

Pence details plan for creation of Space Force



Vice President Pence announced, August 9, plans for the creation of a Space Force

'We must have American dominance in space'- Pence

WASHINGTON (TIP): 'We must have American dominance in space', said Vice President Pence, outlining an ambitious plan on Thursday, August 9 that would begin creating

contd on Page 32

PepsiCo chief executive Indra Nooyi to step down on October 3

Ramon Laguarta to replace Ms Nooyi, who will continue as chairwoman until next year

WASHINGTON (TIP): PepsiCo said on Monday, August 6, that Indra Nooyi would step down as chief executive after 12 years at the helm and named president Ramon Laguarta as her successor.

Mr Laguarta will take over from Ms Nooyi on October 3rd and will also join the board, the company said in a statement. Ms Nooyi (62), who has been with the company for 24 years, will continue as chairwoman of the board until early 2019.

Ivanka Trump who looks upon Indra Nooyi as her inspiration and mentor commented: "The great IndraNooyi is stepping down as PepsiCo CEO, after 12 years. Indra, you are a mentor + inspiration to so many, myself included", says Ivanka.

contd on Page 32



Indra Nooyi has been with the company for 24 years, 12 years as CEO. "The great Indra Nooyi is stepping down as PepsiCo CEO, after 12 years. Indra, you are a mentor + inspiration to so many, myself included", says Ivanka.

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US Army suspends discharging immigrant recruits



US Army had discharged dozens of immigrant recruits and reservists, putting their immigration status at risk

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. army has for now suspended its practice of quietly discharging immigrant recruits, according to a news report published in newspapers.

contd on Page 32

Russia faces US sanctions over poisoning of Skripal in UK



Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the measures were to counter "malicious actors" working to "increase Russia's offensive cyber-capabilities".

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US has said it will impose fresh sanctions on Russia after determining it used nerve agent against a former Russian double agent living in the UK.

Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were left seriously ill after being poisoned with Novichok in Salisbury in March, though they have now recovered. A UK investigation blamed Russia for the attack,

contd on Page 32

NY Congressman Collins Arrested, Charged with Insider Trading

NEW YORK (TIP): The FBI has arrested New York Rep. Chris Collins on securities fraud-related charges, law enforcement officials said.

Collins, a Republican who hails from western New York, his son and his son's future father-in-law have all been charged with insider trading, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said.

The congressman surrendered to the FBI at 26 Federal Plaza Wednesday, August 8 morning, officials said.

Collins pleaded not guilty at an appearance in Manhattan federal court Wednesday afternoon.

contd on Page 32



New York Rep. Chris Collins, who has been charged with insider trading and lying to the feds, said, August 8, he was innocent

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Ek Yatra of Saibaba temple draws more than 1000 devotees



Palki being carried from the temple



The banner of Ek Yatra, with devotees following

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Shri Shirdi Saibaba Temple, the oldest house of worship in the US for the revered saint, has taken out a palanquin procession marking the culmination of weeklong Guru Purnima celebrations.

The celebrations, part of the centennial of Maha Samadhi of Shirdi Saibaba, drew a total of 5,000 devotees. The highlight of the annual celebrations was undoubtedly the procession, which this year was renamed Ek Yatra.

The procession is usually known as Palki (also known as Palkhi or Pallaki) Yatra. Ek Yatra, in which representatives of all religions formed a major interfaith segment, comprised nine parts representing each of the nine forms of devotion to god. Saibaba propagated and worked for the unity of all Indian and other world religions in his lifetime, mostly spent at Shirdi village in Ahmednagar revenue district of present-day Maharashtra.

A dance troupe and a music band representing Indian ethnic groups -- mainly Maharashtrian -- drew particular applause from participants in the procession and onlookers on the sidewalks of the Flushing neighborhood in Queens, New York City.

Shiva Haran, the temple president, estimated that 1,200-1,300 people participated in the celebrations on Saturday, July 28 afternoon, when the yatra was held. There were also scores of people waiting in the house of worship to receive the participants.

The re-enactment of Chavdi Utsav (the festivity at a public place in an Indian village), which used to be taken out from Dwarakamai (a dilapidated mosque that Saibaba made his home) at Shirdi, was another feature of the yatra. The person who appeared as Saibaba, all through the procession with full makeup as the saint, drew tremendous praise along with his associates such as Hemadpant, Madhavrao Deshpande, Nanasaheb Chandorkar and Kaka Mahajan. A horse also formed part of the procession to give authenticity to the yatra.

Haran and other temple officials appreciated the temple volunteers, numbering more than 100, who helped conduct the yatra in an orderly manner.

One such volunteer spoke to some participants in the procession. "It was excellent. Unbelievably great," said Haran, who also walked a part of the yatra. "I should say it is perhaps the biggest such event outside India. The Punjabi-Maharashtrian dhol; women wearing Marathi-style saris dancing to the rhythmic music; and the all-round enthusiasm of the participant-devotees as well as the onlookers remind us all of our motherland. I felt as if the Chavdi Utsav was re-created here in Queens."

The band-and-dance troupe, as well as the horse, came from neighboring New Jersey, exclusively for the event.

Narasimha Rao Bonda, the main coordinator



An interfaith group



A man dressed as Sai Baba



Jalosh Dhol Tasha group

of the procession, was equally enthusiastic.

"Baba himself helped us stage the spectacular event. It has never happened here (in the US) and might not happen again in our lifetime. He was there everywhere and showered his blessings on everyone," Bonda said with excitement.

According to Madhavan Krishnamachari, who holds his own religious events twice a year, said the procession - with Ek Yatra and the

ethnic music and dance segment - should become an annual feature of the Saibaba temple. He was glad that all this happened in 2018, the centenary year of Maha Samadhi of the saint. An IT consultant in New York who is in his 40s, Satish Sabarad, was the cynosure of all eyes. He appeared as Saibaba. When he was coming out of the temple, a few devotees were seen bending and touching his feet. He himself sounded highly devotional.

"It was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to appear as Baba," he said. "I came to know about my role in the yatra just three weeks before the event. I was initially hesitant, but persuaded by B.R. Surendra (aka Barasu, the makeup man for the whole Saibaba team of associates). Sabarad acted in a few stage shows, but never before he had this type of role.

Harvinder Singh Karir felt as if he literally went back in time when he played the role of Kaka Mahajan, a senior Baba associate. The 49-year-old, who works with the federal government, appeared in black coat and with the traditional Maharashtrian headgear of that time walking along with the man appearing as the saint.

A 53-year-old attorney, Srinivas Kaveti, opined that even in India it is not easy to re-enact this kind of processions. "It simply was amazing," he added.

Mukund Khisty works for India Roots, a nonprofit based in New Jersey that does charitable work in India, mostly Maharashtra. He and his 100-member group consists of professionals such as doctors, engineers and lawyers. The group staged the music-and-dance show during the three-hour procession. "We do this kind of shows, but I feel this was our exclusive performance."

A member of the interfaith segment said that along with other houses of worship, he visits the Saibaba temple once a month. Raj Bhushan's is a multireligious family as he married a Muslim, his daughter-in-law is Jewish and daughter is married to a Christian. "If one tries to understand others' religions and cultures, the world will be a more peaceful place to live in," he remarked. Known also as Brother Oneness, Bhushan -- a retired person -- still occasionally takes up immigration issues.

A woman who practices Yoruba, a religion mainly based in Nigeria, said ruling classes in several African nations practice it. Nana Zakia, who lives in Harlem in NYC and sporting shiny stripes on her face, had just one thing to say: "Spread everything that is good and be tolerant of others." The Flushing temple, though formally inaugurated in 2010, has been in existence for the last 30 years. There are nearly 50 houses of worship in the US dedicated to the Shirdi saint. During the centenary year, the Flushing temple's activities include the Maha Samadhi celebrations (set for the third week of October during the Navaratri) and a major fundraiser to be held later that month.

There is also an ongoing quiz program on the life and times of the saint.

Prizewinners will be felicitated later this year, and the top scorer will have a chance to get a roundtrip ticket to Shirdi (courtesy Air India).

That person will be eligible for a VIP darshan. There is a second spot, which is worth \$500, and two third prizes. There is also a possibility of a few consolation prizes. For further info, please visit www.dwarakamaishirdi.org.

IAAC announces the appointment of Dr. Nirmal Mattoo as incoming Chairman of the Board

Aroon Shivdasani, Executive and Artistic Director retires after 20 years of glorious service. Says, will continue as Brand Evangelist Advisor.

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Dr. Nirmal Mattoo has been appointed by the Board of IAAC as its new Chairman effective July 1, 2018. In its evaluation, the Board concluded that Dr. Mattoo's background as a philanthropist supporter of the arts and artists, educator, author, humanitarian doctor and successful businessman with a strong track record of building non-profit centers of excellence made him uniquely qualified to head and lead a precious asset of the Indo American community, says a press release issued by Sunil Hali.

This announcement was made at a gala gathering at the Indian Consulate in New York on July 30th attended by over 160 people from the arts, media and Indo American community. Consul General Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty welcomed the IAAC members in his opening remarks.

The IAAC Board thanks Aroon Shivdasani who has announced her retirement, for her exemplary sacrifices and contributions over the course of a lifetime in founding and building IAAC to the point that it is the premiere art and cultural organization of the Indo American community. The existing Board members and advisors have also retired, and their services are acknowledged with gratitude. Finally, the heart and soul of any community is its volunteers and it is gratifying that they will all continue to serve IAAC.

contd on Page 6



Left to right - Sunil Hali, Yakub Mathew, Rakesh Kaul, Anurag Harsh, Aroon Shivdasani, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Dr Nirmal Mattoo and Rajeev Kaul



Executive Director, IAAC, Sunil Hali addressing the gathering



Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty presents a plaque to Aroon Shivdasani



Rajeev Kaul, Board Member IAAC, Aroon Shivdasani and Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Chairman IAAC

Sohum Sukhatankar wins 2018 South Asian Spelling Bee



Jaideep Janakiram, Head of North America, Sony Entertainment Television-Asia, Sohum Sukhatankar (National Champion) and Father, Abhijay Kodali (National First Runner Up) and Father, and Rahul Walia, Founder of South Asian Spelling Bee

EDISON, NJ(TIP): Sohum Sukhatankar of Dallas, TX correctly spelled the word "Dasyuridae" (a family of polyprotodont marsupials that includes the native cats, pouched mice, banded anteater, Tasmanian devil, and related forms) during the 2018 South Asian Spelling Bee finals to clinch the title of national champion and took home a cash prize of \$3,000.

Abhijay Kodali from Flower Mound, TX was the National 1st Runner-Up at the

Touchdown Media initiative on Aug.2, which was taped live for broadcast on Sony Entertainment Television.

The initiative was organized by leading multicultural advertising firm, Touchdown Media Inc. Sony Entertainment Television Asia will broadcast the initiative across the globe in over 120 countries, Kawan Foods returned as the powered by sponsor for the initiative which is now in its 11th year.

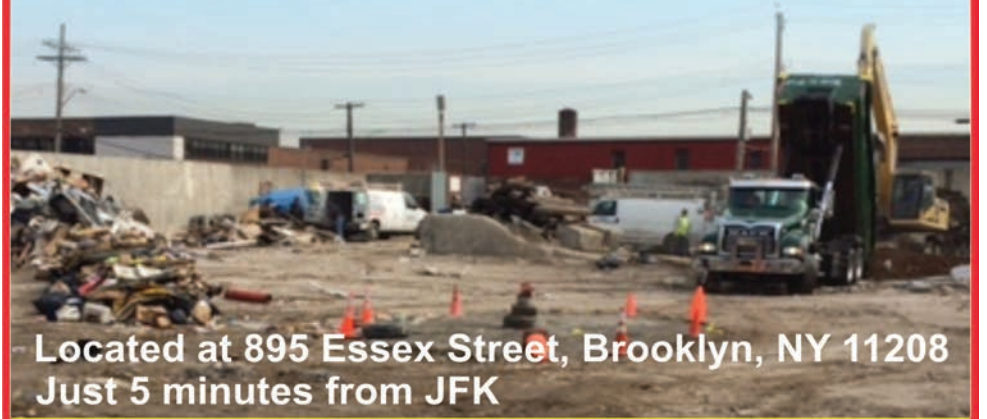
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Indian American Professor nominated to Privacy and Civil Liberties Agency

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian American law professor and legal expert has been nominated by US President Donald Trump to an agency on privacy and civil liberties.

Aditya Bamzai, a professor at University of Virginia's School of Law, has been nominated by Donald Trump to be a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of a six-year term expiring January 29, 2020.

The agency works to ensure that efforts by the executive branch of the government to protect the nation from terrorism are balanced with the need to protect privacy and civil liberties.

According to Mr Bamzai's profile on the university website, he teaches and writes about civil procedure, administrative law, federal courts, national security law and computer crime.

He joined the University of Virginia School of Law's faculty as an associate professor in June 2016.

Mr Bamzai has argued cases relating to the separation of powers and national security in the US Supreme Court, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, DC Circuit and other federal courts of appeals.

He is a graduate of Yale University and of the University of Chicago Law School, where he was the editor-in-chief of the law review

Before entering the academy, Mr Bamzai served as an attorney-adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel of the US Department of Justice and as an appellate attorney in both private practice and for the National Security Division of the Department of Justice.

Earlier in his career, he was a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia of the US Supreme Court and to Judge Jeffrey Sutton of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Indian American Sri Preston Kulkarni Quit Job Over Trump's Policies

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Sri Preston Kulkarni decided to quit his dream job at the US State Department last December to run for Congress. Preston found it difficult to defend the Trump administration's policies as a diplomat especially over race and immigration.

Mr Kulkarni, whose family traces its roots to Maharashtra and Karnataka, says on his website that he spent his career trying to reduce conflict in other countries..."but right now hostility and conflict are being inflamed in our own country through the politics of anger and demagoguery".

"I have worked under Democratic and Republican administrations before, but the current situation is different and should concern all Americans of conscience," he said on his website.

After quitting his job, Mr Kulkarni announced that he will run for the 22nd Congressional District of Texas, to be part of the policy making, and not implementing them.

Six months later, he won the Democratic primary and is pitching for a tough battle against five-term Republican incumbent Pete Olson.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



Aditya Bamzai, a professor at University of Virginia's School of Law, has been nominated by Donald Trump to be a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board



Obama endorsed Aftab Pureval from Ohio's first congressional district

OHIO (TIP): Indian American Democrat candidate Aftab Pureval from Ohio's first congressional district received former President Barack Obama's endorsement on August 2.

The Hamilton County Courts clerk is one of the dozens of Democrats the former president - who's considered the de facto leader of the party - endorsed via twitter in what's billed as the "first wave of mid-term endorsements."

Last week, political analyst Larry Sabato's "Crystal Ball" moved the district to the "Toss up" column, indicating that it

will be one of the dozens of districts that will decide which party will control Congress after November. Previously, Sabato had deemed Ohio-1 as "Likely Republican."

Pureval is the only Indian American endorsed by Obama on Wednesday. In all, the previous occupant of the White House endorsed more than 80 Democrats who are running for various state and federal offices that include governor, lieutenant governor, US Senate and US House of Representatives.

Pureval, who won the Democratic

primary unopposed, has so far outraised Chabot by more than 2 to 1 margin, campaign finance data by the Center for Responsive Politics shows. Through June 30, he raised more than \$1.5 million, compared to \$950,000 raised by the congressman.

Pureval, 35, is the son of an Indian father and Tibetan mom. He is a former Special Assistant US Attorney for the Department of Justice and the first Democrat to get elected as the Hamilton County Courts clerk in a hundred years.

Indian American Democrat Candidate Aftab Pureval receives Obama endorsement



Indian American gas station owner is target of racist attack

ASHLAND, KY (TIP): Monday, August 6, was a day Taj Sardar, the owner of a Shell gas station in Ashland, will never forget after an off-duty Portsmouth ambulance employee went on a racist rant on his Facebook page -- even accusing Sardar as a terrorist.

Sardar says it all began Monday around lunch when the man came in to eat at his restaurant. He says the man ate, then left without a word being said.

When outside, the man then took a photo of his restaurant and took to Facebook to not only voice his displeasure with the food, but also the people inside.

Portions of the post read "I reluctantly entered to order Monday's meatloaf special and was greeted by a tribe from India." The post continues, "I'm ashamed that I probably just funded Al Qaeda."

While WSAZ was at the gas station covering the story, Sardar left a statement with police because he says when he reads those comments he fears for his family's safety.

The post has sparked outrage for many across the Tri-State, even catching the attention of the man's employer at the Portsmouth Emergency Ambulance Services. That agency told WSAZ early Wednesday afternoon that the man has not been suspended following an internal investigation.

They later released this statement after choosing to not participate in an on-camera interview:

"We wish to apologize to anyone who was offended by those posts. We do not



Taj Sardar, the owner of a Shell gas station in Ashland, Kentucky was described by a man as a terrorist on Facebook

agree with, or condone, them and are in the process of handling them accordingly."

WSAZ has the full statement in total at the bottom of this story. WSAZ has not been updated on the current investigation.

Sardar says his and his family came to America legally in 2006 and moved from upstate New York to Ashland in 2010 to open their store. He says although this is a black eye to the problems of racism, he knows that the good in the area overwhelm the bad.

The name of the ambulance driver involved has not been released at this time.

FULL STATEMENT

"At Portsmouth Emergency Ambulance Services, we take pride in the service we provide to our patients,

but also in the way that we treat them. As an organization, we have an obligation treat everyone in our community with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or ethnicity, and we expect our employees to do so as well.

"We recently became aware that a member of our staff created several posts on social media that fall far short of that standard. On behalf of Portsmouth Emergency Ambulance Services, and all 650 members our team, we wish to apologize to anyone who was offended by those posts. We do not agree with, or condone, them and are in the process of handling them accordingly."

(Source: WSAZ News Channel)



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The 4th Indian Person to lead the Rotary: Sushil Kumar Gupta selected to be 2020-21 Rotary President



In the 110-year history of the Rotary International Rtn Gupta is the 4th Indian to lead the organization, which consists of 1.2 million Rotarians in over 170 countries.

NEW YORK (TIP): Sushil Kumar Gupta, of the Rotary Club of Delhi Midwest, Delhi, India, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2020-21. He will be declared the president-nominee on 1 October if no challenging candidates have been suggested.

Gupta wants to increase Rotary's humanitarian impact as well as the diversity of its membership.

"As individuals, we can only do so much," Gupta said in a statement. "But when 1.2 million Rotarians work together, there is no limit to what we can achieve, and in the process, we can truly

change the world."

Gupta has been a Rotarian since 1977 and has served Rotary as district governor, training leader, and resource group adviser, and as a member, vice chair, or chair of several committees.

Sushil Kumar Gupta, of the Rotary Club of Delhi Midwest, Delhi, India, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2020-21.

He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the IIS University, Jaipur, in recognition of his contributions to water conservation.

He has also received the coveted Padma Shri Award, the fourth-highest civilian award in India, conferred by the president of India for distinguished service to tourism and social work.

Gupta has also received the Distinguished Service Award from The Rotary Foundation for his support of its humanitarian and educational programs. He and his wife, Vinita, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation and members of the Arch Klumph Society.

Gupta is chair and managing director of Asian Hotels (West) Ltd., and owner of Hyatt Regency Mumbai and JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity. He has served as president of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India and on the board of directors of Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. He is the president of Experience India Society, a public-private partnership between the tourism industry and the government of India that promotes India as a tourist destination.

He is also vice chair of the Himalayan Environment Trust and serves on the board of Operation Eyesight Universal in India. There are 16 members of the Nominating Committee for the 2020-21 President of the Rotary International.

Sushil Gupta is a founding patron of the Gift of Life India, since its inception in 2002. He currently also serves an advisor. Past District Governor Ravishankar Bhooplapur honored him in 2012, at the Crest Hollow Country Club on Long Island, with an Angel Award for his outstanding humanitarian services and help for setting up Gift of Life India project. Gift of Life India so far has saved 6,000 children's lives.

In the 110-year history of the Rotary International he is the 4th Indian to lead the organization, which consists of 1.2 million Rotarians in over 170 countries. We have no doubt he will take the Rotary to the next level. (Contributed by Teresa Schmedding)

Drive East Festival Featuring ICCR sponsored Artists to be presented in New York and San Francisco

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): On Thursday, August 02, 2018 Consulate General of India & Navatman Inc. presented Drive East Opening Night at the Consulate wherein Navatman's Co-Artistic Director - Sridhar Shanmugam and Sahasra Sambamoorthi announced the schedule for their annual Indian dance and music festival - Drive East. This year Consulate is participating in "Drive East" with an ICCR sponsored Kathak! Ensemble.

Navatman, Inc., is an organization dedicated to supporting the Indian classical arts, emphasizing Indian classical music and dance. This year, Navatman will present 35 concerts in 14 days and in 2 major cities - New York (August 13-19) and San Francisco (August 22-26) at the LaMama

Experimental Theater Group and in San Francisco, California, at the Joe Goode Annex.

From Bharatanatyam to ghazals, Drive East will present international, award-winning artists from all over the world. However, the highly anticipated performance is in New York on Friday, August 17 of Kathak, by a group of acclaimed performers from India produced by Battery Dance Company, sponsored by Indian Council of Cultural Relations and Consulate General of India, New York. Kathak will feature acclaimed Kathak dancers - Sandip Mallick & group with Anuj Mishra and group. Joining them will be Piyush Chauhan and Preeti Sharma. The entire schedule for Drive East is available on <http://www.driveeastnyc.org/index.html>

contd from page 3

IAAC announces the appointment of Dr. Nirmal Mattoo...

Dr. Mattoo stated, "Aroon has been a trailblazer in fostering the arts and the artist community in a non-judgmental, nurturing manner that has inspired love, understanding, pride and joy. Her pioneering effort has resulted in a vibrant week-long film festival, a stimulating book festival, ecstatic dance and music festivals, an art festival and much, much more. She has built a supportive group of patrons that exceeds 64,000 in the Tri State area which is an outstanding accomplishment. Many cultural organizations across America have been incubated by Aroon by interning those who wanted to emulate her creation."

Aroon Shivdasani stated, "The IAAC Board had a choice among many parties who wanted to take responsibility for IAAC but concluded that nobody else could match the fiduciary spirit that Dr. Mattoo would bring to the IAAC mission and in taking it to the next level. I am truly fortunate that IAAC brand has generated such a positive response over the years from the community. I thank my key team members Aseem Chhabra, Ramneek Kang, Nili Lakhani, Rohan Gupta, Monty Kataria, Abhi Chintakunta, Suman Gollamudi and the hundreds of volunteers who joined me in this cause. I truly look forward to supporting the team and the new Board in achieving their goals."

Ambassador Chakravorty presented Aroon Shivdasani with an award plaque and also a shawl in recognition of her services. He stressed the importance of propagating Indian arts. Dr. Mattoo also presented Aroon with a plaque on behalf of IAAC.

Dr. Mattoo announced the appointment of the new Executive Director of IAAC, Mr. Sunil Hali, as also incoming Vice Chairman of the Board, Rakesh Kaul, Board Members Anil Bansal, Anurag Harsh and Rajeev Kaul while Professor S. Sridhar, Yakub Mathew and Gaurav Verma join the Advisory Board.

Dr. Mattoo stated, "Sunil Hali is a leader in the field of South Asian media, art and entertainment field and marketing. Besides founding and guiding premium media properties such as The Indian Express North American Edition and Divya Bhaskar and biggest South Asian Radio Zindagi, and television channels such as GARV SHREE and PTC Punjabi, he has launched several iconic corporate brands in North America. He was the organizer for historic The Music Festival of India (1997), Building India Excellence Awards (2016), Zee Gold Bollywood Awards (2000) among others. In total, he has organized over 200 community festivals-events which is a testimony to the formidable strengths that he brings to the IAAC mission of community goodwill and understanding. We are fortunate that he has accepted this role."

Sunil Hali said, "I am humbled by the community opportunity that has been entrusted in me by Dr. Mattoo. I will count on his support, and that of the Board and my IAAC executive team. I thank Aroon for her commitment to continue as an advocate of IAAC and support me. I am pleased to announce that our very first event will be a literary event with noted author Ramchandra Guha on October 2nd followed by a grand music festival featuring the world famous Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, and his sons Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan, at the Zankel at Carnegie Hall in October 2018. We will hold the always exciting New York Indian Film Festival from May 7th to May 12th, 2019. More details and event announcements will follow in due course."

Dr. Mattoo continued, "I am pleased to announce new IAAC Board appointments. They bring an eclectic background and exemplify the renaissance spirit that IAAC promotes."

Rakesh Kaul will be joining as Vice Chairman of the Board and will support Dr. Mattoo in the mission ahead. Rakesh is a successful author, technologist, business leader with a strong record of contributing to the arts and nurturing non-profit initiatives. His experience and learnings as Chairman of the Board of the largest marketing services company in the world, serving the non-profit sector, will be invaluable in scaling up IAAC.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

contd from page 3

Sohum Sukhatankar wins 2018...

The South Asian Spelling Bee celebrated a decade of bees, which included some special guests at the finals such as 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee National Champion, Sravanth Malla and 2014 South Asian Spelling Bee National Champion, Gokul Venkatachalam.

"It fills my heart to see such talented young spellers from across the country who make us proud as a community. The initiative is unique in its reach and engagement and this year with the introduction of the SAS-Bee program we were able to give even more spellers the opportunity to win it all and raise the bar even higher. My heartiest congratulations to the winner," said Rahul Wallia, Founder.

The initiative was open to children up to 14 years of age and was held in 7 regional centers across the United States. These areas included, New Jersey, DC Metro area, Dallas, Chicago, Bay Area, Charlotte, and the returning international center in Ghana.

Over 600 spellers from these centers participated from

which 24 finalists took the stage at the Finals. 12 of which were through the new SAS-Bee program introduced this year.

"We are extremely happy with Sohum's win at the Bee as today's South Asian kids are all-rounders and highly dedicated to their craft. We produced a special section called "Meet the Spellers where the viewers will have an opportunity to get to know some of the spellers including Sohum better," said Tim Tan, Managing Director, Kawan Food, makers of the world's most popular Roti Paratha Brand in the world - Kawan Paratha.

"Nail Biting contest year after year and I personally was unable to get up during the bee! It's amazing to see the pool of talent from our community and am happy for Sohum Sukhatankar's win and excited to get to know him and some of the other spellers better in the "Meet the Speller" series airing shortly on Sony," said Jaideep Janakiram, Head of North America, Sony Entertainment Television-Asia.

Children up to 14 years of age were eligible to participate and the contest saw spellers of even 6 years of age compete and make it past a few rounds. Registration for 2019 will open in October this year and for more information and to register your child, please visit www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com.

Find us on Facebook at South Asian Spelling Bee and you can follow us on our Twitter handle at Spell South Asian.

About Touchdown Media Inc.: Touchdown Media Inc. is a specialized South Asian advertising and promotions firm based in New Jersey. Now in its 16th successful year, Touchdown has helped clients, both mainstream and otherwise, reach out to the lucrative South Asian market. Touchdown Media represents more than 35 years of collective experience in this niche market. As a full-service ad firm, Touchdown has helped many clients achieve their media and marketing goals within the South Asian diaspora in the United States.

About Sony Entertainment Television Asia: Since its launch on the Indian subcontinent in 1995, Sony Entertainment Television (SET) has enjoyed rapid success, leading to the establishment of European, North American and African feeds known as SET Asia. SET and SET Asia are now available in over 150 countries. The channels offer their viewers a distinctive blend of entertainment programs twenty-four hours a day, including, soap operas, dramas, sitcoms, concerts, movies, and game shows. For more information, visit www.setasia.tv.

New 'Know India Program' for STARTALK Hindi students

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, NJ (TIP): Students in the United States enrolled in the US funded Startalk Hindi Summer Programs, will have a new opportunity to further their literacy skills: starting 2019 they could travel to India under the 'Know India Program', exclusively designed for them.

Making this announcement at the Graduation Event of Sangam-Franklin Startalk Hindi Program in Franklin Township, NJ, August 2, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, the Consul General of India, said that the new 'KIP' program will be launched in the summer of 2019. He was responding to a suggestion made by Ashok Ojha, program director of the Sangam-Franklin Startalk Hindi Program. Ojha suggested that 'Know India Program' should be expanded to include Startalk Hindi learners so that students could continue Hindi learning in the native setting.

The Consul-General of India was speaking as the Chief Guest of the Graduation ceremony where he extended his support to promotional and educational initiatives for Hindi. He said that India is a multi-lingual country where more than two dozen languages flourish. "The Government of India was committed to support all Indian languages as they were strong vehicles for strengthening our culture and friendship with USA", he commented. Later the Consul-General distributed completion certificates to Sangam-Franklin STARTALK Hindi Program students, most of who were born and being raised in USA. During his interaction with students the Consul-General took out the tricolor pin from his coat and presented to one of the students who had expressed interest in the tricolor pin the Consul General was wearing.

'Know India Program' is a three-week orientation program conducted by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for Diaspora youth aimed at promoting awareness about India and its accomplishments in various fields. The program provides a unique forum for students of Indian origin to visit India, share their views and experiences and to develop closer bonds with the contemporary India.

According to Ojha, Startalk, a federally funded three-week summer intensive program, offers a robust summer intensive program for Hindi learners in USA where authentic audio-visual teaching material is



India's Consul General (third from right) Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty attended the Valedictory Event of SANGAM-FRANKLIN STARTALK HINDI PROGRAM 2019 as the Chief Guest. The event was held on August 2, 2018, the final day of the three-week program. Chakravorty announced a new 'KIP' program for STARTALK Hindi students starting 2019. Dr. John Ravally, Superintendent, Franklin Township Board of Education, also addressed the gathering. Ashok Ojha, Program Director, Sangam-Franklin STARTALK Hindi Program (second from left) presented an overview of the program while Purnima Desai, Vice-Chair, Hindi Sangam Foundation (third from left) welcomed the guests.

used to provide comprehensible language and cultural input to all students. He said that Sangam-Franklin STARTALK Hindi Language and culture Camp was conducted by Hindi Sangam Foundation, a New Jersey based non-profit organization in collaboration with Franklin Township Board of Education. "During the program students performed role plays, songs and skits to present messages of unity, honesty and integrity. In groups students interviewed each other to find out their role models and what they liked about them. They created multimedia presentations related with various stories."

A number of invited guests including Dr. John Ravally, Superintendent of Franklin Township Board of Education, Daniel Lougharn, Assistant Superintendent, Rajiv Prasad, Franklin Councilman, members of Indian-American community and parents attended the valedictory event. Mrs. Purnima Desai, Vice Chair, Hindi Sangam Foundation, presented a cultural song in praise of Hindi. She also presented certificates to students. Instructors of the program directed students to perform a variety of theatrical performances.

Ojha said that 50 Middle and High School students were enrolled in the program, out of

which 36 completed. The program started on July 16 at Franklin High School, Somerset and ended on August 2, 2018. "The aim of selecting authentic material is to integrate language content and culture in all our teaching material. We provide Hindi texts in comprehensible manner, so students could understand cultural products and share it with their friends in Hindi. Throughout the day we engage them into many theater-based activities and enactments in order to empower them with the language and culture", he said. Sangam-Franklin Startalk Program was launched in 2016. Since then more than one hundred students have improved their Hindi skills.

"The three-week program was divided into three parts of 'Personal and Family Stories', 'Cultural Stories about animals and birds' and contemporary stories about role models, each of which was implemented in a week. Various forms of traditional storytelling such as puppetry and street performances were used by instructors during the program", Ojha explained, "Our program is very popular among Middle and High School students where they are taught by STARTALK trained instructors. They also practice yoga during the program and experience authentic Indian



Consul-General Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty took out the tricolor pin from his coat and presented to one of the students during the event.

meals every day."

Ojha also directed another STARTALK program in partnership with North Penn School District in Lansdale, PA from July 18 to July 6 where he taught 45 Elementary and Middle Schools. The overarching theme of the program was, 'My virtual trip to India'. "We enrolled Heritage learners at both programs where students are engaged in varieties of language functions and learn to apply it in real life situations.

About Hindi Sangam Foundation and Yuva Hindi Sansthan: These two NJ based organizations are involved in promotion of Hindi through conferences and educational activities in USA and beyond. Ashok Ojha is the president of both organizations. He can be reached by phone on 732-318-9891 and by email: aojha2008@gmail.com

Vicky Kohhli completed first Kahaniyan Show in NJ

NEW JERSEY (TIP): Philadelphia based Bollywood Singer/Songwriter Vicky Kohhli who is coming with new music album KAHANIYAAN did a grand rock concert in New Jersey to promote his new song.

Various community leaders, like Rajeev Bhambri from 8K miles media and India Abroad, Sunil Hali Exec. Director Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC), Col. Virendra Tavathia and Seema Jagtiani from Shradhaa Foundation came to grace the occasion. Talking to media, Vicky said this is the first show of multi-city tour he has planned to do within USA to promote his new song. He said this is the most direct way and efficient way of marketing his song just like old days rock bands used to do in America. The show was a great success and guests had a great time dancing to Bollywood tunes, Punjabi Challa and Jugni in Vicky's own Rock style as well as Vicky's original songs including KAHANIYAAN which has great potential to be the next hit song.

(Based on a press release)




**GUEST
COMMENT**

Russia's pro-Pakistan tilt: India must not allow old ally to slip away

The signs have been ominous for the past four years. By the time PM Modi arrived at his 'Barack' moment, Russia had read South Block's signals of apathy and inked an agreement on defense cooperation with Pakistan. Meandering through a naval agreement and sale of Mi helicopters, the Russia-Pakistan security relationship has moved well past Cold War hostilities to enter a more intimate phase of training Pakistani troops in Russian institutes. Pakistan may have taken the plunge because the US, its steady pole of security cooperation, is more interested in a settlement in Afghanistan rather than shoring up Pakistan army's arsenal.

But for India's policy planners this is a moment of reflection. Russia is not just a consistent supplier of cheap and sturdy military equipment. Both sides have taken comfort in the other's company at times of international distress - India backed Moscow to the hilt on Afghanistan while Russia bailed out India on Kashmir with its vetoes. There was also a healthy dose of self-interest involved: Russia backed India in the 1971 war to pay back Pakistan for arranging a secret summit between Nixon and Mao. For India, Moscow provided a reliable hedge against geopolitical arm-twisting by the West during the Cold War.

Indian diplomacy may be on the wrong side of history if it is steering away from Russia. Along with Iran and China, Russia has lately become indispensable in the region. In addition, much is going on with Russia to permit it to drift away. Moscow's mediation, in fact, can prove useful in bringing together Pakistan and India on Afghanistan, which could lead to the breaking of the Indo-Pak diplomatic ice. PM Modi's informal meeting in May with Vladimir Putin would have attempted a course correction, reflecting the unease in the Indian establishment over the current state of affairs. Russia is currently in a spot of bother; a helping hand at this juncture is likely to be more than appreciated.

(Tribune, India)



By Happymon Jacob

The victory of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the recent general elections in Pakistan poses both challenges and opportunities for India. The challenge would be to engage a newly minted Pakistani Prime Minister who is yet to reveal his way of conducting diplomacy. The opportunity, even so, lies in the fact that the rise of Mr. Khan will enable India to deal with the Pakistani 'deep state' more effectively.

Mr. Khan's 'victory speech' had several well-meaning and conciliatory references to India which, if logically followed up, could potentially yield long-term benefits for the two countries. But it may be unrealistic to expect much movement in bilateral ties till India's own general elections are concluded.

A popular leader

Despite allegations of a rigged election in Pakistan in which the army is said to have enabled Mr. Khan's victory, it is widely recognized that there was a major groundswell of support for him. The fact that his PTI left the rival Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) far behind in terms of seat share, and that the PTI, until recently a provincial party, made stunning inroads in all of Pakistan's provinces shows that the big story is also the rise of a charismatic Pakistani political leader seen as incorruptible and visionary by young voters.

More significantly, despite concerns in India, religious parties have once again failed to convert their street power into political outcomes, which goes to highlight the sheer lack of mass base for terror outfits and their affiliates in Pakistan, and the moderate nature of its polity. This is not to say that Mr. Khan has a clean record: he has been a supporter of Pakistan's blasphemy law and has in the past flirted with rightwing parties and terror outfits in Pakistan, which earned him the moniker 'Taliban Khan'.

The central Indian concern, and a legitimate one, about Mr. Khan's victory is whether he can independently navigate a sustained policy process with New Delhi. India fears that the Pakistani deep state, i.e. the army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), will decide the India policy, and Mr. Khan will merely carry it out, if he is kept in the loop at all. A related concern is that the Pakistani deep state is not keen on a dialogue process with New Delhi. While it is difficult to predict the nature of the evolving relationship between an extremely popular Mr. Khan with the Pakistani deep state, let's assume, for argument's sake, that Mr. Khan will be subservient to the Pakistan army with regard to the country's security policy. Whether that is desirable for the Pakistani state and its democracy is not a question that should detain us here.

The question that should bother us is whether Mr. Khan being a puppet in the hands of the Pakistan army is detrimental to Indian interests or not. India's grievance in regard to

AS I SEE IT

ENGAGING NAYA PAKISTAN

Imran Khan offers a chance to deal with Pakistan's deep state, but no outcome is likely before the Lok Sabha polls



Imran Khan has pitched for peace with India, saying "blame game is hurting both nations"

civil-military relations so far has been three-fold: one, the Pakistani deep state has a nefarious agenda vis-à-vis India; two, dialogue with the Pakistani political establishment has often not been successful since the Pakistani security establishment is often not on board the dialogue process; three, New Delhi's desire for peace becomes a casualty in the turf war between Pakistan's deep state and its political establishment.

Logically then, one could argue that the only way India can have a steady dialogue process with Pakistan is when there is agreement between Pakistan's deep state and its Prime Minister on what the country's India policy should be. If so, Mr. Khan's closeness to the Pakistan army should be viewed as an opportunity to have a fruitful dialogue with the Pakistani deep state without New Delhi's message to Rawalpindi getting lost in Islamabad. New Delhi, while engaged in a dialogue with Islamabad, would not need to second-guess Rawalpindi's intentions.

Does the Pakistan army desire peace with India? Pakistan's Army Chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, has on several occasions spoken of the need to build peace with India, underscoring that bilateral dialogue can lead to peace and stability in the region. There is, of course, no need to take it at face value. However, if the Pakistan army proposes dialogue and if the new Prime Minister is assumed to be on board such an objective, wouldn't it suit Indian interests?

This begets more questions. Can this new-found civil-military equation in Pakistan withstand the force of Mr. Khan's personality traits and Pakistan's political dynamics in the days ahead? Will Mr. Khan's relationship with the deep state continue as expected or will his unpredictable temperament create more confusion? One would have to wait and watch.

The China question

Yet another angle that needs to be factored in while engaging Naya Pakistan is the rising regional influence of China and the further strengthening of China-Pakistan ties. Both the Pakistan army and the political class in Pakistan are upbeat about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Chinese investments in Pakistan, notwithstanding Mr. Khan's initial reservations about China. It is possible that China could pacify some of

Pakistan's revisionist tendencies towards both Afghanistan and India. In Wuhan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to carry out joint projects in Afghanistan. This is perhaps the opportune time to implement them. If (and that's a big 'if') Beijing can get the Pakistan army to agree to a reconciliation process in Afghanistan, and if New Delhi and Beijing can collaborate in Afghanistan, we may witness some move towards regional stability. This would be helped by Mr. Khan's desire to improve Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

The Kashmir hurdle

In this plausible scenario, Kashmir is likely to be the wild card. Two lessons stand out from earlier India-Pakistan negotiations: talks with Pakistan are unlikely to succeed if Kashmir continues to be a domestic challenge for India; and talks with Kashmiri separatists will not get anywhere without a parallel process with Pakistan. In other words, unless New Delhi reaches out to Kashmiri separatists and to Pakistan in parallel, a dialogue process with Pakistan is unlikely to succeed. Given that the Bharatiya Janata Party - after having pulled out of a difficult coalition with the Peoples Democratic Party in Jammu and Kashmir - is gearing up to use the Kashmir issue in the upcoming elections, there is unlikely to be much appetite in New Delhi to open a serious dialogue with Kashmiris, and Pakistan.

In any case, Mr. Modi might not want to take a chance with Pakistan at this point since a failure to show anything substantive from a peace process with Pakistan could have domestic political implications, especially if ceasefire violations and terror attacks continue to take place.

Therefore, notwithstanding the positive statements from Mr. Khan and Mr. Modi's gracious phone call to him, we might not witness much progress in bilateral ties in the short term. The interlude between the general elections in Pakistan and India is a period of extreme caution and careful domestic calculations, and hence not conducive for bold foreign policy initiatives, especially on something as fraught as India-Pakistan relations.

(The author is Associate Professor of Disarmament Studies at JNU, New Delhi)

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WHITEWASHING INDIA'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



By Mike Ghouse

India has an impeccable history of welcoming the stranger and giving refuge to the oppressed, rejected and the evicted. She has welcomed Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians and the Baha'is. Indeed, the very first mosque built outside of Arabia was in India by a Hindu King in the state of Malabar. The Tibetan Buddhist refugees found a home in India; the Ahmadiyya Muslims felt secure, so were the displaced Bangladeshi and Afghan refugees.

This beautiful pluralistic 5000-year-old tradition of India is in peril now. BJP and its affiliates (The Sangh Parivar) that govern India "currently" are hell-bent on destroying that heritage. They want to force non-Hindus into obedience and tell them what they can eat or believe, and whom they can marry or live as 2nd class citizens. They want to free India from Christians and Muslims and plan to convert them by 2025 to Hinduism. Indeed, the ISIS had given similar options to the Christians and Yazidis.

Make no mistake about it; Hinduism is a religion of peace like all other religions. The problem is not between people of faith, but the radicals. A few Indian American organizations linked to the Sangh Parivar want to whitewash the situation. They want to portray that everything is hunky dory in India.

Hunky dory it is not, the Congressmen and Senators are fully conversant of the harassment, lynching, raping and killing of Christians, Dalits, Muslims, Sikhs, Atheists and others in India.

It is time for the Indian Americans to save the honor of India and restore her pluralistic heritage that got derailed in the last four years.

The prosperity of a nation stands on her two firm legs; economic growth and social cohesion, one will not sustain without the other. If the minorities continue to live in apprehension and fear, the whole nation gets engaged in useless battles and the prosperity will come to a grinding halt, and the country will limp until it reaches a new life or loses all that was achieved. The confidence of foreign investments in a nation spurs the growth, India's IT industry, call centers, and businesses have

Make no mistake about it; Hinduism is a religion of peace like all other religions. The problem is not between people of faith, but the radicals.

raised the standard of living for many. As long as the investors feel secure about their investments they will pump in more funds. However, when they see chaos emerging with the nations discriminative practices, harassment, lynching, rapes and killing of the minorities, they will pull out and everyone stands to lose.

It was embarrassing to note the missing presence of India at the religious freedom conference held by the Department of State in July 2018. If the violations continue, India may get stamped as a "Country of Particular Concern" for violations of religious freedom. It will hurt India, particularly the business community and the information technology sector.

The whitewash report produced by the Hindu America Foundation is understandable. No Indian wants India to lose, but neither should we compromise on the truth to look good. We hope to produce an accurate state of the union; after all, India's emblem includes the phrase, Satyameva Jayate - Truth triumphs.

The majority of Indians of all faiths believe in Pluralism, i.e., respecting the otherness of other. It is not Hindus either, but the radicals among Hindus that are causing the problems with the subtle encouragement from the BJP government.

Quotes from the HAF, reported by Jha;

"The Indian government provides "unprecedented" religious accommodations to its religious minority population, says a report by a US-based Hindu advocacy group."

The truth is far from it. It sounds like the majority is doing a favor to the minorities in 'accommodating' them. It is like saying "we give equal rights to women" who the hell are we to give them their rights, to begin with, the rights were theirs. Indeed, every Indian is guaranteed those rights; we are all equal citizens. No one has more privileges than the other.

"To bring greater stability to the region and prevent the growth of radical Islamist and Communist/Maoist terrorism." This statement is too hypocritical and divisive to exclude radical Hindutva terrorism from the list. The issue is not with Hindus or Muslims; it is with radicals among them.

"Overall, it seeks to show the broader story of religious freedom and pluralism in India, which is often not, reflected in the media or US policy circles." Indeed, India was a pluralist nation until the Hindutva brigade took over the country four years ago.



We need to come together and appeal to the Government of India, to issue visas to the commissioners of the USCIRF to investigate the Sikh Genocide, Massacre of Muslims in Gujarat, killing of Christians, Rapes, and lynching of Dalits, and harassment of Sikhs. If the commission gives a clean certificate, it will help boost the investor confidence in India; on the other hand, if India's record is of particular concern, then it is time to fix it than pretending to be holier than thou.

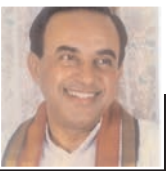
I would appeal to the Hindu America Foundation to issue press releases condemning the lynching of Muslims, killing of Christians, harassment of Dalits and Atheists, by condemning each event, it will give them the credibility to be a legitimate pluralist organization for Human rights.

We will also write a letter urging Prime Minister Modi to speak out forcefully against harassment of any Indian and pledge that no Indian has more privileges than the other. Ambassador Sam Brownback says, if evil acts get condemned as they occur, they will be choked and will not see the light of the day.

(The author is president of the Center for Pluralism and is committed to fostering cohesive societies where no human has to live in apprehension or fear of the other)

QUESTIONS OF FAITH AT AYODHYA

We need to carefully understand the issues before the Supreme Court



By Subramanian Swamy

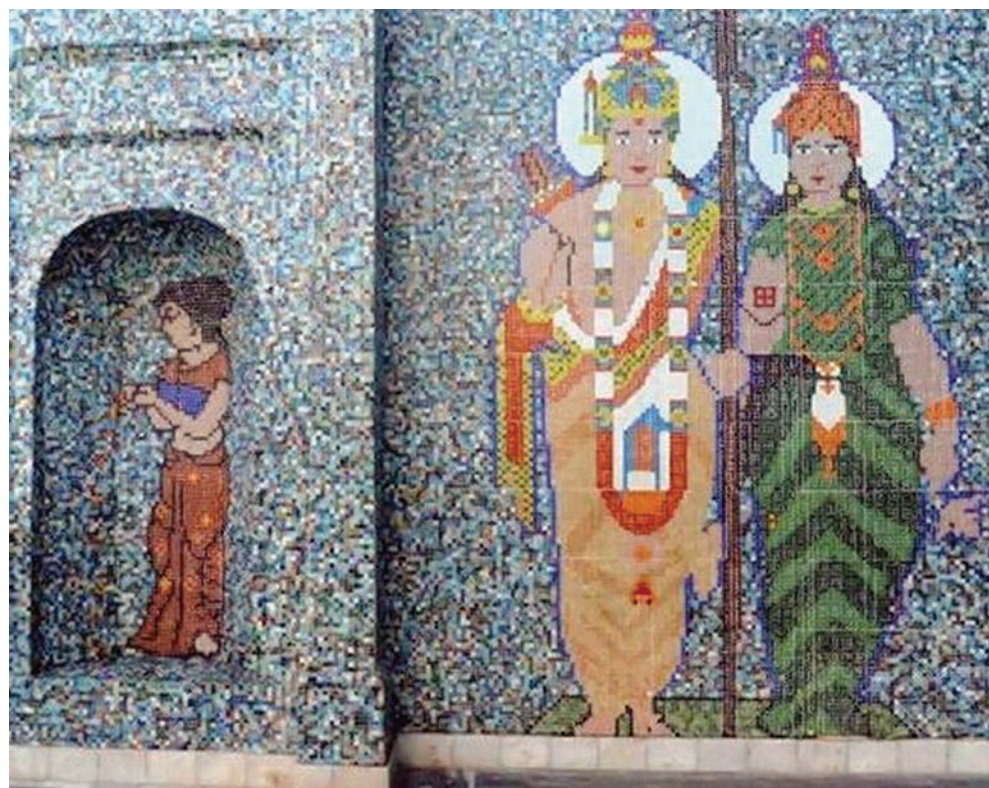
This refers to A. Faizur Rahman's article "The essentiality of mosques" (The Hindu, August 7, 2018). He says that the Supreme Court needs to reconsider the Ismail Faruqi verdict, in which it stated that a mosque is not essential to Islam. Instead of arguing his case, Mr. Rahman blandly states: "A reading of the Koran and authentic traditions of the Prophet make clear the significance of the mosque in Islam." This is, at best, a circular argument and, at worst, a terrible obfuscation.

Misreading the Constitution

It is also a misreading of the Constitution of India to state, as the writer does, that Articles 25 and 26 guarantee Muslims an unfettered fundamental right to pray in a mosque. Fundamental rights in our Constitution are not absolute, and are subject to reasonable restrictions of morality, health, and public order.

It is now established that Babri Masjid was a structure constructed by invaders, and after demolishing a pre-existing temple. The Supreme Court in 1994 had directed the Allahabad High Court to verify this by scientific methods.

The High Court then asked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to determine and verify this fact. A team of two top archaeologists, B.B. Lal and K.K. Mohammed, in 2002 deployed the most scientific tools and unanimously concluded that there



was indeed an extensive temple complex in ruins under the site where the Babri Masjid structure had stood.

The High Court accepted this finding and relied on the same in depth in its 2010 judgment of 1,000 printed pages, now available in three bound volumes. It is this judgment that the Sunni Waqf Board has appealed against in the Supreme Court. Before the Supreme Court today are two sets of petitions being considered.

The first is a civil suit appeal against the High Court judgment, viz., on questions of who the "disputed" Ayodhya site belongs to. The second is my writ petition seeking enforcement of my fundamental right to pray at the site where Rama was born. Many devout Hindus believe that Bhagwan Sri Rama was born at a particular spot in Ayodhya, the then capital of a flourishing kingdom of the Suryavamsa dynasty.

Imam-e-Hind

Rama is venerated as Maryada Purushottam and worshipped by Hindus in the north as an avatar of Vishnu, while some Tamil saints known as Nayanmars and Alvars composed many hymns and songs dedicated to his divinity. In that sense, Sri Rama was the first truly national king of India, supra region, supra varna or jati. That is why the poet Mohammed Iqbal called him 'Imam-e-Hind'.

The exact spot of the palace where Rama was born has been - and remains - firmly identified in the Hindu mind and is held sacred. This is the very area where stood, from 1528 till December 6, 1992, a structure that came to be known as Babri Masjid, put up by Babar's commander, Mir Baqi.

Posed as it is, my petition should prevail in the Supreme Court since my fundamental right is a superior right in law compared to the ordinary right to property as claimed by the Sunni Waqf Board.

It is thus to forestall the superior right of worship at Ram Janmabhoomi from prevailing, and to buy time till the next general elections, that the lawyers engaged by the Sunni Waqf Board have introduced this new prayer (which was not raised at the High Court level), of setting up a larger Constitution Bench to reconsider the 1994 five-judge Constitution Bench judgment that a mosque is not "an essential part" of the Islamic religion. This is also the view of prominent Islamic scholars.

To argue otherwise, as Mr. Rahman does, is nothing but a part of a legal strategy to obfuscate and delay the apex court judgment.

(The author is a member of the Rajya Sabha and a former Union Law Minister)

Imran Khan finalizing his federal cabinet

Arif Alvi, Pervaiz Khattak, Faisal Javed, Ch Sarwar being considered for federal cabinet posts



Imran Khan , #PrimeMinister of Pakistan ❤️
Early education (Atchison College Lahore), and(Royal Grammer School) England,. Philosophy,politics and Economics Graduation (Oxford). Honourary Fellowship (Royal College of Physicians) England

ISLAMABAD (TIP): With date of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan taking oath as Prime Minister of Pakistan drawing near, various names are emerging as possible members of the federal cabinet.

While names of Asad Umar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Dr Shireen Mazari seems have been finalized for finance, foreign affairs and defense ministries, candidates for interior, education, information, human rights, parliamentary affairs, inter-provincial relations, Kashmir affairs, health, communication, water & power, petroleum & natural resources, interfaith harmony, religious affairs, climate change, trade & commerce, privatization and railways are yet to be finalized.

The ultimate decision to select the members of the federal cabinet lies with chairman of the party, a party official told Gulf News. "Whoever is picked by Imran Khan for the federal cabinet will carry forward his vision and fulfil his agenda for change, the official said.

Everyone is looking at Imran Khan's choice as he has promised to select 'a right man for the right job' in his cabinet, the party official said.

According to PTI sources, the party has done some homework and a number of names are under consideration for appointment as the federal ministers.

According to sources, former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Pervaiz Khattak is likely to be appointed as the interior minister.

The name General (retired) Ashfaq Nadeem has been in news to be picked as National Security Adviser. General Nadeem has also served as Director General Military Operations and the Chief of General Staff.

Names Dr Babar Awan, Naem Bukhari and Hamid Khan are being considered for the post and law and justice minister and one of them can be appointed as the attorney general.

Senator Faisal Javed, a close confidant of Imran Khan, may get the portfolio of information & broadcasting, said the sources. For the post of education minister, Imran Khan may choose former Governor of Punjab Chaudhary Mohammad Sarwar.

Human rights ministry, according to party's insiders can go to Shafqat Mehmood who has been quite instrumental in projecting party's enlightened, progressive image during last two decades, said the sources.

Name of young parliamentarian Zartaj Gul Wazir being considered as minister of climate change. Dr Aamir Liaquat may get the portfolio of religious affairs ministry and Dr Arif Alvi of inter-provincial harmony & parliamentary affairs, sources said.



Expected Defence Minister:Dr Shireen Mazari #PTI
BSc (London School of economics), Double Msc Military science and political science from same institution,, PHD political science colombia university USA



Expected Kpk Education Minister: Mr Kamran Bangash
Has passed CSS and now has left his job to join politics



Expected CM Punjab: Shafqat Mehmood
Early Education, GC lahore.Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University , United States of America in 1981, master degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Southern California.Came to Pakistan and cleared his CSS exam.He has served the civil service of Pakistan for about 12 years. He served as assistant commissioner in Murree and Pakpattan ,after which he was posted as a provincial deputy secretary in Lahore .He also served as deputy commissioner in Gujranwala and DG Khan and also as additional commissioner Afghan Refugees Organisation for quite some time in 1985. He was additional secretary finance in Punjab during 1988-89 and later served as joint secretary PM's Secretariat from 1989 to 1990.



Expected Minister of Religious Affairs: Azam Sawati
M.A. Economics & Political Science, LL.B, LL.M of International Law from University of Houston. Dr. of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law in 1990 and then passed Texas Bar and became Attorney-at-Law in Texas, USA



Expected Foreign Minister:Shah Mahmood Qureshi #PTI
Early education (Atchison College),Bachelors in History (FC college),Masters in Law and Masters in politics (Cambridge UK)



Expected Environment Minister: Malik Amin Aslam.
Early education from atchison, Bsc environmental engineering UET lahore. MS Environmental Sciences from Oxford and MBA from Canada.



Expected Deputy speaker: Zartaj Gul
Belonging from Fata breaking stereotypes won against the sardars of DG Khan. She is a graduate of NCA lahore.



Confirmed Finance Minister. Asad Umer.
Sitara-e-Imtiaz holder. MBA from IBA Karachi, was the highest GPA holder.He is known for being the highest ever paid CEO of Pakistan.



Expected CM Punjab: Dr Yasmeen Rashid.
Early education, Kinnaird college Lahore.
MBBS from King Edward Medical College. Served in Lady Willington Hospital and as Prof. of gynaecology in Ganga Ram Hospital.



Expected Speaker National Assembly: Dr Arif Alvi.
BDS (dentist) Demont Lahore, MA prosthodontics (University of Michigan), MA orthodontics (San francisco).



Expected Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Fawad Chaudhry
Son of former chief justice, studied law from GC University lahore. worked as anchor in ARY news and as spokesperson of Pervaiz Musharraf.



Expected Governor Punjab: Chaudhry Sarwar
Graduated from university of Faisalabad, Masters from University of Glasgow. First Pakistani to be elected in British Parliament and first one ever to take oath on Quran in Birth Parliament.

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Federal deficit jumps 20 percent after tax cuts, spending bill



WASHINGTON (TIP): The federal deficit jumped 20 percent in the first 10 months of the 2018 fiscal year, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported Wednesday, August 8.

Spending outpaced revenue between the beginning of the fiscal year, on Oct. 1, and July by \$682 billion, \$116 billion more than over the same period in the last fiscal year.

The rising deficit is largely the result of the tax cuts President Trump signed into law at the end of last year, as well as a bipartisan agreement to boost spending, according to CBO.

Tax revenues from individuals rose, even as revenues from corporate taxes dropped.

The Trump administration has argued that the tax cuts would bring down the deficit, as economic growth led to higher tax revenue. The economy did expand in the second quarter by 4.1 percent.

But economists have argued the growth would have to be much larger to reduce the deficit.

The CBO projects that the deficit will reach \$793 billion by the end of the year and approach \$1 trillion next year. White House estimates have the deficit surpassing \$1 trillion in 2019.

Budget watchers have warned that interest payments - the amount the Treasury has to pay just to service the debt - are slated to become the fastest-growing annual expenditure.

The CBO projects that in 30 years, the government will spend more on servicing debt than on Social Security or defense.

Flames inch close to California homes as thousands evacuate

CALIFORNIA (TIP): An intentionally set wildfire grew perilously close to homes in Southern California yesterday as evacuation orders expanded to more than 20,000 residents, though some homeowners stayed behind to fend off the flames themselves.

Firefighters fought a desperate battle to stop the Holy Fire from reaching homes as the blaze surged through the Cleveland National Forest above the city of Lake Elsinore and its surrounding communities. They were trying to keep the flames from devouring neighborhoods and taking lives, as gigantic fires still burning in Northern California have done.

"Our main focus this afternoon was getting everyone out safely," said Thanh Nguyen, a spokesman for the fire crews.

As flames raged closer, some residents stood in driveways or on top of roofs and used garden hoses to keep their homes wet and to fight the flames as smoke billowed around them.

Joe Rodriguez was using a power washer to wet down his patio in the McVicker Canyon Park neighborhood yesterday morning. Although the neighborhood is under an evacuation order, the 38-year-old Rodriguez told the San Bernardino Sun that he decided to stay to help save his home.

"Until this thing is barking at my door, I'm going to stick with it," he said. (AP)

A look at Paul Manafort trial until August 9: Key takeaways

ALEXANDRIA, VA.(TIP): Over the course of eight days, Paul Manafort's criminal-fraud trial has featured testimony about extravagant wardrobes, secret offshore bank accounts, fake loan applications and doctored bank accounts, an ostrich jacket and a fall from wealth, a USA Today report says.

The newspaper has listed certain takeaways from the trial until now.

The trial has attracted packed galleries to the federal courthouse each day, with U.S. District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III setting a pretty brisk pace for the proceedings, the first case to come to trial as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

The prosecution is expected to rest its case against President Donald Trump's former campaign manager as soon as Friday, the ninth day of the trial. As Manafort's defense team gets ready to take over, here are some key takeaways:

Prosecutors have offered substantial evidence from documents and witnesses saying Manafort and his business partner Rick Gates - who is testifying under a grant of immunity - established a web of secret offshore accounts, based mostly in Cyprus. Prosecutors allege they stashed and moved millions of dollars in unreported income to the U.S. to support Manafort's extravagant lifestyle.

An IRS revenue agent testified that, between



Paul Manafort at Alexandria Detention Center
Photo / courtesy Alexandria Sheriff's Office

2010 and 2014, Manafort moved \$16.4 million in untaxed income into the U.S. to pay bills for high-end clothing, cars and real estate.

As Manafort's lucrative consulting business in Ukraine began to dry up, his pursuit of bank loans took off. The government showed how Gates - at Manafort's direction - dummed documents to support the loan applications. Prosecutors said the applications were full of fraudulent claims, including classifying a rental property as a second home, and a failure

to disclose an existing mortgage on other property. In addition, Manafort's income was allegedly inflated by as much as \$4 million in documents submitted to the Bank of California, they said.

Gates' admission that he embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort came as a surprise and only raised more questions about his damaged character. But the government has a possible back-up: much of what is alleged against Manafort is contained in emails and bank documents.

Ellis, known for his wit and his impatience, has set a torrid pace in the Virginia courtroom. That could present a double-edged sword for the jury of six men and six women. Is testimony coming at the jury too fast for the six men and six women to grasp a complex white-collar case involving complicated international financial dealings? Or does the speed benefit the government by saving the jury from hours of dry testimony about incremental financial transactions?

Right now, the defense is a big question mark. Lead Manafort attorney Kevin Downing engaged in an aggressive effort to discredit Gates, pointing out how he stole from his former boss to pay for the expenses of a mistress in London. But their questioning of other government witnesses has been uneven and spare. Now it's their turn to present their case.

Trump Lawyers Submit a Counter offer to Mueller's Terms for Interview with the President

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Trump's lawyers on Wednesday, August 8, submitted a counteroffer to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's proposal for the terms of a possible interview with the president, the latest turn in the protracted negotiations over a sit-down stretching back to January, according to a report published in Wall Street Journal.

The counteroffer largely sticks to the terms the president's legal team outlined last month, a person familiar with the matter said: The president's lawyers would be open to questions about collusion with Russia but wished to limit inquiries related to obstruction of justice.

Rudy Giuliani, one of the president's lawyers, said in an interview that the team's proposal was "a little bit different than what we recommended before, but not terribly."

He said the legal team had "left open" the possibility to investigators that the president would answer a question on obstruction of justice "if they can show us an obstruction question that they need an answer to, where they haven't gotten an answer."

Mr. Giuliani said that in the special counsel's last offer, Mr. Mueller agreed to decrease the number of questions posed to the president but hasn't agreed to the Trump team's request to curb obstruction of justice inquiries.

A spokesman for Mr. Mueller, who has not publicly commented on the negotiations, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Mueller is investigating whether Trump associates colluded with Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. election, and whether Mr. Trump sought to obstruct justice by firing Federal Bureau of



Rudy Giuliani, a member of the legal team, says the new proposal is 'not terribly' different from what they recommended before

Investigation Director James Comey in May 2017, while the FBI's Russia probe was under way. Mr. Trump has repeatedly denied collusion and obstruction, and Moscow has denied election interference.

The special counsel's team of investigators and prosecutors has netted guilty pleas from several Trump campaign associates and

indictments of a dozen Russian intelligence officials on hacking charges, among other prosecutions. Mr. Trump's one-time campaign chairman Paul Manafort is currently being tried in Virginia on bank and tax fraud charges.

The special counsel this year outlined for the president's legal team more than 40 questions he planned to ask in a possible interview with Mr. Trump. The questions focused largely on the president's decision to fire Mr. Comey and his public criticisms of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and other top law-enforcement officials.

Mr. Giuliani has said the reasons Mr. Trump has given in public for firing the former FBI director are "more than sufficient" and that as president, he had the power to fire any member of his administration.

The president's legal team has been negotiating the terms of a possible interview with Mr. Mueller for more than eight months. Mr. Trump has said he is eager to sit down with Mr. Mueller. It is unclear how long the two sides will allow the negotiations to continue.

Mr. Giuliani said Wednesday that the legal team wants to see the Mueller investigation "over with" by Sept. 1, ahead of the November midterm elections. He said Mr. Trump's lawyers would make a final decision in the coming weeks whether or not the president would sit for an interview. The president's lawyers have previously offered timelines in which they would decide on an interview, only to see those end dates pass by.

"It really depends on how badly they want it," Mr. Giuliani said of an interview. "This is about the last couple of days that you can really putz around."

REMEMBERING OAK CREEK

Six years ago, on August 5, a neo-Nazi entered the Oak Creek Gurdwara and opened fire on the Sangat, killing six Sikh Americans and wounding four, in one of the worst acts of violence at a place of worship in US History. Join us in reflection on this terrible attack on our community that took the lives of Satwant Singh Kaleka, Paramjit Kaur, Sita Singh, Ranjit Singh, Prakash Singh, and Suveg Singh Khattria.

In the days, months, and years that have followed, we have seen the Sikh American, and wider American community, join together to dedicate themselves to Seva (selfless service), to hosting events to dispel misconceptions about Sikh Americans, and to support the families of the victims.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, as Americans we have shown that we are stronger when we come together as one people, and a unified nation.

In spite of the progress we have made as a nation and as a community there is still a lot of work to be done. In this past year we have seen a rise in hate crimes as stated by the FBI and even this past week there was a hate



crime committed near San Jose, CA. "At a time when divisive rhetoric has taken over our country, we have to remain vigilant while still staying in steadfast to our beliefs and principles," said SALDEF Executive Director Baldev Singh. "The Oak Creek

sangat remains a shining example for how Sikhs should be and help us keep renewed spirits of Chardhi Kala."

Join us to the honor the memory of the Sikh Americans killed at the Oak Creek Gurdwara by sharing your thoughts and prayers for the

families or the wider American community, via email or connecting with us on SALDEF's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #RememberOakCreek.

As always, we encourage you to practice your faith freely and with pride.

Judge blocks administration from deporting asylum seekers: threatens Jeff Sessions with contempt of court

The government reportedly tried to deport a woman and her daughter while their case was still being heard in court

WASHINGTON (TIP): A federal judge on Thursday, August 9, erupted at the Trump administration when he learned that two asylum seekers fighting deportation were at that moment being deported and on a plane to El Salvador, a CNN report says.

DC District Judge Emmet Sullivan then blocked the administration from deporting the two plaintiffs while they are fighting for their right to stay in the US -- reportedly excoriating the administration and threatening to hold Attorney General Jeff Sessions in contempt, according to the American Civil Liberties Union and The Washington Post.

The government raced to comply with the court's order, and by Thursday evening the immigrants had arrived back in Texas after being turned around on the ground in El Salvador.

They asked for asylum. Instead, they say they were sent to a prison and treated like criminals

They asked for asylum. Instead, they say they were sent to a prison and treated like criminals

Sullivan agreed with the ACLU that the immigrants they are representing in a federal lawsuit should not be deported while their cases are pending.

The emergency hearing in the case turned dramatic when attorneys discovered partway through the hearing that two of their clients were on a plane to El Salvador.

During court, Sullivan was incensed at the report that one of the plaintiffs was in the process of being deported, according to the ACLU and The Washington Post. Sullivan demanded to know why he shouldn't hold Sessions in contempt, according to the Post and the recollection of lead ACLU attorney Jennifer Chang Newell.

Chang Newell said the administration had pledged Wednesday that no one in the case would be deported until at least midnight at the end of Thursday. But during a recess in the proceedings Thursday, she got an email from attorneys on the ground in Texas that her client, known by the pseudonym Carmen, and



Jeff Sessions was threatened with contempt of court by the judge who ordered the plane carrying the two to be returned midair

Carmen's daughter had been taken from their detention center that morning and deported. After investigating during recess, she informed government attorneys and Sullivan what had happened.

"He said something like, 'I'm going to issue an order to show cause why I shouldn't hold the government in contempt, I'm going to start with the attorney general,'" Chang Newell said, explaining that Sullivan was suggesting he would issue an order that would require the government to explain why they didn't deserve to be held in contempt. Such an order has yet to be issued by the court.

He ordered the plane turned around or the clients brought back immediately, the ACLU said. "This is pretty outrageous," Sullivan said,

according to the Post. "That someone seeking justice in US court is spirited away while her attorneys are arguing for justice for her?" "I'm not happy about this at all," he continued, adding it was "not acceptable."

The lawsuit was brought by immigrants only referred to by their pseudonyms in court: Grace, Mina, Gina, Mona, Maria, Carmen and her daughter J.A.C.F. and Gio.

After the hearing, Sullivan issued an emergency order halting the deportation of any of the immigrants as he considers whether he has broader authority in the case.

Sullivan also ordered that if the two being deported were not returned, Sessions, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Citizenship and Immigration Services Director

During court, Sullivan was incensed at the report that one of the plaintiffs was in the process of being deported, according to the ACLU and The Washington Post. Sullivan demanded to know why he shouldn't hold Sessions in contempt, according to the Post and the recollection of lead ACLU attorney Jennifer Chang Newell.

Lee Francis Cissna and Executive Office for Immigration Review Director James McHenry would have to appear in court and say why they should not be held in contempt.

The lawsuit brought by the ACLU is challenging a recent decision by Sessions to make it nearly impossible for victims of domestic violence and gangs to qualify for asylum in the US. That decision was followed by implementation guidance from the Department of Homeland Security that almost immediately began turning away potentially thousands of asylum seekers at the southern border.

According to their lawsuit, Carmen and her young daughter came to the US from El Salvador after "two decades of horrific sexual abuse by her husband and death threats from a violent gang." Even after Carmen moved away from her husband, he raped her, stalked her and threatened to kill her, the lawsuit states. Further, a gang held her at gunpoint in May and demanded she pay a monthly "tax" or they would kill her and her daughter. Carmen knew of people killed by their husbands after going to police and by this gang and thus fled to the US.

But at the border, the government determined after interviewing her that she did not meet the "credible fear" threshold required to pursue an asylum claim in the US, and an immigration judge upheld that decision. The ACLU is using Carmen's story and the similar experiences of the other immigrants to challenge Sessions' ruling on asylum.

LOK SABHA PASSES BILL TO ALLOW NRIs TO VOTE BY PROXY



NEW DELHI (TIP): After a short discussion on Thursday, the Lok Sabha passed a bill to amend the Representation of the People Act to allow non-resident Indians (NRI) to vote in elections through a proxy. Even though several members of the Opposition raised concerns about how the proxy voting could be misused, Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad asked the MPs to trust the judgment of the NRIs and moved the motion to pass the Bill.

Introducing the Bill earlier, Prasad said that many NRIs had "complained" that they were "unable" to vote in elections, and thus the government had decided to allow proxy voting for them.

Several members of the Opposition voiced their concern that the proxy chosen by an NRI would vote as per the NRI's choice. AIADMK leader R Gopalakrishnana asked, "What is the guarantee that the proxy will vote for the candidate" chosen by the NRI?

Anadrao Adsul of Shiv Sena also asked that since the Constitution only allows one vote to every person, how will the proxy get a chance to vote again, and for how many NRIs will a single proxy will be able to vote. Adsul asked, "Kitne ink-mark, kitna ungli ke upar?" evoking the picture of the finger of a voter being inked after she has cast her vote.

Some members wondered if the proxy voting will be against the confidentiality of the voting process. Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo of BJD said it was not a "simple" amendment, as Prasad had commented while introducing the Bill, but "goes to the basic foundation of the democracy and Constitution". He asked how the Election Commission will ensure accurate registration of voters.

TRIPLE TALAQ FIR ONLY BY VICTIM, BLOOD RELATIVES



NEW DELHI (TIP): Conceding one of the main demands of Opposition parties to ringfence the proposed law on instant triple talaq against misuse, the Union Cabinet Thursday approved inclusion of provisions that the complaint in such a case can only be filed by the victim (wife) or blood relations, and that a magistrate can grant bail with terms and conditions.

Under the amendments cleared, a magistrate will have powers to grant bail. The woman can approach the magistrate to seek subsistence allowance for herself and her minor children, and can also seek custody of her minor children from the magistrate who will take a final call on the matter.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017, introduced after the landmark 3-2 verdict of the Supreme Court which set aside the centuries-old practice of talaq-e-biddat or instant triple talaq in which Muslim men divorce their wives by uttering talaq three times in quick succession, has cleared Lok Sabha and is pending in Rajya Sabha where the government lacks numbers.

The government will bring the amendments to Rajya Sabha on Friday, the last day of the monsoon session.

When the winter session of Parliament drew to a close in January this year, the fate of the Bill hung in the balance.

Boost for NDA, JD(U)'s Harivansh elected Dy Chairman of RS, beats oppn Congress nominee

NEW DELHI (TIP): The ruling NDA on August 9 comfortably bagged the post of deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha with journalist-turned politician Harivansh of the JD(U) beating Congress' B K Hariprasad in an election that was seen as a test for the opposition unity ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

In a boost to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), its candidate Harivansh, the 62-year-old first-time MP from the Nitish Kumar-led party, got 125 votes as against 101 polled by Hariprasad, who was the opposition nominee.

Hariprasad's vote count was revised downwards to 101 from the earlier 105 by the Rajya Sabha secretariat after tallying the final figures.

A total of 228 members out of an effective House strength of 244 voted thereby reducing the majority mark to 115, according to the final official figures.

Though the BJP-led NDA was present in the House in full strength with 97 MPs it needed the backing of other parties to clinch the deputy chairmanship. The alliance got the support of fence sitters BJD(9) and TRS(6). The AIADMK with 13 members also voted for the NDA.

The NDA also benefitted from the absence of some opposition members.

As many as 16 members were not present during voting, according to official figures.

Three members each of the Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the AAP besides two each from the TMC, DMK and PDP and one from the Naga People's Front (NPF) were the absentee members.

Two members of the YSRCP abstained from the voting.

The post of the deputy chairman is lying vacant since the retirement of P J Kurien of the Congress on July 1.

The entire House congratulated Harivansh with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a lighter vein, saying "ab sub kuch 'Hari Bharose'. Aur mujhe vishwas hai ke sabhi, idhar ho ya udhar, sabhi sansadon per Hari Kripa bani rahegi (everything is now in the hands of Hari or God. And I am confident that every member, whether on this side or that side, will have his mercy)."

Leader of the House Arun Jaitley and Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad



NDA Dy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Singh (centre) flashes the victory sign.

also led the felicitations. Jaitley, who is recuperating after a renal transplant, attended the house after a long gap.

Harivansh said it would be his endeavour to uphold the dignity of the Upper House and expressed the hope that differences would be ironed out through constructive debates, consensus and guidance.

He exuded confidence that all members will work together and imbibe the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Jai Prakash Narayan to ensure a smooth run of the House. He hails from the same village in Ballia-Saran region in Uttar Pradesh-Bihar border where Jai Prakash Narayan, a socialist leader and anti-Emergency crusader, was born.

"Treading on rules and procedures framed by our Constitution makers, we can lead the country to greatness... There would be differences in debates, there would be different opinions... We can find out a way.

"I got this opportunity to be here... I am frightened, surrounded by so many experienced people but this is my strength too as you all will guide me and I assure you I will run the House in a fair and decent manner," said Harivansh, who is known to keep a low profile and is considered close to Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu initiated the process of the

election by calling for division of votes in the House.

The nomination of Harivansh was proposed by Ram Prasad Singh (JD-U) and seconded by union minister and RPI member Ramdas Athawale. BJP president Amit Shah, Shiv Sena's Ranjay Raut and Akali Dal's Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa were also among the proposers.

The voting had to be carried out for the second time as some members pointed out mistakes in the first polling. Result displayed for the first voting was "122 ayes, 98 noes, 2 abstain. Total: 222.

"We may have lost the battle but we will win the war," Hariprasad told reporters, exuding confidence that the UPA will win the next Lok Sabha polls.

Soon after the election result was announced by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Jaitley, Azad and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar accompanied Harivansh to the seat designated for the Deputy Chairman in the House, which is next to that of the Leader of Opposition.

In his speech, Modi also spoke of the achievements of Harivansh, a journalist for about four decades.

Hoping that Harivansh would do justice to all members of the House, Modi in a lighter vein said the situation in the House is such that the umpire faces more problems than the players.

Source: PTI

Criminalisation of politics can't be ignored: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI (TIP): People with criminal antecedents becoming members of Parliament and state assemblies is a problem and the legislature should not ignore it, the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

"It is the duty of the legislature to respond to the collective cry of the citizens. Today, the citizens are saying please don't let such people contest elections... It can't be ignored by the legislature. It's a national thinking," said a five-judge-bench headed by chief justice of India Dipak Misra.

The CJI told attorney general KK

Venugopal that under the Constitution the government was obliged to make a law to stop criminals from entering politics.

"Corruption is a noun but becomes a verb when it enters the political arena. It is infective and resistant to antibiotics," Justice Misra commented.

The bench is hearing a batch of petitions demanding disqualification of lawmakers facing criminal charges. It is being argued that disqualification should take place once the police submit its charge sheet against the lawmaker.

There is already an SC judgement that debars an elected representative from

continuing as a member of House if he or she is convicted in a criminal case and sentenced to a jail term of three years or more. As the proceedings began on Thursday, the court, wondered if the judiciary could add certain disqualifications in the Representation of People Act, 1951 for candidates to contest elections, which fell in the domain of Parliament. Guidelines issued in cases such as Vishakha or euthanasia were done because the fields were unoccupied by any law. But, in this case a law was already in place and adding something would be difficult, the court said.

Had Nehru accepted Jinnah as PM, India, Pakistan would have remained one: Dalai Lama

PANJIM (TIP): India and Pakistan would have remained one had Jawaharlal Nehru humbly accepted Mahatma Gandhi's choice of Muhammed Ali Jinnah as the country's first prime minister, believes Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

The 14th Dalai Lama was in Goa to give a keynote speech on 'Today's relevance of India's Ancient Knowledge' at Goa Institute of Management which is a partner with The Dalai Lama Centre for Ethics and Transformative Values at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Responding to a question by a student on how to overcome emotions and avoid making wrong decisions, the Dalai Lama said it was important to respect opinions of stakeholders and analysing all ends before making a big decision. Explaining it in a the larger context of democracy, he looked at benefits of referendum where every opinion matters. "I feel feudal system caused much war," he explained.

"In a way, now look back India, Mahatma Gandhiji very much was willing to give prime ministership to Jinnah. But Pandit Nehru refused. I think Pandit Nehru was little bit self-centred: 'I should be prime minister', If Mahatma Gandhi's (wish) materialised



then Indo-Pakistan (would have been) united. Pandit Nehru, I know very well, very experienced person, very wise, but sometimes mistakes also happen. So we see responsibility is on your shoulder. Analyse, ask opinion, then take decision," he answered.

In his keynote speech, the Dalai Lama touched upon many aspects of emotional consciousness and admired India's transcendental learning of linking consciousness from previous life to next life, or what Indians "simply define as 'atma'."

"Only India has the ability to combine modern education and ancient education about mind, emotion," he

said. "India's tradition is secular. Secular and based on moral principles and not developed in religious beliefs. This country practiced shramasana and vipassana, meaning single and analytical point of meditation, even before Buddha came. Modern India doesn't know much about these things, logically modern education was introduced by British. Now its time to introduce this (to) British themselves, Europeans, Americans."

He also took the opportunity to appreciate Indian Muslims for their religious tolerance, as he asked them to reach out to "Muslims in Afghanistan and Syria and convey to the Muslims across countries abroad that Sunni and Shias can co-exist peacefully like in India, without killing each other."

Recalling the night of March 17, 1959, when he had to cross over from Tibet to India, the Dalai Lama said: "60 years since, there is lot of suffering, lot of destruction inside Tibet. But we keep our determination, the basic thing. The Chinese communist, their power come from force of military, a barrel of gun. Our strength comes from truth. In the temporary run, power of gun is more decisive, in the long run, power of truth is."

PM has anti-Dalit mindset, Cong will fight for inclusive India: Rahul



NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having an "anti-Dalit" mindset and asserted that his party would fight for an India where there is place for everybody.

Gandhi joined a protest over the dilution of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, at Jantar Mantar.

"The atrocities act was brought by the Congress and the party will protect it together with everybody," Gandhi said.

Dalits are being openly beaten up and crushed in states where the BJP is in power, Gandhi said while addressing the gathering.

"We don't want an India like this. We want an India in which there should be place for everybody, whether Dalits, poor, tribals or minorities.. everybody should progress. We will fight for such an India," he said.

Attacking the Prime Minister, Gandhi said, "His thinking is anti-Dalit. All Dalits and people from weaker sections know that the Prime Minister has no place for Dalits in his heart and mind and wants to crush Dalits. That is why we are standing against him."

Source: PTI

BRITISH AIRWAYS THREW US OUT, SON TOLD 'BLOODY KEEP QUIET': INDIAN OFFICER

NEW DELHI (TIP): A senior bureaucrat of the government has alleged "racial discrimination" and "rude behaviour" by the British Airways, which deplaned him and his family from a flight to Berlin from London last month minutes before take-off because his three-year-old son was crying onboard.

The bureaucrat, in a letter to Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu on August 3, has alleged that another Indian family, sitting behind them, was also offloaded as they offered biscuits to the child to console him.

The incident happened on July 23.

The bureaucrat alleged that the crew got the plane (BA 8495) to return to the tarmac, where the security personnel took their boarding passes away. The customer care service manager did not give reasons for offloading them nor the management took action against the crew despite lodging a complaint, he claimed.

"We had to make our own arrangements for staying and travelling to Berlin the next day by paying a very hefty amount," he said, adding that the other Indian family was given tickets for a flight the next day, without any accommodation though.

The bureaucrat is a joint secretary-level officer in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

When contacted, a British Airways spokesperson said, "We take such claims very seriously and do not tolerate discrimination of any kind. We have started a full investigation and are in contact with the customer."

Narrating his family's ordeal in the two-page letter to Mr Prabhu, the officer demanded a thorough investigation and strictest possible action against the British Airways staff.

He said while his wife managed to calm their son, an "aggrieved" crew member approached them and started scolding the boy, asking him to get back to his seat. The boy had a window seat, but the mother had taken him into her arms to console him.

INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER LAND ROAD FORMALLY OPENED



IMPHAL (TIP): Exchanging warm welcome on both sides of the Indo-Myanmar Friendship Bridge along the International border, the much awaited India-Myanmar border land road was formally opened on Wednesday.

Indo-Myanmar Friendship Bridge, located at Manipur's border town Moreh, 110 km south of Imphal, connects India with Myanmar's towns. The government has already announced Moreh as an Immigration Check Post of India.

With the opening of India's only border road through Manipur's Moreh town, Indians travelling to Myanmar would no longer require to obtain special permits. Travellers would be issued visas provided they possess passports, said M Lakshmikummar, commissioner (Transport). Some of the travellers from India are already making use of the opportunity, the officer said. Earlier, citizens of the two countries were allowed free movement up to 16 km of each other's territory, Indians who wished to travel beyond 16 km had to take special land permits from the Myanmar authority.

Convenor RK Shivachandra of Manipur Act East Policy Committee, additional chief secretary Suhel Akhtar, commissioner (Transport) M Lakshmikummar, special secretary Home Kh Raghmani, brigadier AS Chauhan of 26 sector Assam Rifles, deputy commissioner Tegnoupal A Tombikanta and SP Tegnoupal represented the Indian delegation at the opening gathering.

The Myanmar delegation led by its ministry of labour, immigration and population permanent secretary U Awe Lwin included former secretary Myat kyaw of Saigaing Region, Myanmar, CEO Fly Myanmar Nyein Chan Soe Win, CEO Ken Tun of Parami Energy Group, editor-in-chief Soe Myint of Mizzima media, Businessman Htin Lin Aung and others.

Pro-Khalistan rally in London not ok: Ministry of External Affairs

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is miffed with the United Kingdom government for permitting a 'pro-Khalistan' rally in London on August 12. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar on Thursday said that concerns have been conveyed in writing as well as in person to the UK government. "We expected the UK government not to allow a group, whose intention is to spread hatred, and impact our bilateral relations. It has been conveyed that the fringe elements were seeking to spread hatred and communal disharmony, propagate secessionism that impinges on India's territorial integrity," he said.

It is believed that Paramjeet Singh Pamma, a suspect wanted in India for his alleged involvement in 2010 bombings in Punjab, is organising the rally under the umbrella of a group named Sikhs for Justice. It is dubbed to be the 'London Declaration' for a 'Referendum 2020'. The rally has also heightened tensions between India and the UK.

Jaitley attends RS for first time after kidney transplant

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Minister Arun Jaitley on August 8 attended the proceedings in the Rajya Sabha for the first time after undergoing a renal transplant in May.

Jaitley, who is also the Leader of the Upper House, was holding the charge of Finance and Corporate Affairs Ministries. He underwent a renal transplant on May 14 and on the same day, his ministerial charges were given to Piyush Goyal on an interim basis.

Source: PTI

Broadway's STRAIGHT WHITE MEN (Play)

BY MABEL PAIS

ABOUT SECOND STAGE THEATER

Under the artistic direction of Carole Rothman, **SECOND STAGE THEATER** produces a diverse range of premieres and new interpretations of America's best contemporary theater by living American playwrights, including 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner *Between Riverside and Crazy* by Stephen Adly Guirgis; 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner *Next to Normal* by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey; 2012 Pulitzer Prize winner *Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes; among many others.

The company's more than 130 citations include, over the last 16 years, about 13 Tony Awards in several categories, 20 Lucille Lortel Awards, 30 Obie Awards, 8 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 3 Clarence Derwent Awards, 13 Drama Desk Awards, 9 Theatre World Awards, the Drama Critics Circle Award and 23 AUDELCO Awards.

SECOND STAGE THEATER ON BROADWAY

Second Stage Theater purchased the historic Helen Hayes Theater, located at 240 W. 44th Street, in 2015 and has enlisted David Rockwell and The Rockwell Group to make renovations and updates to the 104 year old landmark building. The company will continue to lease and operate the McGinn/Cazale Theater on the city's Upper West Side and The Tony Kiser Theater in Midtown Manhattan.

In addition to *Straight White Men*, Second Stage Theater's inaugural Broadway season included the Broadway Premiere of Kenneth Lonergan's *Lobby Hero*, directed by Trip Cullman and featuring Michael Cera, Chris Evans, Brian Tyree Henry, and Bel Powley, which recently completed its limited engagement run on May 13, 2018.

This inaugural season kicks off Second Stage's mission of creating and building a permanent home on Broadway dedicated exclusively to American plays and living American playwrights.

Second Stage Theater is investing in its future on Broadway by co-commissioning established playwrights through its **STAGE-2-STAGE** program, launched with Los Angeles's Center Theatre Group (CTG). This ongoing program will provide a pathway to Broadway, with each play receiving an initial production in Los Angeles at one of CTG's three theaters before moving to New York. The commissioned playwrights are Jon Robin Baitz, Lisa D'Amour, Will Eno, Lisa Kron, Young Jean Lee, Lynn Nottage, and Paula Vogel.

Second Stage Theater is also co-commissioning a new work from Bess Wohl for Broadway, through a partnership with the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and new works for Broadway from Lydia R. Diamond and Dominique Morisseau, which will be developed in association with Kenny Leon's True Colors Theater.

SECOND STAGE THEATER OFF-BROADWAY

Second Stage Theater's current season at The Tony Kiser Theater includes the New York premiere of Tracy Letts' *Mary Page Marlowe*, directed by Lila Neugebauer currently in previews.

In 1999, Second Stage Theater opened The Tony Kiser Theater, its state-of-the-art, 296-seat theater, designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. In 2002, Second Stage launched "Second Stage Theater Uptown" series to showcase the work of up-and-coming artists at the McGinn/Cazale Theater.

The Theater supports artists through several programs that include residencies, fellowships and commissions, and engages students and community members through education and outreach programs.

For more information, visit www.2ST.com

"I'm always supposed to make what I'm not comfortable with" -
Young Jean Lee

"Fascinating! A compassionate and stimulating new play written and directed by the ever-audacious Young Jean Lee" -

The New York Times

"Young Jean Lee is Transforming Broadway... (she) shakes up Broadway with *Straight White Men*" -

O Magazine

Second Stage Theater (Carole Rothman, Artistic Director; Casey Reitz, Executive Director) presents Young Jean Lee's dark comedy, **STRAIGHT WHITE MEN**, directed by Anna D. Shapiro.

The production features Kate Bornstein, Josh Charles, Ty Defoe, Armie Hammer, Stephen Payne and Paul Schneider. Ms. Bornstein, Mr. Charles, Mr. Defoe, Mr. Hammer and Mr. Schneider are all making their Broadway debuts with this production.

The pre-show music is deafening.... deliberately. It may also be the first time a Broadway audience is greeted with loud, explicit female rap music as they walk to their seats.

Before the play begins, and as soon as the lights dim, a curtain speech is made by two charmingly dressed "persons in charge" - Kate Bornstein who defines herself as a "non-binary" (neither man nor woman) and Ty Defoe, a member of the Oneida and Ojibwe nations who defines himself as "transcending gender." They take the stage to apologize for any discomfort the music might have caused. "Kate and I are well aware that it can be upsetting when people create an environment that doesn't take your needs into account," Mr. Defoe says, tongue in cheek.

When the play opens, it's Christmas Eve, and Ed has gathered his three adult sons to celebrate with matching pajamas, over board games, trash talking, and Chinese takeout. But when a question they can't answer interrupts their holiday cheer, they are forced to confront their own identities.

Obie Award-winning playwright Young Jean Lee takes a hilariously ruthless look at the classic American father-son drama. This



(L TO R): Stephen Payne, Josh Charles, Armie Hammer & Paul Schneider. Photo / Joan Marcus



"Straight White Men" poster - (left) Young Jean Lee, (right) Anna D. Shapiro

Photo / Joan Marcus

is one white Christmas like you've never seen before.

About Young Jean Lee

With **STRAIGHT WHITE MEN**, playwright Young Jean Lee becomes the first Asian-American female playwright to be produced on Broadway.

Lee has garnered a reputation for creating theatre that is bold, adventurous, and singularly boundary defying. "I'm always supposed to make what I'm not comfortable with," says Lee. She cares deeply both about her audience's experience as well as the challenge of wanting to write impossible plays.

She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Obie Awards, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Prize in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a PEN Literary Award and a United States Artists Fellowship.

She is currently working on a Broadway commission for Second Stage with Center Theatre Group.

About Anna D. Shapiro

Anna D. Shapiro is making her Second Stage directorial debut with this production. The Artistic Director of Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, Ms. Shapiro won the 2008 Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Awards for her direction of *August: Osage County* (play by Tracy Letts).

In addition, she has several Broadway and Off-Broadway credits. She is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and Columbia

College, the recipient of a 1996 Princess Grace Award, as well as the 2010 Princess Grace Statue Award. Shapiro is the Marjorie Hoffman-Hagan Chair in Theatre at Northwestern University.

STRAIGHT WHITE MEN features scenic design by Todd Rosenthal, costume design by Suttirat Larlarb, lighting design by Donald Holder, sound design by M.L. Dogg, choreography by Faye Driscoll and casting by Telsey + Company.

For more information on the show, package prices, membership rates and for tickets, visit www.2st.com or Telecharge.com, or call Telecharge at 212-239-6200.

Location: Helen Hayes Theater, 240 W. 44th St., Midtown West,
212-239-6200, 2st.com

Genre: Broadway, Comedy/Drama, Play

Runtime: 1 hr. and 30 min.

Credits: Written by Young Jean Lee; Directed by Anna D. Shapiro

Cast: Kate Bornstein, Josh Charles, Ty Defoe, Armie Hammer, Paul Schneider and Stephen Payne

Starts: June 30, 2018

Closes: Sept. 9, 2018

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

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Preity Zinta shares her dangerous and desi look from Bhaiaji Superhit

Bollywood actress Preity Zinta, who is coming back on the big screen with her film Bhaiaji Superhit after a long break, on Tuesday unveiled the look of her character from the film.

Preity took to Instagram to share her look, "Hey folks, guess what? It's Sapna Dubey on the big screen with 'Bhaiaji Superhit' hitting on October 19 in cinemas near you."

Excited about her comeback, she said, "PZ is back."

In a Twitter chat with fans, Preity opened about her role in the film and said, "Yes it was tough as it was a different dialect and a different vibe. All these years I was offered very modern roles so it was nice to be challenged with a hyper active #SapnaDubey and I must confess I loved being her."

The 43-year-old actress is seen holding a revolver in the poster, suggesting that she is playing a role of a rowdy woman. Directed by Neeraj Pathak, the action-comedy film also stars actors Sunny Deol, Arshad Warsi, Shreyas Talpade, Ameesha Patel and Mukul Dev.

While announcing the release date of the film earlier, the makers of the film said in a statement, "The film comes across as a hilarious, colourful and larger than life yet emotional film. It showcases the coming together of two vastly different worlds of Bollywood and UP underworld."

Bhaiaji Superhit is scheduled to hit the big screens on October 19.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA: MY PERSONAL LIFE IS NOT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

As Priyanka Chopra's engagement rumours with boyfriend Nick Jonas make headlines, the actor today said her personal life is not for "public consumption".

The 36-year-old actor said she does not feel the need to give an explanation about her relationships to anyone.

"My personal life is not for public consumption. 90 percent of my life is for public consumption but 10 percent is for me. I am a girl and I have the right to keep that to myself. My family, friendship, my relationships are things I don't think I need to defend or explain it to anyone. I am not running for the Office, so I don't think I need to give explanations," Priyanka said.

The actor was speaking at an interactive session titled 'Challenging the Status Quo & Forging New Paths' organised jointly by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and Yes Bank.

Reports of Priyanka getting engaged to Nick started doing the rounds after she opted out of Salman Khan's Bharat and director of the film Ali Abbas Zafar dropped a hint that she left the film because of a "very special reason", which she told the makers in the "Nick of time".

Over the last two months, the 25-year-old singer and the Quantico star have been spotted on several outings, including a dinner date in New York City and a Beauty and the Beast Live in Concert show in Los Angeles.

While Nick introduced Priyanka to his family during the wedding of his cousin, the former Miss World was accompanied by the singer to India where they met her mother Madhu Chopra.

Source: PTI



Kangana Ranaut: As influencers, we need to break notions attached to mental health

Mental Hai Kya star Kangana Ranaut believes as a celebrity it is her responsibility to work towards breaking the stigma attached to mental health.

When asked about her views on the way Hindi film industry treats the topic on-screen, Kangana told PTI, "I realised there was so much stigma attached to being different. So, I thought we as influencers need to stand-up and break these notions and address this subject."

Produced by Ekta Kapoor, Mental Hai Kya is Kangana's second collaboration with Rajkumar Rao after Queen. The actor is full of praise for her co-star, who has been enjoying a great run in Bollywood with back-to-back projects.

"He is a star today. He is a brilliant actor and a very hardworking co-star. I have seen his work and it was definitely a great experience," she said.

Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Prakash Kovelamudi, the film also

stars Amyra Dastur and Jimmy Sheirgill. It will release on February 22. Besides this, she will be seen in Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi, set to release of January 26.

"I believe in giving 100 percent to all the movies I am associated with and I will continue to take up roles which appeal to me, and that will make a difference to the audience," said Kangana.

The actor, who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Global Desi, women's wear brand by House of Anita Dongre, launched their Fall '18 collection 'Gypsy Heart' here last evening.

Talking about her personal sense of style, Kangana said she does not believe in following any particular trend.

"One way to look happy and feel confident is to be comfortable in what you are wearing. I wear what I like and what I feel I look good in. My style differs from being individualistic, fierce, to feminine, vintage and goddess-like."

Source: PTI





Jennifer Aniston reacts on comments that she 'can't keep a man'

Jennifer Aniston has opened up about "misconceptions" that she can't have a stable relationship. Aniston spoke to Jimmy Kimmel's wife and her friend Molly McNearney about false rumours about her love life and why she stays off social media, reports ET Online.

Aniston said: "The misconceptions are 'Jen can't keep a man' and 'Jen refuses to have a baby because she's selfish and committed to her career'. Or that I'm sad and heartbroken'. First, with all due respect, I'm not heartbroken. And second, those are reckless assumptions.

"No one knows what's going on behind closed doors. No one considers how sensitive that might be for my partner and me. They don't know what I've been through medically or emotionally.

"There is a pressure on women to be mothers, and if they are not, then they're deemed damaged goods. Maybe my purpose on this planet isn't to procreate. Maybe I have other things I'm supposed to do?"

The former Friends star had parted ways with former husband Justin Theroux in February 2018. She was previously married to actor Brad Pitt, but the couple finalised their divorce in the year 2005. *Source: IANS*

ANGELINA JOLIE WANTS DIVORCE BY YEAR END, SAYS BRAD PITT HASN'T PAID 'MEANINGFUL' CHILD SUPPORT

Angelina Jolie on Tuesday sought to move forward with her long and sometimes bitter divorce from Brad Pitt, which has yet to be finalised after almost two years. Jolie's attorney filed papers in Los Angeles Superior Court saying the actor wanted a judgment "returning the parties to single status during calendar year 2018."

The document also said that Pitt has "paid no meaningful child support since separation" and said that although informal arrangements had been made with him, payments "had not been regularly sustained."

Jolie filed for divorce in September 2016, ending two years of marriage and a 10-year romance that had made the pair one of Hollywood's most glamorous and powerful couples. They have six children for whom she is seeking primary custody.

Mindy Nyby, a spokeswoman for the actor, said on Tuesday that the court filing was intended "to provide closure to the marriage in a way that clears a path towards the next stage of their lives and allows her and Brad to recommit as devoted co-parents to their children."

Pitt's representatives declined to comment. A source familiar with the matter, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said that "Brad is someone who fulfils his commitments."

The divorce filing, citing irreconcilable differences, triggered a bitter custody dispute during which Pitt was investigated and cleared of child abuse. Final custody arrangements have yet to be agreed.

The "Moneyball" actor said in an interview last year that he had quit drinking, was undergoing therapy and that he and Jolie had decided to abandon "vitriolic hatred" and work together to sort out their issues.

Pitt has kept a low profile in the past two years, while Jolie has recently been filming a sequel to fairytale drama "Maleficent" in London and directed a 2017 film about the 1970s Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia in which more than one million people died. Their eldest son Maddox was adopted from Cambodia in 2002. *Source: Reuters*



Meg Ryan wants to direct a romantic comedy

The 56-year-old star of classic romcoms including 'Sleepless In Seattle', 'When Harry Met Sally' and 'You've Got Mail' has been working with her frequent collaborator Nora Ephron's sister Delia on an adaptation of 'The Book' and Meg hopes she can get behind the camera for it.

Speaking about the project, which is set in the publishing world, Meg told Variety: "This is a working title project and I'm very excited about that. I would love to direct it. It's a romantic comedy in a very traditional sense in some ways - in a certain way the plot, and it's talky, but it pushes the form too.

"Right now I'm concentrating on being a director, which means throwing about 100 things at the wall and hoping they stick, right?"

Meg shocked her fans with a major departure from her romcom roots with 2003 erotic thriller 'In

The Cut' and, in hindsight, she believes she should have warned her fans before they saw it.

She said: "Maybe, in terms of publicity and doing PR before a film, we should have prepared the audience for the fact that my role was really a departure.

"I loved the movie. And I loved doing it, and I'm really proud of it. I love that it is such a dichotomy and opposite to 'Sleepless.' I think any label anyone is given is a limit because ultimately it's a label. But I don't feel like it was a terrible limit.

"I heard Mike Nichols say once that art is whatever makes you feel less alone. There are some times when a movie like 'In the Cut' matches your feeling and makes you feel less alone. You go ah, someone understands me out there.

"And sometimes something like 'Sleepless in Seattle' makes you feel understood too because, however nutty, you have those same hopes."



End of an epoch: on M. Karunanidhi's death



By Gopalkrishna
Gandhi

“

He will be long remembered for three outstanding accomplishments - his passion for Tamil as a language and a metaphor for the dignity of its users; his refusal to be bullied by political hubris during the national emergency; and his uncompromising secularism”.

”

Jakkirathaiya irunga," he said in Tamil, over which his command was legendary. "Take care" is how the phrase would translate. But in the way he said it, laying stress on the double 'kk', I could see he meant to say, "Take every care." This was on August 13, 2000. I was on my way to Colombo to join duty as High Commissioner.

A federal mind

Calling on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi would have been on the wish list and task list of any Indian envoy on her or his way to Sri Lanka. But, for me, this was not just about protocol. Nor was it about politics, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) then being a crucial presence in the National Democratic Alliance government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was about plain common sense, sheer self-interest. There was no way I would present letters of credence in Colombo without finding out what Tamil Nadu's senior-most and completely wide-awake leader thought about the island nation's travails, the present and future state of its Tamil population and that of the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam's supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran. To go to Colombo without the 'input' - to use a crassly opportunistic expression - of a veteran of Tamil Nadu's political chemistry would be absurd. What I needed and was to get from him was the insight, as knowledgeable as it was detached,

of 'one who knew'. The hinterland of any foreign policy is ground knowledge of the roots of that policy in the soil of its origin.

It was not easy, even for one on 'relevant' official duty, to get an appointment with the Chief Minister. He had his hands more than full with the complexities of Tamil Nadu's polity, where facing the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its charismatic leader J. Jayalalithaa meant being alert 24x7; where running a government of which he was the alpha and the omega meant working harder than the mind and body could take. And where, to make matters more complex for him, explaining to the people of Tamil Nadu how and why India-Sri Lankan relations were a foreign policy matter and foreign policy was the prerogative of the Union government was just about impossible. He was on the cusp of India's federal dilemmas.

A lesser politician could have played politics on that fluid crest, just to remain 'on top'. But, as the direct successor-in-office to C.N. Annadurai (CNA) who had given up secession as the DMK's policy goal, he was going to do nothing of the kind.

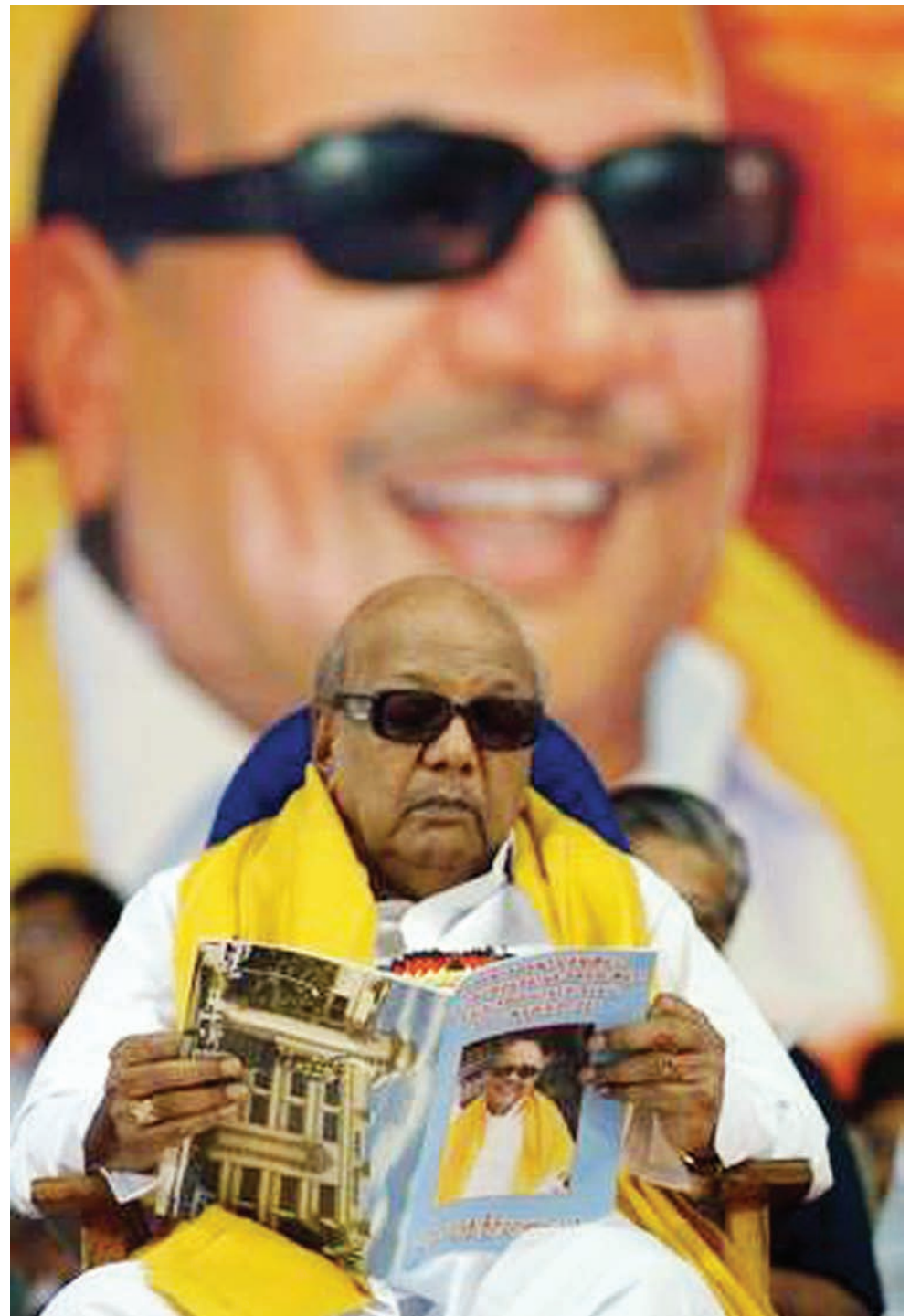
The Chief Minister was seated in the sitting room on the first floor of his Gopalapuram residence in Chennai. He half-rose to greet me, a gesture that neither his age - he was 76 at the time - nor his high office necessitated. "Sir... sir... Please do not get up," I protested. Sitting back, he commenced what was for me a lesson on the limitations of diplomacy and of politics. He said I was going to a highly troubled land at a highly incendiary time. "Ranil Wickremesinghe [now Prime Minister of Sri Lanka] met me the other day," he said, "and we spoke for more than an hour. He is a visionary... He wants to build a physical bridge from Rameswaram to Talai Mannar... I welcomed the idea and told him that our own Bharathiar [Subramania Bharati] had envisioned the very thing... palamaippom... But today who is going to be crossing that bridge and in which direction?" Then followed an analysis of the ethnic problem on the island which for its crisp pragmatism could not have been equaled, let alone bettered.

"Nobody knows Prabhakaran's mind," he said. "Nobody from our side is in touch with him... Nobody can be... We used to know his deputies... Amirthalingam... Now they are all dead... assassinated. But militancy is no solution... Secession will never be countenanced by Sri Lanka... And it will never be given up by Prabhakaran... We grope in the dark." And then doing a fast-forward: "Yet, we have to keep trying for our Tamil kin's urimai (rights) there." The insights continued for some 10 more minutes and then he rose to conclude the call, saying, as if in a summing-up: "Prabhakaran will never have a change of heart." As I thanked him and prepared to leave, he gave the advice I started this tribute with, very softly, "Jakkirathaiya irunga."

I had received briefings, each very helpful, very skilled, from officials, ministers, politicians, military leaders, strategists. But the one I got at Gopalapuram that afternoon covered every facet of the Sri Lankan scene in brief sentences, replete with historical, geopolitical and diplomatic nuances, topped with an intuitive sense of urimai being the long-shot aim and jakkirithai an immediate concern.

Another meeting

Seventeen years later, last year, I was to see him again, in the same room. He was seated on a wheelchair. And this time he did not - could not - get up. His son, M.K. Stalin, and his daughter, Kanimozhi, who were beside him, gave him the caller's name. The 93-year-old looked long and steadily at me. No sign of



M. Karunanidhi (1924-2018) will be remembered for his passion for Tamil and uncompromising secularism

recognition appeared on his face. There was no immediate response, but a few seconds later, when everyone present was waiting for a response, a wisp of a half-smile played across his face for but a fleeting moment. I will not presume to imagine he recognized me. But that was not really necessary.

Kalaingar Karunanidhi was now a legend, an icon of the old mold, but without the patina of obsolescence on its form or features. He was a living legend, an icon of the here and now as a symbol of aspirational politics negotiating electoral quicksand. In his case the aspirational politics was Dravida self-esteem combined with social radicalism, derived from Periyar and C.N. Annadurai (CNA). And the quick sands were Tamil Nadu's political uncertainties, with his mentors having become history and rivals from a different 'stage' scripting a very new, very glitzy theatre. Here was an idealism being taunted by reality to be pragmatic, a pragmatism being haunted by history to be idealistic. Some predicaments are cruel.

And yet, he emerged from it, un-bowed, the see-saw of electoral results being another matter.

He will be long remembered for three outstanding accomplishments - his passion for Tamil as a language and a metaphor for the dignity of its users; his refusal to be bullied by political hubris during the national

emergency; and his uncompromising secularism.

Such a long journey

CNA was in office for far too little for the dust of any controversy to settle on him. The Kalaingar was in office for far too long for that dust to stay away. Did he shake it off?

Did the flatterer and the tale-carrier manage to reach ear-distance? Was the sponger spurned, the money-spinner, the corrupter, family-splitter, the party-breaker turned away? Was the fear-instiller, the superstition-planter, the suspicion-sower shown the door? Equally, was the caring critic, the daring dissenter, the worried warner given welcome? Was the frank friend, the bold biographer shown in, given time, consideration?

Only his family would know.

On it - all generations of it - falls the privilege and the challenge now to stay and work together, to take the legacy of this extraordinary statesman further afield and make it a force for Tamil Nadu's redemption from localism, myopia and the power of floating cash. And beyond that, a force for India's federal intelligence, her plural wisdom and, above all, her Constitution-enshrined mandate for justice - social, economic and political.

(The author is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor)

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Zimbabwe opposition leader Tendai Biti charged over post-election violence

HARARE (TIP): Zimbabwe's former finance minister and opposition leader Tendai Biti appeared in court on Thursday to be charged with stoking post-election violence in a case watched around the world as a test of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's treatment of opponents. Biti, whose People's Democratic Party had formed an election alliance with Nelson Chamisa's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), sought asylum in neighbouring Zambia on Wednesday but was deported back to Zimbabwe in a move condemned by the United States.

He was also charged with falsely and unlawfully announcing results of the July 30 election, which Chamisa rejected as fraudulent and is set to challenge in the Constitutional Court on Friday. If found guilty, Biti could face up to 10 years in jail, a cash fine or both. He was released on bail and will appear in court again on Friday. "It's been an ordeal, but we survive. We live to fight another day, I am glad to be home," Biti told reporters soon after his release. Speaking in court to lawyers and the media, Biti said he had feared being abducted by the security forces. "They wanted to abduct me. I was terrified," he said. The outspoken politician was also arrested in 2008 for announcing that the late MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai had won a presidential vote. Official results later showed Tsvangirai beat Mugabe but not by enough votes to avoid a runoff. (Reuters)

Israel bombs Gaza, Palestinians fire rockets in escalation amid truce talks

GAZA (TIP) : Israeli aircraft struck more than 150 targets in Gaza overnight and Palestinian militants fired scores of rockets, including a long-range missile deep into Israel, escalating fighting despite talks on a truce to avert an all-out conflict. After the long-range Palestinian missile attack, the first of its kind since a 2014 war, Israeli air strikes resumed on Thursday afternoon, flattening a multi-storey building that the Israeli military described as a Hamas headquarters.

Israel has fought three wars in the past decade with Hamas, the Islamist group that controls the Gaza strip. A surge in cross-border rocket and air strikes in recent weeks have prompted the United Nations and Egypt to try to broker a truce to prevent another one. A pregnant Palestinian woman and her 18-month-old child were killed in the Israeli attacks overnight, as was a Hamas militant, local medical officials said. Hundreds of people took part in the funeral for the woman and child on Thursday.

UN Middle East envoy Nikolay Mladenov said the United Nations had engaged with Egypt in an "unprecedented effort" to avoid serious conflict, but "the situation can rapidly deteriorate with devastating consequences for all people". (Reuters)

China plans patriotism classes for intellectuals

BEIJING (TIP): China HAS announced plans for a campaign to "enhance patriotism" amongst the country's intellectuals. The move is seen as an attempt to counter discontent amongst academicians, some of whom have criticised President Xi Jinping recently.

The campaign will be "launched mainly among young and middle-aged intellectuals at schools, research institutes, enterprises and public institutes," according to a notice released by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee's Organisation Department and the Publicity Department last week.

The key aspect of the initiative will be to strengthen the "political guidance" of intellectuals and bring their "ideological and political identification" in line with the party's overall goals. The campaign has been called "Carrying forward the spirit of patriotic striving and building up establishment in the new era". It will include special symposiums to study Xi's thought, special training for intellectuals, and mobilising intellectuals to conduct activities in poor and remote areas. Xi has recently been tested with the escalating trade war with the US and a fake vaccine scandal leading to some degree of domestic discontent. (AP)

Saudi effort to punish Canada seems to have little effect

The worst potential impact on Canada would be if Saudi Arabia canceled Canada's largest arms deal, a \$15 billion deal with Saudi Arabia in 2014 to export its light-armored vehicles to the kingdom.

TORONTO (TIP): When Saudi Arabia ordered its citizens studying in Canada to abruptly leave the country it left institutions like Techno Canada in the lurch, forcing the small Toronto business school to scramble for new students in the middle of the summer. But that doesn't mean the school's director wants his government to abandon its advocacy of civil rights in Saudi Arabia, which prompted the worst diplomatic rift in history between the two countries.

"I am very much with my government to stand up for human rights," the head of Techno Canada, Basu Mukherjee, said as he conceded the loss of Saudi students will hurt his bottom line. "It is going to be hard, but we will try our best to replace them."

Similar sentiments have been expressed in recent days across Canada as schools, hospitals and even some businesses largely shrug at Saudi Arabia's decision to punish the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over tweets supporting two jailed dissident bloggers.

In a sign that the Saudis may not have as much leverage over Canada as they thought, many in the country say they are less concerned about the effects on Canada of the diplomatic spat than they are concerned for the well-being of the 15,000 students who were told they cannot resume studies for the fall semester and 800 doctors and medical residents who must leave by Sept. 1.

"It's very difficult for people who have families and leases," said Dr. Salvatore Spadafora who oversees 216 of Saudi doctors and medical residents in the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network. "They are all working very, very hard and trying to study and then this happens."

The Saudi government expelled Canada's ambassador to the kingdom and withdrew its own ambassador on Sunday, days after two Canadian tweets in support



of arrested activist Samar Badawi, whose writer brother Raif Badawi was arrested in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and later sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for insulting Islam. Then it halted flights by its national airline and ordered the students home, a decision that affects institutions as small as Techno Canada, which has just 40 people enrolled, to major institutions such as the University of Toronto.

But even though the Saudis are a significant presence in Canadian hospitals and in higher-education, contributing about \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion Canadian dollars (US\$770 million to US\$1.1 billion) to the Canadian economy last year, the overall effect is minimal since other foreign students can easily replace them.

Spadafora said other medical students will pick up the shifts of the Saudi residents and physicians when they go home by Sept. 1. Brian Hodges, who oversees about 94 from Saudi Arabia including 58 or 59 trained specialists or fellows at Toronto's University Health Network, said patient care won't be affected. "The first priority really is figure how to support them," he said. "Many

have been with us for five or four years and are close to doing exams."

Trudeau, a staunch defender of woman's rights, is not backing down and has received only limited criticism from domestic opponents. "Canadians have always expected our government to speak strongly, firmly, clearly and politely about the need to respect human rights at home and around the world," he said.

Financial markets did not appear hurt by the dispute amid reports that the Saudis intended to unload Canadian assets. There were rumors that Kingdom Holding Co. intended to sell its 47.5 percent stake in the Toronto-based luxury hotel chain Four Seasons. A company spokeswoman, Sarah Tuite, would only say that "day to day operations" have not changed. "It is business as usual," she said.

Bilateral trade between the two nations is just \$3 billion a year. Canada does get 10 percent of its imported crude oil from Saudi Arabia, but even if the dispute escalates further Saudi oil could potentially be replaced with U.S. shale oil or oil from Canada's oil sands region, the third largest oil reserves in the world. (AP)

Seoul: Rival Koreas to meet to prepare for leaders' summit

SEOUL (TIP): The rival Koreas will meet Monday for high-level talks meant to prepare for a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, South Korea said Thursday, the third such meetings between the leaders in recent months.

The announcement by an official at the South's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean issues for Seoul, comes amid attempts by Washington and Pyongyang to follow through on nuclear disarmament vows made at a summit in June between President Donald Trump and Kim.

Pyongyang has also stepped up its calls for a formal end to the Korean War, which some analysts believe is meant to be the first step in the North's effort to eventually see all 28,500 US troops leave the Korean

Pyongyang has also stepped up its calls for a formal end to the Korean War, which some analysts believe is meant to be the first step in the North's effort to eventually see all 28,500 US troops leave the Korean Peninsula.

Peninsula. Washington is pushing for the North to begin giving up its nuclear programme.

The South Korean official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the two Koreas will also discuss ways to push through tension-reducing agreements made during an earlier summit between Kim and South Korean

President Moon Jae-in.

It wasn't clear who would attend next week's talks, but such meetings have typically been handled in the past by South Korea's unification minister and his counterpart in the North. It also wasn't clear when another leaders' summit might happen.

Earlier Thursday, North Korea's Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary that ending the Korean War is "the first process for ensuring peace and security not only in the Korean peninsula but also in the region and the world."

The Korean Peninsula is still technically in a state of war because the 1950-53 fighting ended with a ceasefire, not a peace treaty. Seoul said it accepted the North's proposal after Pyongyang first suggested a meeting Monday to discuss another summit between the leaders. (AP)

Chinese Military is Willing to Help the Syrian Army Retake Idlib

The way China, an increasingly powerful nation in the midst of a great power competition with the United States, interacts with the rest of the world will have significant global implications. Syria could be a key test case of China's willingness to intervene on a global scale in a more direct way in pursuit of its interests.

Both China's ambassador to Syria as well as its military attaché in the country have raised the possibility of Chinese military operations in Syria alongside the Syrian government. Chinese Ambassador Qi Qianjin reportedly stated that the Chinese "military is willing to participate in some way alongside the Syrian army that is fighting the terrorists in Idlib and in any other part of Syria," while military attaché Wong Roy Chang reportedly said the Chinese military could participate in an operation to retake rebel-held Idlib if Beijing made the political decision for it to do so.

It is important to stress that neither statement is a confirmation that China is about to send military forces to participate in combat operations in Syria. However, the comments, if true, would mark the closest confirmation we have had of such a possibility.

Active Chinese military involvement in Syria would mark a substantial step forward in overall Chinese involvement in the Middle East and in a global sense as well. Except for operations under the United Nations peacekeeper mandate, China has largely avoided military operations beyond its borders or its immediate region. A military operation in Syria could open the door for further such Chinese involvements around the globe.

China has also long been concerned about Uighur



militants in the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP) operating in Idlib. Given the extensive combat experience of TIP's Syrian branch and its significant capabilities, Beijing has an interest in seeing Uighur militants destroyed before some of them return to Central Asia or even China. Primarily for that reason, it makes sense for China to consider a more active involvement in a battle to retake Idlib.

However, even if China does participate in the campaign to retake Idlib, which is far from certain, its involvement would remain fairly low key. China's focus in Idlib would be to see key TIP leaders and fighters killed. To that end, the most likely Chinese deployment would primarily involve military advisers, intelligence personnel and perhaps some special operations forces for specific direct-action missions. In terms of the latter, this would likely involve small-scale deployments of specialized Chinese People's Armed Police Force units such as the Snow Leopard Commando Unit, which has considerable counterterrorism experience. Still,

even such a low-level commitment by China would mark a remarkable departure in the overall Chinese strategy and would signal a new approach by Beijing to its involvement in the Middle East and further afield.

If China decides to wade into the Idlib morass, it would have to factor in the large number of involved parties, including Russia, Turkey and Iran. Idlib technically falls under a "de-escalation status" arrangement agreed to by the listed countries in the Astana peace process. Nevertheless, significant differences remain between Russia, Turkey and Iran. Ankara, which has provided support for TIP in the past, is striving to maintain the de-escalation zone and prevent a loyalist offensive that could result in yet another massive spillover of refugees into Turkey. Moscow is also keen to maintain its de-escalation zone agreement with Turkey but is getting impatient with the continued existence of dangerous factions in Idlib such as TIP and Tahrir al Sham (known as HTS) that continue to attack Russian and loyalist targets. Finally, Tehran and Damascus would prefer to see the de-escalation zone agreement scrapped and a full offensive on Idlib launched, but they are wary of proceeding without active Russian support given the considerable Turkish presence in the province.

All of these considerations ensure that China will have to carefully approach any military involvement in Syria, particularly with regard to Idlib. Careful coordination with Russia, the Syrian government and Turkey would be necessary for Beijing to avoid severe complications in Syria, particularly given its substantially smaller footprint in Syria compared with the other countries.

Trump is targeting illegal immigrant children - US citizen kids could be next



By Cori Alonso-Yoder

After holding Dreamers and immigrant families hostage, Trump now seems determined to escalate the strategy. Documents from within the administration indicate that he now has his sights on U.S. citizen children living in poverty. In leaked drafts, the administration proposes increasing the penalties on immigrant families whose U.S. citizen children receive means-tested public benefits such as Women Infants and Children (WIC), Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutritional (SNAP).

This summer, the country has focused its attention on the forced separation of immigrant families at the U.S. southern border. Initially touted by the Trump administration as a policy to deter illegal immigration, the decision drew rare bipartisan condemnation.

Under intense pressure, President Trump eventually signed an executive order in June to reverse the practice of family separation. By that point the damage had been done. Now, weeks later, hundreds of families are still not reunited, and doubts are growing that they ever will be.

This hasty "zero tolerance" policy is the administration's latest in a series that use children to advance a regressive immigration agenda. These policies demonstrate the White House's dwindling hesitation to increase penalties on the most vulnerable in order to advance its nativist objectives. All signs indicate that U.S. citizen children are its next targets.

Surrounding the president's campaign against immigrants, policymakers will recognize a familiar theory to explain migration: "push" and "pull" factors. Push factors are circumstances in the country of origin that force migrants away, while pull factors are those that attract them to a destination country. The push factors driving the current surge of refugees from Central America include gang and societal violence, poverty, and a culture of impunity.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently suggested, with little evidence, that the U.S. asylum system is also a pull factor because it is ripe for fraud and abuse. But the administration has not yet articulated the pull factor animating its cynical stance on family separation - the desire of parents to provide safety and protection for their children.

For the majority of Central Americans I have represented, faith in American rule of law and commitment to human rights are the major draws to the U.S. Trumpian policies pervert these pull factors and use them to punish immigrant parents and children seeking protection.

Trump's willingness to bargain with the welfare of children and families began last year, with his attempt to terminate of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA offered protection to undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children by their parents. Ensuing debates about the status of DACA recipients failed to yield a legislative fix - in part, because of the President's shifting stance on DACA legislation.

Trump opportunistically used the uncertain future of DACA to call for construction of his pet border wall project. He also blamed DACA for encouraging crossings into the U.S., despite the fact that new arrivals would not qualify for the program's protections. This view of DACA as a "magnet" for migration falls into line with his administration's efforts to subvert family integrity as a factor attracting immigrants to the U.S.

The Trump administration is not the first to try to neutralize pull factors to deter migration. In the 1980s, policymakers created penalties for employers who knowingly hire undocumented laborers, relying on the theory that job opportunities in the U.S. were the primary pull. Ten years later, the Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 theorized that the availability of government welfare attracted newcomers. That law penalized immigrants - documented and undocumented - by conditioning their immigration status (or the opportunity for future status) on the avoidance of welfare benefits.

Neither one of those laws succeeded in meaningfully reducing irregular border crossings (in fact, unauthorized immigration surged in their wake). Nevertheless, the Trump administration is preparing to dust off this old theory - this time, with an unconscionable new variation on the theme. While the desire to secure a better future for one's family has pulled several generations to the U.S., never before now has the U.S. government sought to cut off that magnet by brazenly targeting children for punishment.

After holding Dreamers and immigrant families hostage, Trump now seems determined to escalate the strategy. Documents from within the administration indicate that he now has his sights on U.S. citizen children living in poverty. In leaked drafts, the administration proposes increasing the penalties on immigrant families whose U.S. citizen children receive means-tested public benefits such as Women Infants and Children (WIC), Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutritional (SNAP).

The administration is calling for immigrants whose families use these benefits to face denial of immigration status and deportation. According to a recent report by the Migration Policy Institute, these changes could affect an estimated 9.2 million U.S. citizen children's access to vital services to which they are legally entitled.

These leaked policies demonstrate the administration's continued commitment to policies that most deeply punish those with no choice in creation of their circumstances - the children of immigrants. Any justification about the deterrent effect of these policies is wholly illogical in view of the steep toll paid by children.

Even if these policies could effectively deter desperate families, we as a country must still reject them outright. The pull to opportunity, protection, and family unity are at the core of what we have come to understand as the American dream. While the need for immigration reform is real, any changes in law and policy must reflect these ideals.

Despite the administration's contrary view, enforcing the law also includes upholding the current system's emphasis on family unity and humanitarian protection. Instead, these new policies exploit desperate families in order to punish, scapegoat, and traumatize - all under the banner of law and order.

(The author teaches law at American University Washington College of Law where she supervises an immigrant rights clinic)

WASH YOUR HAIR THE RIGHT WAY TO AVOID DAMAGE

Healthy hair is a result of following the proper hair care rituals. From preparing your hair to applying conditioner after the wash, each step matters. Lathering up your hair roughly or drying your hair too quickly can leave you with dull hair. Bhavya Sharma, beauty expert at UrbanClap.com, and Ragini Bharatram, founder, Beauty Source, show you the right way to wash hair:

Prepare your hair

Oil your hair two to three hours beforehand. An oil massage opens pores and enables better absorption of oil nutrients. Oil your hair from roots to tips and don't massage too hard. You can use coconut, mustard or olive oil and even a combination for your pre-shampooing routine.

Rinse gently

Start by rinsing your hair with lukewarm water. This will remove extra oil from hair and scalp and wash off dry skin on the scalp. It will further help open the cuticles and soften the hair. When rinsing, keep in mind to not start rubbing hair immediately but wait for your hair to be soaking wet.

Shampoo your hair

Choosing the right shampoo is important if you want your hair's natural shine and moisture to stay intact. For dry and damaged hair, it's best to opt for sulfate and paraben-free shampoo. Whereas for thin hair, go for a volumising shampoo. In any case, avoid shampoo with synthetic ingredients so that your hair doesn't get damaged. Don't rinse off the shampoo with warm water.

Apply conditioner

Hair conditioner is applied after you have rinsed out the shampoo completely. It helps in retaining moisture and binding hair cuticles. Apply it evenly along the length of hair (but not the



scalp). Leave it on for a minute or so and then rinse it off with cold water.

Other tips to keep in mind:

- Wash your hair with lukewarm water as hot water can damage your hair.
- Apply a conditioning mask once a week -- a hair mask can offer deeper hydration and repair, leaving hair lush and shiny.
- Take a small amount of shampoo and work it up to lather. Start from the scalp and gently move on to the body straight down to the tip.
- Let your hair dry gradually. The best way is to take a towel and wrap it around your head and soak all the extra water.
- Understand your hair type. Go to a professional if need be and find out if you have a combination scalp, an oily one or the one that is prone to dryness.
- Accordingly, choose your hair products. Many people do not choose the correct shampoo and conditioner type for themselves.
- Never wash your hair daily; experts suggest washing hair at least thrice a week and oiling at least two times a week.



How to hide belly fat by dressing smartly

Dressing for your body shape is very important to look good. But if a bulging tummy or belly fat is turning out to be a problem, there are ways to dress that can help you hide it. Bhavya Chawla, chief stylist at Voonik and fashion designer Reynu Taandon list ways to hide your tummy fat:

- Wear dark colours or busy prints on your upper body. This will help you look slim and hide your tummy fat.
- Avoid wearing shiny and bright colours on your upper body.
- Avoid wearing too tight or too loose cloths on your upper body. Too tight cloths will highlight your tummy even more, and your body looks shapeless if you wear too loose cloths. So, try to wear medium-fit cloths.
- Go for mid-rise when it comes to jeans, pants, shalwars or skirts. Wear them around your navel. This will help in concealing the tummy.
- If you are wearing tops, then body suits are the best option for you. This gives you a sleek look.
- Girls tend to buy clothes a size smaller thinking that it will make them look slimmer. On the contrary, this highlights your tummy and makes you feel uncomfortable. Therefore, the size of your body shaper should be one size larger.
- While buying undergarments, make sure you buy mid-rise panties. Avoid low or high-rise.
- Choose high slits while opting for kurtis. This helps in concealing the tummy.
- Layering is a good technique to conceal tummy fat. This divides your body into three parts and it helps in looking slimmer. For example, wear a contrast coloured jacket on your kurta. But the kurta should be of a different colour and the buttons should be kept open.
- With make-up as well as big earrings and neck pieces, you can attract the attention of others to your face and people won't notice your tummy fat.



FOOD CORNER

LAUKI KOFTA

Ingredients

2 Cups Lauki, grated, 1 tsp Salt, 1 tsp Red Chilli Powder, 1/2 Cup Besan, Tamarind,
1 1/2 Cups Onion, finely chopped, 1 tsp Salt, 1 tsp Turmeric Powder, 1 tsp Red Chilli Powder, 2 tsp Coriander Powder, Tbsp Lauki Water, 5 Nos Tomato, pureed, 2 Tbsp Coriander Leaves, 2 Cups Water

Method

- Grate Lauki and squeeze out the excess water and keep that water in a separate bowl to use in gravy. Now keep the grated Lauki in a deep bowl.
- Add salt, red chilli powder and besan to it. Mix the ingredients well. If it is watery then add little more besan for a thick consistency of the mixture.
- Apply oil on your palms and make flat ball to stuff 1 piece of tamarind in each ball.
- Cover the stuffing properly and make round shaped ball. Repeat this process with rest of the balls.
- Now deep fry the balls on medium heat till golden brown and crisp. Heat oil in a heavy bottomed pan and add the chopped onion to it. Stir fry until onion is well cooked.
- Now add salt and turmeric powder. Stir well and cover the saucepan with a lid for 4-5 minutes. Keep checking the mixture to avoid overcooking.
- Now add red chilli powder and coriander powder. Mix well adding the Lauki water. Again cover the saucepan and cook further for few minutes. Then pour the tomato puree along with coriander leaves and stir fry for 5 minutes.
- Add fresh water and bring it to boil on medium heat. Stir in between occasionally. Add the fried koftas to the gravy and cook for few more minutes.
- Turn off the flame and transfer the Lauki kofta curry in a serving dish. Garnish with coriander leaves.



NEW CLASS OF DRUGS MAY CUT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE RISK

Scientists have designed a potential new class of drugs that may reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by targeting a specific microbial pathway in the gut.

Unlike antibiotics, the new class of drugs prevents microbes from making a harmful molecule linked to heart disease without killing the microbes, which are part of the gut flora and may be beneficial to overall health.

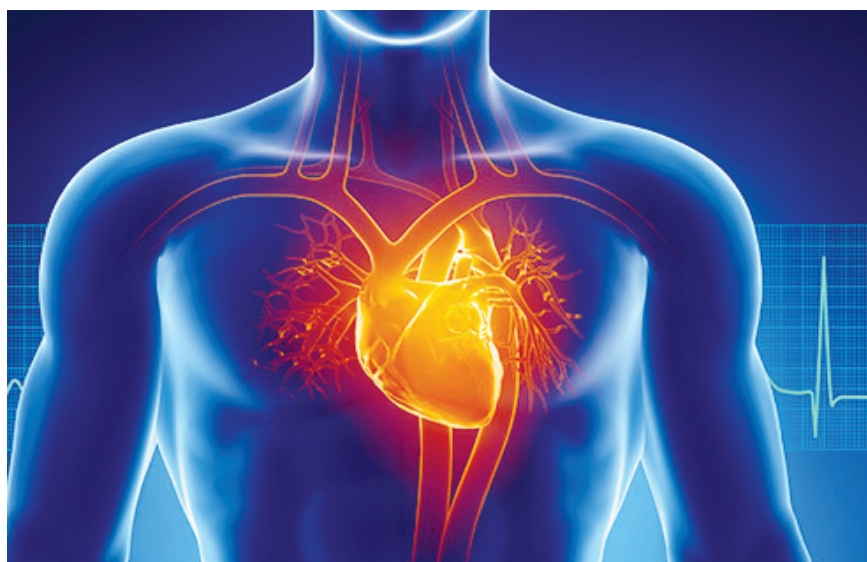
The study, published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, found that the new drugs reversed two major risk factors for cardiovascular disease—increased platelet responsiveness and excessive clot formation—in mice. They did so by lowering levels of TMAO (trimethylamine N-oxide), a gut bacteria byproduct that forms during digestion, said researchers from Cleveland Clinic in the US.

High levels of TMAO in the blood have been shown to be a powerful tool for predicting future heart attack, stroke and death risks, they said.

TMAO is produced when gut bacteria digest choline, lecithin and carnitine, nutrients that are abundant in animal products such as red meat and liver, they said.

Choline is also abundant in egg yolk and high-fat dairy products.

The group demonstrated that a new series of inhibitors, called mechanism-



based inhibitors, potentially interrupt the gut microbial pathway that produces TMAO.

Because the compounds are structurally similar to choline (called analogues), the bacterial cells are "tricked" into taking them up as nutrients.

Once transported into the microbe, the inhibitors then block the production of TMAO by inactivating a specific gut microbe enzyme called cutC (choline utilization protein C).

"To our knowledge, this is the most

potent therapy to date for 'drugging' the microbiome to alter a disease process," said Stanley Hazen from Cleveland Clinic.

"In addition, gut bacteria are altered but not killed by this drug, and there were no observable toxic side effects," said Hazen.

"The approach developed could potentially be used to target other gut microbial pathways. We look forward to advancing this novel therapeutic strategy into humans," he said.

Source: PTI

Eating fish or taking its supplements could cut down premature birth risk

Eating fish or taking a fish oil supplement may reduce the risk of preterm birth among pregnant women with low level of omega-3 fatty acids, a new study has found.

The findings indicated that pregnant women who had low plasma levels of long chain n-3 fatty acids - found in fish oil - in their first and second trimesters were at a significantly higher risk of preterm birth as compared with women who had higher levels of these fatty acids.

The researchers suggest that low concentrations of certain long chain fatty acids - eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid (EPA+DHA) - may be a strong risk factor for preterm birth.

"At a time when many pregnant women are hearing messages, encouraging them to avoid intake of fish altogether due to mercury content, our results support the importance of ensuring adequate intake of long chain omega-3 fatty acids in pregnancy," said lead author Sjurdur F. Olsen from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston.

Preterm birth, is a leading cause of neonatal death and is associated with cognitive deficiencies and cardiometabolic problems later in life among survivors.

For the study, published in the journal



EbioMedicine, the research team examined 96,000 children in Denmark through questionnaires and registry linkages. They also analysed blood samples from 376 women who gave premature birth (prior to 34 weeks of gestation) between 1996 and 2003 and 348 women who had a full-term birth.

All of the women gave blood samples during their first and second trimesters of pregnancy.

The analysis of the blood samples

showed that women who were in the lowest quintile of EPA+DHA serum levels - with EPA+DHA levels of 1.6% or less of total plasma fatty acids - had a 10 times higher risk of early preterm birth when compared with women in the three highest quintiles, whose EPA+DHA levels were 1.8% or higher.

Women in the second lowest quintile had a 2.7 times higher risk compared with women in the three highest quintiles.

Source: IANS



SUPERBUGS ARE GROWING RESISTANT TO HANDWASH AND SANITISERS

Some hospital superbugs are growing increasingly tolerant to alcohol-based disinfectants found in hand washes and sanitisers, allowing increasing infections to take hold, according to an Australian study.

Hand rubs and washes that contain disinfectants based on isopropyl or ethyl alcohol are widely used around the world, and have cut down dramatically on one type of superbug, called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). But researchers have noticed a rise in another kind of bacteria that lives in the gut, called *Enterococcus faecium*, and can be spread via catheters, ventilators or central lines in a healthcare setting.

"Drug-resistant *E. faecium* infections have increased despite the use of alcohol disinfectants, and currently represent a leading cause of infections acquired in hospitals," said the report in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Enterococci account for about one in 10 cases of hospital-acquired bacterial infections around the world, and are the fourth and fifth leading cause of sepsis in North America and Europe, respectively, according to background information in the article. *E. faecium* in particular is believed to cause one-third of enterococcal infections in Australia, 90% of which are resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin, and 50% of which are also vancomycin-resistant.

"Costs associated with the management of patients infected with vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) are high because of the need for isolation rooms, specialised cleaning regimens, and the impact on staff, bed availability, and other resources," said the report.

Being "tolerant" means the bacteria can survive exposure to alcohol longer. The delay "is sufficient to allow the bacteria to escape alcohol killing and then cause infection," says study author Tim Stinear, a microbiologist at the Doherty Institute for Immunity and Infection at the University of Melbourne. "The bacteria we examined in our study are a long way from becoming resistant to alcohol," he added.

More study is needed to confirm if these bacteria are also growing resistant to sanitisers in other hospitals worldwide. Researchers aren't sure why this particular type of bacteria is acting this way, but say it may be something about the physiology of *E. faecium* that makes it easier for the bacteria to evolve tolerance to alcohol exposure. In the meantime, no one is suggesting hospitals stop using hand sanitisers, rather that other cleansing methods are needed, said Stinear.

Source: AFP

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MOST LITHIUM-RICH GIANT STAR DISCOVERED

Chinese scientists have discovered the most lithium-rich giant star ever known - with lithium abundance 3,000 times higher than normal - which could shed new light on the evolution of the universe.

The star is in the direction of Ophiuchus, north side of the Galactic disk, with a distance of 4,500 light years to Earth, said researchers at National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) and Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The discovery of this star has largely increased the upper limit of the observed lithium abundance, and provides a potential explanation to the extremely lithium-rich case," said Professor ZHAO Gang.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, were realised with the help of The Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) located in northern China.

Lithium is considered one of the three elements synthesised in the Big Bang, together with Hydrogen and Helium.

The abundance of the three elements was regarded as the strongest evidence of the Big Bang, which describes how the universe expanded from a very high-density and high-temperature state.

The evolution of lithium has been widely studied in modern astrophysics, however, a few giants were found to be lithium-rich in the past three decades.

This makes the lithium study remarkably challenging, researchers said.

Detailed information of the star was obtained by a follow-up observation from the Automated Planet Finder (APF) telescope at Lick Observatory, they said.

Besides measuring the anomalously high lithium abundance, the research team also proposed a possible explanation to the lithium-rich phenomenon by the nuclear network simulation with the up-to-date atomic data as an input. *Source: PTI*

NEW SYSTEM FOR MORE REALISTIC ANIMATED MOVIES

Stanford scientists have developed a system that can automatically synthesise realistic sounds for computer animation.

In addition to enlivening movies and virtual reality worlds, the system could also help engineering companies prototype how products would sound before being physically produced.

It could also encourage designs that are quieter and less irritating, the researchers at Stanford University in the US said. "The first water sounds we generated with the system were among the best ones we had simulated — and water is a huge challenge in computer-generated sound," said Doug James, professor at Stanford University.

Informed by geometry and physical motion, the system figures out the vibrations of each object and how, like a loudspeaker, those vibrations excite sound waves.

It computes the pressure waves cast off by rapidly moving and vibrating surfaces but does not replicate room acoustics.

Although it does not recreate the echoes in a grand cathedral, it can resolve detailed sounds from scenarios like a crashing cymbal, an upside-down bowl spinning to a stop, a glass filling up with water or a virtual character talking into a megaphone.

Most sounds associated with animations rely on pre-recorded clips, which require vast manual effort to synchronise with the action on-screen.

These clips are also restricted to noises that exist — they can't predict anything new.

"Ours is essentially just a render button with minimal pre-processing that treats all objects together in one acoustic wave simulation," said Ante Qu, a graduate student Stanford University. The simulated sound that results from this method is highly detailed.

It takes into account the sound waves produced by each object in an animation but also predicts how those waves bend, bounce or deaden based on their interactions with other objects and sound waves in the scene. *Source: PTI*



FLAW IN WHATSAPP ALLOWS HACKERS TO SEND FAKE MESSAGES

Researchers at Israeli cybersecurity firm said Wednesday they had found a flaw in WhatsApp that could allow hackers to modify and send fake messages in the popular social messaging app.

CheckPoint said the vulnerability gives a hacker the possibility "to intercept and manipulate messages sent by those in a group or private conversation" as well as "create and spread misinformation".

The report of the flaw comes as the Facebook-owned is coming under increasing scrutiny as a means of spreading misinformation due to its popularity and convenience for forwarding messages to groups.

Last month, the app announced limits of forwarding messages following threats by the Indian government to take action after more than 20 people were butchered by crazed mobs after being accused of child kidnapping and other crimes in viral messages circulated wildly on WhatsApp.

WhatsApp said in a statement: "We carefully reviewed this issue and it's the equivalent of altering an email to make it look like something a person never



wrote."

However, WhatsApp said: "This claim has nothing to do with the security of end-to-end encryption, which ensures only the sender and recipient can read messages sent on WhatsApp."

The app noted it recently placed a limit on forwarding content, added a label to

forwarded messages, and made a series of changes to group chats in order to tackle the challenge of misinformation.

Founded in 2009 and purchased by Facebook in 2014, WhatsApp said that at the beginning of the year it had more than 1.5 billion users who exchanged 65 billion messages per day. *Source: AFP*

Google Android Pie: Machine Learning to Digital Wellbeing, here are top features

Android Pie, Google's latest iteration of its mobile operating system, is here. Beta versions of the software had been available to select handset users for quite some time in the guise of Android P.

Android Pie version 9.0 succeeds the Android Oreo (v8.X), and the changes it brings along mainly focus on inserting smarter utility features in the native operating system instead of relying on third-party solutions.

Machine learning

With Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) becoming hot buzzwords in the technology space, Google's Android Pie joins the bandwagon with features that are "built to learn from users".

For instance, Adaptive Brightness understands how a user likes the brightness settings of the phone and keeps it that way. The native solution solves the problem of manually adjusting brightness levels for different ambient light conditions.

Adaptive Battery is a similar technology as it understands which apps you use the most and optimises them accordingly. App Actions predicts which app you will use next, based on your usage.

"If it's Tuesday morning and you're preparing for your commute, you'll be presented with suggestions such as navigating to work on Google Maps or resuming an audiobook with Google



Play Books. And when you put on headphones after work, you may see options to call your mom or launch your favourite Spotify playlist," Google explains.

New interface

Android Pie's new system navigation does away with the traditional three-touch button navigation system for a one-touch kind. The singular button seems highly inspired by Apple's iPhone X gesture features. For instance, you can swipe up the button to see recent applications. The thumbnails of recent applications now appear larger with a full-screen view. Smart Text Selection has also been improved and integrated within the "Overview" of recent applications.

One of the key interface changes include a revamped Quick Settings that focuses on giving prominence to more useful tools. Other improvements include a simplified process of taking

and editing screenshots, better volume controls and notifications management.

Digital Wellbeing

At the company's I/O conference earlier this year, Google CEO Sundar Pichai had talked at length about helping users curb smartphone addiction. Under a "Digital Wellbeing" initiative, Google has already rolled out updates to its core apps like YouTube — allowing users to set a time limit on how much time they should spend on the application.

Android Pie brings an elaborate dashboard to the native operating system that enables users to keep an eye on how much time they're spending on their devices. There's also an App Timer that sets time limits on apps and has a visual grey icon on apps to denote that their time is up. The Do Not Disturb function now is much more intuitive, and has the ability to disable all visual notifications on the phone. *Source: HT*

IMF SEES INDIAN ECONOMY AS AN ELEPHANT THAT IS STARTING TO RUN

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is on track to hold its position as one of the world's fastest-growing economies as reforms start to pay off, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The \$2.6 trillion economy was described by Ranil Salgado, the IMF's mission chief for India, as an elephant starting to run, with growth forecast at 7.3% in the fiscal year through March 2019 and 7.5% in the year after that. The nation accounts for about 15% of global growth, according to the Washington-based fund.

Key risks flagged by the IMF in its annual Article IV assessment of the economy include higher oil prices, tightening global financial conditions and tax revenue shortfalls. Authorities should take advantage of stronger growth to bring down debt levels, simplify the consumption tax system and continue to gradually tighten monetary policy, it said.

After a shock cash ban in late 2016 and a disruptive nationwide sales tax last year, India's economy is once again gaining momentum. Growth reached the fastest pace in seven quarters in January through March, and high frequency indicators from purchasing managers' surveys to auto sales data show the economy is likely to grow above 7%.

Risks are mounting though. The rupee has plunged 7% against the dollar this year, the worst performer among major Asian currencies, threatening the inflation outlook. The Reserve Bank of



The IMF, in the report published on Tuesday, said the near-term macroeconomic outlook for India is 'broadly favourable'. Growth is forecast to rise to 7.3 per cent in fiscal year 2018/19 and 7.5 per cent in 2019/20 on strengthening investment and robust private consumption, the report said

India delivered its second straight interest rate hike last week as policy makers seek to maintain economic stability against a global backdrop of trade tensions and high oil prices.

Other key points from the report

Recovery is underway led by an investment pickup External vulnerabilities remain contained, but have risen India's export market share

remains low; need to boost competitiveness.

There's need for maintaining exchange rate flexibility. FX intervention should be two-way and limited to disorderly market conditions. Government debt and budget deficit key macroeconomic challenges. Need labour, land and product market reforms for jobs growth. More needs to be done to ensure health of state-run lenders.

Pfizer to lose patent of drug Viagra, Indian companies gear up with copycat versions

NEW DELHI (TIP): With pharmaceutical giant Pfizer set to lose the patent of its blockbuster drug Viagra in the US, Indian companies are gearing up with copycat versions of the iconic blue pill, hoping to tap into a lucrative market.

Pfizer's patent for the formulation of Viagra, used to treat impotence in men, ends in the US in 2020. This will open the door for Indian companies to target the nearly 5 crore Americans who suffer from erectile dysfunction in what is India's largest market for exports of medicines.

Seven Indian companies have already secured the required permissions. They are among 15 companies worldwide that have been granted approval by US health watchdog the Food and Drug Administration, to produce sildenafil citrate, the formulation patented as Viagra.

The Indian companies in the fray to sell the blue pill are Rubicon Research, Hetero Drugs, Macleods Pharma, Dr.Reddy's, Aurobindo Pharma, Torrent Pharmaceuticals and Ajanta Pharma.

The Indian companies are working on strategies that could bring down the price



of Viagra in the US market by almost 99 per cent.

The pill costs about \$65, or over Rs 4,400, in the US. Pfizer had itself launched a generic version of the drug at half of the price in 2017. Even this, experts believe, won't match the price that Indian firms could end up offering.

The Mumbai-based Macleods Pharmaceuticals, which started medicinal exports to the US in 2012, sells a desi version of Viagra in India as Macsutra for Rs 58 per tablet.

Ajanta Pharma, a \$1.6 billion publicly-listed firm, sells its version in India under the brand name Kamagra for Rs 32 a tablet. The Indian entry could dent Pfizer's stranglehold on the drug. Its global sales from just Viagra touched

\$1.685 billion, over Rs 10,900 crore, in 2014. According to an American company, Transparency Market Research, the global erectile dysfunction drugs market was valued at \$4.35 billion in 2016

Niteesh Srivastava, vice president, Macleods Pharmaceuticals, admitted that the entry of Indian firms in the US market could spark a price war. "Lower pricing is the only way to gain preference. Hence, a price war is certain," he says.

Srivastava added that both known and lesser-known companies will have certain advantages. "While lesser known or relatively smaller firms will be able to crash prices due to less overhead expenditures, pharma giants will already have a better hold on the pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in the US to reach the desired negotiations," he said.

"It is an opportunity for Indian drug makers to cash in on their R&D and pricing strength and get into the US market for Viagra, which has largely been cartel led so far due to patent and policy regulation," said Sougat Chatterjee, president of TFPL, a global research consulting firm.

Source: The Print



THREE JAPAN AUTOMAKERS ADMIT FALSE EMISSIONS DATA

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's Suzuki Motor, Mazda and Yamaha have admitted using false emissions data for some vehicles, the transport ministry said on Thursday, in the latest product quality scandal to hit the country's auto sector.

The companies came forward after the ministry last month ordered 23 auto and motorbike companies to conduct in-house probes after it emerged Nissan and Subaru had cheated on fuel economy and emissions data.

All three reported "inappropriate handling" of vehicle inspections, the ministry said.

They said incomplete emissions tests were done on some of its vehicles, but its officials certified the results as though the tests had been administered properly.

Suzuki admitted improper inspections on 6,401 vehicles, or nearly half of those subject to sample checking, between 2012 and 2018.

Mazda said it 72 vehicles or 3.8 per cent of those in its sample were affected, while Yamaha put the figure at 2.1 per cent of its motorbike sample.

The ministry said it would "examine their reports and take strict measures if necessary". It said most of the 20 other companies asked to examine their data had reported no misconduct, while several others were still investigating.

The admissions are the latest in a string of scandals involving data falsification and testing standard breaches in Japan's key auto sector. In July, Nissan admitted data on exhaust emissions and fuel economy had been "altered" for some of its vehicles, and last year the firm was forced to recall more than a million vehicles after admitting staff without proper authorisation had carried out some inspections.

Source: AFP

ELON MUSK'S \$82 BILLION GAMBIT TO SILENCE CRITICS

The wild tweet hit Wall Street at precisely 12:48 p.m. Tuesday -- and things just keep getting wilder. Seemingly out of the blue, Elon Musk proclaimed that he might pull his money-losing Tesla Inc. off the market. Taking the electric-car company private at the price he touted would amount to an \$82 billion valuation, a monumental sum that left many investors wondering: Is this a joke? Musk, the enfant terrible of Tesla and SpaceX, has defied the odds before. But Tuesday's gambit -- unleashed in tweet after tweet over the next 2 hours and 40 minutes -- opened a new chapter in one of the most tempestuous business stories of our time. Even fans seemed unsure whether Musk could pull this off -- or, if he does, where that will leave Tesla. Only a week ago, the company with a seemingly unshakable base of firm believers and equally fierce legion of detractors recorded another huge loss after burning through hundreds of millions of dollars.

Indeed, Musk's initial tweet, sent roughly half an hour after news emerged that Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund had built a stake in Tesla worth about \$2 billion, was the latest in a series of unusual maneuvers that have thrust the executive into the public spotlight.

He's made no secret that he has little patience for his naysayers. In a May conference call, the CEO blithely said that if investors were concerned about the volatility of Tesla's stock, they shouldn't own the shares.

"The reason for doing this is all about creating the environment for Tesla to operate best," Musk, 47, wrote Tuesday in an email to employees. He said wild swings in the carmaker's stock price are a "major distraction" to Tesla workers, who are all shareholders. And he said that being public "puts enormous pressure on Tesla to make decisions that may be right for a given quarter, but not necessarily right for the long-term."



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@bejandaruwala.com and on phone **011-91-8141234275 www.bejandaruwala.com**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE AUGUST 13 - AUGUST 19, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says there is a lot going on in the family, including, possibly, an inheritance tussle. If you have been having it easy all along, the time has come for you to pull up your socks. The focus of this period will be solely on family affairs. Your health is good. Your love life gets a hike too. There could be international travel, expensive purchases, a possible change of residence, an addition to the family, fun and festivities.

Taurus:

You sign deals and flirt and flit around like one possessed. Yet, you may go empty-headed. There could also be illness in the family. There could be time spent with the law and some out-of-court settlements. You also spend time with the NGOs and helping with the less fortunate. You could exhibit an independent and rebellious streak. On the flip side, your sensitive, accommodating, kind, helpful, compassionate and spiritual side gets a leg up.

Gemini:

You are frank, free and fearless. You take other people's breath away with your open-ended comments and remarks. There are expenses and indulgences. There are fun times as you meet up with new people and open new vistas to your life. As the period ends there are energy, focus and creativity. You are ambitious and make headway in your career. You win kudos, applause, awards and rewards.

Cancer:

There are expenses but also several new deals in the offing. Those associated with realty do exceedingly well. You are prone to speculation. Your heart strings could also be pulled. The health of family members may be a cause for concern, though children bring joy. You could take bonding to new heights. You reach out to others, network furiously and plan new ventures. There could be secret deals and powerful love.

Leo:

You have a high self-image, confidence and vigor, and it seeps into all your dealings. You are assertive without getting in the way. There is maturity and repose. You are filled with drive, gusto, ambition and self-belief. This can be indulgent phase with holidays, business expansion and new collaborations. As the period ends there could be international travel and several new deals in the offing. There are money and vital associations that pitchfork you into stardom.

Virgo:

The trends are propitious. The stars tell you in no uncertain terms that this is the time to sow; you will reap in bushels. The period is bullish till the period ends and everything you touch turns to gold. Mid period your golden run continues unabated. Your love for the arts is stimulated. You have an intellectual appreciation of beauty. As the period ends you are irrepressible. You go from strength to strength. You look for new experiences and a break from routine.

Libra:

You are looking to becoming incomplete. You go searching for a guru and look for answers in tantra, mantra and yantra. You are looking at detoxification, regeneration and rejuvenation. Mid period, your plate is full and overflowing and it is time to decide on the direction to take. You are ambitious, even avaricious. As the period ends you roll up your sleeves and get down to the hard slog. You love and live large. There are expenses and family issues to deal with.

Scorpio:

You pulverize your opponents and emerge as a person of considerable substance. You could get through examination and interviews with flying colors and have the pick of plum job offers. Mid period sees secret deals and liaisons. An old flame may enter your life and shred sanity to pieces. The health of elders and children also causes concern. As the period ends there are maudlin notes that seize you in its coil. You take time off and help with social work. You could also be communicating with others with great alacrity.

Sagittarius:

You take calculated risks and come out trumps. This is a great period for collaborations. You also spend time with the family and are enriched by it. Mid period sees expenses, passions, ego drives, optimism, energy and genuine fellowship. As the period ends you could get self-indulgent and experiment with recreational drugs. Family life can be in disarray. You look for salvation. Old wounds open their hoods. You go looking for a guru and take recourse to yantra, tantra and mantra.

Capricorn:

This is a phase of deep anguish as you are unable to activate your thoughts. It is an impotent period. There are expenses and many domestic challenges. You are pushed to the brink. Mid period sees you back on terra firma. You get down to the business of making a living. As the period ends you are ready to perform miracles. You are the toast of your peer group. This is a fantastic time for creative folk and those in the visual arts. At home, the health of elders will be a cause for concern.

Aquarius:

You lend a shoulder and an ear where necessary. You are the toast of your neighborhood as you espouse causes common to all. You excel in group discussions, contractual negotiations and conferences. As the period ends, there are expenses, ego drives, passions, altercations and misunderstandings. Family life sees many ups and downs and the troughs will be difficult to cope with. You are also in line for a windfall, possibly an inheritance.

Pisces:

You want to serve others and there are no full stops in your yearning to do so. You want to give back to society and the stars support you. There is new love, and fellowship too. Mid period sees you want to be a person of renown, a person of letters, someone who can be respected. But for that to happen, you will have to get out of your comfort zone and work like one possessed. As the period ends you roll up your sleeves and sort out your priorities.

HARIYALI TEEJ

Hariyali Teej is a fasting festival for Hindu women married or unmarried, celebrated for marital bliss and the wellbeing of their husbands. Hariyali teej is the 3rd day of the first fortnight in the Hindu month Shravan. It is a celebration of the new look of the earth after a very hot and dry summer. On this occasion women worship Goddess Parvati and they fast for the long life of their husband. It is believed that Devi Parvati underwent great penance and prayed continuously so that after 108 births and rebirths Lord Shiva accepted her as his wife.

The festival of Teej is celebrated to memorialize the reunion of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. On this day, women observe fast. Married women observe fast for the longer life of their husbands. And, unmarried women observe vow to get a husband like Lord Shiva. This day is mainly celebrated in western and northern parts of India.

It is an age old saying that 'Marriages are made in heaven but solemnised on earth'. Even now, the same concept is being followed in our country. So, to make this bond of marriage eternal, the festival of Teej is celebrated. If you want to invoke the blessings of Almighty for your married life, there's no more need to worry. MyKundali brings you everything you need to know about Teej.

Teej is also known as Tay, Baya and Teeyan. Teej is celebrated by different names in different parts of the country. These are: Hariyali Teej, Akha Teej, Hartalika Teej, and Kajari Teej. The names of Teej vary from region to region.

Hariyali Teej will be celebrated on August 13 this year.

HARIYALI TEEJ : THE DAY DEDICATED TO GREENERY

As per Hindu calendar, Hariyali Teej is celebrated on the third day of Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) in Sravana month. Hariyali Teej is also known as Singhara Teej. Hariyali means greenery, as it is believed that in this month, the earth gets draped in greenery after the season of summer.

The rituals of Hariyali Teej are extremely significant for newly married females. Females visit their homes and are gifted with Shringar items like Bindi (forehead mark), Sindoor (vermilion), Mehendi (henna), Bangles, etc. along with that the girl and her mother-in-law is gifted jewelry and clothes by her parents.

On Hariyali Teej, the married women worship Goddess Parvati. Special dance, fairs, swings, and folk songs are performed on the day of Hariyali Teej.

Some of the places where Hariyali Teej is celebrated on a large scale are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and northern part of India.

TEEJ : LEGEND OF TEEJ FESTIVAL

The legend of Teej festival is related to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is believed that Goddess Parvati admired Lord Shiva and wanted to marry Him. Hence, Goddess Parvati prayed to Lord Shiva with full devotion and dedication, for a period of 108 years. Post which, She was accepted by Lord Shiva as his wife. Since then, the festival of Teej is dedicated to Goddess Parvati, who is also known as 'Teej Mata'. The divine reunion of Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva for a blissful marriage remains to be the prime reason for celebrating Teej.

Now, as you know why the festival of Teej is celebrated, let's find out what is the significance of the festival for married females in India.

TEEJ : SIGNIFICANCE OF TEEJ FESTIVAL

Teej is one of the most popular festivals among the married women. This festival during the Shravan Maas (month) is considered extremely important for females. The festival of Teej signifies the devotion of a woman toward her husband. It is believed that through severe dedication, a woman can



attain the eternal blessings of Almighty.

So, on this Teej, don't forget to please Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, for attaining the man of your dreams.

TEEJ VRAT 2018 RITUALS

Just like any other festival, the Teej festival has some important rituals. Some of the important rituals that are to be followed during the Teej festival are as follows:

Married women are presented with items of Shringaar (make up) by her in-laws. This Shringaar includes Kumkum (vermilion), Henna (mehndi tattoo), Bindi (decorative mark on forehead), bangles, and Sari (traditional attire).

During the festival of Teej, females observe a Nirjala (without water) fast. So, if you plan to observe the Teej Vrat, you should eat a day prior to Teej festival. As a part of the Teej festival rituals, women visit the nearest temple and pray to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. During the fast, females dress up elegantly, wearing the Shringaar items and apply Mehendi (Henna) to their hands. This ritual is a depiction of a blissful married life.

In the evening, women pray to Goddess Parvati and listen or recite the Teej Vrat Katha.

Special prayers are offered during the night

while observing the Moon. During the festival of Teej, special folk dances are performed and Teej songs are sung. These are some of the important rituals that are followed during the Teej festival. So, this Teej, don't forget to follow these rituals.

TEEJ CELEBRATIONS

During the Teej festival, there is no part of

the country which is left behind. The celebration of the Teej festival can be seen in the states of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh., Haryana, and Punjab.

Not only in India, but also outside, the festival of Teej is celebrated with a lot of joy, enthusiasm, and vibrancy.

During the festival of Teej, special fares are also conducted. Women across the country dress up in different vibrant colored sarees, suits, and Lehengas (traditional attire for women).

Let's have a look at how women all around the country celebrates the Teej festival.

TEEJ FESTIVAL IN RAJASTHAN

The festival of Teej in Rajasthan is a two day celebration. During this time, special processions of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are taken out to the streets. The idols of Lord Shiva and Parvati are named as Gangaur and Teej, respectively. Another name given to the festival of Teej is 'Gangaur'. Special sweets, especially Ghewar (oriental dish of Rajasthan), are prepared and offered to the deities. Special Teej songs and dances are organised along with swings.

Teej festival in 2018 will again be celebrated with the same devotion towards Teej Mata and Lord Shiva.

TEEJ FESTIVAL IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The festival of Teej in Andhra Pradesh is celebrated by the nomad (Banjara) community. Teej Festival is also known as 'Gowri Habba'. The festivity of Teej is witnessed for a week. On the first day, all the unmarried nomad tribe females put wheat in the bamboo basket. On the last day, after sowing the wheat, the bamboo basket is taken for procession and immersed in any water body (pond, river, sea).

TEEJ FESTIVAL IN HARYANA

The festival of Teej is extremely popular with females in the regions of Haryana. This festival is known and celebrated as Hariyali Teej. On this occasion, all the girls of the house are gifted with new clothes by the members of the family. During the evening, females offer their prayers to Goddess Parvati after listening to Hariyali Teej Vrat Katha. The evening is followed by dance and Teej songs.

TEEJ FESTIVAL IN PUNJAB

Teeyan or Teej is celebrated with lot of enthusiasm by the women of Punjab. Women perform their traditional dance 'Giddha' signifying a blissful and happy conjugal life. During the festival of Teej, Punjab is draped in vibrant colors of fun and joy.

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

Indian-Origin man sentenced for 6 years in UK

LONDON(TIP): An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to six years of imprisonment for the death of two women in a road accident in northern England in 2016. He was checking his mobile phone while driving.

The 26-year-old youth has also been banned from driving for nine years.

Mohmed Patel was checking his mobile phone and did not see Shelby Maher, 17, and Rachel Murphy, 23, as they crossed the road in Preston, Lancashire, in April 2016.

While Rachel Murphy died on the spot after being hit by Patel's BMW, Shelby Maher died in a hospital later.

Another teenage girl in a group of five crossing the road was also seriously injured in the mishap. She was in hospital for a week.

Patel was sentenced to six-year imprisonment by the Preston Crown Court on August 7, which concluded that his distraction while driving had resulted in the crash.

"No text was so urgent that it was worth the life of these two young women. It is clear the defendant failed to see any of those people in the road," Judge Altham said after being told that Patel's phone revealed he had sent two text messages to his girlfriend around the time of the crash asking her whereabouts.

The court was told that 42 seconds after he sent the text, he was calling the 999-emergency number from the crash scene.

Patel claimed that he had sent text to his partner while stopped at a nearby set of traffic lights and then replaced the phone in the glove compartment. But another motorist told the court that the accused had overtaken him shortly before the crash and he had seen Patel holding a mobile phone in his hand as he rested it on the steering wheel.

"This was plainly an avoidable distraction. So distracted was he that at the point of collision he may as well have been driving with his eyes closed," the judge said.

He also noted that Patel had shown "no significant remorse" but rather "sadness for the predicament he now finds himself in" and jailed him for two counts of causing death by dangerous driving.

Patel had admitted that his driving, while taking his mother and sister on a shopping trip, was careless, but denied the more serious charge of dangerous driving.

"I do accept I should have seen the pedestrians in the road. I don't know why I didn't see them. But it was not because of my mobile phone," Patel had told the court.

Meanwhile, the victims' families said they were disappointed with the length of sentence.

Shelby's mother Melanie Maher said: "He has ruined all our lives, my child's life, I'm never going to see my daughter again because of him and I hate him."

Indian Origin Businessman Jailed for Hitting War Veteran with Sports Car in UK

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin businessman Ravi Ruparelia has been jailed for a year and two months for crashing his luxury sports car into a 68-year-old war veteran on the streets of London and then fleeing the scene in November last year.

Ruparelia, 30, who runs a successful hotel and catering business in London, lost control of his McLaren 540C Coupe; in London's Park Lane area, jumped a red light and hit Anthony Davis who was waiting to cross the road at a junction.

The victim was knocked unconscious and left with a broken leg in the crash. Ruparelia pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and failing to stop after an accident.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news



Mohmed Patel was checking his mobile phone while driving when he fatally knocked down two women

Indian American Sikh man brutally assaulted in California

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Sikh man was brutally assaulted and spit at by two unidentified men in California. This is the second attack on a community member in about a week that has raised concerns over increasing incidents of hate crimes in the country.

Disturbing footage from a surveillance camera showed 71 year old Sahib Singh Natt walking alone on the side of a road early morning on August 6 in Manteca, California when two men, wearing hoodies, walking from the opposite direction approached him.

Mr. Natt stopped on seeing the men and the two men were seen talking to him. Mr Singh then walked past them but they continued to follow and talk with him.

After a brief argument, one of the men, who was wearing a black hoodie, suddenly kicked Mr. Natt in the stomach and the elderly man fell down on the road, with his turban coming off.

He tried to get up and defend himself but the man again kicked him in the stomach. He fell on the road as the man who attacked him came close to him and appeared to touch his face and spit on him. They then walked away as Mr. Natt was lying on the road.

A few seconds later the man in the black hoodie ran back and viciously kicked him thrice near his head as he laid on the street. He then started leaving again, paused, turned around, and then spat at Mr. Natt.

This was the second attack on a Sikh man in about a week in California. On July 31, 50-year old Surjit Malhi was attacked while putting up campaign signs in support of incumbent Republican Congressman Jeff Denham and other local Republican candidates.

While beating Mr. Malhi, the attackers yelled "Go back to your country!" and spray painted the same message, along with hate symbols, on



his truck. Local police are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

Sikh advocacy group The Sikh Coalition wrote on their Facebook page that while it does not have any immediate evidence that the attack on Mr. Natt was bias-related, the group is quickly investigating the details to learn more. He has received serious injuries and a photo of him shows him in a collar brace. A report in the Manteca Bulletin said Mr. Natt has had heart and other health issues. Manteca Police say the incident appears to be a robbery attempt, but they are not ruling out the possibility of it being a hate crime.

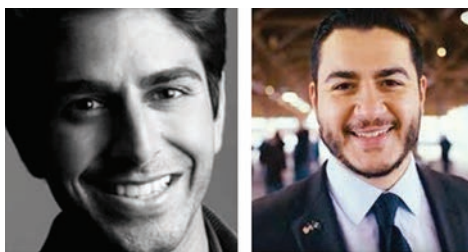
Co-founder of National Sikh Campaign Rajwant Singh said "we are disturbed and appalled by the recent attacks on Sikh-Americans. The fact that Sahib Singh was assaulted and had his turban ripped off his head should be a peaceful call to action for our community and the many supporters of our campaign - Sikhs and Non-Sikhs alike. This situation serves as a painful reminder that there is still much work to be done in bringing Americans of all faiths, colors, and communities together."

He said America is going through an "incredible time of polarization" and hateful rhetoric has been inserted in the public domain. "The Sikh community could be the easy target of the people who are either enraged or misguided. We hope that civic sense prevails in this nation and we continue to make this nation stronger and harmonious," he added.

Executive Director of NSC Gurwin Singh Ahuja said Sikhs wear turbans to stand up against inequality, injustice and the poor treatment of the oppressed. The organization had launched the National Sikh Campaign & We Are Sikhs last year to spread awareness among Americans about their Sikh neighbors, what the community stands for and the contributions it makes to the country.

Indian American Impact Project, a non-profit organization focused on Indian American political participation, had condemned the attack on Mr. Malhi saying hate violence targeting the Indian American community and the broader South Asian American community, has surpassed post-9/11 levels.

Indian American Democrats lose in Michigan primaries



Shri Thanedar and Suneel Gupta lost Democratic primaries in Michigan on August 7.

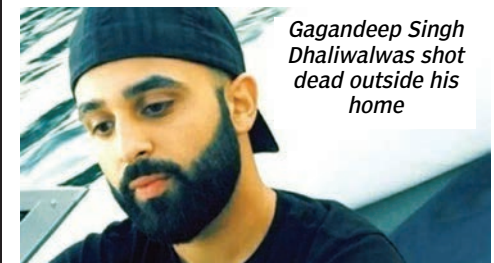
Whitmer received 586,074 votes. Abdul El-Sayed, who was endorsed by former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, was second with 340,560 votes.

Suneel Gupta, brother of physician and television personality Sanjay Gupta fell short by more than 5,000 votes in Michigan's 11th congressional district. Gupta received 19,149 votes. The eventual nominee Haley Stevens received 24,232 votes. Thanedar, who grew up in Belgaum, in the south Indian state of Karnataka, self-financed his campaign to the tune of \$11 million.

His website says Thanedar purchased or sold eight different businesses-many of them chemical testing analytics firms. The controversial businessman had toyed with the idea of running in the Republican primary before filing papers to run as a Democrat, according to reports. Ultimately, he ran as a progressive.

Gupta, whose mom was the first female engineer hired by Ford half a century ago, ran on a progressive platform, including education, environment, healthcare and jobs creation. "Taking this country back from Donald Trump-that's job one," Gupta, who holds a law degree from Northwestern Law School and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, said in one of his campaign ads. He founded Rise, a healthcare technology company he set up, with the help of his brother Sanjay Gupta.

Indian Origin Sikh Teen Shot Dead Outside Home in Canada



Gagandeep Singh Dhaliwal was shot dead outside his home

TORONTO (TIP): Indian Origin 19-year-old Sikh teen was shot dead outside his home and his cousin was injured by so far unidentified persons in an apparent targeted shooting in Canada, police said.

Gagandeep Singh Dhaliwal, who was known to local police but had no criminal records, got home on Sunday, August 5 with his family following a wedding reception. He then went to the garage to hang out with his cousin, and it was at that time when the shooting started, his family told the media.

The Abbotsford Police Department said officers responded to a report of shots fired at a home around 11:30 pm. Upon arrival, they found two men who had been shot.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

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contd from page 1

PepsiCo chief executive Indra...

Indra, you are a mentor + inspiration to so many, myself included," Indra Nooyi has been a darling of Indian Americans who have always taken pride in her as a shining example of the achievements of women of Indian origin abroad.

Commenting on her stepping down as CEO of one of the largest companies of the world, Dr. VK Raju, eminent Indian American ophthalmologist who hails from Andhra Pradesh, said, "Indra Nooyi has been a towering personality in the corporate world of America and is responsible for the growth of PEPSICO". Ms. Nooyi grew up in Chennai, India, where during food shortages in the 1960s her middle-class family stood in line for rice rations studded with stones. When Indra and her sister were young, their mother challenged them at the dinner table each night to give speeches about what they would do if they were prime minister or another world leader. After the speeches, their mother would vote.

Ms. Nooyi came to the U.S. in 1978 on a scholarship to the Yale School of Management and worked at several companies before joining PepsiCo in 1994 as head of strategy. She was chief financial officer and president before she was named chief executive, succeeding Steve Reinemund.

After becoming CEO in 2006, Ms. Nooyi said she wanted to make PepsiCo "a defining corporation of the 21st century." "Nobody's going to remember you for delivering earnings to stockholders; they will remember you for the lasting impact you made on society," she said in a 2009 speech.

The company's shares have gained 78 per cent since Ms Nooyi took the top job in 2006. Mr Laguarta, a 22-year veteran of PepsiCo, oversaw global operations, corporate strategy, public policy and government affairs in his role as president.

He also served as head of the company's Europe Sub-Saharan Africa division before becoming president.

Pence details plan for creation...

a military command - "Space Force" as the sixth branch of the U.S. military as early as 2020.

Pence warned of the advancements that potential adversaries were making and issued what amounted to a call to arms to preserve the military's dominance in space.

"Just as we've done in ages past, the United States will meet the emerging threats on this new battlefield," he said in a speech at the Pentagon. "The time has come to establish the United States Space Force."

But the monumental task of standing up a new military department, which would require approval by a Congress that shelved the idea last year, may require significant new spending and a reorganization of the largest bureaucracy in the world. And the idea has already run into fierce opposition inside and out of the Pentagon, particularly from the Air Force, which could lose some of its responsibilities.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis last year said he opposed a new department of the military "at a time when we are focused on reducing overhead and integrating joint warfighting functions."

This week, Mattis said the Pentagon and White House "are in complete alignment" on the need to view space as a warfighting domain. But he stopped short of endorsing a full-fledged Space Force. In a briefing with reporters after Pence's speech, Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan suggested that Mattis's comments opposing the Space Force were made at a different time, before the Pentagon received a bolstered budget.

White House officials have been working with national security leaders to aggressively move ahead without Congress. The first step is creating a new U.S. Space Command by the end of the year, which would be led by a four-star general, the way the Pentagon's Indo-Pacific Command oversees those regions.

The new command would pull space experts from across the armed services, and there would be a separate acquisitions office, dedicated to buying satellites and developing new technology to help the military win wars in space.

After the announcement Thursday, President Trump tweeted, "Space Force all the way!"

For months, Trump has been calling for a Space Force, a new, free-standing military department, with its own chain of command and uniforms. The White House intends to work with lawmakers in submitting legislation by early next year, a senior administration official said, with the hopes of standing up the first new military department since the Air Force in 1947. Some members of Congress and military leaders have been warning space is no longer a peaceful sanctuary, but a domain of conflict that needs more attention and resources. Space is vital to the way the United States wages war; The Pentagon's satellites are used for missile-defense warnings, guiding precision munitions and providing communications and reconnaissance. Russia and China have made significant

advancements, challenging the United States' assets in space.

After Pence's speech, Reps. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) and Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), members of the House Armed Services Committee, praised the move, saying a Space Force "will result in a safer, stronger America." "We have been warning for years of the need to protect our space assets and to develop more capable space systems," they said in a joint statement.

In his speech, Pence urged the audience to support the administration's effort to create the new department. Speaking to a room made up mostly of U.S. troops in uniform, Pence said their "Commander-in-Chief is going to continue to work tirelessly toward this goal, and we expect you all to do the same." "The only thing we can't afford is inaction," he said.

US Army suspends discharging...

An Associate Press report said that Marshal Williams, an assistant secretary of the Army, ordered high-ranking officials to suspend the processing of separations in a July 20 memo.

The news comes one month after the AP reported the Army had discharged dozens of immigrant recruits and reservists, putting their immigration status at risk.

"It's an admission by the Army that they've improperly discharged hundreds of soldiers," immigration attorney and former Army Reserve officer Margaret Stock, who helped create the program, told the AP on Wednesday. "The next step should be go back and rescind the people who were improperly discharged."

Many immigrant recruits told the AP last month they were not given a reason for their discharges or said they were labeled as a security risk because of their relatives abroad.

Reports estimate there are around 10,000 Army recruits currently serving as part of the program, which offers a pathway to citizenship, according to the AP. The discharges inflamed immigration activists last month, who pointed to the policy as another example of escalating anti-immigration sentiment under President Trump. It is unclear if the Army will resume discharging immigrant recruits, and the AP reported none of those already separated have been reinstated.

Russia faces US sanctions over...

but the Kremlin has strongly denied any involvement.

Russia has criticized the new sanctions as "draconian".

In a statement released on Wednesday, August 8, the US State Department confirmed it was implementing measures against Russia over the incident.

Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it had been determined that the country "has used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law or has used lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals".

"The strong international response to the use of a chemical weapon on the streets of Salisbury sends an unequivocal message to Russia that its provocative, reckless behavior will not go unchallenged," a UK Foreign Office statement said.

The Russian embassy in the US hit back on Thursday morning, criticizing what it called "far-fetched accusations" from the US that Russia was behind the attack.

Russia had become "accustomed to not hearing any facts or evidence", it said, adding: "We continue to strongly stand for an open and transparent investigation of the crime committed in Salisbury." The new sanctions will take effect on or around 22 August and relate to the exports of sensitive electronic components and other technologies. The State Department said "more draconian" sanctions will follow within 90 days if Russia fails to give reliable assurances it will no longer use chemical weapons and allow on-site inspections by the United Nations. An official said it was only the third time that the US had determined a country had used chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals.

Previous occasions were against Syria and against North Korea for the assassination of Kim Jong-nam, the half-brother of leader Kim Jong-un, who died when highly toxic VX nerve agent was rubbed on his face at Kuala Lumpur airport.

Are these the only US sanctions against Russia? No. In June the US imposed sanctions on five Russian companies and three Russian individuals in response to alleged Russian cyber-attacks on the US. All are prohibited from any transactions involving the US financial system.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the measures were to counter "malicious actors" working to "increase Russia's offensive cyber-capabilities".

After pressure from Republican members of Congress, the State Department has determined Moscow broke international law by using a military grade chemical weapon on the Skripals. While the US expelled some five dozen diplomats shortly after the poisoning, the administration stopped short of making a formal determination that Russia had broken international law. But Congress has been pushing for such a decision and now the state department has confirmed Russia's actions contravened 1991 US legislation on the use of chemical

weapons. That breach automatically triggers the imposition of sanctions and places requirements on Russia to avert further restrictions in three months' time.

Those requirements could include opening up sites in Russia for inspection - a move Moscow would probably resist.

So far President Donald Trump has been silent on this latest move - which could well derail his attempts to develop a new, warmer relationship with Vladimir Putin.

Following the incident, the British government said the military-grade nerve agent Novichok, of a type developed by Russia, had been used in the attack.

Relations between Russia and the West hit a new low. More than 20 countries expelled Russian envoys in solidarity with the UK, including the US. Washington ordered 60 diplomats to leave and closed the Russian consulate general in Seattle.

Three months after the Salisbury attack, two other people fell ill at a house in Amesbury, about eight miles from the city. Dawn Sturgess later died while her partner, Charlie Rowley, spent three weeks recovering in hospital.

After tests, scientists at the UK's military research lab, Porton Down, found the couple had also been exposed to Novichok. Mr Rowley told ITV News he had earlier found a sealed bottle of perfume and given it to Ms Sturgess, who sprayed the substance on her wrists.

NY Congressman Collins...

Hours after he was released on bail, Collins spoke to reporters in Buffalo, professing his innocence and saying he would remain on the ballot for re-election this fall.

Collins was one of the first members of Congress to endorse President Donald Trump during his presidential campaign.

Last fall, the Office of Congressional Ethics released a report that said the congressman may have violated House rules when he bought discounted stock that wasn't available to the public and was offered to him based on his status as a politician. The report also found that Collins, a board member of Australia-based Innate Immunotherapeutics, may have shared nonpublic information about the company, another possible violation.

Innate had been in the process of developing a drug to treat multiple sclerosis in 2017, according to the indictment. When the product failed drug trials in June 2017, however, the public results sent Innate stock prices plummeting by 92 percent.

Collins - one of Innate's largest stockholders - had access to information about the company and its research that wasn't available to the public, the indictment alleges.

When Collins found out about the trial results, he allegedly told his son Cameron Collins, also an Innate stockholder, who told his then-girlfriend's father Stephen Zarsky, as well as several other stockholders. Cameron Collins, Zarsky, and the stockholders Collins told subsequently sold their Innate stock before prices plunged, narrowly avoiding hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses, the indictment says.

The congressman, his son and Zarsky have all been charged with conspiracy, securities fraud, wire fraud and making false statements to the FBI, the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office said. The Securities and Exchange Commission has filed its own civil action against the three men.

"Representative Collins, who, by virtue of his office, helps write the laws of this country, acted as if the law did not apply to him," Berman said. "These charges are a reminder that this is a nation of laws, and everyone stands equal before the bar of justice." "I believe I acted properly and within the law at all times," he said. "I will mount a vigorous defense in court to clear my name. I look forward to being fully vindicated and exonerated." The congressman's attorneys Jonathan Barr and Jonathan New, of BakerHostetler, also said Wednesday they would "answer the charges filed against [Collins] in court and... mount a vigorous defense to clear his good name."

"It is notable that even the government does not allege that Congressman Collins traded a single share of Innate Therapeutics stock," they said in a statement. "We are confident he will be completely vindicated and exonerated."

House Speaker Paul Ryan said in a statement the congressman would no longer serve on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, pending the ultimate outcome of the indictment. "While his guilt or innocence is a question for the courts to settle, the allegations against Rep. Collins demand a prompt and thorough investigation by the House Ethics Committee," he said. "Insider trading is a clear violation of the public trust." House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, said Americans "deserve better than the GOP's corruption, cronyism and incompetence."

"The charges against Congressman Collins show the rampant culture of corruption and self-enrichment among Republicans in Washington today," she said. "The Ethics Committee must accelerate its own investigation into Congressman Collins' illegal abuse of the public trust."

The congressman is expected to appear in court again on Oct. 11.

HAMPI: A FANTASY WORLD OF ROCKS AND RUINS

Hampi is an ancient village in the south Indian state of Karnataka. It's dotted with numerous ruined temple complexes from the Vijayanagara Empire. Hampi is a village and temple town recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, listed as the Group of Monuments at Hampi in northern Karnataka, India. It was one of the richest and largest cities in the world during its prime. It is located within the ruins of the city of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Hampi is a place like no other and so are the activities that you can indulge in when here. Test yourself at bouldering over the hills, ride a bicycle all across the village, row a coracle in the calm waters of River Tungabhadra, spot some Indian sloth bears or get blessed by an elephant—Hampi has a lot to keep you busy. Watching a sundowner across its famous temple ruins is, of course, a delight.

BOULDERING

Hampi is a boulderers' heaven. With its endless trails of boulder hills and right terrain, it has emerged as the country's hotspot for anyone with a love for the sport. While the more experienced ones can get bouldering and rock climbing equipment from one of the many stores and travel operators in the village, newbies can learn sport tactics with experts who often camp by the boulders. A closely-guarded secret, bouldering in Hampi came into spotlight with Pilgrimage, the much acclaimed climbing movie by Chris Sharma, Katie Brown and Nate Gold; climbers from all over the world made Hampi a favourite soon after its release. You would know the lure of those flat, looming boulders once you set eyes on them. A must-do in Hampi.

BEAR WATCHING

Wildlife lovers can head off the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary for jungle safaris. The sanctuary is some 20 km away from Hampi and doubles up as a conservation centre for the Indian sloth bear. Perfect to escape to from the more touristy lanes of Hampi, it is quite offbeat and houses more than 100 sloth bears, 90 bird species and an impressive variety of butterflies as well. You can either drive across the sanctuary or sit in the watch tower with a pair of binoculars and picnic lunch. Great place for kids.

GET BLESSED BY AN ELEPHANT

This one would never lose its charm! Lakshmi, the temple elephant at Virupaksha Temple, blesses visitors early in the morning with a gentle touch of her trunk. Anyone looking for a greater adrenalin rush should get into the river when she is in for a bath; a gentle shower from her awaits everyone who is eager enough to go near. Those not in a mood to get drenched can stay at the banks and watch the ritual-like bathing ceremony when Lakshmi splashes in the water, eagerly listening to her mahout's calls.

BICYCLE TOURS

If there is one thing that you must do in Hampi, it is to get a bicycle and roam around the ruins and this sleepy village at a pace that keeps you discovering its beauty. Hampi is not a place to strike off from your wishlist in a rush; so let it work its magic on you—slowly. A number of bicycle rental points are in the



lane that houses Virupaksha Temple; you can get one for around INR 500 as security deposit and INR 50 as bicycle rent for a day. You would be required to provide an ID card as well. Take ample pit stops in the artsy cafes and restaurants, in the temple ruins and street markets, say hello to locals, wave at fisherman—enjoy Hampi in a way that it deserves.

CORACLE HOPPING

A walk by riverside is passe when you can

go right in the middle of one in coracles, the coolest designed boats ever. Crossing River Tungabhadra to reach Anegundi, the hippie side of Hampi and back, becomes all the more inviting when you wade across it in a coracle. Watch a brilliant sunset, visit the drum circle and other live music sessions on the other side, photograph the Hampi ruins that look all the more fascinating from across the river or just enjoy some calm, away from the touristy clamour of the village in one.

VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE

Dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, the main deity of the Vijayanagara rulers, the temple is an important pilgrimage centre and one of the main attractions of Hampi. Also known as Pampapati Temple, it has a 50-metre high tower at the entrance and displays beautiful architecture throughout. The miniature paintings on the ceilings make your visit worthwhile. Built in the beginning of the 7th century, it is one of the oldest functioning temples in India. The temple received a major overhaul and renovation at the beginning of the 19th century.

VITTALA TEMPLE

Dedicated to Lord Vittala, a form of Lord Vishnu, the temple was built in the 15th century. It is an exemplary symbol of the Vijayanagara style of art and architecture and one of the top attractions of Hampi. No words can describe the magnificence of the hundred pillared pavilion or mandapa that lies in the south-west part of the temple. The sculptures that adorn the eastern and northern gateways are also splendid. The composite pillars of the 'sabha mandapa' are massive and when tapped gently produce musical notes. The temple complex houses a number of important monuments including the famous stone chariot.

STONE CHARIOT

Considered as the most popular attraction of Hampi, this architectural marvel is located within the Vittala Temple complex. It is actually a shrine built in the form of a chariot and rests on a platform that is about a feet high. The shrine is dedicated to Garuda who is the carrier of Lord Vishnu. This stunning piece of architecture is among the three famous stone chariots in India, others being Konark (Odisha) and Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu). The carvings and sheer beauty of this structure make it a 'must-visit' attraction of Hampi.

UGRA NARASIMHA SWAMY STATUE

This is the largest statue in Hampi and depicts Lord Narasimha in a terrifying or angry form. Narasimha which means half-man and half-lion is one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu. This monolithic structure, which is 6.7 m in height, has the lord sitting cross-legged position on the coil of a giant seven-headed snake Adishesha. Originally the statue also had Goddess Lakshmi sitting on lord's lap, but according to history it was vandalised and damaged in the year 1565. The statue of Goddess Lakshmi can now be seen in Kamalapuram Museum.

SASIVEKALU GANESHA

Yet another magnificent monolithic sculpture, this statue of Lord Ganesha is around 8 feet tall and is kept in an open pavilion. It is said that the stomach of the deity resembles the shape of a mustard seed and hence the name as 'sasivekalu' means mustard seed in Kannada. The lower left hand and the trunk of the statue are broken, and the stomach of the statue of the deity is tied with a snake. Legend has it that Lord Ganesha ate too much and hence tied a snake around His belly to prevent it from bursting! The statue is located in the southern part of Hemakuta Hill, not too far from Kadalekalu Ganesha Temple.

NEW CONSTITUTION: BCCI MAY NOW HAVE FRESH FACES

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court's latest order on Lodha committee's recommendations has left the incumbent BCCI officials confused about its implications.

The court had earlier taken into account the "practical difficulties of the members", especially the clause related to a three-year cooling off period after a three-year term of an office-bearer. However, by deciding to have a cooling off period after six years in office (in BCCI, a state association or combined), the court has made the tenures of current administrators uncertain.

The order implies that incumbent BCCI treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry, acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary and acting president CK Khanna will all be ineligible



Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha

to contest the elections once the new constitution comes into effect in the next four weeks. While Khanna claimed it to be

a 'positive sign' and welcomed the decision, several others sounded worried.

"As per the new constitution, very few current administrators will qualify to contest the elections. The members wanted continuity. But as it stands, the board will have to bring in fresh faces," a BCCI member told TOI on Thursday (August 9). "We will have to wait for the interpretation of the SC order. There are murmurs that the court could be approached again to revisit the cooling off clause," he added.

When the apex court had observed on July 5 that there was no need to have a stringent cooling-off period, as recommended by Lodha committee, it was perceived that the administrators would get a chance to continue running the affairs of the board. But Thursday's

verdict has come as a dampener.

Besides the new cooling off clause and a limit of nine years in administration (in BCCI or state), the board members are also confused with the court stating: "The expression 'office-bearer' should not be permitted to be circumvented by being a member of any other committee or of the governing council in BCCI or any state association, as the case may be."

A BCCI member said: "With this clause there will be people who would not contest the election to become office-bearers. This opens up an opportunity for people to just stay in committees and continue their monopoly in the board. Or, if it is implied that a committee member is considered as an office-bearer, then it is the end for several members in the board."

Virat on a scoring spree, credits changed mindset



LONDON (TIP): Virat Kohli said four years ago that you can be aggressive even while playing a defensive shot. As his batting graph soars, the India skipper explained that while he has honed technique, his mental approach has played a crucial role.

Kohli has climbed to world No 1 in Test rankings after a brilliant 141 in the first Test against England at Edgbaston. Though fans and expert eagerly await more from him, they also wonder how as captain, he can galvanise his team and ensure his heroics turn into winnings knocks in a series that India trail 1-0.

Edgbaston was the third major Test where Kohli has delivered with the bat as skipper but the team lost. His 141 in the Adelaide Test of 2014-15 and 153 against South Africa in Centurion in January too ended in defeats.

Virat Kohli took over from MS Dhoni during the 2014-15 Australia series, and since then, the extra responsibility has only strengthened his batting resolve. It has been clear the India skipper has left no gap in preparation.

Kohli said batsmen Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul and Ajinkya Rahane, who flopped in the first Test that India lost by 31 runs, too put in lot of hard work, but it was essentially up to them to find a way to counter tough conditions.

"I leave no stone unturned when it comes to getting in there, talking to the guys wherever I can, from the strategy point of view as well. Sometimes it doesn't come off. It is not like we are getting rolled over or dominated (overseas). Any Test we play, we are competitive. That is something people overlook very easily," he told a news conference on Wednesday, ahead of the second Test at Lord's.

"When the result comes, then they will realise this team is very competitive. We definitely are in the zone and understand if we tweak a few things here and there, we should be on the right side of the result."

Kohli has been proactive with his technique, be it standing outside the crease to negate swing, or showing patience against Jimmy Anderson's line outside off-stump. That has not been the case with the others.

Source: HT

India U-20 football team stun Argentina U20 team 2-1 in COTIF

NEW DELHI (TIP): As goals from freekicks generally go, the beauty of this one too lay in the kick-taker's courage. Not many expected Anwar Ali to aim directly at the goal from roughly 35 yards out — not the 3,500 spectators in Valencia's Els Arcs Stadium on Sunday night; certainly not the 11 Argentines who had closed down all angles, all gaps on the field. Ali himself did not give any such impression with his short, scampering run-up. But the ball formed a perfect arc as it flew off his laces, dipped sharply and rattled the post, into the goal.

The goal propelled India's under-20 team, who played with 10 men for 40 minutes, to a scarcely-believable 2-1 win over Argentina under-20 in the final group stage match of the Cotif Cup, a biennial invitational tournament for international youth teams. It is one of India's biggest win, in terms of the quality of the opposition, in the recent years across any age group, made sweeter by the under-16 team, who defeated reigning Asian under-16 champions Iraq 1-0 in the West Asian Football Federation Cup on the same evening in Amman. The only goal of the match was scored by Bhuvnesh in added time.

But for obvious reasons, it is the under-20 team's surreal scoreline against Argentina, who've won the youth World Cup six times, that has put them in the global spotlight.

For a country still recovering from a nightmarish World Cup, a defeat to India, even in a junior tournament, will feel like rubbing salt to wounds. Argentina's biggest sports newspaper Ole called it as a 'setback', considering this competition was seen as the first step towards reshaping the national team's future after a turbulent last few months.

Jorge Sampaoli, the Chilean tactician under whom Argentina imploded in Russia, was initially named as the coach of the under-20 side for the Cotif Cup.

After he was sacked, the Argentine federation named his assistant and World Cupper Lionel Scaloni as the coach with the legendary Pablo Aimar as his assistant. They were last week named as Argentina national team's interim coaches.

India's participation, meanwhile, was a part of the ongoing process to develop the junior players. The government and All India Football Federation (AIFF) have spent in the last two years, mainly on exposure tours like these.

Source: The Indian Express





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