nails. A layer of base coat can easily extend the wear of your manicure by at least a couple of days.

Soaking a cotton swab in rubbing alcohol or white vinegar and applying to your nails before the base coat will help in sealing the natural oils and giving an

even finish to your manicure.

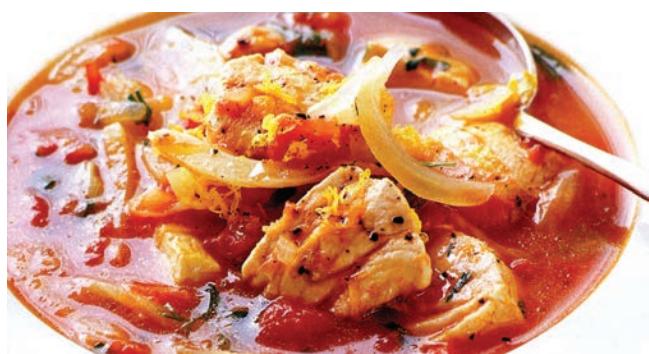
Don't cut your cuticles

Cutting your cuticles is a major health risk. Even beauty experts agree that cuts can easily get infected and it's not an ideal to commit this sin. Rather, push them back using cuticle pusher tool. This will prevent the paint from sticking to the cuticles which can heft the polish from the nail bed and cause chipping.

If you don't have a cuticle oil handy, make your own using a combination of olive and coconut oil. You can even add a few drops of your favorite essential oil to the mixture. Apply your homemade oil directly to your cuticles and gently massage.

FOOD CORNER

TOMATO FISH



INGREDIENTS

250 gm tomato, 1 large onion, 2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon ginger paste, 1 teaspoon coriander powder, 1 pinch salt, 1 tablespoon coriander leaves, 500 gm fish, 2 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 1 teaspoon red chilli, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon

sugar, 3 tablespoon refined oil.

Method

- Remove any pin bones from the fish fillets and cut into large chunks. Rub 1 ½ tsp turmeric powder and 1 tsp salt over the fish and set aside for 10 minutes.
- Boil water in a pan. Make a cross cut on the stem side of the tomatoes. Plunge the tomatoes in boiling water for 30 seconds and remove. Peel the tomatoes and chop them finely. Also, chop onions very finely.
- Heat oil in a large pan. Spread the fish pieces on the pan and fry till golden in color. Turn and fry on the other side as well. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.
- Add the onions to the same pan. Saute for 5-6 minutes till soft and cooked. Add the turmeric powder, red chili powder, cumin powder, coriander

powder, ginger paste, sugar and chopped tomatoes. Mix well and cook for 4-5 minutes till the tomatoes are tender.

Remove from fire, cool slightly and blend in a blender to get a coarse paste. Return the paste to the pan on the fire. Add 1 cup water and bring to a boil.

Reduce the heat and allow to simmer for a minute. Whisk the yoghurt and add to the simmering curry.

Add the fish pieces along with any juices and simmer for 4-5 minutes. Add the chopped coriander and mix well. Remove from fire and serve hot with rice or rotis.

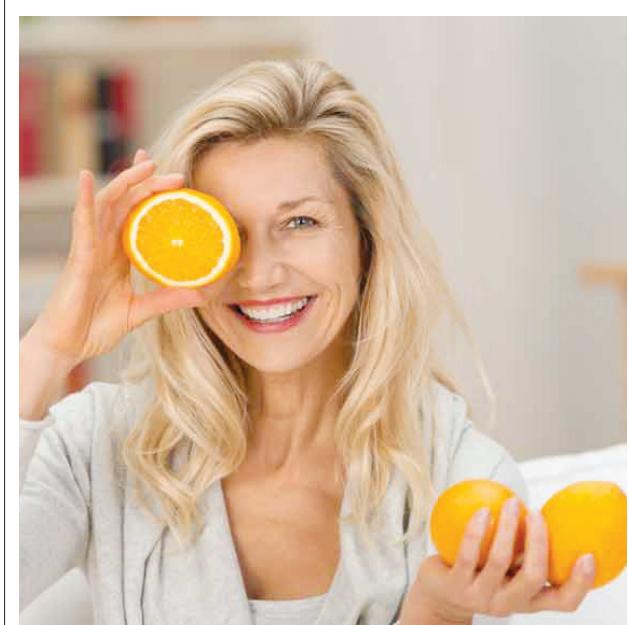
Benefits of hydraulic acid

Hydraulic acid (HA) is making headlines as the magic ingredient in over-the-counter beauty products worldwide. And for good reason too! It is naturally found in the body (about 15g), and lends itself to moisturising the skin and staying youthful. However, as one ages, it doesn't help to have that boost of HA from an external source and apply it topically.

Using it regularly on your skin helps enhance tissue function. As the skin ages, and loses moisture and elasticity, HA helps hold in water and aids skin health and longevity. The skin is smoother and more supple. Microscopic studies across the world have shown a delay in the onset of wrinkles. Applying HA ensures that the moisture is locked in, and the layer of serum or cream on your skin means that harmful UVA and UVB rays of the sun don't damage your skin.

Worried that you might be getting too much moisture? HA is considered a 'smart' ingredient. It adjusts itself according to each body and skin type's need, the weather conditions, humidity and so on. Taken only on the advice and prescription of your dermatologist, and as an oral supplement, HA can enhance collagen production, keeping the skin cell structure intact for longer. Collagen is one of the most effective proteins that makes the skin firmer and more supple, and HA boosts the synthesis of this protein. Certain HA creams are not meant for the face. Instead they are used on the joints topically to repair damaged tissue, and are particularly useful in cases of osteoarthritis.

However, you need to watch out for a few things. Make sure that the serum or cream you're opting for does not contain alcohol, parabens or sulfates, since these ingredients will counter all the good being done by HA, and could backfire. Consult your skin specialist before you make any choices.



WHY VITAMIN C IS GOOD FOR YOUR SKIN

Vitamin C is one of the most effective nutrients for your skin and is known for various benefits. Vitamin C infused in skincare products protects skin from sun damage and harmful rays. This ingredient also helps to smoothen out dark spots for a clearer skin. It helps to boost collagen production, which helps to hold the skin together, making it tighter and brighter. This ingredient also rejuvenates skin, keeping dryness at bay and improving skin's clarity and glow.

How to get Vitamin C

This vitamin can be included by various fruits like oranges, grapefruits, and lemons to name a few. A medium sized orange has about 70mg of Vitamin C, which is one of the popular sources. Apart from this many Vitamin C skincare products like serums, cream, lotions work great for topical use. It is best to consult a dermatologist for the right dosage. You can also look for facial therapies which infuse Vitamin C for skin lightening and brightening.

CARBON DIOXIDE INJECTIONS MAY HELP CUT BELLY FAT

Injecting fat pockets with carbon dioxide gas may help reduce belly fat, scientists have found.

"Carboxytherapy could potentially be a new and effective means of fat reduction. It still needs to be optimised, though, so it's long lasting," said Murad Alam, from Northwestern University in the US.

The new technique's benefits are that it is a "safe, inexpensive gas, and injecting it into fat pockets may be preferred by patients who like natural treatments," said Alam, lead author of the study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology.

"Non-invasive fat reduction has become increasingly sought-after by patients," said Alam.

Benefits of a non-invasive approach are diminished downtime, avoidance of scarring and perceived safety.

Current technologies routinely used for non-invasive fat reduction include cryolipolysis, high intensity ultrasound, radiofrequency, chemical adipocytolysis and laser-assisted fat reduction.

Carboxytherapy has been performed primarily outside the US, with a few clinical studies suggesting it may provide a lasting improvement in abdominal contours.

The way carboxytherapy works is not well understood. It is believed that injection of carbon dioxide causes changes in the microcirculation, and damages fat cells.



No randomised controlled trials for carboxytherapy efficacy and benefit over time have been previously conducted.

The purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of carboxytherapy for fat reduction in a randomised, controlled trial, and to determine if any observed benefits persisted for six months.

The study consisted of 16 adults who were not overweight and were randomised to get weekly carbon dioxide gas injection to one side of their abdomens and a sham treatment on the other side once a week for five weeks.

A high-resolution ultrasound detected a reduction in superficial fat after five weeks but not at 28 weeks. The patients' body weight did not change over the course of the study.

That the difference was not maintained at six months suggests the treatment stimulated a temporary metabolic process that reduced the size of fat cells without inducing cell death, Alam said.

"If carboxytherapy can provide prolonged benefits, it offers patients yet another non-invasive option for fat reduction. But we don't feel it's ready for prime time," Alam said. *Source: PTI*

Smoking, diabetes increases risk of calcium deposits in brain

People who smoke or have diabetes may be at a high risk of developing abnormal deposits of calcium in the brain region crucial to memory, a study has found.

Dementia is a major public health problem that affects tens of millions of people worldwide.

One focus of dementia research has been the hippocampus, a brain structure important for both short- and long-term memory storage. Alzheimer's disease, the most common type of dementia, is associated with atrophy of the hippocampus.

Researchers have anticipated that calcifications or abnormal buildups of calcium in the hippocampus region of the brain may be related to vascular problems, that could contribute to hippocampal atrophy and subsequent cognitive deterioration.

"We know that calcifications in the hippocampus are common, especially with increasing age," said Esther J M de Brouwer, from University Medical Center in Utrecht in The Netherlands.

"However, we did not know if calcifications in the hippocampus related to cognitive function," she added.

Researchers studied the association between vascular risk factors like high blood pressure, diabetes and smoking and hippocampal calcifications.

While the study was not designed to conclusively determine if smoking and diabetes increase the risk of hippocampal calcifications, the results suggest a link.

"In a recent histopathology study, hippocampal calcifications were found to be a manifestation of vascular



disease. It is well known that smoking and diabetes are risk factors for cardiovascular disease," De Brouwer said.

"It is, therefore, likely that smoking and diabetes are risk factors for hippocampal calcifications," she said.

The development of the multiplanar brain CT scans has enabled better distinction between hippocampal calcifications and calcifications in nearby brain structures, according to researchers.

"The hippocampus is made up of different layers, and it is possible that the calcifications did not damage the hippocampal structure that is important for memory storage," she said. *Source: PTI*



WORK STRESS MAY LEAD TO IRREGULAR HEART RATE

Having a stressful job may increase the risk of developing a rapid and irregular heart rate, called atrial fibrillation, which can lead to strokes and premature death, according to a study.

The most stressful jobs are psychologically demanding but give employees little control over the work situation — for example, assembly line workers, bus drivers, secretaries, and nurses.

The study published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology found that being stressed at work was associated with a 48 per cent higher risk of atrial fibrillation, after adjustment for age, sex, and education.

"We need people to do these jobs but employers can help by making sure staff has the resources required to complete the assigned tasks," said Eleonor Fransson, an associate professor at Jonkoping University in Sweden.

"Bosses should schedule breaks and listen to employees' ideas on how the work itself and the work environment can be improved," said Fransson.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common heart rhythm disorder (arrhythmia). Symptoms include palpitations, weakness, fatigue, feeling light headed, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

Atrial fibrillation causes 20-30 per cent of all strokes and increases the risk of dying prematurely, researchers said.

"Atrial fibrillation is a common condition with serious consequences and therefore it is of major public health importance to find ways of preventing it. Little is known about risk factors for the disease and especially the role of the work environment," said Fransson.

The study included 13,200 participants enrolled into the Swedish Longitudinal Occupational Survey of Health (SLOSH) in 2006, 2008, or 2010.

Work stress was defined as job strain, which refers to jobs with high psychological demands combined with low control over the work situation.

During a median follow-up of 5.7 years, 145 cases of atrial fibrillation were identified from national registers.

"In the general working population in Sweden, employees with stressful jobs were almost 50 per cent more likely to develop atrial fibrillation," Fransson said.

"The estimated risk remained even after we took into account other factors such as smoking, leisure time physical activity, body mass index, and hypertension," he said.

Source: PTI

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STAR SYSTEM WITH THREE EARTH-SIZED PLANETS DISCOVERED

Scientists have discovered two new planetary systems, one of which hosts three Earth-sized planets. Researchers from Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) and the University of Oviedo in Spain analysed the data collected by the K2 mission of NASA's Kepler satellite, which started in November 2013.

The study, published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (MNRAS), reveals the existence of two new planetary systems detected from the eclipses they produce in the stellar light of their respective stars.

The first exoplanetary system is located in the star K2-239, characterised as a red dwarf type M3V from observations made with the Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC), at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (Garafía, La Palma).

It is located in the constellation of the Sextant at 50 parsecs from the Sun (at about 160 light years). It has a compact system of at least three rocky planets of similar size to the Earth (1.1, 1.0 and 1.1 Earth radii) that orbit the star every 5.2, 7.8 and 10.1 days, respectively.

The other red dwarf star, called K2-240, has two super-Earth-like planets about twice the size of our planet. The atmospheric temperature of red dwarf stars around which these planets revolve is 3,450 and 3,800 Kelvin respectively, almost half the temperature of the sun.

Source: PTI



Facebook launches Memories, a dedicated section for all your past special moments

Facebook has launched a new dedicated section for users to access all their memories in one place. Called "Memories", here users will be able to catch up on the special moments and events celebrated on Facebook in the past.

"Every day more than 90 million people use 'On This Day' to reminisce about these moments they have shared on Facebook," said Oren Hod, Product Manager at Facebook, in a blog post on Monday.

The new Memories page will have several sections. It will contain all the content from "On This Day" which shows up on top of the news feed. Users can check their past posts and major life events from the available dates.

Here users will also be able to see the friends made on particular days and check out special "friendversary" videos and collages.

Facebook will also show monthly recaps of memories in the form of a message or a short video. This section will also show recent posts that users might have missed from the previous week.

Users can access the Memories section by tapping on the dedicated bookmark which will be available on the left side of the News Feed on desktop. Facebook app users can access it by tapping on the "more" button. At the same time users can also access Memories via notifications and messages in News Feed.

Source: IANS

VIVO NEX ALL-SCREEN PHONE WITH POP-UP SELFIE CAMERA DEBUTS

Apart from Xiaomi Mi Mix, there are barely any phones that have met the promise of delivering an all-screen phone. While most of the brands have succeeded in increasing screen-to-body ratio, the new crop of phones comes with an ugly notch on the front, without advanced features of iPhone X. Vivo, however, is trying to stand out in the crowd with its latest Nex.

Vivo Nex takes the all-screen-phone game up a notch with an impressive 91.24% screen-to-body ratio. Vivo Nex is another concept Vivo phone that has become a commercial reality. The phone was first unveiled at the MWC? (Mobile World Congress) 2018 as Vivo Apex.

To make an all-screen phone a reality, Vivo Nex has to adjust a few elements of the phone that we have grown accustomed to. For instance, the front camera is tucked in the top edge and pops out whenever you need to take a selfie. Vivo claims the pop out time is ultra fast, less than a second, to make the experience fluid. The camera goes back to its housing when you're done using the front camera.

Other adjustments include fingerprint scanner embedded into the screen, similar to the company's recent X21 smartphone that launched in India. Earpiece speaker is also under the screen – which Vivo claims is a new technology called "screen soundcasting" that turns a display into audio output.

Rest of the stuff is pretty much standard. The volume and power buttons are located on the right edge while the top edge also houses the 3.5mm headphone jack. The base has the USB port. In terms of specifications, Vivo Nex comes with a 6.59-inch Ultra FullView display. It is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 845 processor



Truecaller acquires payments app Chillr

Truecaller on Wednesday announced it has acquired Chillr -- the country's first multi-bank payments app. Truecaller forayed into the digital payments segment in India in March last year.

"Since launching 'Truecaller Pay' in 2017, we've seen an increasing number of use cases to make the lives of our users in India easier."

"By acquiring Chillr, we are reaffirming our commitment to mobile payments and strengthening our plans to increase its adoption amongst our user base," Nami Zarringhalam, Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Truecaller, said in a statement. The founders of Chillr -- Sony Joy, Anoop Sankar, Mohamed Galib and Lishoy Bhaskaran -- will join Truecaller and Joy will be appointed Vice President of Truecaller Pay. According to Chillr, it is planning to leverage its full reach of over 150 million users in India as well as its over 300 existing partnerships to enable Truecaller Pay as a platform.

"We will, together, have a far bigger impact in this space through the foundation of the team's expertise and a strong user base that trusts our platform and use it on a daily basis," said Zarringhalam.

Source: IANS

with 8GB of RAM. On the back it has 12-megapixel and 5-megapixel sensors as part of a dual-camera setup. Like other Vivo phones, the camera comes with AI integration of smarter scene and subject recognition. The phone comes with

256GB storage. It is powered by a large 4,000mAh battery.

Vivo Nex will be available in China initially followed by roll out in other Asian markets like Singapore and Hong Kong.

Source: HT

Apple's Siri will provide FIFA World Cup 2018 updates

Football fans around the world can stay up to date with statistics, scores and updates on their favourite teams across all Apple devices, the company has said.

Virtual assistant Siri adds support for football in Brazil, Russia, Denmark, Finland, Malaysia, Turkey, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and Israel -- in addition to 26 other countries that already support Siri sports, including India.

Siri users can ask for scores, schedules, standings and team rosters, Apple said in a blog post.

Throughout the month, the App Store editors will highlight their favourite apps and games from football stars, offer tips on taking a perfect football photo and how to best get your football fix on social media.

The App Store will also feature key football-related apps and games to help



fans dive deeper into the experience, with official broadcaster apps like FOX NOW or BBC Sport, and games like FIFA Mobile and PES 2018.

Apple Music will feature playlists for each of the 32 participating nations with the most exciting artists in each country as chosen by local teams. Source: IANS

RBI Governor seeks more powers to effectively regulate PSBs

NEW DELHI (TIP): RBI Governor Urjit Patel has made a strong case for more powers to effectively regulate public sector banks (PSBs) as lawmakers asked him tough questions over increasing bad loans and frauds.

As per sources, Patel also informed the Standing Committee on Finance that the RBI is in communication with the government for discontinuing the practice of appointing the central bank's nominees on boards of PSBs to avoid any conflict of interest between the regulator and regulated entities.

Patel was asked about bad loans, bank frauds, cash crunch and other issues, said sources.

They also said he assured the panel members that steps were being taken to strengthen the banking system.

Regarding PSBs, Patel told the panel that the RBI has "inadequate" control over them and asked for more powers to regulate them.

RBI has cited at least 10 areas where it has no control over PSBs. The central bank has no powers to remove chairman, director or CEO of state-owned banks and also cannot impose restriction on common directors on PSB boards, among others.

Sources said committee member Nishikant Dubey observed that the Banking Regulation Act empowers the RBI to inspect and supervise commercial banks as well as monitor financial institutions based on internationally adopted CAMEL model. It focuses on capital adequacy, asset quality and other aspects.

"I don't think there is any need of extra powers for the RBI," Dubey reportedly said in the meeting.

There are 21 state-owned banks, including State Bank of India.

The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of PSBs stood at Rs 7.77 lakh crore at end-December 2017. The total NPAs of all banks, including private ones, was a whopping Rs 8.99 lakh crore.

Patel also told the panel, headed by veteran Congress leader M Veerappa Moily, that there should be no central bank nominee on the boards of PSBs, sources said.

The central bank, Patel said, was discussing the matter of RBI nominee director with the Finance Ministry.

He categorically said the primary and collective responsibility to contain frauds in the banks rests with their respective



boards, according to the sources.

In a written reply to the panel, Patel said the main role of directors on a bank's board, including nominee directors, is to ensure that the bank is managed efficiently and professionally, as per sources.

Patel was asked questions regarding governance issues in ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

The proposals coming before the board and its committees are consistent with normal banking practices, guidelines of the government, the RBI and are not violative of any law, he said.

"RBI nominee directors should be distanced from management committee of the board (which takes credit decisions) to avoid any conflict of interest and the RBI nominee should not be on the boards of the PSBs," he noted.

Further, sources said the RBI Governor also answered queries regarding the USD 2 billion fraud allegedly committed by diamond merchant Nirav Modi and his associates at the Punjab National Bank.

In the context of this fraud, Patel reportedly said it was impossible to look after each and every branch of a bank in terms of an audit.

He said the separation of the post of Chairman from that of the CEO/MD, in the nationalised banks, has been done with a view to strengthening the independence of the board and enhancing its oversight over the management.

Highlighting the need for implementation of the Nayak committee

report on governance of bank boards, he said it will go long way in improving role of the boards of the nationalised banks.

Sources further said that some members of the committee sought to know about the reasons for recent instances of ATMs running out of cash and why enough steps were not taken to tackle banking frauds.

Patel told the panel that steps were being taken to strengthen the banking system. "We are confident that we will be able to tide over the crisis," a source quoted the governor as saying with respect to the NPA situation.

On an optimistic note, Patel informed the committee that after implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the situation on the NPA front has been improving.

Sources also said panel members put questions to Patel about final amount of the cash returned to the banking system post demonetisation, but they did not get a satisfactory answer.

According to the RBI Governor, the revised framework for NPA identification issued on February 12 would provide sufficient time to banks to put in required resolution plan.

"Thus the revised framework seeks to shorten the time period between manifestation of a financial distress in a borrower and decisive action to resolve the same," he reportedly said in a written reply.

Patel also appeared before the Standing Committee on Energy and answered questions related to NPAs in the power sector.

Source: PTI

Indian-origin Dhivya Suryadevara appointed first female CFO at General Motors

HOUSTON (TIP): An Indian-American woman, Dhivya Suryadevara has been named the chief financial officer of the United States' largest automaker, General Motors.

Dhivya Suryadevara, currently the vice president of corporate finance, will succeed Chuck Stevens, GM's present CFO, on September 1, the company said in a statement.

Chennai-born Suryadevara, 39, has been GM's vice president of corporate finance since July 2017. She will report to chief executive officer (CEO) Mary



Barra, 56, who has been head of the automaker since 2014.

Barra and Suryadevara are the first women in their respective positions in

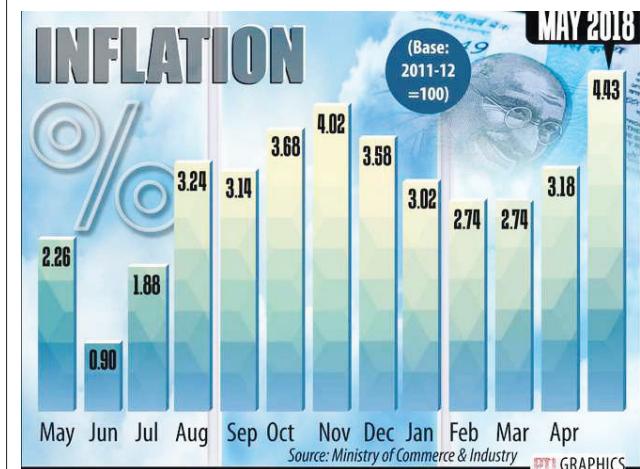
the auto industry, as no other major global automaker has a female CEO, nor a CEO and CFO who are both female.

GM will join a very short list of S&P 500 companies, including Hershey Co. and American Water Works Co., with women in the positions of CEO and CFO.

Suryadevara earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in commerce from the University of Madras in Chennai, India. She moved to the US at the age of 22 to pursue her masters in business administration (MBA) from Harvard University.

Source: PTI

Inflation hits 14-month high in May



NEW DELHI (TIP): Inflation based on wholesale prices shot up to a 14-month high of 4.43% in May on increasing prices of petrol and diesel, prompting industry to demand action from policymakers to keep fuel prices under check.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at 3.18% in April and 2.26% in May last year. According to government data released on Thursday, inflation in food articles was at 1.60% in May 2018, as against 0.87% in the preceding month.

Inflation in 'fuel and power' basket rose sharply to 11.22% in May from 7.85% in April as prices of domestic fuel increased in line with rising global crude oil rates. May inflation at 4.43% was a 14-month peak. The previous high was in March 2017, when the WPI inflation stood at 5.11%.

Industry chamber Assocham called for government action to tame fuel price rise, saying increasing prices of petrol and diesel may significantly impact import bills, which may subsequently have an impact on exchange rates. Source: PTI

SoftBank to invest up to \$100 billion in solar power projects



TOKYO (TIP): SoftBank Group Corp has decided to invest \$60 billion-\$100 billion in solar power generation in India, Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported on Friday.

SoftBank and the Indian government are expected to reach a formal agreement soon after final arrangements are made, the report said without naming its sources.

The company is expected to make the investment through a fund backed by Saudi Arabia's government, NHK said. Saudi Arabia is the largest investor in SoftBank's Vision Fund, which raised over \$93 billion last year.

A SoftBank spokesman declined to comment.

In 2015 SoftBank pledged to invest \$20 billion in Indian solar projects with a goal of generating 20 gigawatts (GW) of energy as the majority partner in a joint venture with India's Bharti Enterprises and Taiwan's Foxconn.

Last month, SoftBank secured 200 megawatts of solar capacity at an auction in the south-western state of Karnataka.

In April it teamed up with China's GCL System Integration Technology Co Ltd on a \$930 million Indian solar energy venture.

India has set a target to achieve an operational solar power capacity of 100 GW by 2022, five times current levels, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's renewable energy strategy.

SoftBank's Vision Fund has exposure to solar energy through its investment in the world's largest such project in Saudi Arabia announced in March. Source: Reuters

contd from Page 1

Half of Americans back...

the security of the United States' old foe. Forty percent of those polled said they did not believe the countries would stick to their commitments.

Another 26 percent said they believed the United States and North Korea would meet their commitments, while 34 percent said they did not know whether they would follow through.

Thirty-nine percent believe the summit has lowered the threat of nuclear war between the United States and nuclear-armed North Korea, slightly more than the 37 percent who said they did not believe it changed anything.

Trump has pursued what he calls a "maximum pressure" campaign against Pyongyang to force it to give up its nuclear weapons. He toughened up international sanctions to further isolate North Korea and then agreed to meet directly with Kim after South Korea's president convinced him that the North was committed to giving up its nuclear weapons.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll suggests the Republican president has broad support for one of his biggest foreign policy efforts, despite criticism from non-proliferation experts that Trump had exacted few concrete commitments from Kim on Tuesday on dismantling his nuclear arsenal.

Republicans appear much more enthusiastic than Democrats about the potential benefits of the summit. The poll found that Republicans were twice as likely as Democrats to say that the meeting lowered the threat of nuclear war, and they were three times as likely to say that both sides would follow through on their commitments.

Democrats typically give Trump low

approval ratings - only 12 percent approve of his overall job performance. But about 30 percent said they approved of his handling of North Korea.

Trump, who returned to Washington early on Wednesday, hailed the meeting with Kim, the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader, as a success that had removed the North Korean nuclear threat. Their seemingly friendly meeting was in sharp contrast to their tit-for-tat insults and bellicose rhetoric late last year while Pyongyang carried out its biggest nuclear and missile tests.

In the poll, Trump received a 51 percent approval rating for his handling of North Korea and also led the list of leaders who should take the most credit for the summit and the joint pledge. Forty percent say the former real estate developer should take the most credit, followed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in with 11 percent. Kim was third with 7 percent.

Trump has repeatedly touted his role in bringing the reclusive North Korea to the negotiating table, a feat that he says his predecessors were unable to pull off.

200% rise in invites to...

Wait for Green Card sends desis to Canada According to the Express Entry Year-end Report, 2017, issued recently by the Canadian government's immigration division, a little over one lakh applications were received for permanent residency under the Express Entry program in 2017, 86,022 invitations were sent, and 65,401 permanent residents and their families were admitted into Canada.

Nearly 40% of this total or 26,000-plus Indians became permanent residents in Canada.

Among those applicants who had job offers and were admitted as permanent residents, occupations like information system

analysts, software engineers and designers, computer programmers and university lecturers topped the charts.

These statistics, showing an increase in number of Indians opting for Canadian permanent residency, strengthen the belief that many H-1B visa holders, tired of the backlog and infinite wait for a green card in the US-a green card grants permanent residency on American soil-are now heading towards Canada.

Currently, more than three lakh Indians in the US are waiting for a green card, CATO Institute, a Washington-based think tank, states that given the green card backlog, the waiting period for Indians with an advanced degree (those in the EB-2 category) could be as much as 151 years.

New York attorney...

children illegally used it for personal, business, and political expenses.

The lawsuit alleges illegal activity that took place over more than a decade, including "extensive unlawful political coordination with the Trump presidential campaign, repeated and willful self-dealing transactions to benefit Mr. Trump's personal and business interests, and violations of basic legal obligations for nonprofit foundations," according to a statement from the attorney general's office.

The suit accuses the president, along with Ivanka Trump, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr., of violating multiple counts of state and federal law. The New York attorney general's office began looking into the Trump Foundation in the summer of 2016, following an investigation by The Washington Post into the then-candidate's philanthropy.

Barbara Underwood, the attorney general, asked a New York state judge to dissolve the Donald J. Trump Foundation and to ban Trump, his sons Donald Jr. and Eric, and his daughter Ivanka from holding leadership roles in New York charities.

Underwood said her office's 21-month investigation, begun under her predecessor Eric Schneiderman, uncovered "extensive unlawful political coordination" by the foundation with Trump's campaign, as well as "repeated and willful self-dealing" to benefit Trump's personal, business and political interests.

Among the transactions the lawsuit cited as illegal was a \$10,000 payment to the Unicorn Children's Foundation for a portrait of Trump purchased at a fundraising auction in 2014, and \$100,000 paid to another charity to settle a legal claim in 2007.

The lawsuit, in the Supreme Court in Manhattan, seeks \$2.8 million of restitution, a 10-year ban on Trump serving as a director of a New York nonprofit, and one-year ban for his children. (Source: PTI)

Salman Khan among 5...

perform at a concert in the US despite having taken money from it.

The Vibrant Media Group in its lawsuit against the Bollywood artists and their agents Matrix India Entertainment Consultants Private Limited and Yashraj Films Private Limited alleged "breach of contract".

According to the complaint, in 2013 the Vibrant Media Group had hired the artists to appear live and perform at the concert 'Celebrating 100 years of Indian Cinema', which was to be held on September 1, 2013.

The show had to be cancelled as Salman Khan was unable to leave India due to legal troubles in Rajasthan. The Vibrant Media Group had agreed to postpone the event, the lawsuit said.

The Vibrant Media Group, according to the lawsuit, recently learned that Salman Khan and the other artists, instead of keeping their

promise or even offer to return the deposits they had received for the performance, had agreed to perform with another promoter.

"All calls to Mr Khan, his agents, and other artists, for the return of the funds have gone unanswered," the group said as it sought damages of at least USD 1 million.

According to the complaint, Vibrant Media paid more than USD 200,000 to Salman Khan in advance of the concert to be held at the Sears Centre in Chicago on September 1.

Katrina Kaif was paid USD 40,000 and Sonakshi Sinha USD 36,000. None of these funds have been returned, it alleged.

The lawsuit, filed by Chicago-based Vibrant Media Group before a Northern District Court of Illinois, Eastern Division on June 10, has been assigned to District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman.

Others sued by the promoter include superstar Akshay Kumar besides singers Udit Narayan, Alka Yagnik and Usha Mangeshkar. (Source: Deccan Chronicle)

contd from page 9

Dinesh D'Souza, Once...

Preet Bharara was the U.S. attorney in New York and the investigation of D'Souza's wrong-doing was undertaken by his office. Both D'Souza and Donald Trump treated him as their nemesis. As was expected, he became one of the early casualties of Trump's erase-the-Obama-legacy campaign. No reason was given for his abrupt dismissal. Presidents don't have to give any reason for dismissing anyone in the executive branch. It was rumored, though, that Bharara's involvement in the investigation into the Trump campaign's alleged collusion with the Russian meddling in the 2016 election and his being a protégé of Senator Chuck Schumer, the Democrat from New York who is also the minority leader in the U.S. Senate, had something to do with it. Since his dismissal, Bharara has been a vehement critic of Trump.

Bharara defended his prosecution of D'Souza via a tweet of his own, which said: "The President has the right to pardon but the facts are these: D'Souza intentionally broke the law, voluntarily pled guilty, apologized for his conduct & the judge found no unfairness."

THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE PARDON: Yes, the president has the right to pardon anyone. But impartial observers can never stop wondering what made him pick D'Souza for this preferential treatment, ignoring all established procedures for granting pardons and disregarding more than 10,000 pending cases that are deserving of presidential pardon. The reason could be, many of them say, that the character assassination campaign against Barack Obama, which D'Souza has been conducting, resonates well with the one Trump has been engaged in. He doesn't care that his action could be criticized as a clear abuse of president's pardoning power.

The New York Times has come up with another explanation: "Maybe the president is sending a signal of loyalty and reassurance to friends and family members who may soon find themselves facing similar criminal charges in connection with the special counsel's Russia inquiry" ("Dinesh D'Souza? Really?" - editorial, nytimes.com, May 31, 2018). It is relevant to note here that one of the crimes that Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen is now being investigated for is the same as the one D'Souza was convicted of.

Let me put in my two cents worth: Donald Trump issued the pardon because he wants Dinesh D'Souza out there, continuing his favorite job of spewing anti-Obama venom.

(The author is editor and publisher of The East-West Inquirer. He can be reached at mpprabha@juno.com)



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

Bejan Daruwalla is world's most famous astrologer today. He appears regularly on world wide TV shows. Bejan who has been a professor in English, has authored a number of books on astrology. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 29, 2012, launched one of Bejan's books, '2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama (New York and Texas). Bejan's predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE JUNE 18 - JUNE 24, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says you rope in your associates in your dealings and this proves to be a good move. The attention also shifts from the work front to home and family and there are many domestic responsibilities and joys to handle and enjoy. You also have to invest some time in your housing society or community and you can't get away from all this. Nor do you want to. There are other responsibilities to attend to as well. Plus, there may be demands from siblings, co-workers, immediate and distant family and neighbors.

Taurus:

Love and money are the twin themes of the period. You also find time to relax, and there could perhaps be a home away from home as a kind of holiday retreat or weekend getaway. There will be loans, joint accounts, bonds, insurance and funds of all kinds to deal with on the money front, along with soaring expenses. You do a juggling act and manage it all well. You will also be spending a lot of time with loved ones and that will give you many happy moments.

Gemini:

Your people skills will be at their best and you will get the support of both colleagues and loved ones. Partnerships and collaborations are vital and most beneficial in this period. You surmount many obstacles and ride the wave to glorious times. You worry about your image and there may be legal issues that could tarnish it. You confide in family and form a strong team to battle these challenges. You find great support and strength in your associations and emerge victorious with ease.

Cancer:

Money and its jingle appeal to you more than ever before. You look at finances in a big way, as that is the main theme of this period. Personal and work-related finances hog the limelight. There are tax issues and all sorts of monetary developments that will take up your time. You have to solve it all and spend time behind closed doors getting to the nitty gritty of your finances and its implications. There are meetings galore in this period but they all work out happily in the end.

Leo:

Once the finances are worked out, you get to spending the money which you believe is hard earned. There are many expenses and for a change, your creative instincts blossom. You do well at work and there is recognition. You may even get an award for something you have done. You love the limelight and the appreciation that it all brings. You are the toast of the office, and may get a promotion, if not more. If you are on your own, you make tangible expansion of the business / enterprise. There have been good times and you have worked hard and earned well and now you want to get creative and bring some beauty into your surroundings.

Virgo:

You have achieved a lot, but you don't want to stop here. You are prepared to stick your neck out like a platoon commander flushing out terrorists. This works as you break new ground and make many startling discoveries. Your new interests include religion and spirituality, travel and education. You have kept money aside for the family and for a nest egg, and so monetary issues are not the real focus this period. You look for harmony and try to smooth the feathers you have rustled in the past.

Libra:

Your conciliatory moves and work success are highly appreciated. There is enhanced income and prestige. You party a lot now and look at finances in the form of inheritance and legacies. You are a social butterfly and spend time at various gatherings enjoying yourself thoroughly. You are ebullient and enthusiastic, and your happy mood is contagious. All this is a welcome respite from the hard slog that you have put in over the last period.

Scorpio:

You are again on the work track. You are confident, pragmatic and determined and will forge ahead furiously. You look at holistic progress and make the necessary adjustments to your personal and work life so that both show steady progress and harmony. You are also, once again, on a shopping spree with family and loved ones. Everyone has a ball!

Sagittarius:

You give your best to work and your relationships and there is great intensity in whatever you do. You extend your hand towards humanity, undertake social work and spend quality time with your children and / or parents. You are endowed now with a new vision and charisma and look at the future with immense possibilities in mind. You are riding the crest of a wave and feel that the world is yours to conquer.

Capricorn:

You see yourself in a new light and are empowered by your success. The early part of the period will be hectic and now you try to enjoy yourself and ride on the momentum generated in the previous period. You are caring and considerate, alert and active. There is a new you eyeballing the world and whatever it has to offer. There is a chance that you are getting too big for your boots. You spend and entertain easily and have happy, boisterous times.

Aquarius:

You are busier than ever before and highly motivated in all that you undertake - and it shows in the results. You spend quality time with loved ones and there are possibilities of exciting travel. But there are pinpricks like unexpected expenses, ill-health in the family, and a frittering away of valuable resources on issues that are of no relevance to you; in other words, there is highly avoidable wastage of both time and money. There is envy and politics at the workplace and you have to tread with caution.

Pisces:

There are many distractions at play here. There are partnerships, religious ceremonies, meetings and interviews and several business / collaborations / connections, all of which lead you into a profitable, upward spiral. This is a good time to spread your wings and meet as many people as possible. There is romance in the air and, if married, there will be dealings with close family, your spouse, even your in-laws. If single, there is a chance that you may meet your life partner.

FIFA World Cup 2018

Messi, the superstar illuminating a small Russian town

BRONNITSY (TIP): Lionel Messi's arrival in Bronnitsy, a quiet town with 20,000 residents some 50km southeast of Moscow, has brought an unprecedented level of attention to a place most renowned for its Archangel Michael cathedral.

But as the euphoric shouts echoing around a temporary stand suggests, its selection as Argentina's team base camp has transformed it into one of the epicentres of the World Cup.

Flags bearing Messi's face hang over barriers, while a giant mural of the Barcelona star towers above the people of Bronnitsy as they come to terms with the intense spotlight now fixated on their hometown.

Never has it been subjected to such scrutiny, and perhaps never again will this town founded in the middle of the 15th century attract such global recognition.

Around 400 fans flocked to Argentina's base camp on Monday for the team's first open training session, each and every one desperate to steal a glimpse of Messi in the flesh.

None of them were yelling "Aguero", "Mascherano" or "Higuain". They were all waiting for Messi to emerge from a building by the training ground and began to eagerly chant his name.

"Messi! Messi!" they screamed, trying to draw the attention of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner. He duly obliged, staying behind to sign autographs and posing for photos at the end of the hour-long session, during which his every touch was warmly applauded.

The bleachers were full to overflowing and trembled with emotion. But supporters there weren't the only ones who didn't want to miss out, Argentina's ambassador to Russia, Ernesto Lagorio, was also in attendance.

"It was great, it went very well, it's been a nice afternoon," he told AFP.

Others like physical education teacher Lucas Ledezma, who waited for the team's bus to arrive last Saturday, repeated that same sentiment.

"We dream that we can do it, I think it's a World Cup the national team deserves, that Messi deserves and that all us Argentines deserve," said the 30-year-old Ledezma, who left the Argentine city of Cordoba in on



January 5 and cycled 14,000km to follow the Albiceleste.

Painting a legend'

If anything is on a par with Messi these days it could be the enormous mural of him that stares out at passers-by on one of the streets adjacent to Bronnitsy's main road.

"When I was painting Messi, I was painting a legend of my time. Messi is one of the best players (in the world)," said 29-year-old street artist Sergey Erofeev, who was commissioned to redesign the wall after winning a competition.

Erofeev, still with paint splattered on his trousers and in broken Spanish that he only recently learned, confessed he has a dream of

his own. "I want Messi to come and see my work," he said.

Close to Argentina's training base is a house that has been converted into a makeshift sports bar serving "Mate Listo", a version of the caffeine-packed drink popular in South America.

It's impossible to walk through Bronnitsy without hearing Messi's name, mostly in conversations between locals, and his image is everywhere you turn.

Only his presence, and the stringent security surrounding him, have managed to alter an otherwise peaceful day in a town that has openly welcomed the striker despite struggling to get close to him. *Source: AFP*

WORLD CUP 2018 IS RUSSIA'S TURN TO PLAY BALL

When Saudi Arabia took on hosts Russia at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium on Thursday, the 80,000 fans in the stands were a tiny fraction of the nearly three billion people around the world to whom the kick-off of the 2018 FIFA World Cup was available on television. For the next month or so, for lovers of the Beautiful Game, the world will appear to be a happier, perhaps kinder, place. In the last edition in Brazil, the Vatican had called for a ceasefire in hostilities in global trouble spots. Four years later, Pope Francis's native Argentina, led by Lionel Messi — who may be making his final appearance in a World Cup — are again one of the front-runners. Still, all the individual brilliance on the field may not take away from the fact that the Cup is happening at a difficult time for the world, and that too, in Russia.

Eight years ago, when Russia clinched the bid to host the Cup, Vladimir Putin exulted in the moment. Over the next few years, the country has been embroiled in the wars in Ukraine and Syria, a misadventure in Crimea, witnessed economic decline, faced allegations of interference in the US elections, and has been held guilty for an Olympic doping scandal. Despite the stringent sanctions imposed against it, Putin is playing proud host to the world with Russia spending an estimated 678 billion rubles (\$11.6 billion) on projects for the tournament, 70% of which is estimated to have come from taxpayers.

The World Cup moving to Russia highlights its foray into new territories. In 2002, Asia got its first Cup when Japan and South Korea hosted. In 2010, the Cup graced the African continent with the Bafana Bafana playing hosts. This year's tournament in Russia, at a time when it is back in geopolitical focus, will be followed by the World Cup making both -- its maiden foray to West Asia in Qatar and a statement loaded with political undertones.

Back on the field, the pundits are backing Brazil, Germany and France. But you can never count out Spain and Argentina, with Belgium this year's dark horses. May the best team win!



Afghan bowlers make comeback after Vijay, Dhawan smash tons

BENGALURU (TIP): Hundreds from Shikhar Dhawan and Murali Vijay gave Afghanistan the expectedly tough initiation into Test cricket but the debutants managed to find their bearings to leave India a tad uncomfortable at 347 for 6 on a rain-curtailed first day of the historic one-off Test here.

Dhawan (107 off 96 balls) bludgeoned the rookie Afghan bowlers into submission with a single session century while Vijay grinded them with a compact 105 off 153 balls as the duo smashed 168 in only 28.4 overs.

However, the world no.1 hosts did take their foot off the pedal in the final session losing five wickets for 99 runs in 32 overs. The result was that the day end scorecard didn't paint a sorry picture for Afghanistan something that was threatening to happen after the first two sessions.

The final session definitely belonged to Afghanistan as their bowlers put up an inspired performance backed by the fielders.

Vijay and a well-set KL Rahul (54 off 64 balls) were removed in quick succession by the impressive pace duo of Yamin Ahmadzai (2/32 in 13 overs) and Wafadar (1/53 in 15 overs).

The Vijay-Rahul second wicket partnership yielded 112 runs but their dismissals brought about a collapse.



Skipper Ajinkya Rahane (10 off 45 balls) and Cheteshwar Pujara (35) couldn't maintain the momentum giving the visiting team bowlers something to cheer about in the final session.

Rahane became Rashid Khan's maiden Test scalp while Mujeeb ur Rahman got Pujara caught at leg-gully with one that spun in sharply.

Comeback-man Dinesh Karthik (4) was run-out needlessly as a solid foundation laid by the openers was wasted by the middle-order. Rashid (1/120 in 26 overs) conceded a 'century', getting a reality check on the enormous gulf between T20 and Test cricket during the first two sessions.

However, being a quick learner, he came back well in the final session varying the pace of his deliveries and getting the ball to dip in troubling the middle-order with a final spell of 9-2-15-1.

Earlier, Dhawan became the first Indian batsman to score a century in the first session of a Test match joining the illustrious ranks of Sir Don Bradman, Victor Trumper, Majid Khan, and David Warner. The hapless bowlers struggled during the first two sessions as they were not able to hit the correct 'Test match length', especially the spinners, who are used to bowling flat and quick.

Source: PTI

HINDU GODDESSES: THEIR SYMBOLISM & SIGNIFICANCE

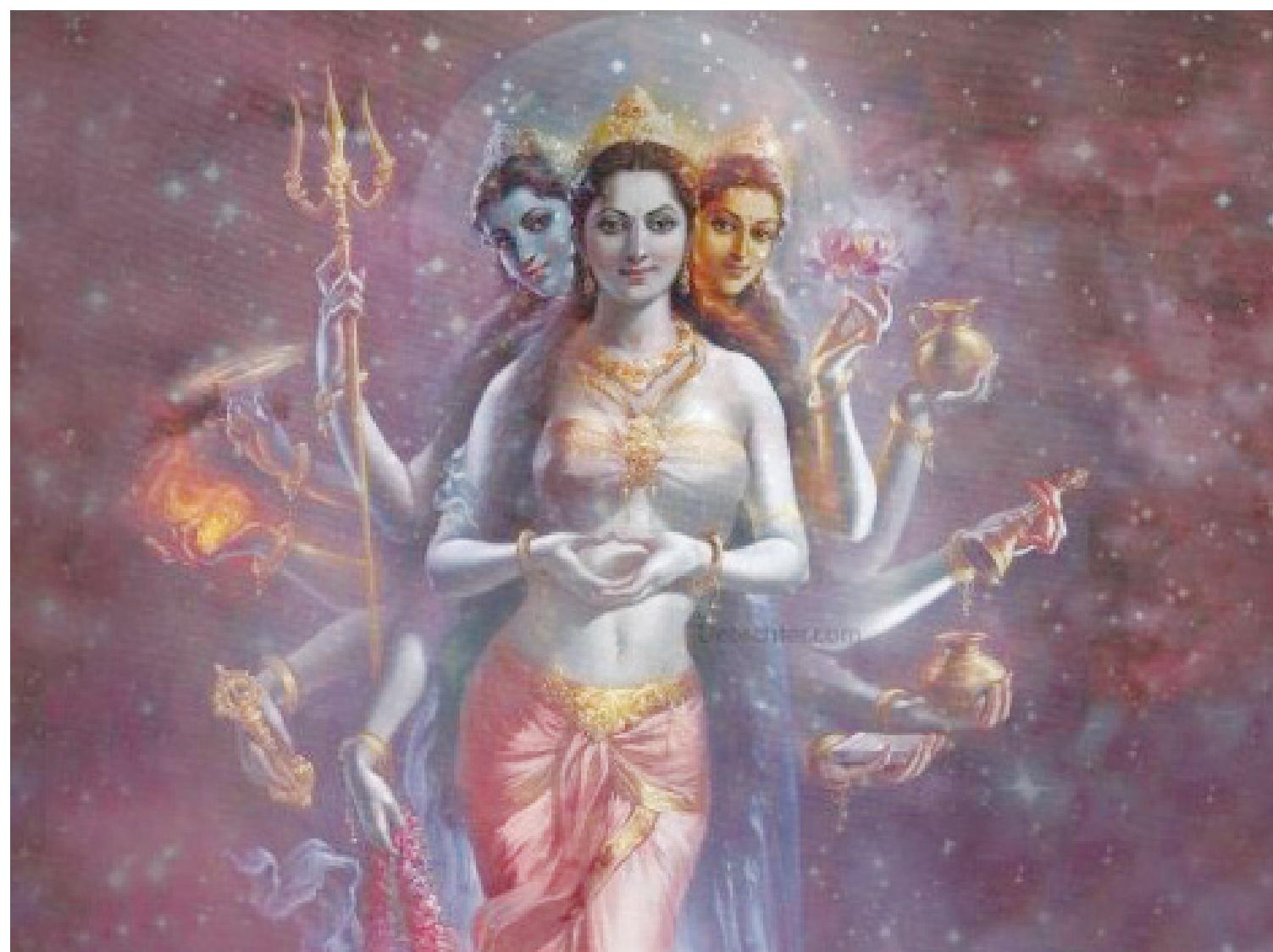
One of the distinctive features of Hinduism is the worship of devi or feminine deities which is a very ancient and popular tradition. The Indus people worshipped some form of Mother Goddess. The vedic people worshipped female deities along with gods such as Indra, Varuna, Agni and Brahmanaspati.

Aditi was the mother of gods. She gave birth to the Adityas or the solar deities. Saraswathi was the goddess of learning who was compared to a river. Lakshmi was the goddess of wealth. She brought happiness and prosperity through harmony, bestowing cattle and good crops on people who invoked her. The earth was compared to a mother while the heaven to Prajapathi, Indra or Brahmanaspati. Usha was the goddess of dawn. She symbolized awakening consciousness and heralded the arrival of the sun in his golden chariot yoked by seven ruddy horses. Uma Haimavathi of the Katha Upanishad, was the mysterious companion of the supreme Brahman, who acted as His emissary and imparted knowledge of Brahman to Indra, Agni and Vayu and helped them become the first and the foremost among the gods of devaloka. Then there was Yami, who desired the companionship and physical union with her own brother Yama, who was the Lord of the netherworld and epitome of justice.

As the vedic religion expanded and assimilated other religions and sectarian movements such as Saivism and Vaishnavism, the Hindu pantheon acquired an interesting and complex character. The concept of Purusha, the universal male deity or the Supreme Self or God, and Prakriti, the universal female deity or the Mother Goddess as the primal and dynamic energy of God became popular. It became customary to associate one or more female deities with each male deity not only at the highest level, but at other levels also.

Thus Lakshmi of the Vedic world was recognized as the consort of Vishnu, Parvathi of Siva, Saraswathi of Brahma, Iswari or Mahadevi or Iswara, Aindri of Indra, Varuni of Varuna and so on. Even ascetic gods like Ganesha were associated with female divinities, Siddhi and Riddhi. In the process, the Hindu pantheon acquired the character of a large family (vasudaika kutumbam) of gods in which each major divinity headed a family of his own consisting of wives, children, vehicles, weapons, assisting deities and in some cases worlds of their own recognized as their abodes or habitats. Saivism went a step ahead and personified the union of male and female principles of creation in the form of Siva as Ardhanariswara, the half male and half female.

It is important to note that these developments were not products of someone's imagination but realization, during deep meditative states, of the existence of these divinities and their powers within oneself and within the cosmos. It was as a result of the internalization of ritual knowledge and ritual practice and the discovery of a whole new world within oneself. Some western scholars tend to call this process erroneously as vedic imagination, but it was realization of oneself as the highest self and the recognition of one's own divine nature and its universal character. It was an elevation of vision in which man found himself at the center of divine creation, as a tool by which all that was to be known could be known not by going out but by looking within oneself. Hidden within each human being is a blue print of the universe, the entire cosmic order and its structure. Science explores it by



sending space missions or using extended means of seeing through powerful telescopes. In Hinduism we are advised to look within ourselves to find the universe that is hidden there. Our minds and bodies are perhaps the best and the most powerful telescopes through which we can fathom the entire universe that is hidden deep within. Patanjali's Yogasutras speak of siddhis or supernatural powers which can be acquired and used by advanced practitioners of yoga to perform similar tasks. Our scriptures describe each being as a microcosmic aspect of the macrocosm. If Brahman is the self of the universe, atman is the self of the individual.

If the material universe with the planets, the stars, the elements, the worlds and the beings constitute the body of God, the physical and subtle bodies of a being are a universe by themselves in which reside some of the divinities that also reside in the material universe of God.

Hindu mythology describes the female deities as fickle, possessive and subject to emotional outbursts. At the same time they describe them as the highest and purest of divinities, courted, loved and pampered by their consorts with unconditional love and undivided attention and from whom, in their purest states, they are inseparable and indistinguishable. Some of the deities are depicted as vengeful and wrathful and some as lovable, kind and motherly.

Going by the Puranas, these opposing behaviors are often displayed by the same divinity in different circumstances. In some cases, like that of Brahma and Saraswathi, their relationships do not stand the test of human morality. This seemingly contradictory behavior is quite understandable.

These deities are energies that reside in the material body of the universe and also in the bodies of the individual beings. It is for general public we ascribe them human character and build a whole mythology around them. We all know that the energy levels in our bodies are never the same. They are constantly fluctuating and fickle. They ebb and flow depending upon what we do, think and aim for.

They demand our attention, respond to our pampering and work for us to the extent we nurse them and care for them. Some are easy to invoke and some are difficult to find. These energies are both positive and negative. They can help us in our spiritual advancement or become obstacles on our paths depending upon how we use them or respond to them or which

energies we invoke. They can potentially help us or they can destroy us just as any other tool or energy that we use in our day to day lives.

Apart from worshipping these female deities or powers in the temples and homes, seeking their help and support in our material success, we need to know them from a higher perspective and seek their help in our spiritual journey to achieve the four aims of human life, namely dharma, artha, kama and moksha. Knowing them is part of knowing ourselves. It is very vital to our spiritual practice and self awareness. In seeking their help we fulfill the divine purpose for which they exist. They are inseparable aspects of our physical and mental environments. They are as real as our minds and bodies.

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Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

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'If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it? If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it? Indian alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.'





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