



EVER TRUTHFUL

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## President Trump to attend G7 Summit, in part

**The two-day meeting will be dominated by the possibility of a trade war - prompted by the US levies of 25 per cent on steel and 10 per cent on aluminum**



Donald Trump said he will 'fight' at the G7 Summit 2018.

Photo / Courtesy White House

upcoming meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, Tuesday, June 12. Deputy Assistant to the President for

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** After initial dithering, President Trump is heading for G7 Summit at Charlevoix, Canada on Friday, June 8. Following the session on Women's Empowerment, Trump will travel directly to Singapore from Canada in anticipation of his

contd on Page 20

## Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee at RSS Headquarters defines India and Patriotism

**Says any attempt to define India through religion, intolerance will dilute its existence**

**NAGPUR, INDIA (TIP):** Highlighting the pluralistic and secular strengths of "our democracy" former President of India and Congress veteran Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday, June 7 spoke from an RSS platform to declare nationalism was not bound by race or religion. He cautioned that any attempt to define India through "religion, dogma or intolerance" would only dilute the country's existence.

His half-an-hour address had a lesson for everyone. To the RSS, the former President recalled "vasudhaiva kutumbakam" (the world is one family) as the soul of Indian nationalism; to new Sangh recruits he spoke of the need for harmony; to his parent party Congress, he emphasized the need for dialogue and to PM Narendra Modi, he

contd on Page 20



Pranab Mukherjee said the soul of India resides in pluralism and tolerance

Twitter Photo @RSSorg

## Preet Bharara for NY State Attorney General?



Speculation is rife that Preet Bharara may be eyeing the post of AG of NY State

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Preet Bharara, the former United States attorney in Manhattan who was fired by President Trump, has registered as a Democratic voter in New York for the first time in more than a decade amid speculation that he might run for

contd on Page 20

## Trump's efforts to scare away Immigrants aren't working very well

**DALLAS, TX (TIP):** In the last two months, the Trump administration has mobilized the National Guard to all four Southern border states, implemented a "zero tolerance" policy mandating prosecutions for unauthorized crossings and begun systematically separating mothers from their children when they are caught crossing illegally.

None of that has stopped the migrants from coming.

The number of illegal crossings increased slightly in May, to nearly 52,000, according to figures released Wednesday by the Customs and Border Protection agency. That total includes 11,568 people who came through legal ports of entry, some of whom were asking for asylum or other humanitarian protections under U.S. law. (Full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)



International Day of Yoga: A Global Celebration Page 10

## Thousands without power after storms packing high winds, lightning blow through Dallas-Fort Worth

**DALLAS (TIP):** A line of thunderstorms that darkened skies in Dallas-Fort Worth on Thursday, June 7 evening brought rain and gusty winds to some areas before petering out. Denton County and parts of Collin County were hit hardest by the storms that moved south into the region from the Red River, KXAS-TV (NBC5) meteorologist Rick Mitchell said.

The storms were already weakening as they made it into Dallas County, and by 7:15 p.m. they had been reduced to a small shower in the southwest part of the county, Mitchell said.

A collection of non-severe showers and storms off to the northeast was also in the process of dying out, he said. Some areas saw strong winds including Denton Enterprise Airport, which recorded a 68mph gust,

according to the National Weather Service. The thunderstorms knocked out power to about 12,500 Onco customers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and the agency was in the process of restoring service Thursday night, spokeswoman Connie Piloto said.

Though the heaviest rainfall was about an inch, most areas saw less - if any at all.

DFW International Airport recorded a quarter of an inch, and Grand Prairie and Irving got about half an inch, Mitchell said.

Some flight delays and cancellations were also reported at DFW Airport.

The impending weather was enough to cancel the final practice of the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series at the Texas Motor Speedway and delay the start of the Texas Rangers game.

There were also some reports of small hail, but "none of it was that scary stuff," Mitchell said, referring to Wednesday's hailstorm that caused thousands of dollars in damage.

At least one tree was damaged by wind in Coppell, which also saw significant hail damage early Wednesday.

A house fire was reported Thursday in Sanger that may have been caused by a lightning strike, Mitchell said.

The weekend is shaping up to be dry with highs expected in the mid-90s.

"The last few days we've had these waves of showers and storms that most of us have not had but have been affecting parts of North Texas," Mitchell said. "But I think that kind of winds down tomorrow."

(Source: Dallas News)

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# Indian Origin Tommy Thomas to be Malaysia's New Attorney General

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** Indian origin Tommy Thomas, a top ethnic lawyer was appointed Malaysia's new Attorney General on June 5th by the King, who appealed to Malaysians not to "create religious or racial conflict" over the decision, amid protests from Islamic groups against his nomination.

A palace statement said Sultan Muhammad V has approved terminating the current Attorney General Mohamad Apandi Ali and replacing him with Mr. Thomas, who is the first person from the minority community to hold the post in 55 years in the Muslim-majority nation.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had recently proposed to nominate Mr. Thomas, 66, as the Attorney-General, the official agency reported.

The king called on all Malaysians to accept that the appointment of the Attorney-General should "not create religious or racial conflict as every Malaysian should be fairly treated regardless of race and religion."

The appointment of Mr. Thomas as the top legal officer would not affect the special rights and privileges of the Malays and Bumiputeras, as well as the



Tommy Thomas has been a lawyer in Malaysia for 42 years

status of Islam as the federal religion, the agency said.

The King also expressed his disappointment and worry about "inaccurate and negative" media reports of late which could threaten peace and harmony in the country, it said.

Mr. Thomas is best known as a constitutional law expert and a civil litigator in court cases in matters as varied as administrative law, banking, finance, corporate and commercial law.

He has been a lawyer in Malaysia for 42 years, having been called to the Bar in the United Kingdom in 1975 and

called to the Malaysian Bar in 1976.

Kuala Lumpur-born Thomas is also an alumni of Victoria Institution, the University of Manchester and the London School of Economics.

He had also served the legal community in peninsular Malaysia through the Malaysian Bar's governing body Bar Council, which he was a member of during 1984-1988 and 1993-2001 - including a stint as Bar Council secretary from 1995-1997.

The appointment of Tommy Thomas has caused division among the Malaysian public as petitions - both objecting and supporting his nomination - have cropped up.

Parti Islam Se-Malaysia's information chief on May 2nd also protested against the government's pick, saying that the candidate should be an individual "who can protect Islam as the official religion of the country".

The Malaysian government had defended its nomination of Mr Thomas, saying that it would be the right signal to send to Malaysians and the rest of the world that the new administration was serious about reforming the country's institutions.

## Indian American Illinois University student Pravin Varughese 's murder case Trial begins



Pravin Varughese was a student at Southern Illinois University

**ILLINOIS (TIP):** Lovely Varughese, the mother of Indian American Pravin Varughese will finally see the man accused of killing her son after four years as the trial begun on June 4th.

Gaige Bethune, who faces a charge of first-degree murder in the death of Pravin Varughese, appeared in the court on Monday,

June 4th to face the trial. His final pre-trial hearing was held last month.

Varughese, a student of Southern Illinois University was on his way home from a party, but he never reached his townhouse near the campus.

The teenager placed a desperate call to a friend around 12.30 a.m., during which he reportedly sounded out-of-breath.

Varughese's body was found in the woods in an area roughly three miles from the SIU campus after an intense search for nearly six days.

The accused Bethune, a resident of Eldorado, Illinois, is not a student of Southern Illinois University, where Varughese was a student at the time of his death. But the indictment report says he admitted that he delivered "multiple punches to the head and face, rendering (Varughese) 'dead weight.'"

After the final pre-trial hearing Lovely Varughese had told media "I'm pretty confident on the evidence they have, and I'm just waiting for the jury to hear the evidence."

She had also added that the family was all prepared for the trial of Gaige Bethune.

According to the statement provided by Bethune to police, he gave Varughese a ride on a frigid February night. He also admitted that he was drunk but said the deceased was the first to start an altercation and refused to get out of the car.

He also added that when the Illinois state trooper approached, Varughese escaped into the woods.

The case was almost closed after the Jackson County State's Attorney Michael Carr approved the police finding that Varughese died of hypothermia.

After the relentless follow-through of Lovely Varughese, who even accused the Illinois police of foul play, a second autopsy was conducted, and it revealed that there were at least three major injuries to his head from blunt trauma, and his eye was badly damaged. The victim also looked to have tried some sort of a defensive move.

In March 2015, Carr stepped down from the case and turned it over to Patrick Delfino, a special prosecutor in the Illinois State Appellate Court.

## Indian Origin Jailed in Singapore for Spiking Roommate's Drink to Rape Her



Prabakaran confessed to spiking his flat mate's water and then pleaded for forgiveness

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** A 28-year-old Indian origin in Singapore has been sentenced by a court there for attempting to spike his flat mate's drink and subsequently rape her, according to reports.

Annadurai Prabakaran, who worked in Singapore for more than seven years as a private hire bus driver, had earlier started to think of having sex with his 21-year-old flat mate, who is also an Indian origin residing there, court documents suggest.

Prabakaran bought two tablets for two Singapore dollars, of what he assumed to be sleeping pills, to spike his flat mate's water bottle.

"He planned to drug her and have sexual intercourse with her while she was asleep," according to a report, citing court documents.

He then carried out a small test by using one of the pills to see whether it would become colorless when dissolved.

Three days later, on December 12, he dissolved the other pill in his flat mate's bottle, when she left it unattended.

When her 21-year-old flat mate took a sip of water, she spat it out when she realized the water tasted bitter, according to reports.

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

## Indian American Techie Shubham Goel is California's youngest Governor Candidate



Mr. Goel will contest alongside 27 other candidates

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** Indian American Shubham Goel, who has his roots in Uttar Pradesh is the youngest candidate running for governor of California, Mr. Goel calls for "fresh voices to change the state government". He was born and raised in California and campaigns for need for practical solutions to problems that the state faces.

A virtual reality manager by profession, the 22-year-old has been using social media platforms to reach out to the public. His campaigns show him on the streets of California with a megaphone in hand, advocating transparency in the political system.

In a video he posted on Twitter, the young techie in a dark blue t-shirt is seen asking people at a carnival to support him, while one of his aides is standing beside him holding a big, white placard to pitch his candidacy for California governor.

Mr. Goel will contest alongside 27 other candidates, according to a two-page state governor contest list that shows he does not have a party preference.

Another video posted on his Twitter profile shows him campaigning on virtual reality or VR platforms. "Technology has been able to fix a lot of issues. I want to run for governor just to implement technologically feasible platforms," he said.

Shubham Goel recently graduated from the University of California or UCLA and holds a degree in economics and film studies. Calling himself an "everyday person," soon after he announced his candidacy, he tweeted, "California is struggling and this is the moment for change!"

According to Mr. Goel, the primary reason for running for office is that one needs no political backing or funding to bring about change. "I wanted to run to show that in state-wide offices, it is presumed that to run for office, you need loads of money and fame and loads of political backing. I want to show that all you need is efficiency, platforms and conviction," he said.

If elected, Mr. Goel hopes to take California back to its Gold Rush period, arguably one of the most significant events to shape American history.

Mr. Goel campaigns on a seven-point platform that includes a handbook for the governor that talks of creating centralized and digitalized profiles on social media for office-holders. The profiles will show their economic interactions for the past 10 years with regards to money and donations they have received from any source.

## Indian Origin UK based DJ jailed for trying to pull 837,000-pound scam

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian origin UK based DJ has been jailed for three months after being found guilty of contempt of court for exaggerating the effect of his relatively minor injuries in a bid to defraud the National Health Service of over 837,000



The 33-year-old was found in contempt of court on 14 counts at a hearing in April

pounds. Sandip Singh Atwal, known as Sunny, was filmed dancing and working as a courier after claiming that "negligent" treatment he received from the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) for minor injuries had left him unemployed and dependent. The 33-year-old was found in contempt of court on 14 counts at a hearing in April and was sentenced at the UK High Court on June 1st. "It needs to be clearly understood by everyone that false and lying claims undermine the administration of justice in a number of serious ways.

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



## Indian American Democrats Ami Bera, Ro Khanna win California primaries



Democratic US Representative Ami Bera (left) and California Democrat Ro Khanna.

**SACRAMENTO, CA(TIP):** Indian American Democrats Ami Bera and Ro Khanna have won their primaries in their bid to hold on to their congressional seats in California.

Bera, the longest serving Indian American in the US House of Representatives, polled nearly 52 percent of the total votes cast in the California District 7 on June 5th. He will face Republican Andrew Grant, who finished second with 33 percent votes.

Ami Bera was first elected in 2012, when he defeated incumbent Dan Lungren by two percentage points. Since then both his reelection runs were very competitive.

Freshman congressman Ro Khanna finished first in District 17, winning 59 percent of the votes. Republican Ron Cohen, who received 25 percent of votes, will challenge the Indian American in the November election.

Khanna, who represents Silicon Valley, entered Congress by beating incumbent and fellow Democrat Mike Honda in 2016.

In the statewide elections, Indian American Vivek Viswanathan, who ran for treasurer, finished third.

The former Hillary Clinton aide, who ran an innovative campaign by running on his sneakers from one end of the state to the other, polled nearly half a million votes. Fellow Asian American Fiona Ma received more than 1.6 million votes (43 percent) - nearly double the votes polled by his nearest rival, Republican Greg Conlon.

In California, there is only one primary, and candidates from all parties compete, with the top two finishers advancing to the general election.

Last month, two Indian American Democrats won primaries in Texas and Arkansas.

Sri Preston Kulkarni won the runoff for Texas' 22nd Congressional District, while school teacher Chintan Desai won Arkansas' first congressional district Democratic primary unopposed.

# India Hosts UN Peacekeeping Day celebration at the UN on June 1, 2018



Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin (2nd from right), India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, welcomes UN Secretary-General António Guterres as the UNSG arrives to participate, celebrating the UN Peacekeeping-Day, hosted by Indian Mission to the UN. Also, in the picture, Ambassador Tanmay Lal (right), Deputy PR and Col. Sanjeev Kapoor (left), a Military officer attached to the Indian Mission in NY.

Photo /Jay Mandal/On Assignment



Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's Representative to the UN as she and her Military Attache join the celebration of UN Peacekeeping Day at the UN. Also, in the Pic, Col Sanjeev Kapoor. (right) to the United Nations.

Photo /Jay Mandal/On Assignment



UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivers his statement during UN Peacekeeping day event at the UN, hosted by Indian Mission to the UN. in NY.  
Photo /Jay Mandal/On Assignment

## What are Naunidh?

**Sikhs always talk about Naunidh during Ardas**

"Tegh Bahadur Simariye ghar \*NAUNIDH\* aavey dhaey"

**How many of us even know what the Naunidh are?**

**Read on if you want to know.**

THE NAUNIDH ARE THE NINE SPIRITUAL TREASURES OF GOD REALIZATION.

The nine spiritual treasures are the steps or keys we must achieve along our journey to Realization of WAHEGURU.

**1.Acceptance..... \*HUKAM\***

The first key to GOD is to accept and stop questioning His will and the natural laws and order of the Divine

**2.Faith..... \*BHAROSA\***

Upon acceptance of GOD and beginning a quest in search of Him, expand your mind, read all that is written and develop faith.

**3.Detachment..... \*VAIRAG\***

When you have exhausted every outer search then begin your inner quest with detachment from any negative unhealthy relationship to the world and family.

**4.Absolute Absorption..... \*LEENTA\***

Using GOD's name in prayer and meditation, attain an absolute absorption in and attachment to GOD. .

**5.Balance.... \*SEHEJ\***

If you quieten your mind, aim for balance and listen to the silence within, a point of equilibrium will be reached where

**6.Joy..... \*ANAND\***

A light will fill your mind and your heart will quicken with Joy

**7.Ecstasy.... \*VISMAAG\***

As you feel the LOVE and presence of GOD, you will be in a state of spiritual ecstasy.

**8.Contentment..... \*SANTOKH\***

Contentment will follow

**9.GOD's grace/Humility.... \*NADAR\***

After a deeper realization of the wonder that is GOD one will, with humility, attribute all to GOD and only GOD and not think about his personal contribution as one is nothing without GOD.

Waheguru Ji Da Khalsa  
Waheguru Ji di Fateh ??

(Contributed by CJ Arneja)



# UP Association's Annual Hasya Kavi Sammelan with geet and gazal a great success



The participating poets. L to R: Sarvesh Asthana, Gaurav Sharma, Sonroopa Vishal

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** The Uttar Pradesh Association of Greater Chicago (UPA) held its annual Hindi Hasya Kavi Sammelan on Sunday, May 27, 2018 at Ashiyana banquet hall in Downers Grove, Illinois

The Sammelan was a huge success with over 400 plus guests attending the program from all over Chicagoland and neighboring areas.

This is a signature event of UP Association which is organized every year in close collaboration with International Hindi Association (IHA). UPA is the only organization that organizes this very popular Kavi Sammelan every year and brings

acclaimed poets from India to promote and celebrate richness of our motherland language through kavi sammelan.

Three famous poets, Mr. Sarvesh Asthana, Mr. Gaurav Sharma and Dr. Sonroopa Vishal, currently on tour of Unites States and Canada, entertained audience with hasya, vyang and geet. The Kavis' were a perfect combination- where Mr. Asthana's comic poetry and Sharma's two liner comic poetry kept the audience roaring in laughter, at the same time, Dr. Vishal's geet and Gazals mesmerized the audience with her melodious voice. The performances by three poets were outstanding and the hall echoed with loud



A view of the audience

Asian Media USA

laughter and clapping with great hasya and satire poems presented by Mr. Asthana and Mr. Sharma. Dr. Vishal's geet/gazals on love and family relationship and importance of women in shaping our society filled our hearts with pride and she received standing

ovation. Overall, combinations of three poets was well appreciated by the audience. Mr. Asthana presided over the kavi sammelan with his unique and impressive style of poetry presentation.

Read more on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)

## OREGON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE HONORS BHAGAT SINGH THIND



Sikh community created a float in honor of Sikhs in Service

**PORTLAND, OREGON (TIP):** This past Memorial Day Weekend several Sikh organizations including Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Sikh Seva Foundation, Ghadar Memorial Foundation, SAVA, and SikhLens, along with the local Sikh community organized a program in celebration of Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind's service and activism.

The event took place prior to the Portland

Oregon Memorial Day Parade. LTC Kamal Singh Kalsi and Johanna Ogden spoke about history and service. The program included elements of film, music, dance, and discussion. After the event attendees went to the Portland Oregon Memorial Day Parade where the Sikh community created a float in honor of Sikhs in Service.

SALDEF Regional Director SatHanuman Singh Khalsa organized the important event.

## US EMBASSY IN CHINA SENDS NEW ALERT FOR MYSTERY HEALTH ISSUE

**GUANGZHOU (TIP):** The US Embassy in China sent its second alert in two weeks Friday to its citizens over unexplained health issues that have prompted the evacuation of a number of US government employees working at a consulate in a southern city.

The alert urged Americans to seek medical help in the event they suffered any "unusual, unexplained physical symptoms or events, auditory or sensory phenomena, or other health concerns."

The alert comes as a US medical team is screening more Americans who work at the Guangzhou consulate. A previous case in

Guangzhou, disclosed last month, prompted the tests.

The incidents have raised fears the unexplained issues that started in Cuba in 2016 have expanded to other countries. China says it has uncovered no information that could point to a cause.

The most recent evacuations followed medical testing that revealed they might have been affected. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said "a number of individuals" had been brought to the US but didn't say how many were affected or evacuated. (AP)

## The Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC) plans grand celebration of the 25th Anniversary of temple

**CHICAGO, IL(TIP):** A Media conference was held by Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC) on Saturday, June 2at JSMC temple, 435 N Route 59, Bartlett, IL 60103

The Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC), Bartlett Illinois, is preparing for a grand celebration of the 25th Anniversary of its temple from June 22 to July 1, 2018 in Bartlett, IL. More than 4000 people are expected to witness this historical celebration. This will be the first Jain temple in North America with "Shikhar" or dome to complete 25 years. A number of dignitaries, speakers, and faith leaders from US and India will grace the occasion. With the mission of preserving and sharing Jain way of life, JSMC has grown great with 1900+ proud life members (families) and expanded its facilities in a 17.5-acre lot with a monumental temple and Community Center.

Since 1970s, Chicago has experienced tremendous growth in population. A great part of this growth has come about as Chicago has become more international in character. Story of Jains in Chicago parallels that of Chicago. During this brief period, Jain population exploded from less than thirty families to more than nineteen hundred families. Jains built a beautiful eighty-four thousand square feet Jain Center and Temple at 435 North Route 59, on the northeast corner of Route 59 and Route 20 in Bartlett, Illinois. President of JSMC executive committee Mr. Vipul Shah is very excited and mentioned that, "This is a milestone year for all Jains in and around Chicago and indeed the whole of US. We have put in a lot of planning to ensure that all our guests have a great experience." Chairman and Board of Trustees of JSMC, Mr. Atul Shah added, "Our unity, dedicated volunteers, visionary leaders and generous donors, over the last 25 years is the main reason that we are a role model Jain society in North America."

The ten-day celebration includes various religious, cultural, educational and entertainment events to keep the audience enthralled. There is also a separate track of activities for youth and young adults. Planning for the celebration has been going on for the last 6 months and has now reached a feverish pace with over 200 volunteers working to put finishing touches with the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees leadership.



The Jain Temple



JSMC Members

Read more on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



## DELHI COURT SENTENCES ABU SALEM TO 7 YEARS IN JAIL IN 2002 EXTORTION CASE

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A Delhi court on June 7 sentenced gangster Abu Salem to seven years rigorous imprisonment for demanding Rs 5 crore as protection money from a Delhi-based businessman in 2002.

The court passed the order after hearing arguments on sentence by the prosecution and the defence lawyers. It had convicted Salem in the case on May 26.

In the extortion case lodged in Delhi, it was alleged that Salem had demanded Rs 5 crore as protection money from businessman Ashok Gupta, a resident of Greater Kailash in south Delhi, in 2002. *Source: PTI*



## US, India team up to strengthen Indian Ocean observations

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Scientists from India and the US have teamed up to strengthen their observation of the vast Indian Ocean, where the atmospheric development has a profound impact on the weather of not only India and the countries in the region, but also on America.

A team of 20 scientists from America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are landing in Goa next week to hold meeting with India's leading ocean, atmosphere, and fisheries scientists to review their collaboration in this field and decide on the future course of action. The Madden Julian Oscillation is a phenomenon in the western tropical Indian Ocean which has the most impact on weather pattern of the US, said Craig McLean, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and acting NOAA Chief Scientist. *Source: PTI*

## Maneka: NRI marriages to be registered within 48 hours

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** All NRI marriages solemnised in India would have to be registered within 48 hours, Union Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi said on Wednesday. As of now, there is no time-frame to register marriages in India. However, a Law Commission report has recommended that the time limit should be restricted to 30 days.

"NRI marriages have to be registered within 48 hours, else the passport and visas would not be issued," Maneka Gandhi said. *Source: PTI*



## INX media case: CBI questions P Chidambaram for 4 hours

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The CBI questioned ex-Finance Minister P Chidambaram for nearly four hours today in connection with alleged irregularities in clearances to foreign investments in INX media during his tenure.

The INX media was promoted by media baron Peter Mukerjea and his wife Indrani Mukerjea. Both were probed by the CBI for murder of Sheena Bora, Indrani's daughter from her first husband. Chidambaram reached the CBI headquarters here at 11 am. He was questioned by a CBI Economic Offences Wing team. After coming out of the CBI headquarters, Chidambaram said the FIR did not contain any allegations against him.

The team has prepared a set of questions for Chidambaram's clarifications. The senior Congress leader's statement would be recorded, according to a probe agency official. Chidambaram's alleged role has come under the scanner of investigating agencies in connection with the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance of Rs 305 crore given to the INX media.



# Centre will change face and fate of Kashmir, help misguided youth find their way, says Rajnath

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** Home Minister Rajnath Singh on June 7 appealed to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to choose progress over destruction. On a two-day visit to the state to review the security situation amid an ongoing Ramzan ceasefire, Singh asserted that the Centre will change the "face and fate" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking in Srinagar at the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Conclave 2018, the home minister said the central government understands the reality of Kashmir. "Sports can bring a change in your lives," he said. "Children can be misguided easily, but we know the truth, which is why we have withdrawn all stone-pelting cases against them."

He mentioned how the Government of India was working on initiatives, including providing employment to the youth. "We will help the youth be recruited in the armed forces," Singh said. "The Centre will help the youth of Jammu and Kashmir find their way. With everyone's help, we will change the face and fate of Jammu and Kashmir."

Singh also praised the youth of Jammu and Kashmir for their potential. "They have a lot to offer, but they are now in the dark," the home minister said. "I promise you that the central and state governments will change this. It is the responsibility of all of us to secure their future."

He urged the youth to not indulge in any kind of wrongdoings in the Valley. "I want to appeal that if you have to choose between tabahi (destruction) and tarakki (progress), hold on to progress and nothing will stop you," Singh said. "No force can stop this new dawn from coming to Jammu and Kashmir."

At the same event, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti said children from Jammu and Kashmir



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir on June 7, 2018. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti and the Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh are also seen. *PIB*

"should also be given an atmosphere and opportunity to develop like those from other parts of the country", so that stone-pelting, bombing and the use of guns stop and "these children get a chance to grow".

The chief minister is likely to host Singh at an Iftar party on Thursday evening.

During his trip, Singh will hold meetings with Mufti, Governor NN Vohra and security and intelligence officials to decide on whether to extend the ceasefire beyond the Muslim month of fasting, which ends on 15 June. He will also review the implementation of various centrally-sponsored developmental programmes.

While the state government wants the Ramzan ceasefire, which militants have flouted, to be extended beyond Eid, IANS quoted sources as saying that field commanders of the Indian Army have argued how militants were being able to regroup and recruit boys with the

hostilities ceased from only one side.

### Talks with separatist leaders

Discussing the response of separatist leaders on the offer to hold talks will also be high on the home minister's agenda. He said the central government was ready to talk to everyone, including the separatists. Earlier, Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary Ram Madhav had also appealed to separatist leaders to engage in a meaningful dialogue and end the Kashmir conflict.

Separatist leaders in Jammu and Kashmir have been demanding clarity about the offer to hold talks to ensure that their engagement yield results. However, a Muzaffarabad-based conglomerate of armed groups, the United Jehad Council, has hit the brakes on any possibility of such dialogue. A statement it issued a few weeks ago said it would allow any talks to be held only once India accepted Kashmir as a disputed territory.

# BJP in damage control mode to keep 'estranged' allies in good mood

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Amit Shah's previous visits to Matoshree in Mumbai had not really been enthralling for both the parties concerned — Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena.

Shah has been there twice. First in September 2014, on the concluding day of his three-day visit to Mumbai sometime after he had assumed post of the BJP president. The purpose was to hold seat-sharing negotiations for upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections. It is history now that due to unyielding attitude of both BJP and Sena, the two "original allies" fought elections separately as bitter rivals only to realise that that post May 2014, the BJP was far stronger and had become the big brother in Maharashtra politics and Shiv Sena had become a pale shadow of what it used to be.

His second visit to the Sena supremo's residence Matoshree was in June, 2017, to tell Uddhav that the authority to name NDA's presidential nominee would rest with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Uddhav, by then, had already proposed name of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan for the president's post. Uddhav didn't agree with Shah's proposal and that meeting too remained inconclusive.

It's a different matter though that Shiv Sena ultimately supported NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind in the 2017 Presidential Election.



BJP chief Amit Shah met Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal and his son president Sukhbir Badal in Chandigarh.

Since then, Sena has become very bitter of BJP, declaring its intent to contest 2019 elections on its own. It fought a bitter electoral battle with BJP in Palghar parliamentary constituency by-election and lost it badly. Post-defeat, Sena went to the extent of calling BJP as its biggest enemy. Under these circumstances, Shah landing in Mumbai on Wednesday assumes special significance. It's surely not an ordinary meeting of two estranged allies. Bal Thackeray's death and advent of Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo at the Centre completely changed equations between Sena and BJP.



# Pranab Mukherjee at RSS event: BJP, Cong, Left laud his speech



Former president Pranab Mukherjee with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat at the closing ceremony of 'Tritiya Varsha Sangh Shiksha Varg', in Nagpur on June 7. Pic courtesy: PTI

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The much-hyped visit of former president Pranab Mukherjee, which had created equal and heightened anxiousness among the BJP and Congress camps, ended in pleasing both.

At the end of Pranab Mukherjee's visit to RSS headquarters at Nagpur, both the BJP and the Congress were cheering his 28-minute speech.

Both the rival political parties interpreted Pranab Mukherjee's address to the RSS pracharakas on 'Nation, Nationalism and Patriotism' as validating their respective stands.

## BJP

BJP general secretary Ram Madhav termed the former president's speech as "great". "His address and (RSS chief) Mohan Bhagwat's address are in a way complementary to each other. 'Nation First' is the core message of both," he said.

Drawing a parallel between Pranab and Bhagwat's speeches, the senior BJP leader said democracy and striving for the welfare of all the people is described by both as the core of ancient Indian nationalism.

The BJP also hailed the former president for describing RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar as a "great son of Mother India". "Today I came here to pay my respect and homage to a great son of Mother India," he wrote in the visitor's book at RSS founder's birthplace in Nagpur hours before he delivered his speech.

## CONGRESS

The Congress, which had panicked before Pranab Mukherjee's speech and criticised his visit, did a volte face praising his speech.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the former president showed the 'Mirror of Truth' to the RSS at RSS headquarters in Nagpur by reminding them of India's "pluralism", "tolerance", "secularism" and "inclusiveness" as an article of faith and soul of the country.

The Congress leader said Pranab

particularly highlighted the imperative need of freeing the public discourse from all forms of violence - physical and verbal - besides putting compassion, harmony and non-violence as the centre stage of our public life.

"Mukherjee also reminded the present Modi government of following 'Rajdharm', founded upon our diversity, non-violence, multiculturalism and assimilation of ideas. He particularly reminded the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) that 'Happiness of people is the happiness of ruler; their welfare is his welfare'," Surjewala said. However, former Congress leader Shehzad Poonawalla interpreted Pranab's speech as a message for party president Rahul Gandhi. "The address was to the swayamsevaks but message was to Rahul Gandhi that let us have samvaad and political vivaad... Hope Rahul Gandhi does not practice political intolerance and ideological terrorism but Indian philosophy of samvad," he said.

## PRANAB MUKHERJEE

Meanwhile, Pranab Mukherjee, who was one of the senior-most Congress leaders before becoming the president in July 2012, delivered a balanced speech with message to all political parties.

He said on January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India came into effect. Democracy became our most precious guide towards peace and regeneration from the swamp of poverty created by centuries of colonial rule. For us, democracy is not a gift, but a sacred trust, he said.

"The Constitution of India represents the hopes and aspirations of a billion plus Indians. From our Constitution flows our nationalism. The construct of Indian nationalism is constitutional patriotism," he said. In a democracy, Pranab said, informed and reasoned public engagement on all issues of national importance is essential. A dialogue is necessary not only to balance the competing interests but also to reconcile them.

Quoting Kautilya, he said the happiness of people lied the happiness of

the king, their welfare is his welfare and the state is for the people.

Pranab Mukherjee said people are at the centre of all activities of the state and nothing should be done to divide them. "The aim of the state should be to galvanise them to fight a concerted war against poverty, disease and deprivation. Only then can we create a nation where nationalism flows automatically," he said.

However, he talked about India's rich cultural heritage and proud historical past, which must have been music to the BJP and RSS' ears. He summed up the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal period by calling it a rule by "Muslims invaders".

But he also talked about values such as unity in diversity, tolerance and pluralism.

He said Indian nationalism emanated from universalism and the philosophy of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam" (the whole world is a family).

Pranab said our national identity has emerged through confluence, assimilation and coexistence. "We derive our strength from tolerance. We accept and respect our pluralism. We celebrate our diversity. Any attempt at defining our nationhood in terms of dogmas and identities of religion, region, hatred and intolerance will only lead to dilution of our national identity," he said.

He further said, "India's nationhood is not one language, one religion, one enemy. It is perennial universalism of 1.3 billion people who use more than 122 languages and 1600 dialects, practice seven major religions and belong to three major ethnic groups, live under one system, one flag one identity of being Bharatiya."

The RSS and the BJP, which saw Pranab's visit as a victory for them, seem to have got a thumbs up and sobering message simultaneously from the former president. The Congress which was critical of his visit is now rejoicing after the speech. Pranab Mukherjee seems to have done a balancing act by pleasing both the rival political parties.

Source: Kumar Shakti Shekhar, India Today

## No one is an outsider for RSS: Bhagwat

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat called the presence of former President Pranab Mukherjee at the RSS Sangh Shiksha Varg's concluding ceremony a "routine" event and hinted that the hype given to his visit was pointless.

In a rare departure from the RSS protocol, the RSS chief began his speech before chief guest Mukherjee and said: "Since the foundation of RSS, we have invited prominent people in the country for our Sangh Shiksha Varg. They see the Sangh and put forward their opinions. Today's programme is in the same tradition with simplicity. But this time, there is a lot of discussion. This is a routine event and the people of Nagpur know that. We are blessed to have such an experienced and knowledgeable person among us today. We invited him and he came. It's a normal thing."

"People are asking why he came and why he was invited. But the Sangh is Sangh and Mr. Mukherjee is Mr. Mukherjee. He will remain so," he told the RSS volunteers.

He claimed that the RSS was for uniting entire society and no one was an "untouchable". "Diversity is our ethos. Unity in diversity is our culture. We are all one and it should appear from time to time..." he said.

## Yechury's dig at Cong, RSS

CPM leader Sitaram Yechury took a dig both at the Congress and the RSS by saying, "In the 'history capsule' delivered by Pranab Mukherjee at the RSS headquarters, the absence of Mahatma Gandhi and his assassination speaks volumes...He (Mukherjee) would have done well to remind the RSS of its own history — banned thrice by Congress governments, first time by Sardar Patel, following Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. 'RSS men expressed joy and distributed sweets after Gandhiji's death', Patel wrote to Golwalkar."

## AAP hails ex-prez

AAP leader Ashutosh too hailed Mukherjee's speech, saying, "Pranab da raised his stature. Dialogue is the only way forward...Secularism is a must, he told the RSS. The RSS wants to decimate Nehru; he told them that the way forward is Nehru's path of confluence."

## Speech reminds one of glorious history of India, says RSS

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has said former president Pranab Mukherjee, in his speech at the organisation headquarters in Nagpur on Thursday, reminded the people of the glorious history of the nation while highlighting inclusiveness, pluralism and unity in diversity as foundation of India.

"Mukherjee's address reminded (of) the glorious history of the nation...5,000-year-old cultural heritage of the country. Our state system may have changed but our values remain the same. He also highlighted inclusiveness, pluralism and unity in diversity as foundation of Bharat," RSS prachar pramukh (official spokesperson) Arun Kumar told PTI. "We thank for him coming to the event and strengthening the conversation around the concept of nation, nationalism and patriotism," he added.

## Evil then, virtuous now?

While Congress lauded former president Pranab Mukherjee's speech at the RSS event, voices of dissent can still be heard from party leaders. Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari on June 8 trained guns at the former president over why he chose to attend the event.

"May I ask you a question that you still have not answered that is bothering millions of Secularists and Pluralists. Why did you choose to go to the RSS headquarters and deliver homilies on Nationalism? Your generation cautioned mine in training camp after training camp through 80's & 90's about the intent & designs of RSS. You were a part of the Govt that banned RSS in 1975 & then again in 1992. Don't you think you should tell us what was evil about RSS then that has become virtuous now? Either what we were told then was wrong or your lending respectability if not legitimacy to RSS by the act of association is not kosher given your stature in Public life," he tweeted.






**GUEST  
COMMENT**

# THE KARNATAKA EFFECT: MENDING FENCES WITH ADVANI & ALLIES

BJP president Amit Shah is busy making pilgrimages to places he had rarely bothered to visit while his party logged a steady record of victories in state elections. His first port of call was Matoshree, home to Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray to be followed by a closed-door meeting with the Badals in Chandigarh. His boss, PM Modi is on a pacifying and reconciliation mission too: an olive branch to party veteran LK Advani after studiously ignoring him all these years and there is talk of rapprochement with other estranged party elders as well.

A walk-back in politics, as in war, is an accepted tactic to cut the losses and recoup energy. The message from the high-value losses in UP and Karnataka seems to be that the BJP's brand of ethno-religious political activism and the Modi charisma may not be adequate in a bipolar competition in 2019. It is also a realization that the NDA needs to again summon the spirit of 2014 but with a slight twist in the arrangement: it is no longer the rising tide of Modi's populism and antipathy to the Congress that unconditionally brought allies to the BJP's fold.

The Congress' readiness to take the backseat in Karnataka and play the understudy to the BSP and SP in UP have also brought a matching pressure on the BJP to be accommodative to its allies as well. However, power brings in its own complications. The BJP has a much harder task on hand in trying to separately renegotiate the terms of alliance with its partners. For its allies of UP and Bihar, the BJP needs to allay their fears of abandonment and emasculation; with Akali Dal and Shiv Sena, conciliation is easier on the back of decades of association but the ball game in the South is different: the BJP may have invested in the wrong AIADMK faction in Tamil Nadu, is without a partner in Karnataka and divorced but not separated with the TDP in Andhra. J&K also requires a greater flexibility of alignment. A helping hand from the sidelined elders could make this arduous task easier.

(Tribune, Chandigarh)



By **Suhasini Haidar**

At his speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore last week, billed as a major foreign policy statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of India and the U.S.'s "shared vision" of an open and secure Indo-Pacific region. Yet his words differed so much from those of U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis, who spoke at the same event, that it seemed clear that New Delhi and Washington no longer see eye-to-eye on this issue, and several others as well.

**OCEANIC GULF:** To begin with, Mr. Modi referred to the Indo-Pacific, a term coined by the U.S. for the Indian and Pacific Oceans region, as a natural geographical region, not a strategic one, while Mr. Mattis called the Indo-Pacific a "priority theatre" and a "subset of [America's] broader security strategy" for his military command, now renamed the Indo-Pacific Command. While Mr. Modi referred to India's good relations with the U.S., Russia and China in equal measure, Mr. Mattis vowed to counter China's moves in the Indo-Pacific and referred to the U.S. National Defense Strategy released this January, which puts both China and Russia in its crosshairs as the world's two "revisionist powers".

The divergence in their positions, admittedly, are due more to a shift in New Delhi's position over the past year than in the U.S.'s, when Mr. Modi and President Donald Trump met at the White House. A year ago, the Modi government seemed clear in its intention to counter China's growing clout in its neighborhood, especially post-Doklam, challenge the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and back a Quadrilateral grouping of India, the U.S., Japan and Australia to maintain an open Indo-Pacific. Today, the Doklam issue has been buried, the BRI isn't as much a concern as before, and the government's non-confrontational attitude to the Maldives and Nepal indicates a softened policy on China in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, Mr. Modi now essays a closer engagement with Chinese President Xi Jinping and a relationship reset with China after the Wuhan meeting.

The Quad formation, which is holding its second official meeting today in Singapore, has also been given short shrift. India rejected an Australian request to join maritime exercises along with the U.S. and Japan this June, and Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba said quite plainly last month that there was no plan to "militarize" the Quad. Contrast this with India's acceptance of military exercises with countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Russia-China led grouping it will join this week in Qingdao, and one can understand some of the confusion in Washington. Pentagon officials, who had come to accept India's diffidence on signing outstanding India-U.S. foundational agreements, are now left scratching their heads as India publicly enters the international arena in the corner with Russia

**AS I SEE IT**

# NO LONGER SEEING EYE TO EYE?

With India recalibrating its relations with other powers, the India-U.S. equation is not quite balancing out

and China, while proclaiming its intention to continue energy deals with Iran and Venezuela in defiance of American sanctions.

**ERA OF SUMMITS:** In a world where summits between leaders have replaced grand strategy, the optics are even clearer. Mr. Modi will have met Mr. Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin four-five times each by the end of the year, if one counts informal and formal summits, as well as meetings at the SCO, BRICS and G-20. In contrast, nearly half the year has gone in just scheduling the upcoming 2+2 meet of Indian and U.S. Ministers of Defense and Foreign Affairs.

Trade protectionism is clearly the other big point of divergence between India and the U.S., which have in recent months taken each other to the World Trade Organisation on several issues. There has been a surge in disputes between the two countries: on the new American steel and aluminum tariffs, the proposed cuts in H1B professional visas and cancellation of H4 spouse visas, on India's tariffs and resistance to U.S. exports of dairy and pork products, on Indian price reductions on medical devices, and Reserve Bank of India rules on data localization on Indian servers for U.S. companies.

The row over Harley-Davidson motorcycles is a case in point, where what should have been a small chink in the relationship has ended up denting the discourse quite seriously. When Mr. Trump announced to Harley executives and union representatives in February last year that he would stop countries "taking advantage" of them, no one in New Delhi paid much attention. Over the year, Mr. Trump grew more vocal in this demand, including twice during meetings with Mr. Modi in Washington and Manila, calling for India to scrap its 75-100% tariffs, given that the U.S. imposes zero tariffs on the import of Indian Royal Enfield motorcycles. Mr. Modi tried to accommodate U.S. concerns, and even called Mr. Trump on February 8 this year to tell him that tariffs were about to be cut to 50%. But after Mr. Trump divulged the contents of their conversation publicly, trade talks were driven into a rut. Officials in Washington still say that if India were to slash its rates, it would see major benefits in other areas of commerce, while officials in New Delhi say that with Mr. Trump having gone public with Mr. Modi's offer, it would be impossible to back down any further. In fact, a new cess has taken tariffs back up to 70%.

The biggest challenges to a common India-U.S. vision are now emerging from the new U.S. law called Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act and the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis in Singapore  
Photo / courtesy PIB

with the threat of more secondary sanctions. Both actions have a direct impact on India, given its high dependence on defense hardware from Russia and its considerable energy interests in Iran. In particular, India's plans to acquire the Russian S-400 missile system will become the litmus test of whether India and the U.S. can resolve their differences. Clearly the differences over a big-ticket deal like this should have been sorted out long before the decisions were made; yet there is no indication that the Trump administration and the Modi government took each other into confidence before doing so.

**IN THE FACE OF SANCTIONS:** Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's avowal of the S-400 agreement, and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's open defiance of U.S. sanctions on Russia, Iran and Venezuela at separate press conferences this month couldn't have helped. It also didn't help that owing to Mr. Trump's sudden decision to sack Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State in March, the 2+2 meeting in April, which may have clarified matters, was put off. The truth is, building a relationship with the Trump administration in the past year has been tricky for both South Block and the Indian Embassy in Washington, as more than 30 key administration officials have quit or have been sacked - they have had to deal with three National Security Advisers, two Chiefs of Staff, as well as two Secretaries of State as interlocutors.

It is equally clear that the India-U.S. equation isn't balancing out quite the way it did last year, when Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump first announced the idea of the "2+2" dialogue. Ms. Swaraj, Ms. Seetharaman and their American counterparts have their work cut out for them during their upcoming meeting in Washington on July 6. If a week is a long time in politics, in geopolitics today a year is an eternity.

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# Will India join the US in Scientific Revolution?

Trump has offered India 100% access to all US Technologies and treat India as the closest ally



By Ven Parameswaran

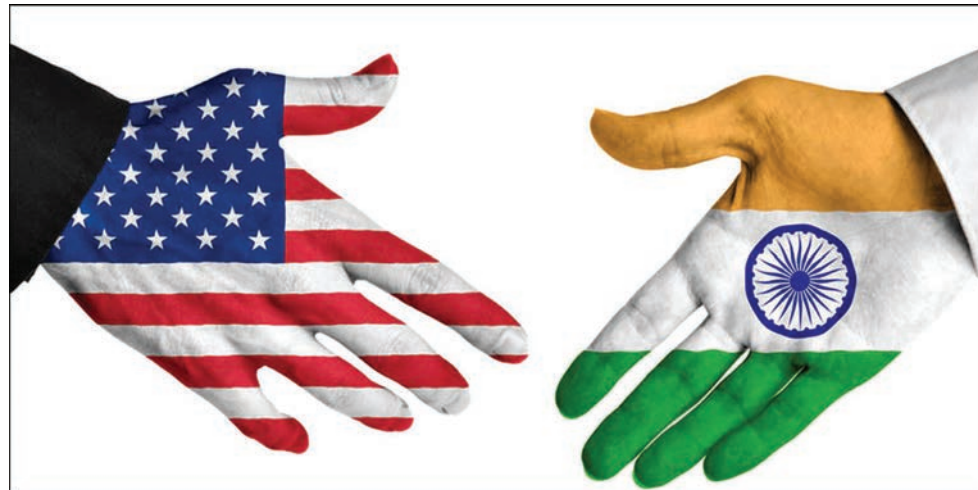
The US spends half a trillion dollars a year on scientific research-more than any other nation on Earth-but China has pulled into second place, with the European Union, third and Japan, a distant fourth. China is on track to surpass the US by the end of this year, according to the National Science Board. In 2016, annual scientific publications from China outnumbered those from the US for the first time.

"There seems to be a sea change in how people are talking about Chinese science," said Alanna Krolkowski, a Chinese science expert at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Foreign observers, many of whom were once condescending, now "are rather in awe at what the Chinese policies have accomplished."

The scientific advances are a small piece of China's larger ambitions. President Xi Jinping aims to supplant the USA as the world's economic superpower within three decades. In October Xi vowed to produce "a world-class army by 2050." Meanwhile, China is spending more on infrastructure than the US or Europe, and the middle class has ballooned - making relocation more attractive.

India was ahead of China in nuclear development and could have tested before 1964, when China tested. India was foolish to wait for China to test first; and tested only in 1974. The US punished India with severe sanctions. Indian scientists were shut off from all international scientific conventions. India further tested in 1998 and the US

**“Close alignment with the US will strengthen India's national security and protect its sovereignty. China will think twice before threatening to attack India. Future wars will be won by whoever has superior technology”, says the author**



punished with more sanctions. Thanks to George W Bush for offering India civil nuclear agreement that lifted the sanctions of 3 decades. India was shut off for 30 years. Nehru may be held responsible for enabling China to advance ahead of India.

There is something dangerously wrong with Indian policies. After 71 years of independence, India is unable to deliver water and electricity 24/7 to all Indians. Why? The Indian Institute of Technology is branded No.1 in the world. At least 50,000 of IIT alumni have settled in the US. As citizens of the USA many of them have performed par

excellence in different fields.

Prime Minister Modi must take aggressive steps to transform India from backwardness to modernization. He should liberalize policies to encourage the USA to invest and participate in the Indian economy. Modi physically embraced Trump at the White House. He must follow up by India embracing the US and seek full alignment with the USA. Chester Bowles, American Ambassador to India during Truman's and Kennedy's era fell in love with India and recommended a strong partnership with the USA. But Nehru turned down the offer. India pretended

nonalignment, but it was aligned with the Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Modi must capitalize on the opportunity President Trump has offered to India in technology, defense, and economic development. If India gives carte blanche to the USA, India will be modernized within the shortest possible time enabling the US to import consumer and industrial products from India instead of from China. Full access to the latest U.S.technology and investing in research and development can make India compete with China. India is the youngest country in the world. India is also the largest English speaking country in the world, second being the USA. India should be able to create huge employment opportunities for its large supply of engineers, scientists and management professionals.

Close alignment with the US will strengthen India's national security and protect its sovereignty. China will think twice before threatening to attack India. Future wars will be won by whoever has superior technology. In this context, India should continue to align with Israel, besides, of course, its close alignment with the US.

*(The author, 64 year resident ofUSA; MBA, Columbia Business School, is a Diplomat-in-Residence and Senior Adviser to Imagindia Institute. a think tank in New Delhi. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)*

## ANALYSIS

# How Congress stunned Akalis in Shahkot



By Harjap Singh Aujla

Shahkot by-election in Punjab was caused by the death of an Akali former minister Ajit Singh Kohar. In order to cash in on sympathy wave, the Akali supremo allotted the party ticket to Naib Singh Kohar, son of the deceased. Of course, sympathy was there. The Congress reposed confidence in a rich farmer and local sand mining satrap Hardev Singh Laadi Sherowalia. The Akalis enjoyed initial advantage. Their leadership had the deepest pockets and money makes the mare go. They were getting excellent response, and this was partly due to the feeling of overawe generated by the perception of their power and pelf created over a period of a decade.

Then the ruling party injected all the ministers into the campaign. They worked day and night like never before. They visited riverine areas near the notorious bed of the polluted Sutlej. This area is famous for illicit distillation of liquor and was heavily patronized by the deceased leader.Sofar, the Congresswas alien to this stronghold of SAD. Some positive response was noticed.



Congress Party nominee Hardev Singh Laadi Sherowalia (third from left) defeated Shiromani Akali Dal candidate Naib Singh Kohar by 39,000 votes

The team of ministers fanned out in every nook and corner of the constituency. One minister Balbir Singh Sidhu spent two weeks in the campaign. The Akali leadership started poaching the gullible former leaders of AAP.

Virtually the entire former leadership of AAP was in the SAD camp. The wealthy strong arm SAD leadership fished for some Congress leaders too, but the traffic became two-way. The campaign was neck and neck and was

giving sleepless nights.

Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu was sidelined for a long time. Then some leaders from the Majha Region suggested the induction of Sidhu into the campaign. The strategy worked. Navjot Singh Sidhu campaigned for three days. In his aggressive style he exposed all the weak points of the most powerful brothers in law in Punjab. He highlighted how this family monopolized the TV in Punjab through PTC and Fastway. How the big boss monopolized the transport business by owning 800 luxury buses, like Mercedes Benz European built integrated coaches. He fully exposed how the liquor trade was exploited for financial gains by the previous government. He also explained the phenomena of sand mining for enrichment of the very rich.

In three days of campaigning by Navjot Singh Sidhu, the tide was completely reversed. The Congress campaign was upbeat. The leaders were relaxed, the battle was almost won.

As an icing on the cake the Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, on the last day of campaigning, conducted a day long road show on the pot-holed dusty roads of Shahkot constituency. And that is the way it was, the Congress getting 82000 votes trounced SAD by 39000 votes.





# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION

BY PARVEEN CHOPRA

Yoga has been growing exponentially - and organically - worldwide in the past few decades, but credit goes to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the initiative to get United Nations to declare June 21 as International Day of Yoga to be observed every year.

The resolution in the UN General Assembly on Dec 11, 2014, endorsed by record 177 members, recognized that "yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being, and that wider dissemination of information about the benefits of practicing yoga would be beneficial for the health of the world population." The resolution invited all nations, UN and world organizations as well as civil society and NGOs to observe IDY to raise awareness of the benefits of practicing yoga.

The UN resolution followed Modi's call during his address to UNGA on Sept 27 last year wherein he stated: "Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body;

traveling around the world headlining events attended by thousands in the run up to the International Day of Yoga.

Yoga is at least 5,000-year-old and one of the six systems of Indian philosophy. It was codified by Maharishi Patanjali in 200 AD as Yoga Darshan, containing 195 Yoga Sutras. The core essence of Patanjali is the eightfold path or Ashtanga Yoga containing observances and practices for the holistic growth of a human being - physical, moral, mental and spiritual. Yoga's literal meaning of union (of individual consciousness with universal consciousness) lays out its higher reaches.

In today's world, though, yoga to most people has come to mean the practice of asanas - physical postures, but Patanjali's treatise has only one sutra about postures - sthira-sukham asanam (2.46), which translated from Sanskrit means: posture should be stable and comfortable. So where are the numerous asanas practiced in yoga classes coming from? The answer is, they

West starting with Swami Vivekananda's iconic address to the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893 in Chicago. Followed meditation movements of Yogananda Paramahansa ('Autobiography of a Yogi'; fame), TM guru Maharishi Mahesh Yoga, Swami Muktananda, Osho Rajneesh, Yogi Bhanjan, and more recently Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. These too had a yoga component.

Today, yoga is practiced by an estimated 300 million people worldwide. In the western countries, you can find a yoga studio almost every few blocks. In the US, the number of yoga practitioners is estimated to be over 30 million. A survey by the redoubtable National Institutes of Health (NIH) reported that in 2012, nearly 10% of US adults and 3% of children participated in yoga, almost double than 5% of adults and 2% of children a decade earlier.

The purists can argue that in its current form, yoga has been reduced to a system of physical exercises. But the practitioners must be liking it, enjoying it and benefiting from it enough to continue to spend their time and energy and money on the practice. Besides, one can also argue that the asana practice, unlike gym workouts, does create a sense of peace and equanimity - a meditative state in short. Interest is also kindled in practitioners about yoga's other dimensions and its origins.

Yoga is part of India's great heritage. UNESCO's director general Irina Bokova, who met PM Modi in Paris earlier this year, affirmed that yoga is in the list of elements to be considered by the Intangible Heritage Committee for inscription on UNESCO's register. She also told an Indian daily that "UNESCO's general conference in October will also look to endorse the International Day of Yoga".

Modi launched a portal ([www.Idayofyoga.org](http://www.Idayofyoga.org)) for the International Day of Yoga on April 10 from Paris while addressing a gathering at UNESCO headquarters. The portal gives details of events and venues connected with the IDY, besides videos on individual yoga postures.

The Government of India has planned to celebrate the IDY in countries around the world, including United States. In Washington DC, on June 21, Embassy of India is organizing a day-long event at the National Mall in collaboration with various yoga organizations, practitioners, and community organizations. In New York, Times Square is the leading official public site for IDY and dignitaries from the UN and Indian government are scheduled to attend the day long event. It is special because Times Square Alliance has been holding a mass yoga event on Summer Solstice for the last 13 years at the Crossroads of the World.

Undoubtedly, the global observance of the International Day of Yoga and related events will make millions of people to become aware of the tenets of yoga, encouraging many to follow a yogic lifestyle, a life that is healthy and harmonious. In turn, IDY is an opening for the world community to realize human oneness and move beyond war and strife towards peace and harmony.

*(The author is the founder of India's first spiritual magazine, Life Positive, and a teacher of meditation. He is currently based in New York and working as managing editor of The South Asian Times. He can be reached at [parveen.chopra@gmail.com](mailto:parveen.chopra@gmail.com))*



Great Spiritual Yoga Masters

thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

June 21 was suggested for yoga day because it is the Summer Solstice (longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere), and from the perspective of yoga, it marks the transition in the Sun's celestial passage from north to south. This year June 21 falls on a Sunday.

Lauding Modi for IDY, the Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, who himself had earlier lent support for a yoga day, said, "It is very difficult for any philosophy, religion or culture to survive without state patronage. Now, official recognition by the UN would further spread the benefit of yoga to the entire world." Sri Sri and Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev (founder of Isha Yoga) are

originate from the age-old Hatha Yoga tradition, one treatise for which is called Hatha Yoga Pradipika.

The modern revival of yoga can be traced to T. Krishnamacharya, who started teaching it from Mysore in 1924. Among his students prominent in popularizing yoga in the West were B.K.S. Iyengar (Iyengar Yoga) and K. Pattabhi Jois (Viniyasa Yoga). Another major stream of influence within India and abroad has been Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh and his equally formidable disciples including Swami Vishnu-devananda (Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centers), Swami Satyananda (Bihar School of Yoga) and Swami Satchidananda (Integral Yoga). In India lately, Baba Ramdev has taken his yoga-pranayama mix for curing ailments to every nook and corner of the country.

Yoga also received a fillip with the introduction of Indian spirituality to the



# New hypersonic missiles guarantee parity with US, Vladimir Putin says

**MOSCOW (TIP):** President Vladimir Putin said June 7 that a new hypersonic intercontinental missile would enter service next year and guarantee Russia maintains military parity with the United States.

He used a national televised call-in show to once again call attention to the modernisation of Russia's strategic weapons, mentioning in particular the new "Avant-garde" missile capable of changing direction and altitude, which Putin said would make it unstoppable.

"Faster than Mach 20, twenty times the speed of sound," said Putin. "I don't think other countries will develop such a weapon in the coming years ... we already have it."

He said the missile was in production and would enter service next year.

Another hypersonic missile is already in service, said Putin.

"The air-launched hypersonic system Dagger, it is a hypersonic missile that flies at 10 times the speed of sound, it is already in service of our army," said the president.

He said a laser weapons system was also already in service and that a new, more powerful, ballistic missile called Sarmat would be ready in 2020.

Putin stunned the West -- and many in Russia -- in March by using his state of the nation address just weeks before his reelection to a fourth term in office to unveil the new arsenal of "invincible" weapons.

However Putin portrayed the development



of the new generation of weapons as a reaction to the United States pulling out of a major arms treaty that he said had ensured strategic parity.

The threat of mutually assured destruction helped avoid a nuclear war as it kept nuclear powers from making "abrupt moves and forced them to respect one another," Putin said.

However "the withdrawal of the US from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty was an attempt to break that strategic parity," he added.

"But we are responding... our modern

weapon systems... undoubtedly guarantee that parity."

The United States pulled out of the Soviet-era Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which limited the development of anti-missile systems, in 2002 under President George W. Bush.

Putin said the world needed a new international security framework.

"It is already past time we sat at the negotiating table and not only thought about but developed a modern system of international and European security that corresponds to today's" needs, he said. (AFP)

## China enlists public to track fugitives in US, Canada

**BEIJING (TIP):** Chinese authorities have called on the public to help track down fugitives abroad by publishing the names, photos and even addresses of 50 high-profile suspects beyond its grasp.

A massive anti-graft campaign launched by President Xi Jinping includes a push to repatriate allegedly corrupt officials who have fled abroad- an effort known as "Sky Net".

But most Western countries including the United States do not have extradition treaties with China, where courts are overseen by the Communist Party and the use of force by police to extract confessions is believed to be common.

Nearly half of those wanted may be hiding out in the US, with others allegedly on the run in Canada, New Zealand and Australia, according to the party's corruption watchdog.

The anti-graft agency has set up a new whistleblowing website to collect tips on the suspects' whereabouts from ordinary people who can choose to remain anonymous.

"The repatriation of foreign fugitives is an important part of the anti-corruption campaign and an important part of our diplomatic work," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular press briefing on Thursday.

The watchdog, known as the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), said Wednesday it hopes to "work closely with the masses and actively mobilise them to weave a dragnet so those fleeing with money abroad will have nowhere to hide".

Xi's anti-corruption campaign has raised concerns after reports China dispatched law enforcers to other countries to pressure suspects into returning, without notifying overseas governments.

The CCDI said the public and overseas Chinese community had already helped in tracking down and "persuading" some fugitives to return to China after details of 22 suspects were publicised last year- six of whom have been nabbed so far.

By the end of April, the corruption watchdog had altogether "recovered" 4,141 fugitives from more than 90 countries and regions, it said.

California is a hotspot for fleeing Chinese fugitives, the data shows, with eight of 23 suspects in the US thought to be hiding out in the "Golden State". (AFP)

## Theresa May in compromise with ministers on Ireland border

**LONDON (TIP):** Britain's Theresa May forged a compromise with senior members of her government on June 7 amid opposition to her proposal for avoiding a hard border in Northern Ireland after the UK leaves the European Union.

May held a series of meetings with top promoters of Brexit in her Cabinet amid reports that Brexit Secretary David Davis had considered resignation because he feared May's plan could force Britain to follow EU trade rules indefinitely.

The debate centers on "backstop" arrangements that would be implemented if Britain and the EU fail to agree on a broader trade deal. The goal is to ensure the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland remains open after Brexit to protect economic links and the peace process. (AP)

# Indian embassy in Egypt hosts iftar party

**CAIRO (TIP):** The contribution of Islam in the development of India's multicultural milieu was highlighted during the annual iftar banquet hosted by the Indian embassy in Egypt.

The dinner, hosted on the lawns of the India House here, was attended by Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Khaled Tharwat. Members of the Indian community and eminent personalities from different fields, including representatives from the government, political parties, armed forces, diplomats, business, culture and media, also attended the event.

In his welcome address, the Charge d'Affaires, Vinod Bahad, conveyed the warm greetings on Ramazan from the people of India -- home to the second-largest Muslim population in the world.

Bahad said prayer and fasting were common to many religions in India. He also highlighted the respect and tolerance towards different religions due to the diversity of India, rich influence of Islam in everyday life, including in customs and traditions, music, fashion and festivals, and its contribution in the development of the country's multicultural milieu.

He added that Kerala, which has one of the world's oldest mosques, Cheraman Juma Masjid -- built around 629 AD -- as an example of the country's engagement with Islam in its long history of syncretism.

The iftar banquet has been a long tradition in view of the shared culture and strong bonds of friendship between India and Egypt. (PTI)







## KATRINA KAIF: NOTHING CHEERS ME UP BETTER THAN A GOOD MEAL

For actress Katrina Kaif, gorging on good food equals happiness. "Food gets me going. Nothing can cheer me up better than a good meal," Katrina said in a statement. The actress shared her foodie secrets as part of The Times of India's #FlirtWithYourCity campaign for its supplements across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru.

When it comes to Mumbai and Delhi, Katrina loves the street food. "I love street food and any street place that offers 'paya' with 'kadak pav' will instantly be a favourite for me. I can eat my heart out with 'paya' and pav. I also love seafood, with prawns and crabs being my comfort food. Mumbai being a coastal city has some of the best seafood restaurants, especially around Mahim and Juhu," she said.

As for Delhi, she considers it one of the best places for foodies. "The street food here is something to die for, I think Delhi gives you a lot of options and variety to choose from. From chaat in Bengali Market to kebab and paranthe in Chandni Chowk, I would want to try everything. Delhi also has some good fine-dining options," Katrina said. *Source: IANS*

# JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ: SALMAN KHAN A POSITIVE FORCE FOR ME

Jacqueline Fernandez is set to recreate the magic with superstar Salman Khan in their upcoming action movie 'Race 3', following the phenomenal success of 'Kick'. Jackie, as Jacqueline is lovingly called, has always been vocal about her equation with Salman.

Jacqueline shared, "We've known each other quite well for quite some time now, from the time I came to India. He has been one of my biggest supporters. Salman has been a friend from the time I didn't even know if I should really sign a film or not. Then, of course, being a part of Kick really changed things for me".

She added, "To me, Salman is family. I respect him a lot and would do anything for him and I know the feeling is mutual. I really appreciate the fact that we can be really honest with each other. I respect him a lot, I feel like he has been a huge, positive force for me".

The hit pairing of Salman and Jacqueline have generated immense anticipation amongst masses ever since the film's announcement. The first two songs of the film gave glimpses of the sizzling chemistry between Salman and Jacqueline, stirring the excitement of the audience for the film.

'Race 3' is a stand-alone sequel to the hit franchise 'Race'. With the third installment, Salman has replaced Saif Ali Khan who played the lead in first two films. Starring an ensemble cast of Salman, Jacqueline, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Freddy Daruwala, Saqib Saleem, and Daisy Shah, the action thriller is one of the most awaited films.

Produced by Salman Khan Films and Ramesh Taurani under the banner of Tips Films, 'Race 3' is directed by Remo D'souza and will hit theatres on Eid this year.

*Source: ANI*



# Diana Penty: I'm extremely critical of myself

Actress Diana Penty, who is enjoying the successful run of her film 'Parmanu - The Story of Pokhran' at the box office, says she is "extremely critical" of herself as it helps her get better in her craft and learn the nuances of acting. "I'm happy that the film has been well received. It's a story we couldn't wait to share with the audience as it is a matter of great pride for every Indian. The best feeling for any actor is his or her film being appreciated and the positive word of mouth that 'Parmanu...' has garnered is testament to that," Diana told.

After much delay caused by a lockdown between John Abraham's production banner JA Entertainment and KriArj Entertainment, 'Parmanu - The Story Of Pokhran' opened on May 25.

Diana is seen as an Army officer, which is based on the series of nuclear tests in Pokhran in 1998. It also features John and Boman Irani. The 'Cocktail' star was happy to find her own ground in the male dominated cast. "When I read the script, I was extremely kicked about being the only woman amongst



all the men on the mission. And I'm grateful to Abhishek (Sharma) for his insistence on having a female character that was subtle yet strong in her own way."

"At no point in the script was she ever

portrayed as being weaker than her male counterparts. She was one of the guys and no one ever questioned that," she said. The actress says she is "extremely critical of myself".

"So, I guess that's only natural. The good thing is that it helps me learn from my performances and better myself with each film. I can only hope that my contribution to 'Parmanu...' has made a difference to the film and that my efforts have paid off."

After making a name for herself as a model, Diana walked into showbiz with 'Cocktail' in 2012. Despite a successful debut, Diana maintained her distance from the big screen and did her second movie 'Happy Bhag Jayegi' in 2016. Thereafter, she promised her fans that she will not take long breaks, and she has kept her word.

When it comes to work, Diana doesn't like playing safe as she mentions "the biggest risk is not taking any risks at all".

"For an actor especially, I think this is true. I have always made a conscious attempt to try different genres, play different characters. It's what keeps me challenged. I think the most sensible thing to do would be to strike a healthy balance between taking risks with unique content and playing it safe with formula content," she said. *Source: IANS*





## JODIE FOSTER'S COMEBACK FILM, HOTEL ARTEMIS, GETS INDIA RELEASE DATE

Jodie Foster and Sterling K Brown's *Hotel Artemis* will release in India on June 15. The film is being brought to the country by MVP Entertainment, read a statement issued to IANS.

Director Drew Pearce's action-thriller features Foster as a nurse who runs a secret, members-only emergency room for criminals in a near-future Los Angeles -- that's torn by riots.

Pearce, whose writing credits include *Iron Man 3* and *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation*, directed from his own script in his feature debut.

The cast also includes Sofia Boutella, Jeff Goldblum, Brian Tyree Henry, Jenny Slate, Zachary Quinto, Charlie Day and Dave Bautista. *Hotel Artemis* marks Foster's first acting project since 2013's *Elysium*.

Source: IANS

# SANDRA BULLOCK ALMOST QUIT ACTING OVER SEXISM

Actress Sandra Bullock says sexism in Hollywood made her think about quitting acting altogether.

"My career has been a domino effect of people who said, 'I would like this person to fill this role'," *usatoday.com* quoted Bullock as saying.

"And not just in the industry, but people in my life. My mother raised me like, 'You don't need to get married, you forge your own path. You make your own money, and be your own person'. And I literally went out into the world thinking there was no disparity, that everyone was equal, and I can do whatever a man can do."

It wasn't until later in her career that Bullock had a "wake-up moment".

It wasn't until later in her career that Bullock had a "wake-up moment".

"I was like, 'What is this feeling? Why do I feel so (expletive)?' Oh, my God, I'm being treated this way because I have a vagina."

Bullock did not get into specifics about the sexist behaviour she was subjected to, though she said it had a lasting effect.

"It was hard for me because I walked with blinders on through life and got to where I (felt) like I was less than because I was a woman. And that was a hard pill to swallow. I had a lot of sadness from that. I was like, 'Wow, maybe I need to step out of here. Maybe I need to do something else for a living'. And that was in the middle of when I was getting work -- I didn't want to be a part of that world where there was that experience."

**"It was hard for me, because I walked with blinders on through life and got to where I (felt) like I was less than because I was a woman," she says.**



# Richard Gere on marrying Alejandra Silva: I'm the happiest man in the universe

Veteran actor Richard Gere says he is "the happiest man in the universe" after marrying his girlfriend Alejandra Silva. The 68-year-old star, who tied the knot with the Spanish activist in an Indian style wedding in May, shared photographs of their D-day with HELLO!

Gere said he found a great life partner in 35-year-old Silva. "I'm the happiest man in the universe. How could I not be? I'm married to a beautiful woman who is smart, sensitive and committed to helping people. She is fun, patient and knows how to forgive. A great cook who makes the best salads in the world!"

"Alejandra meditates. She's a vegetarian, a great mother and has the touch of an angel. Also she's Spanish: the land of kings and queens, of Cervantes and Bunuel. You can't get any better than that," he told the magazine. Silva said Gere wooed her by sending flowers until she agreed to date him and that, now married, he regularly writes her



songs.

The couple met in Positano when the actor

stayed over at her family-owned hotel. "A friend introduced us. We looked at each other

and felt a very strong connection. We couldn't stop looking at each other all night, and since then we haven't been apart," Silva said.

"I feel like I'm in a true fairytale. Without a doubt, I feel like the luckiest woman in the world," she added. Silva described Gere as the "most humble, sensitive, affectionate, attentive, funny, generous man" she has ever met.

"What can I say? I'm so in love. How would you feel if each morning you were asked, 'What would make you happy today?' Not a day goes by that he doesn't mention how important I am to him. I feel very lucky," she said.

The couple exchanged vows on Gere's ranch outside New York City. Silva converted to Buddhism and moved to New York. Tents were imported from Jaipur and the venue was decorated with flowers and Tibetan flags before they made their entrance in a tuk-tuk.

Source: PTI



## In pre-election Pakistan, a military crackdown is the real issue

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Just a month and a half away from national elections, Pakistan's powerful military establishment has mounted a fearsome campaign against its critics in the news media, on social networks and in mainstream political movements.

It is all adding up: journalists abducted or threatened, major news outlets blocked, sympathetic views toward the civilian governing party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, censored or punished.

Interviews with journalists and political analysts in recent days have been dominated by concerns that a military campaign of intimidation and crackdown on dissent is intensifying before the vote — and nearly unanimously, none dared discuss it on the record.

The latest alarm came with the abduction of a newspaper columnist and prominent critic of the military, Gul Bukhari, by armed men late Tuesday in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore. Bukhari was being driven to appear on a late-night talk show on Waqt News when the car was stopped in a military cantonment in the city. She was hauled off and the driver was beaten, the station said.

Bukhari has frequently crossed two of the military's recent red lines on social media — criticizing the army for its pressure on the PML-N, as the governing party is known, and expressing support for a growing Pashtun human rights movement known as PTM.

Just a day before, the army's chief spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, called a news conference to declare that social media users who rebuked the military were engaged in "anti-state activities" and were being monitored by the army's spy agency.

He then posted pictures of some of the country's most prominent journalists, suggesting they were part of a social media conspiracy against the military, in a move condemned by the Committee to Protect Journalists as "tantamount to putting a giant target on their backs."

Bukhari's supporters see her abduction and Ghafoor's threats as related, and some directly accused the military of being responsible. She was dropped off near her home roughly four hours after her abduction, and was unwilling to talk about who was behind it, asking for privacy in a statement released on Twitter.

Military officials would not comment on the record about Bukhari's abduction or about Ghafoor's news conference.

The two events have further chilled the political environment in Pakistan's already beleaguered democracy.

"There is a palpable climate of fear about what can be said about whom, how and where — not just on mainstream media but also on social media," said Adil Najam, the Dean of Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University. "This is not healthy for the state of democracy in general, but especially not right before an election."

Even when journalists do talk about the military, it is usually in code, referring to the "authorities" or the "powers that be" rather than directly naming the security establishment that has so asserted its dominance over civilian institutions.

One of the few Pakistani journalists who has repeatedly and directly condemned the military for its crackdown, Taha Siddiqui, can do so because he has fled the country. He narrowly escaped an abduction attempt in February.

On Wednesday, Siddiqui said Bukhari's abduction was another frightening statement.

"They want to send a message to the rest of Pakistanis and the world that they can do whatever they want, whenever they want, to dissenters," he said in an email interview.

"This is no longer about just about intimidating me, Gul or other such dissenters and military critics. This is about sending a message to everyone: Stop speaking against the Pakistan army," he added.

In recent weeks, Pakistan's biggest English-language newspaper, Dawn, was accused of ethical violations by the country's press regulatory panel and soon after found its circulation blocked in vast portions of southern Pakistan. The paper's offense was to publish an interview with the ousted former prime minister and leader of PML-N, Nawaz Sharif, in which he criticized the military. (NYT TIMES)

# SIKH LEADER SHOT DEAD IN PAKISTAN'S PESHAWAR

**He is survived by two sons, a daughter and wife**

**AMRITSAR (TIP):** A prominent Sikh religious leader Charanjit Singh Sagar was shot dead in Peshawar city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province of Pakistan on Tuesday, May 29. Singh was not only a prominent Sikh voice of the community in Peshawar, but he was also a member of Jatha of Panj Pyare.

President of Peshawar based Khalsa Peace and Justice Foundation of Pakistan Radesh Singh Tony told TOI that unidentified gunmen shot dead Charanjit Singh in Budhbir area while he was sitting in his grocery shop.

He said being an affluent community Sikh's often become the target of fundamentalist groups.

Radesh said the targeted killing of Charanjit Singh who was a member of Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh on the completion of assembly term of former cricketer turned politician Imran Khan led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has spread fear among the community.

He informed that the PTI government



*Unidentified gunmen shot dead Charanjit Singh in Budhbir area in Peshawar while he was sitting in his grocery shop*

in KPK had completed its term on May 28 midnight and the caretaker chief minister of KPK would take its charge on May 31 before country's general elections

scheduled for July 25.

Singh was not only a prominent Sikh voice of the community in Peshawar, but he was also a member of Jatha of Panj Payara (five beloved ones) and would often lead the nagar kirtan in the streets of Peshawar on various religious occasions.

He is survived by two sons, a daughter and wife informed Radesh Singh adding that his mortal remains would be cremated on Wednesday at Attock cremation ground.

This was the first target killing of a Sikh after the assassination of Pakistani Sikh doctor and minister of minorities of KPK in 2016. The Pakistani Taliban's had claimed his killing. In 2013-14 as many as ten Sikh's were killed.

"This is the first case of target killing in 2018 and we fear this may not be the beginning of a spate of target killings in KPK," said another Sikh of Peshawar who didn't want to give his name.

In past, many Hindu and Sikh families from KPK and other restive frontier parts of Pakistan had migrated to India.

## Afghanistan announces Eid ceasefire with Taliban until June 20

**KABUL (TIP):** Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on JUNE 7 announced for the first time an unconditional ceasefire with the Taliban, coinciding with the end of the Muslim fasting month, but excluding other militant groups, such as Islamic State.

The decision came after a meeting of Islamic clerics this week declared a fatwa, or ruling, against suicide bombings, one of which, claimed by Islamic State, killed 14 people at the entrance to the clerics' peace tent in Kabul, the capital.

The clerics also recommended a ceasefire with the Taliban, who are seeking to reimpose strict Islamic law after their ouster in 2001, and Ghani endorsed the recommendation, announcing a laying down of arms until June 20.

Ghani has urged ceasefires with the Taliban before, but this was the first unconditional offer since he was elected in 2014.

"This ceasefire is an opportunity for Taliban to introspect (sic) that their violent campaign is not winning them hearts and minds," Ghani said in a message on social network Twitter after a televised address.

There was no immediate reaction from the Taliban but an international political analyst based in Kabul was unimpressed.

"It's a one-sided love story," he said.

US Forces-Afghanistan said they would honour the ceasefire.

"We will adhere to the wishes of Afghanistan for the country to enjoy a peaceful end to the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, and support the search for an end to the conflict," Gen. John Nicholson, US Forces-Afghanistan and the NATO-led Resolute Support commander, said in a statement.

The ceasefire would not include US counterterrorism efforts against Islamic State and al Qaeda, it said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg welcomed the announcement which he said "shows the seriousness of President Ghani and the Afghan government". Russia also gave its backing.

"It is completely Afghan-originated and, as you know, it is our policy to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process," a NATO official, speaking earlier on condition of anonymity, told reporters.

Former Afghan army general Atiqullah Amarkhel said the ceasefire would give the Taliban a chance to regroup.

"From a military prospect, it is not a good move," he told Reuters.

He also said he doubted the Taliban would lay down arms and deny themselves the opportunity of fighting during the holy month of Ramadan, in which attacks have intensified. The Eid al-Fitr holiday ending Ramzan falls at the end of next week. Ghani in February offered recognition of 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.

Ghani proposed a ceasefire and a release of prisoners among options including new elections involving the militants and a constitutional review in a pact with the Taliban to end a conflict that last year alone killed or wounded more than 10,000 civilians.

In August, US President Donald Trump unveiled a more hawkish military approach to Afghanistan, including a surge in air strikes, aimed at forcing the Taliban to the negotiating table. Afghan security forces say the impact has been significant, but the Taliban roam huge swaths of the country and, with foreign troop levels of about 15,600, down from 140,000 in 2014, there appears little hope of outright victory. (REUTERS)

## Facebook blacklists Myanmar hardline Buddhist group

**YANGON (TIP):** Facebook has blacklisted a group of Myanmar Buddhist hardliners including monks notorious for bilious hate speech against Rohingya Muslims, the company said on June 7, as it scrambles to show it is tackling inflammatory content.

The social media company plays an outsized role in a country that has only recently come online and boasts 18 million accounts among the population of around 50 million people.

UN investigators have said that Facebook has morphed into a "beast" in the country and that hate speech and incitement to violence against the Rohingya are rampant on the site.

Some 700,000 Rohingya have fled a violent army crackdown in Myanmar to Bangladesh since August last year - after years of increasingly violent and angry discourse against the minority, much of it playing out on Facebook.

In response, Facebook this week has undertaken its highest-profile visit yet to Myanmar.

It banned the Buddhist nationalist movement Ma Ba Tha from its platform, as well as a pair of prominent monks known for stoking hatred towards the Rohingya.

"They are not allowed a presence on Facebook, and we will remove any accounts and content which support, praise or represent these individuals or organisations," said Content Policy Manager David Caragliano.

Extremist monks Parmaukha and Thuseitta join their fellow firebrand clergyman Wirathu on the blacklist, after he was banned in January.

Activists have criticised the platform for responding too slowly to reports of malicious posts, with some content being shared by users for more than 48 hours before being removed.

Examples include calls for the killing of a Muslim journalist and posts last September saying Buddhists and Muslims were each preparing attacks against the other. (AFP)



If you are scouring for a comprehensive guide for the places to visit in Leh and Ladakh, here is some help. Check out Pangong Tso that is the undisputed highlight of the region and everything you wanted to know about it. Choose from the ancient monasteries of Lamayuru and Diskit, drive off to the high and mighty Khardung La Pass, wonder in awe at the first sight of Potala Palace's lookalike - Thiksey Monastery or go searching for the elusive Changpas when you visit Tso Moriri. Head out to the Himalayas for a lifetime's experience, Leh and Ladakh have wonders waiting for you.

### LEH PALACE

Quite an impressive replica of Lhasa's Potala Palace, the Leh Palace is a major attraction in Leh. A nine storey structure in dun colour; it was the erstwhile home to the royals of Ladakh, built at the behest of King Sengge Namgyal in the 17th century. The Leh Palace rises up against the backdrop of the lofty Himalayas, looking more like a painter's muse. Built mostly of mud, rocks and wood, it is grand in its simplicity. The palace also houses a rich collection of traditional dresses and crowns, thangka paintings and some impressive traditional ornaments. The best part about Leh Palace is its terrace for you can pore over Leh, Stok Kangri and the Zaskar range from it. This one cannot be missed for it looms high in the skyline of Leh, standing guard over this Himalayan kingdom.

### STOK PALACE

Stok Palace is the less majestic yet more famous of the palaces in Ladakh. At some 14 km from Leh, it was the once summer palace of Ladakh's royal family. Built over 200 years ago, Stok Palace houses some rare ancient paintings of Buddhist deities Shakyamuni, Avalokiteshwara, Vajrapani, Tara, Amchi etc. The palace museum also houses some 100 plus volumes of Buddhist teachings and a giant statue of Avalokiteshwara. Some interesting artifacts like the jewel-studded crown of Ladakh's erstwhile queen are also housed in the palace. The palace also has a cafe on its terrace and some rooms open for visitors. Prior booking has to be made in case you wish to stay here. Stok Palace is a major pit-stop if you are eager to hit some impressive treks in the Himalayas around.

### PANGONG TSO

While no words can be apt enough to describe Pangong Tso, words like 'magic' and 'surreal' can be put to good use here. This astonishing, blue-water body at 14,270 ft is guarded by looming mountains. One of the most stunning lakes of the world, Pangong Tso covers 134 km and touches India and Tibet. Also important as a major wetland, it sees flocks of migratory birds in summers. Visiting it in winters is, of course, an out of this world experience for it is completely frozen at that time. The lake lies in the Changthang region of Ladakh at some 170 km from Leh, and has just one cemented stay facility nearby. Foreign nationals need Inner Line Permit to visit the lake; thus it's advisable to check for visitor's guidelines beforehand.

### LAMAYURU MONASTERY

Lamayuru, fondly referred to as the Moon Land, is a major stopover on the Leh-Kargil Road. Hidden in the folds of the mountains of this mystical land is the Lamayuru Monastery. One of the oldest gompas in Ladakh and Spiti, this monastery is perched atop a cliff. Going by the legends, this region was once under a lake that was made to dry up by a holy man. The main sanctum of the monastery has a cave where Mahasiddha Naropa meditated for years. The entire region is considered sacred owing to the monastery's presence and a visit is believed to liberate people from all their sins. Other than its religious significance, the place looks like a picture postcard that has turned real.

### TSEMO FORT

This fort cum monastery stands guard over the city of Leh and is a major landmark, visible

# LEH AND LADAKH: THE LAND OF HIGH PASSES



from everywhere in the city. Built by King Tashi Namgyal, it sees elaborate Buddhist ceremonies

in morning and evening. Take the trail leading to the monastery from Leh to witness the

interesting rituals. It also houses a three-storey tall statue of Maitreya Buddha, its face made out of solid gold. Also a vantage point for photographers, its terrace gives a bird's eye view of the whole city. Visit it early in the morning to escape the scorching heat, witness the rituals as well as click great shots in the almost golden light that lights it up.

### STOK KANGRI

Stok Kangri is the highest mountain peak in the Stok range of the Himalayas. At 20,500 ft, it is also the highest trekkable summit in India. It has always been a great lure for trekkers from all over the world and is quite popular since it requires relatively less trekking skills. Ideally done between 6-10 days, it is one of the must have Ladakh experiences. You need to be properly acclimatised to the high altitude conditions before attempting this one. It is advisable to make a summit attempt if you have prior experience of scaling some 14,000 ft peaks. A lot of mental fitness also goes into this one, for weather can take sudden turns on the trek to Stok Kangri. Still, it is a must do if adventure is your calling and you harbour a secret wish to scale a world-famous Indian peak.

### SHANTI STUPA

Another one for the shutterbugs and the ones interested in culture and Buddhism. A starkly white stupa (chorten) standing tall (4276 m) against a backdrop of the barren brown mountains, the Shanti Stupa is nothing less than fascinating. It was built by monks from Ladakh and Japan in 1983 to mark 2500 years of Buddhism in the region and promote world peace. The stupa houses Buddhist relics, placed here by the 14th Dalai Lama. A popular meditation site, it also has a simple cafe which makes up for the hard 15-minute climb up the stairs. Photographers must mark it in bold on their itinerary, for it's a perfect place to shoot time lapse sequences. *Source: Happytrips*



# SOME WOMEN CAN READ YOUR MIND

**W**omen are more likely to have a "mind-reading" gene mutation that gives them the ability to read a person's thoughts and emotions by looking at his or her eyes, scientists have found.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge in the UK conducted a test of cognitive empathy called the "Reading the Mind in the Eyes" Test on 89,000 people across the world. The study has earlier shown that people can rapidly interpret what another person is thinking or feeling by looking at their eyes alone.

Researchers found that women on average score better on this test and identified genetic variants in women that are linked to the ability to "read the mind in the eyes."

Previous studies have found that people with autism and anorexia tend to score lower on the Eyes Test. The team found that genetic variants that contribute to higher scores on the test also increase the risk for anorexia, but not autism.

They speculate that this may be because autism involves both social and non-social traits, and this test only measures a social trait.

"This is the largest ever study of this test of cognitive empathy in the world. This is also the first study to attempt to correlate performance on this test with variation in the human genome," said Varun Warriar, a PhD student at Cambridge. "This is an important step forward for the field of social neuroscience and adds one more piece to the puzzle of what may cause variation in cognitive empathy," said Warriar. "This new study demonstrates that empathy is partly genetic, but we should not lose sight of other important social factors such as early upbringing and postnatal experience," he said.

"We are excited by this new



discovery, and are now testing if the results replicate, and exploring precisely what these genetic variants do in the brain, to give rise to individual differences in cognitive empathy," said Simon Baron-Cohen, at

the University of Cambridge in the UK. "This new study takes us one step closer in understanding such variation in the population," said Baron-Cohen.

Source: PTI



## SKINCARE TIPS TO LOOK YOUNGER

**W**hile age sneaks up on you, it's best to have a few tricks up your sleeve to keep looking younger. Here are some tips that will conceal and even undo many of the signs of ageing from your face and body, so that you continue to look your youthful best.

### Skip heavy foundation

A thick layer of foundation will end up into the cracks, revealing the fine lines you are trying to cover. Begin with a moisturiser followed by a primer and then a light liquid foundation or BB cream. You can also use skin plumping serum after the moisturiser for a youthful glow.

### Moisturise the eyelids

While doing your moisturising regimen, include the eyelids. Dry eyelids will show fine lines and will crease your eyeshadow, making the signs of ageing more prominent. Priming your eyelids before applying eye makeup is another way to conceal signs of ageing.

### Groom the brows

A good set of eyebrows can make you look young in a jiffy, so take care of them. Find the right brow shape that suits your face. If the eyebrows have become thin or grey, groom them with an eyebrow pencil.

### Exfoliate and moisturise the lips

Well moisturised and soft lips not only look youthful, but also make your lipstick perform better. Ensure to exfoliate your lips every two weeks to get rid of loose skin and keep your lipstick from bleeding. Keep your lips moisturised at all times to avoid cracks showing on the lips.

### Plum up those lips

Succulent, plum lips are associated with youthfulness. Before applying a lipstick, apply foundation lightly on the lips. Line and fill the lips with a lip liner. Now apply a lip-plumping lipstick or apply a layer of gloss over your regular lipstick for that plumping effect.

### Work on tired eyes

Tired looking eyes instantly add years to the face. Get adequate rest and stay hydrated to keep the eyes from looking tired. Apart from that, use cucumber or raw potato slices to rejuvenate the eyes and reduce puffiness.

### Diminish dark circles

Dark circles can make you look aged beyond years. Apart from getting enough sleep, use good quality under-eye cream or natural oils like sweet almond oil to dwindle those dark circles and pigmentation under the eyes.

### Put volume back in the hair

You might experience hair thinning with age. Give more body to your hair by styling it to look more voluminous. Use rollers to boost the hair volume or give the hair a lift by using a large round brush.

### Moisturise your hands and feet

Signs of ageing easily show on the hands and feet in the form of wrinkles. Do not forget to moisturise your hands and feet every day and avoid too much exposure to water and harsh detergents as they can dry out the skin easily.

## FOOD CORNER

### MURGH MUSALLAM



#### INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms chicken, 1 inch cinnamon stick, 1/2 tablespoon cumin seeds, 2 tablespoon fresh cream, 2 tablespoon almonds, 1/2 tablespoon peppercorns, 1/2 cup tomato puree, 3 clove, 1 tablespoon coriander seeds, 2 tablespoon refined oil, 2 tablespoon coriander leaves,

1/2 tablespoon turmeric, 1 1/2 tablespoon red chilli powder, 3/4 cup onion paste, 3 green cardamom

#### For Marination

Salt as required, 1 tablespoon ginger paste, 1/2 tablespoon black pepper, 1 tablespoon garlic paste

#### Method

Cut the chicken in pieces and marinate with ginger-garlic paste, black pepper powder and salt for about 30 minutes. In the meantime, dry roast the spices one by one on low flame for about 4-5 minutes. Leave it to cool and make a fine powder.

Then, add oil in a heavy-bottomed cooking vessel and shallow fry the marinated chicken pieces in a single layer. Add up to 5-6 chicken pieces at a time depending on the size of the vessel. Fry for 6-8 minutes per side or until the pieces are nice light brown. Remove using tongs on to a plate and repeat the process until all the pieces are done.

Drain the oil and take 2 tablespoons of oil from the drained oil and add to a heavy-bottomed vessel. Add brown onion paste and tomato puree. Fry for 2 minutes and add red chili

powder, turmeric powder and roasted spice powder. Fry on low till oil starts to leave from sides.

Now add, the shallow fried chicken pieces one by one. Using a spoon gently fold the chicken pieces into the masala. Add half cup of water and let it cook for 15-20 minutes.

Now prepare the almond paste for a thicker and yummy gravy for the dish. For the same, soak 10 almonds in lukewarm water and after 15 minutes, remove the skin. Grind to smooth paste by adding little water.

When the chicken pieces are cooked, now add almond paste and give the curry nice stir. Cook for another 2-3 minutes and add cream if using along with fresh minced coriander leaves. Stir and turn off the flame. Serve with roomali roti, rice or naan.



# EFFECTIVE FERTILITY FOODS FOR MEN

**D**iet not only plays a significant role in pregnancy but also when you are trying to conceive. Improper and irregular diet habits along with other factors are some of the major causes of infertility in men in the present times. What you eat has a direct impact on the quality and quantity of your sperm. One-third of fertility problems are faced by men. Consuming well-balanced diet peps up your chances of conception by increasing your fertility. Here's all that you need to know about fertility food for men and how you may effectively include it in your diet!

## Which Nutrients Boost Fertility?

Once you and your partner are ready to conceive, it is essential that you not only make positive lifestyle changes but also include food items which are rich in essential nutrients to boost up your fertility. Some vitamins and minerals may spike up your fertility. Following are some of the vital nutrients that you may add to your diet:

**FUEL UP ON VITAMIN D:** It has been scientifically proven that Vitamin D may increase sperm motility. Therefore, men who have Vitamin D deficiency have lower sperm motility in comparison to men who have adequate amounts of this vitamin in their bodies. Sunlight is an excellent source of Vitamin D, but it is also present in red meat, oily fish, egg yolks and other fortified foods which are loaded with this vitamin. You may include any of the sources as mentioned earlier of vitamin D in your diet.

**INCLUDE SELENIUM IN YOUR DIET:** For healthy sperm, selenium plays a vital role. It is believed that



including selenium in your diet may improve the quality of the sperm thus helping in infertility problems. There is a scientific study that states, taking selenium in combination with Vitamin E promotes not only sperm motility (movement) but also its morphology (shape). Selenium can be found in eggs, meat, fish and Brazilian nuts.

**ADDING ZINC TO YOUR DIET:** A zinc-rich diet is effective for conception. Adding zinc to your diet will increase the sperm count in each ejaculation and thus increase chances of conception. It is also helpful in enhancing the movement of the sperms. You can get adequate amounts of zinc from food items such as shellfish, meat and dairy products.

**GET ENOUGH FOLIC ACID:** In the dearth of folic acid in the body, the body may not be able to produce healthy sperms. Therefore, to enhance the quality of your sperms, you may include food items that are rich in folic

acid such as, orange juice, leafy vegetables, legumes etc. You may also take folic acid supplements after consulting your doctor.

**FOLLOW A DIET RICH IN VITAMIN C:** Vitamin C is beneficial in eliminating sperm defects. Apart from that, it is outstanding in increasing the motility of the sperms. A glass of orange juice (8-ounce glass will provide 124 milligrams of Vitamin C) a day is a good way of including Vitamin C in your diet.

## Add Walnuts to Your Diet

Walnuts are very good in enhancing sperm motility, morphology and vitality. These nuts are also rich in omega three fatty acids. You may consume approximately 75 grams of walnuts every day. Though these nuts can be had separately as a mid-morning or post-lunch snack, you can add them to your salads, desserts and other food items also.



## IMMUNOTHERAPY CURES LATE-STAGE BREAST CANCER, SAYS STUDY

**A** woman with an aggressive form of breast cancer, which defied chemotherapy and spread to other organs, was cured with an experimental treatment that triggered her immune system.

The woman has been cancer-free for two years, reported the US-based team of researchers, presenting their results as "a new immunotherapy approach" for the treatment of patients with a late-stage form of the disease. Other experts who were not involved in the work hailed it as "exciting".

Immunotherapy has already been shown to work in some people with cancer of the lung, cervix, blood cells (leukaemia), skin (melanoma) and bladder. But an immune breakthrough for bowel, breast and ovary cancer has remained elusive.

In the latest study, a team extracted immune cells called lymphocytes from the patient, tweaked them in the lab, then reinserted them. The woman was 49 when she signed up for the clinical trial after several attempts at a cure through conventional treatments had failed, said the study published in the scientific journal Nature Medicine.

The cancer had spread to various parts of her body, including the liver. A person's immune system is designed to kill invaders, including rogue, cancerous cells. But it can fail, often because it cannot recognise cancer cells containing the patient's own DNA. Immunotherapy trains a patient's own immune cells to recognise and fight cancer.

For the new study, researchers took lymphocytes from a tumour in the woman's body and scanned them for specific types which reacted to mutant, cancerous cells. These were reactivated or "switched on" in the lab and injected back, along with a so-called "immune checkpoint inhibitor" — another type of immunotherapy that has shown success in other types of cancer. This resulted in a "highly personalised" anti-cancer therapy that yielded "complete tumour regression", the researchers wrote.

In a comment published by Nature Medicine, expert Laszlo Radvanyi from Canada's Ontario Institute for Cancer Research said the woman's response to the treatment was "unprecedented" for such advanced breast cancer. "We are now at the cusp of a major revolution in finally realising the elusive goal of being able to target the plethora of mutations in cancer through immunotherapy," he wrote.

In a reaction via the Science Media Centre in London, immunotherapy professor Alan Melcher of The Institute of Cancer Research said the trial was "fascinating and exciting". "The work provides a major 'proof-of-principle' step forward, in showing how the power of the immune system can be harnessed to attack even the most difficult-to-treat cancers," he said.

Source: AFP

# Eye care facts you must know

## Have a dilated eye exam

A dilated eye exam is the only way to detect many common eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic eye disease and age-related macular degeneration in their early stages.

## Know your family's eye health history

It's important to know if anyone has been diagnosed with a disease or condition since many are hereditary. This will help to determine if you are at higher risk for developing an eye disease or condition.

## Eat right to protect your sight

Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, particularly dark leafy greens such as spinach, kale, or collard greens is important for keeping your eyes healthy, too. Research has also shown there are eye health benefits from eating fish high in omega-3 fatty acids, such as salmon, tuna, and halibut.

## Maintain a healthy weight

Being overweight or obese increases your risk of developing diabetes and other systemic conditions, which can lead to vision loss, such as diabetic eye disease or glaucoma. If you are having trouble maintaining a healthy weight, talk to your doctor.

## Wear protective eyewear

Protective eyewear includes safety glasses and goggles, safety shields, and eye guards specially designed to provide the correct protection for a certain activity.

## Quit smoking or never start

Smoking is as bad for your eyes as it is for the rest of your



body. Research has linked smoking to an increased risk of developing age-related macular degeneration, cataract, and optic nerve damage, all of which can lead to blindness.

## Be cool and wear your shades

Sunglasses are a great fashion accessory, but their most important job is to protect your eyes from the sun's ultraviolet rays. When purchasing sunglasses, look for ones that block out 99 to 100 percent of both UV-A and UV-B radiation.

## Give your eyes a rest

If you spend a lot of time at the computer or focusing on any one thing, you sometimes forget to blink and your eyes can get fatigued. Try the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, look away about 20 feet in front of you for 20 seconds. This can help reduce eyestrain.

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## NASA SELECTS MISSION TO STUDY COSMIC RAYS IN HELIOSPHERE

NASA is targeting 2024 for the launch of a new mission to learn more about the generation of cosmic rays in the heliosphere, a sort of magnetic bubble surrounding and protecting our solar system.

Cosmic rays created locally and from the galaxy and beyond affect human explorers in space and can harm technological systems, and likely play a role in the presence of life itself in the universe.

The Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) mission will help researchers better understand the boundary of the heliosphere, NASA said in a statement on Friday.

IMAP was selected following an extensive and competitive peer review of proposals submitted in late 2017, it added.

Heliosphere is the region where the constant flow of particles from our Sun, called the solar wind, collides with material from the rest of the galaxy.

This collision limits the amount of harmful cosmic radiation entering the heliosphere.

IMAP will collect and analyse particles that make it through.

"This boundary is where our Sun does a great deal to protect us. IMAP is critical to broadening our understanding of how this 'cosmic filter' works," said Dennis Andrucyk, Deputy Associate Administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

"The implications of this research could reach well beyond the consideration of Earthly impacts as we look to send humans into deep space," Andrucyk added.

The spacecraft will be positioned about 1.5 million kilometres away from Earth towards the Sun at what is called the first Lagrange point or L1.

This will allow the probe to maximise the use of its instruments to monitor the interactions between solar wind and the interstellar medium in the outer solar system, NASA said.

Source: IANS

## AI SYSTEM CAN PREDICT EPILEPTIC SEIZURES

Scientists have developed an artificial intelligence system that can predict and alert an epileptic patient when a seizure is likely to strike, using low-cost wearable technology.

Epileptic seizures strike with little warning and nearly one third of people living with epilepsy are resistant to treatment that controls these attacks. More than 65 million people worldwide are living with epilepsy.

"We are on track to develop an affordable, portable and non-surgical device that will give reliable prediction of seizures for people living with treatment-resistant epilepsy," said Omid Kavehei from the University of Sydney in Australia.

In a study published in the journal *Neural Networks*, researchers have proposed a generalised, patient-specific, seizure-prediction method that can alert epilepsy sufferers within 30 minutes of the likelihood of a seizure.

There had been remarkable advances in artificial intelligence as well as micro- and nano-electronics that have allowed the development of such systems, Kavehei said.

"Just four years ago, you couldn't process sophisticated AI through small electronic chips. Now it is completely accessible. In five years, the possibilities will be enormous," Kavehei said.

The study uses three data sets from Europe and the US. Using that data, the team has developed a predictive algorithm with sensitivity of up to 81.4 per cent and false prediction rate as low as 0.06 an hour.

Source: PTI

# 'Brain passwords' could unlock future smartphones

Scientists have developed a security system that identifies a person by reading their brainwaves in response to a series of pictures — an advance that could better protect devices from hackers.

Many smartphones include facial recognition, fingerprint scans and other biometric systems. However, the trouble with these easy-to-use tools is that once compromised they cannot be reset.

"You can't grow a new fingerprint or iris if that information is divulged," said Wenyao Xu, an assistant professor at the University at Buffalo (UB) in the US.

"That's why we're developing a new type of password - one that measures your brainwaves in response to a series of pictures. Like a password, it's easy to reset; and like a biometric, it's easy to use," said Xu.

The "brain password," which would require users to wear a headset, could have implications in banking, law enforcement, airport security and other areas.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first in-depth research study on a truly cancelable brain biometric system. We refer to this as 'hard cancellation,' meaning the original brain password can be reset without divulging the user's identity," said Zhanpeng Jin, an associate professor at UB.

Perhaps the most accessible way to record brain activity is through electroencephalography, which uses electrodes to measure the brain's unique patterns of electrical activity.

For their system, researchers reconfigured a virtual reality headset, reducing the number of electrodes to six. Three record brain activity, two serve as grounds and the last acts as a reference point. Typically, these headsets have 32 to 64 electrodes.



**The brain password, which would require users to wear a headset, could have implications in banking, law enforcement, airport security and other areas.**

The electrodes recording brain activity measure three areas of the organ: the intraparietal sulcus (controls declarative memory), the inferior parietal lobule (processes face recognition) and the temporo parietal junction (reading comprehension).

Researchers chose specific image types to stimulate each brain region. They used animal pictures for the intraparietal sulcus because one's memory of a certain animal can be highly individualised.

For example, a person who suffered a spider bite will have a different reaction than someone who has not.

For the inferior parietal lobule, researchers relied on recognisable celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio.

For the temporo parietal junction, they used encouraging phrases such as "aspire to inspire." Users are shown the three images in rapid succession - 1.2 seconds to be exact. The process is repeated three additional times. By the end of the fourth time, after 4.8 seconds, the brain password is ready.

Researchers recruited 179 adults to test the brain password. Test subjects' average age was 30. They collected data from three sessions, including one that occurred five months after the original test. The goal of the last test was to see how brain passwords functioned over time. Overall, brain passwords were more than 95 per cent effective. The performance dipped slightly, by one per cent, on the last test. Source: PTI

# Now famous people can use Facebook Pages to raise funds

Facebook has just announced a slew of measures to make fundraising on its platform easier including an initiative to allow brands and public figures to use their Facebook Pages to raise money for nonprofit causes.

"Brands and public figures use their Facebook Pages to connect with followers and fans, and now they can rally support around nonprofits as well," Facebook said in a statement on Tuesday.

The social network now also allows people to invite friends to manage a fundraiser together, helping to expand their network of supporters.

"Just like you can add a co-admin or moderator to a Facebook Group or a co-host to your Facebook Event, you can now add up to three friends to be organisers of your fundraiser to help you manage it and rally more supporters to reach your fundraising goals,"



Facebook said.

Nonprofits can now also start fundraisers on their Pages for their own causes, it said. "Each of these new features is aimed to help nonprofits

raise more from their supporters through Facebook Fundraisers, and we'll continue to work on tools to make fundraisers even more meaningful," the statement added. Source: IANS



# RBI hikes key rate; auto, home EMIs set to go up

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Reserve Bank of India on June 6 hiked the key rate for the first time in over four years — by 25 basis points — to curb inflationary pressure because of rising oil prices. The move will translate into higher EMIs (equated monthly instalments) for home, auto and other loans.

With all its members voting for the increase, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) surprised markets by raising the repo rate (at which it lends to other banks) to 6.25 per cent, but kept its policy stance “neutral”. The reverse repo rate (at which it borrows from banks) was also raised by similar proportion to 6 per cent.

This is the first increase in interest rate since January 28, 2014, when rates were hiked by a similar proportion to 8 per cent. In the subsequent years, the RBI cut interest rates on six occasions. In its last revision, on August 2, 2017, the rates were cut by 25 basis points to 6 per cent. Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said the move reflected a balanced assessment of growth and inflation.

## Rise in GDP

In January-March quarter, economic growth accelerated to 7.7%, a near two-year high. For fiscal year 2018, GDP



expanded at 6.7%, lower than the 7.1% recorded in the previous year

## Higher inflation

Retail and wholesale price inflation accelerated at faster-than-expected rates in April. The former rose to 4.58% and latter to 3.18%

## Fuel price hike

The global crude oil prices have

touched \$80 a barrel mark. India meets over 80% of its requirement through imports, which makes crude oil the most expensive item on import bill

## Weak rupee

Step was needed to stabilise weak rupee. Forex market sentiment also took a beating with services sector activity contracting

Source: PTI

## GOOGLE FACES \$11BN FINE IN SECOND EU ANTI-TRUST CASE



**LONDON (TIP):** The European Commission is geared up to fine Google in a second anti-trust case of abusing its dominance via Android mobile operating system that could lead up to \$11 billion in penalty, the media reported.

According to a report in The Financial Times on Wednesday, EU's Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager is set to give the verdict "within weeks".

The EU investigation has found that Google imposed illegal terms on Android device makers "which harmed competition and cut consumer choice".

"Android is used in more than 80 per cent of the world's smartphones and is vital to the group's future revenues as more users search on their mobile gadgets," the report added.

The EU began the anti-trust case in 2016, accusing Google of imposing licensing conditions for the Android OS.

Google could be fined up to \$11 billion but the actual penalty may be less.

"A third investigation is underway into whether the company (Google) unfairly banned competitors from websites that used its search bar and adverts," the report said.

In 2017, EU antitrust investigators fined Google \$2.7 billion for violations pertaining to its treatment of comparison shopping services.

Google later introduced changes in how it compares shopping offers in its search results.

European regulators have in the past investigated Microsoft, Intel, Apple, Google, Facebook, and Amazon, raising claims that Brussels is waging a war against Silicon Valley, but the claim has been denied by the Commission.

Source: IANS

## INDIA TO GROW AT 7.3%: WORLD BANK FORECAST

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** India's economy will see a robust 7.3% growth this year and 7.5% for the next two as "factors holding back growth in India fade", the World Bank has forecast, allowing the country to retain the tag as the world's fastest growing major emerging economy. "India's economy is robust, resilient and has potential to deliver sustained growth," the World Bank, said.

Source: PTI

## MK Jain is RBI Deputy Governor

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** IDBI Bank Managing Director MK Jain has been appointed a Deputy Governor of the RBI in place of SS Mundra, who completed his three-year term in July last year. Jain, with 30 years of banking experience, has been MD of IDBI Bank since March 2017. Prior to this, he was MD of Chennai-based Indian Bank. He was appointed MD of Indian Bank in November 2015.



## TWITTER TO OFFER \$1 BILLION CONVERTIBLE BONDS

Twitter Inc is preparing a \$1 billion convertible note offering, the social media hub said on Wednesday, one day after news that it would be included in the S&P 500 index sent its shares up 5 percent to a more than three-year high. Convertible bonds grant holders the right to exchange them for equity above a pre-established price, giving the company scope to reduce coupon payments on the debt.

The company said on Thursday the private placement of senior unsecured notes due 2024 was priced at a 0.25 percent coupon.

Source: Reuters

## IDFC Bank, Capital First get RBI nod for merger



**MUMBAI (TIP):** IDFC Bank on Wednesday said it has received RBI's approval for merging Capital First, Capital First Home Finance and Capital First Securities with the company.

"The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, via its letter dated June 4, 2018, conveyed its 'No Objection' for the voluntary amalgamation of Capital First Ltd, Capital First Home Finance Ltd and Capital First Securities Ltd with IDFC Bank," IDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Earlier in January, the company said its board of directors has approved amalgamation of the three entities with IDFC Bank Ltd.

The amalgamation is subject to the receipt of approval from the respective shareholders and creditors of the companies, the National Company Law Tribunal, and other statutory and regulatory approvals, it added.

Warburg Pincus backed non-banking financial company Capital First and IDFC Bank, with this merger in an all-stock deal, are set to create a Rs 88,000-crore combined entity.

The share swap ratio for the merger is fixed at 139:10, meaning IDFC Bank will issue 139 shares for every 10 shares of Capital First.

Capital First has a customer base of 3 million and a distribution network in 228 locations across the country.

Its gross and net NPA stood at 1.63% and 1%, respectively as on September 2017.

Post-merger, the combined entity will have assets under management (AUM) of Rs 88,000 crore.

The new entity will have a distribution network comprising 194 branches, 353 dedicated banking correspondent outlets, over 9,100 micro ATM points, and will be serving more than 5 million customers.

Source: PTI

## AMID TRADE IMPASSE, CHINA OFFERS TO BUY \$70 BILLION IN US GOODS

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** China offered to buy nearly \$70 billion in American farm, manufacturing and energy products to persuade Washington to drop threatened tariffs, according to a news report today.

Top Chinese economic advisor Liu He presented the offer to the American team during the latest round of talks in Beijing last weekend, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing knowledgeable sources.

Under the plan, China would buy a basket of US goods, including soy beans, natural gas, crude oil and coal.

But the talks did not appear to yield a breakthrough in the trade impasse between Washington and Beijing.

Representatives of the US Commerce Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The office of US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, which sent officials to participate in the weekend talks, told AFP on it had no comment on the report.

In 2017, US exports to China were valued at \$130.4 billion, meaning China's offer would amount to a 53.8 per cent increase.

Counting only goods and excluding services, as US President Donald Trump frequently does, the US trade deficit rose to a record \$375 billion last year. The White House has demanded a \$200 billion reduction.

"If the United States introduces trade sanctions including tariffs, all the economic and trade achievements negotiated by the two parties will be void," China's official news agency Xinhua said Sunday.

According to The Journal report, Liu personally delivered this warning to Ross. This followed the White House's announcement last week that Washington would press ahead with plans to impose the tariffs, which are tied to China's tech sector.

Source: PTI



contd from page 1

## Former President of...

quoted Kautilya's lessons in governance.

Unfazed by the fact that he was standing with people he had ideologically opposed all his life, Mukherjee used the occasion to drive home "diversity and acceptance" as the bedrock of Indian nationalism and to remind the pracharakas of the need for unity.

"We derive our strength from tolerance. We accept and respect our pluralism. We celebrate our diversity. Any attempt at defining our nationhood in terms of dogmas and identities of religion, region, hatred and intolerance will only lead to dilution of our national identity," the former President said.

To sceptics, including his daughter Sharmishtha, the ex-President said informed public engagement was essential in democracy. "A dialogue is necessary not only to balance competing interests, but also to reconcile them. We may argue, may agree, may not agree but we cannot deny the existence of multiplicity of opinions," he said.

Wading through India's past, Mukherjee spoke of how through 3,500 years of being ruled by dynasts, India's 5,000 years of civilizational unity remained unchanged while foreign elements were absorbed to create a new synthesis of national unity.

"Multiplicity of cultures, faith and languages makes us special," Mukherjee repeated to 707 pracharakas, passing out after rigorous RSS training. He carefully dotted his speech with quotes from S Radhakrishnan, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Bal Gangadhar Tilak to hammer home his point. "When Tilak spoke of swaraj, he meant a swaraj for people encompassing all castes and religions and languages."

He lauded the Constitution at a gathering full of RSS sympathizers, saying, "For us, democracy is not a gift, but a sacred trust... The Constitution is not a legal document but a Magna Carta for the socio-economic transformation of society. From our Constitution flows our nationalism."

The former President also commented on the "routine of violence" in the country, saying India may be the fastest growing economy but it was lagging on the World Happiness Index.

"You are young. I must tell you that manifestations of rage are tearing our social fabric. We must free public discourse of violence, both physical and verbal. We must move from anger and conflict to love and harmony. Our motherland is asking for happiness. Our motherland deserves happiness," Mukherjee said as he marveled the fact that 1.3 billion Indians used 120 languages, 1,600 dialects, followed seven major religions, belonged to three ethnic groups and still stood united under one flag, one Constitution and one identity.

"This is Bhartiyata," the former President said at the RSS headquarters after he had paid tributes to Sangh founder

KB Hedgewar, calling him a "great son of Mother India". Earlier, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat spoke of the irrelevance of controversy around Mukherjee's visit.

**VEILED MESSAGE TO PM :** "When we go to Parliament, just above the lift at gate no. 6 is inscribed Kautilya's quote "In the happiness of people lies the happiness of the king, their welfare is his welfare. The State is for the people. People are at the center of all activities of the State and nothing should be done to divide them. The aim of the State should be to galvanize them to fight a concerted war against poverty, disease and deprivation. Only then can we create a nation where nationalism flows automatically."

**MESSAGE TO SANGH:** "India's nationhood is not one language, one religion and one enemy. It is perennial universalism of 1.3 billion people who use 122 languages and 1,600 dialects... practice 7 major religions... live under one system, one flag and one identity of being Bharatiya and have no enemies".

**BHAGWAT ON VISIT:** RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Mr. Mukherjee's address: "Pranab Mukherjee will remain what he is and the Sangh will remain the Sangh even after the event. The RSS wants to unify the entire society, and no one is an outsider for it. People may have different views, but they are all children of mother India."

**CONGRESS COMMENTS:** The after Congress leaders had slammed former President Pranab Mukherjee for attending an RSS event, the party on Thursday praised him for showing "mirror of truth" to the Sangh by reminding it of India's pluralism, tolerance, secularism and inclusiveness as an article of faith and soul of the country.

The party also said Mukherjee reminded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his 'Rajdharm' and that "Indian nationalism is constitutional patriotism".

Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said Mukherjee's visit to the RSS headquarters had caused wide-ranging discussion, comment, concern and even consternation amongst a large section of Indians, who have an innate belief in foundational values of democracy, pluralism, and diversity.

His statement came soon after Mukherjee had delivered his nearly 30-minute address at the RSS headquarters during its third year annual training camp.

Earlier, several Congress leaders, including Ahmed Patel and Anand Sharma, had slammed Mukherjee for attending an RSS event in Nagpur. Patel, who is UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's confidant and has been her political secretary, voiced his view on Twitter, in reply to Mukherjee's daughter who too spoke out against the decision of the former President to address the RSS event. "I did not expect this from Pranab da!" Patel tweeted.

Congress senior spokesperson Anand Sharma also took to Twitter to express his anguish after Mukherjee's images attending an RSS event in Nagpur appeared on television. "The images of Pranab Da, veteran leader and ideologue at RSS Headquarters have anguished millions of Congress workers and all those who believed in pluralism, diversity and the foundational values of the Indian Republic," he said. "Dialogue can only be with those who are willing to listen, absorb and change. There is nothing to suggest that RSS has moved away from his core agenda as it seeks legitimacy," he added.

**'DIRTY TRICKS AT PLAY:** Tagging a morphed picture showing Pranab sporting the RSS cap, his daughter and Congress leader Sharmishtha Mukherjee said: "See, this is exactly what I was fearing and warned my father about. Not even few

hours have passed, but BJP/RSS dirty tricks dept is at work in full swing!"

Mr. Mukherjee came, spoke and left. But his visit to RSS headquarters is now a part of contemporary and future history of India. For long, political parties and political analysts will be commenting over the 30-minute speech of one of the most experienced and best-known politicians of our times.

## President Trump to...

International Economic Affairs Everett Eissenstat will represent the United States for the remaining G7 sessions, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said.

The annual G7 (Group of Seven) summit kicks off in Charlevoix, Quebec on Friday, June 8 and the stage is set for a major showdown between the US and its allies.

The leaders of the G7, an informal bloc of some of the world's most powerful industrialized countries, including Germany, the UK, and Japan, get together every year to discuss collaboration on issues like global security, the international economy, and climate change.

At the end of the summit, they aim to sign a joint statement detailing the policy positions and initiatives they agree on.

But there's a decent chance that might not happen this year.

That's because President Donald Trump has so badly rattled the other members with his recent heavy steel and aluminum tariffs and other divisive new policies that it might be impossible for the group to reach a consensus on any substantive issue.

The two-day meeting will be dominated by the possibility of a trade war - prompted by the US levies of 25 per cent on steel and 10 per cent on aluminum.

Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, has predicted a big fight at the summit, triggering suggestions it has become a "G6+1" - with the US president isolated and alone.

The EU is poised to impose tariffs on US imports ranging from Harley-Davidson motorbikes and jeans to bourbon, peanut butter, cranberries and orange juice, from next month.

Brussels is still finalizing the list it will submit to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which will be on top of tit-for-tat tariffs on about £2.5bn of US steel.

A French official told Bloomberg that French President Emmanuel Macron wants to make progress with President Trump on smoothing tensions over trade, the US's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, and climate policy - and if that doesn't happen, France may refuse to sign.

Then there's the fact that Trump himself is reportedly contemplating not signing the joint statement to show that the US is perfectly happy to go its own way if the other members give it too much trouble during talks. The divide has become so stark that staffers and observers of the G7 have started to call it the "G6 plus one."

"What this G7 is going to show is that the United States are alone against everyone, and especially alone against their allies," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told reporters last week.

The G7 summit is usually a boring meeting of broad consensus. Not anymore.

The G7 summit, which includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom, plus the European Union (which is not technically part of the G7 but participates), is typically a pretty straightforward affair.

The official themes for this year's summit include "investing in growth that works for everyone," "preparing for the jobs of the future," and "advancing gender equality." Against the backdrop of these deliberately anodyne themes, world leaders can hobnob

and try to move the ball forward on issues like a new free trade agreement or cooperative climate policy.

But Trump has departed sharply from the G7 consensus on issues like these in the past by, for instance, pulling out of the Paris climate agreement and withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

And White House officials say he is planning to strike a confrontational posture at the summit. "There are disagreements. He's sticking to his guns, and he's going to talk, talk to them," National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow told reporters on Wednesday. Trump is also reportedly considering implementing a fresh round of tariffs against Canada - the host of the summit.

European countries could also shun the final statement. Their biggest priority is likely going to be getting Trump to consider some kind of compromise on his recent protectionist trade policies, the most controversial one being his imposition of sweeping tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum. Currently, those tariffs hit exports from every other member of the G7.

Trump is also apparently not looking forward to what could be a tense and awkward meeting. According to the Washington Post, Trump has reportedly complained to advisers about having an "uneasy rapport" with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and sees British Prime Minister Theresa May as "too politically correct."

And Trump has apparently told advisers that he doesn't want to be "lectured" by other world leaders, especially as he tries to prepare for an upcoming high-stakes summit with North Korea next week.

If the final joint statement for the G7 is missing signatories this weekend when the summit wraps up, it won't be the end of the world. It's a symbolic show of unity, not a binding document with concrete policy effects. But it will be yet another sign of how far the US is drifting from many of its most trusted friends in the world.

(With input from agencies)

## Preet Bharara for NY...

attorney general, New York Times says.

Mr. Bharara's registration in Westchester County occurred during the window for candidates to gather signatures to qualify for the Democratic primary in September. A candidate needs thousands of signatures across half the congressional districts by mid-July - meaning time is short for Mr. Bharara to jump in.

The Democratic primary for attorney general is already crowded. It includes Letitia James, the New York City public advocate, who was nominated at the state party convention; Representative Sean Patrick Maloney of the Hudson Valley; Zephyr Teachout, a law professor and former candidate for governor; and Leecia Eve, a former adviser to Hillary Clinton and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

They are running to replace Eric Schneiderman, who resigned suddenly last month after multiple women accused him of physical abuse. Barbara D. Underwood, who was chosen last month to replace Mr. Schneiderman, has said she would not seek election in November.

Mr. Bharara, who has become an outspoken commentator since Mr. Trump fired him last year, has built a liberal following. He addressed the idea of running for attorney general last month on his podcast.

"I think politics is not really for me, but it's an important job, it's an important time so we'll see," said Mr. Bharara, who is also a former aide to the Senate minority leader, Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York.

## NOTICE NAME CHANGE

**I, CHARNJIT SINGH, son of SWARN SINGH holder of passport No F 1025611, issued at NEW YORK on Aug. 23, 2005, permanent resident of VILL, PADDEA BET, PO, KAPURTHALA PUNJAB 144804, INDIA and presently residing at 682, MOHICAN DR, EASTON, PA, 18040, USA, do hereby change my name from CHARNJIT PADDA to CHARNJIT SINGH with immediate effect.**





### Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



**Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone 011-91-8141234275 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)**

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE JUNE 11 - JUNE 17, 2018

### Aries:

Ganesha says there is a true desire to give, great reciprocity in your attitude. You receive much in terms of affection, love, emoluments and you are open - handed and generous in giving them back! Like Ganesha all his devotees. You are professional at work, caring and tender with loved ones and lover / spouse, and brilliantly confident in financial dealings.

### Taurus:

My often-used phrase "Hard work, matching rewards" sums up the entire gamut of activities this period. While advancement and progress in career and profession are important, they certainly don't form the total picture. You work equally hard at your relationships, family responsibilities, at your personal ambition as a more contained human being.

### Gemini:

Once again, you redefine your focus and your motivation. I'll come back to this in just a moment. Let me first mention support, help, shared responsibility towards dependents, parents and in - laws, older people, relatives in general. Therefore, the focus - immediate and extended family find that no effort is spared by you, also time, money, affection.

### Cancer:

I can just conclude this period forecast in one sentence "More of the same" as last period. Let me spell it out, though. You display sympathy, tact, understanding at work as well as in the domestic scene. You are patient and very, very hard working but you do it willingly. In fact, you do it with a smile on your lips and a song in your heart. Glorious contentment and waves of affection lap your feet!

### Leo:

It is now a propitious time for planning new ventures, projects, enterprises. You are eager to work. In fact, slogging doesn't frighten you - you relish it, almost. You still create little oases of relaxation, joy, comfort, tenderness not just within the intimate family circle but with new acquaintances and friends, too. They all get a warm welcome to your heart and your hearth.

### Virgo:

You've had so many good things coming you to from Ganesha. They have been both tangible (money, prospects, assets) and intangible (friendship, family, love). Now you assess the responsibilities they bring. You're willing to do your best for your marriage, your family. Nothing is too great an effort. I'm talking of mindsets / attitudes here. At work, you find rapid changes, ever - escalating expectations.

### Libra:

Your family itself and family affairs are your top priority, that's for sure. You are unswerving in your devotion, loyalty, attachment. You're careful with your money now, despite lots of social activity / entertaining. You love to spend on children / dependents / pets, on objects of luxury and comfort for the home, on the home / house itself. Your work angle is greatly energized, and you strive to give it your best shot.

### Scorpio:

Your work angle remains a source of satisfaction but you're more family - oriented this period, too, as in the preceding period. These values are here to stay in your life - for some time, if not for every. As I say frequently, there are no guarantees in life and in astrology. You fulfil your responsibilities to society, too, giving back more than you take from it, from nature, from the environment.

### Sagittarius:

You are brimming over with self - confidence, with the security of things going right for quite some time now. It could make you a bit crass, a bit cocky if you don't watch out. But your growing caring, commitment, kindness, empathy may easily prevent that from happening. What does happen is a much higher happiness quotient, levels of satisfaction, joy in relationships.

### Capricorn:

For some period now, your activities have been personalized, individual - centered, revolving round matters to do with home and family. Now it's a big - time gains in money. You are surrounded, enveloped, ensconced in luxury, comfort, prosperity. Love, too, for good measure, is vital, intense. Fulfilment and satisfaction come to you in many ways, not least of them being communications, contacts, ties.

### Aquarius:

It is as if Ganesha can't stop giving you all that you desire. Hopes, ambitions, dreams are all coming true; wish - fulfilment is likely. On the financial scene, we're now talking of mega - bucks - capital, funds, start - up loans and such. Family, lover, mate are where you really strike it rich, though. You'll feel that nothing can surpass the joy, satisfaction, contentment you now share with them.

### Pisces:

You now take on a major self - enhancement exercise. Please notice that I have not said self - improvement. That would imply that something was lacking - which it was not, actually. Work, personal relationships, family life all flower in this scenario. You seek to add to your personally, home, wardrobe, physique, assets, jewels, accessories - you name it! For the most part, I must say, you meet with spectacular success.



# Arjun Tendulkar makes into India U-19 team for Sri Lanka tour

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Indian team list will once again have the famous Tendulkar surname back as legendary Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun was included in U-19 side for the two four-day games against Sri Lanka.

Standing at 6ft 1inch, the 18-year-old is a left arm fast bowler and a handy lower-middle order batsman.

Two India U-19 squads were announced today in Bengaluru with Anuj Rawat and Aryan Juyal leading the side.

However, an innocuous selection meeting became interesting as the three-member selection committee comprising Ashish Kapoor, Gyanendra Pandey and Rakesh Parikh selected Tendulkar junior for the longer version.

Arjun with his tally of 18 wickets from five Cooch Behar Trophy (National U-19) games is 43rd in the list of wicket-takers for the season. He had one five wicket haul (5/95) against MP.

Incidentally, Himachal Pradesh's Ayush Jamwal (50 wickets) is not in any of the teams as he is now over age.

"There is a clear direction from BCCI and coach Rahul Dravid that those who will surpass 19 by this year should not be selected even if they have performed. Let them play Ranji Trophy according to Rahul. So a lot of boys ahead of Arjun are disqualified," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

However, Harsh Tyagi (49 wickets), a left-arm spinner from Delhi is in both the squads. When a source close to the selection committee was asked how Arjun despite being 43rd in the wicket takers list made the cut, he explained: "If you look at the List, Arjun is the only genuine quick bowler who has more than 15 wickets. Most of the bowlers above him are spinners with only Ajay Dev Goud (33 wickets) being a genuine all-rounder. He is a slow medium bowler while Arjun is quick bowler."

Also in a zonal U-19 match between West and South Zone at Una, Tendulkar got 4 for 37 including three wickets in one spell.

"A lot of people don't know U-19 zonals are happening at Una and Arjun has done well there." Arjun has trained under former India fast bowler Subroto Banerjee, a close friend of Tendulkar.

He has also bowled at the India nets earlier and was in fast bowlers' camp at



*Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun has been included in the India U-19 team for two four-day games against Sri Lanka. The 18-year-old Tendulkar is a left-arm fast bowler and a handy lower-order batsman.*

Dharamsala organised by the BCCI.

Asked if the youngster will be under pressure, the senior official said: "He is eyeing to become a professional cricketer. He is another member of this Indian squad and he will have to perform. The selectors have given him a chance looking at his potential."

Meanwhile, Aryan Juyal, who was the second wicketkeeper in the victorious World Cup squad, has been included despite the rule that no player who has played one U-19 WC would be in the squad.

"Juyal is very young and has not graduated to first class level. So it's better he gets some match practice," the source said.

WV Raman has been given an extension and will be the coach of this team as Dravid will be with the A squad in England.

Source: PTI



## KOHLI, HARMANPREET, MANDHANA WIN TOP BCCI AWARDS

India captain Virat Kohli will receive the BCCI's Polly Umrigar award - honouring the best international cricketer - for the fifth time in his career following his consistent performance over the past two seasons.

Also, for the first time ever, the BCCI will recognise the top international women players of the year, at their awards function on June 12 in Bengaluru. Harmanpreet Kaur wins it for 2016-17 and Smriti Mandhana for 2017-18.

The current No.1 ODI batsman in the world, Kohli has been in phenomenal form for the past three years, amassing 2757 runs at an average of 91.90. He also became the first batsman to score four double-centuries in consecutive Test series during this period. The 29-year old went past 5000 runs with his 20th Test ton during the series against Sri Lanka in December 2017. Under Kohli in the last three years, India equalled Australia's record of nine consecutive series wins in Tests. They are also ranked No. 1 in Test cricket.

## Rafael Nadal edges closer to 11th title

Rafael Nadal battled back from a set down to beat Diego Schwartzman 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in their rain-interrupted French Open quarter-final on Thursday, edging closer to an 11th title in Paris.

The world number one was much-improved under the sunshine on Court Philippe Chatrier after finding life difficult in damp conditions the night before, finally seeing off dogged Argentinian Schwartzman on his fourth match point.

Nadal will face either Croatian third seed Marin Cilic or Juan Martin del Potro, the fifth-seeded Argentine, in the semi-finals.

"It was a very difficult match, Diego is a good friend and a good player," said the 16-time Grand Slam champion.

## Rashid stars as Afghans seal the series

Rashid Khan produced another magical spell of spin bowling as Afghanistan wrapped up a six-wicket win over Bangladesh to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20 series. Rashid's four-wicket haul helped Afghanistan limit Bangladesh to 134/8 before Samiullah Shenwari (49 off 40) and Mohammad Nabi (31\* off 15) did a fine job in what turned out to be a comfortable chase in 18.5 overs.

Earlier, Rashid ran amok in the 16th over of the Bangladesh innings, sending back Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (3), a set Tamim Iqbal (43 off 48) and Mossadek Hossain (0) to leave Bangladesh gasping at 103/7. Bangladesh, who were 81/3 in the first 10 overs, could only muster 53 in the next 60 balls, losing five wickets.

# Maria Sharapova dumped out of French Open 2018

**PARIS (TIP):** Spain's Garbine Muguruza thrashed Maria Sharapova to reach the French Open semifinals on Wednesday as a second top-of-the-bill showdown in three days failed to materialise at Roland Garros.

Sharapova's eagerly-awaited fourth-round clash with Serena Williams never even made it on court on Monday as her American nemesis pulled out an hour before the scheduled start with a pectoral injury.

This time the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd — at least the ones that could be prised away from their luncheon — got a match, if not a contest, as Muguruza roared to a 6-2 6-1 victory and on to a semifinal against top seed Simona Halep in which the world No. 1 ranking will also be on the line. Sharapova, back at the claycourt slam for the first time since 2015 following a doping-ban, walked on court with two French Open crowns to Muguruza's one and a 3-0 head-to-head record against the reigning Wimbledon champion. An hour and 10 minutes later the 31-year-old was walking off after her worst French Open spanking since she managed only two games against Dominika Cibulkova at the same

stage in 2009. The signs were ominous when the five-times Grand Slam champion coughed up three nervy double-faults in the opening game. Muguruza sensed weakness and pounced for a 4-0 lead. Sharapova did finally settle, holding serve to love, but Muguruza clumped down an ace to make it 5-1. The former world No. 1 drilled a backhand winner down the line to hold again in the next game, the 28th seed clenching her fist as she walked to the chair. But Muguruza was relentless and brought up two set points with a scorching backhand winner before sealing the opening set with a clubbing forehand that Sharapova fended into the net. The only hope for the Russian was that her 2014 French Open quarterfinal defeat of Muguruza, when she also got steamrollered in the first set before coming back, might play on her opponent's mind.

Service breaks were exchanged at the start of the second set but Muguruza is a far steelier player than four years ago and Sharapova did not get a sniff in the next five games as the Spaniard reached her fourth Grand Slam semifinal.

Source: Reuters



*Garbine Muguruza (left) was far too strong for Maria Sharapova. Muguruza roared to a 6-2 6-1 victory.*



# EIGHT FORMS OF GANESHA

Lord Ganesha is known by various names such as the Vakratunda, Lambodara, Gajanan etc. These names are actually the various forms in which Ganesha is worshiped throughout India. There are a number of theories about the forms of Ganesha. According to the Ganesha Purana, Ganesha has four forms- each for the four yugas (era). However the Mudgala Purana says that Ganesha has eight forms and every form has a specific attribute.

## Vakratunda

Ganesha's first avatara is of Vakratunda (twisted trunk) an embodiment of the Absolute Impersonal aspect of Godhood called Brahman in the form of Ganesha.

A demon named Matsara was born out of the Pramaada (Heedlessness) of Indra, the king of Gods.

This demon performed severe penance and invoked the grace of Lord Shiva and obtained the boon of fearlessness from Him.

Having obtained the boon he went about conquering all the three worlds," He was coronated as the king of Asuras by their preceptor Sukracharya. The defeated gods went to Kailasa and prayed to Lord Shiva for protection. On hearing the mission of gods, Matsara went to Kailas and vanquished Lord Shiva also.

When the gods were at their wit's end to know what to do next. Lord Dattatreya came there. He advised the gods to invoke the grace of Lord Vakratunda and imparted to them the secret of the monosyllable mantra Gam. All the gods including Shiva did penance accordingly and at last Lord Vakratunda appeared and assured them that he would subdue the demon. The demon was so terrified at the sight of Vakratunda that he surrendered to Him and sought refuge at His feet. The Lord forgave him, and restored the lost glory and kingdoms to the gods, and to the various kings on earth.

## Ekadanta

The next incarnation was in the form of Ekadanta (single tusked) who defeated the demon Madasura. The famous sage Chyavana created Madasura.

The Asura sought his father's permission and went to Sukracharya, who was Chyavana's brother as well as the preceptor of the Asuras. He prostrated to the Guru and expressed his desire to become the ruler of the whole universe. Sukracharya was pleased with his nephew's submission and initiated him into the Shakti Mantra Hrim. Madasura did penance on this mantra for thousands of years.

At last the deity of Shakti, appeared, before him and blessed him with the fulfillment of all his desires. Thereafter the demon went about raging battles against all the kings and the gods, and was victorious everywhere. He thus became the ruler of all the three worlds. In his reign, all virtues and righteousness disappeared from the world. He married Saalasa the daughter of Pramada Asura and begot three children in her, viz. Vilasi, Lolupa and Dhanapriya. The worried gods approached Sanat kumara and sought his advice to overcome their plight Sanatkumara instructed them to propitiate Lord Ekadanta and seek his protection.

He also described the glory of Ekadanta thus "Eka stands for Maya the "embodied", and Danta for Truth (Satta). Thus Ekadanta represents the Supreme Truth which wields the Maya." The Devas then meditated upon the Lord Ekadanta for hundreds of years. Pleased by their devotion the Lord appeared before them and assured them that He would remove



their miseries. Narada, the celestial saint, promptly informed Madasura of the boon given to the gods by the Lord and prompted him to wage war against Ekadanta. The demon got ready for a battle with the Lord. But alas as soon as he reached the battlefield and beheld the terrible form of Ekadanta, all his courage drained away and he surrendered to the Lord.

The demon then gave up the worlds held under his reign, and sought the Lord's protection. The Lord then told Madasura : "Don't stay in a place where I am worshipped in a Satwic manner. You are free to enjoy the fruits of all actions done with Asuric Bhava".

## Mahodara

The third incarnation was of Mahodara who vanquished Mohasura, the demon of Delusion and Confusion. Once again the mouse was the mount of Ganesha.

The confused nature of this tale makes it difficult to understand exactly what was going on. It seems that once Shiva was sunk in meditation for ages and showing no signs of coming out of it. Meanwhile, the gods were in need of help. Parvati therefore assumed an alluring form and wandered round his meditating spot. Shiva was brought back to normal wakeful consciousness by this act and she abandoned the alluring 'cover' so as to speak. This abandoned energy form became a demon in its own right over the ages and Ganesha subdued it.

## Gajana

Equally perplexing in the tangled web of intergenerational sexuality is the next tale, of the avatar of Gajana or Gajavakra who defeated the demon Lobhasura (Greed or Covetousness).

Gajana means "the Lord with an elephant face", and Lobha was the demon of greed. Kubera, the Treasurer of the heavens, once visited Kailasa, the abode of Lord Shiva.

There he was blessed with the vision of the Lord and Goddess Parvati. Parvati was so beautiful that Kubera looked at Her with lustful eyes. The Mother became angry at this, and Kubera shivered with fear. From the fear of Kubera, there manifested a demon named Lobhasura. Lobhasura descended to the world of Asuras, where he received his education from Sukracharya, the guru of Asuras.

## Lambhodara

Once upon a time Lord Vishnu had assumed the form of Mohini, the enchantress, to delude

Kshetra. Pleased by their devotion. Lord Ganesha appeared to them in the form of Vikata, and brought about their salvation.

## Vighnaraja

The 7th incarnation of Ganesha Vighnaraja had a very unusual mode of conveyance - a Sheshnaag or Shasha. In this lifetime Ganesha managed to subdue the demon Mamasur (also known as Mamtasur or Mama), the demon of the ego.

This is His (Ganesha's) most popular incarnation, known as The Remover of Obstacles. Riding his vehicle called Sheshnag, a serpent, he strode into battle with Mamtasur, and overcame him." Parvati Devi, the daughter of Himavan, was married to Lord Shiva.

After the marriage, one day when She was relaxing in the company of Her friends. She burst out in laughter in a playful mood, and out of Her laughter was born a handsome male form He prostrated to the Mother She was surprised at this manifestation of the form and asked him who he was and what he wanted. He said that he was born from Her laughter and asked Her as to how he could serve Her. She named him Mama, as he was born out of her outburst, when She was swayed by "Maan", the sense of I-ness, Ego. She then instructed him to remember Lord Ganesha always, who would fulfill all his desires.

## Dhoomravarna

Ganesha has a mouse as his mount here. His life mission this time around was to defeat the demon Ahamkarasur, the demon of self-infatuation.

Once, Brahmaji, the grandsire, bestowed on the Sun deity, the lordship over the 'world of activities'. One day, a thought dawned in the mind of Sun: "All the worlds are governed by Karma—activities; and by virtue of my being the Lord of Karma Rajya, I can consider myself to be the supreme governor of all the worlds.

As this thought passed his mind, he happened to sneeze and out of the sneeze there arose a demon. He went down to the world of Asuras and Sukracharya gave him the name "Aham" on account of his birth from the ego of Sun. He meditated on Lord Ganesha, who appeared before him in the form of Dhoomravarna and blessed him to be the sovereign ruler of all the three worlds. Aham married "Mamata", daughter of Pramadasura, and begot two sons in her named Garva and Sreshtha. Tired of the demonic rule of Aham, the Devas meditated upon Lord Ganesha for salvation, and the Lord descended to their rescue- Ere long, Lord Ganesha in the form of Dhoomravarna subdued the demon Aham.

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