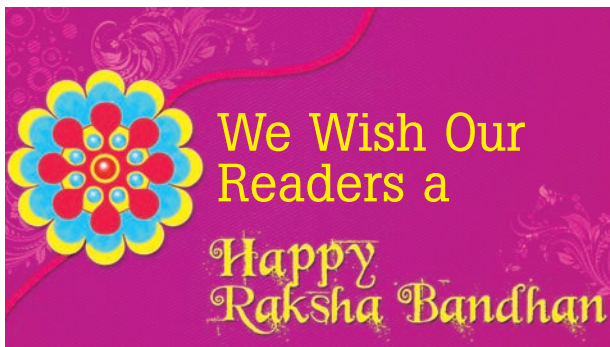




Asia Society Names 2018 Asia Game Changer Award Honorees

Awards will be presented in New York on October 9



Asia Society named, among others, PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi as Game Changer of the Year for 2018 in recognition of her pioneering business achievements, humanitarian record, and advocacy for women and girls around the world.

Photo / Courtesy Asia Society

NEW YORK (TIP): PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi has been selected as Asia Society's Game Changer of the Year for 2018 in recognition of her pioneering business achievements, humanitarian record, and advocacy for women and girls around the world. She leads a slate of groundbreaking women, including a team of Afghan girls who have made waves at international robotics competitions and Mira Rai, a record-shattering runner from a small village in Nepal, who is also an inspiration for millions of girls and young women. **contd on Page 6**

President Trump in soup as 2 ex-aides face jail

Former campaign chairman convicted of financial crimes; Ex-lawyer pleads guilty of campaign finance violations and other crimes



The Trio of Manafort, Trump, Cohen. Paul Manafort (left), a former Trump campaign chairman was found guilty of bank and tax frauds. Trump's ex-lawyer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty to financial crimes

NEW YORK (TIP): United States President Donald Trump was hit by a double whammy on Tuesday, August 21, as his former lawyer implicated him in a case of campaign finance violation and his former campaign chief was convicted of financial wrongdoing.

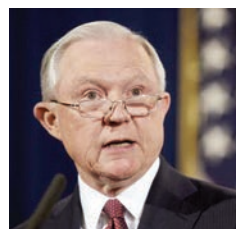
Paul Manafort, who led the Trump campaign during the Republican National Convention in 2016, was found guilty of bank and tax frauds and one charge of failing to disclose foreign bank accounts, by a jury in Virginia, in the suburbs of the U.S. capital. All offences took place before he joined the Trump campaign, and none relates to links with Russia, but the conviction has given a fillip to Mr. Mueller's ongoing investigation.

contd on Page 32

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions hits back at Trump criticism

WASHINGTON (TIP): Stung by US President Donald Trump's criticism of him as being unable to take control of the Justice Department, attorney general Jeff Sessions came out with a strong rebuttal. Sessions, in a rare rebuttal to Trump, issued a statement defending the integrity of his department. "I took control of the Department of Justice the day I was sworn in," he said.

contd on page 32



Sessions pushes back after Trump attacks his leadership in Fox interview on Cohen, Manafort and impeachment.

Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar passes away at 95

NEW DELHI (TIP): Eminent journalist and author Kuldip Nayar, who fiercely fought for press freedom and protecting civil liberties, passed away on Thursday, August 23 morning. He was 95. Nayar died at around 12.30 am at the Escorts hospital in Delhi, his elder son Sudhir Nayar said.

contd on Page 30

Kuldip Nayar was honored with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to journalism at the eighth edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence awards.

File photo/ Manas Ranjan Bhui



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AAPI Urges US Govt. to Expedite H-1B, J-1 Visa for Physicians

AAPI leaders share health and wellness message at India Day Parade in New York



AAPI officials with Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty at the Consulate General of India in New York, August 18



AAPI Float in FIA Parade to mark India's Independence, August 19

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): "As the rapidly approaching start date for all GME programs, we at AAPI want to urge the US administration to expedite review of pending H-1B/J-1 Visa applications by non-U.S. International Medical Graduates (IMGs), who have been accepted to postgraduate training programs in order to avoid unnecessary delays," said Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of AAPI, during a Media Greet & Meet event.

In his key note address, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty said, "You have excelled in your fields of medicine, and thus make

significant contributions through hard work, commitment and dedication to your profession and the people you are committed to serve." While conveying his greetings and best wishes to AAPI leaders for the success of the convention and Global Healthcare Summit, Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty described the fast-growing health sector, particularly the pharmaceutical industry in India. Ambassador Chakravorty lauded the efforts of AAPI, particularly for the free clinics across India, and the new clinic planned to be inaugurated

in the state of West Bengal.

In his Presidential address, Dr. Naresh Parikh, who was elected unopposed in every election leading to his current leadership of national SAAPI, stated that American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the largest ethnic Medical Association in the nation, representing the interests of over 100,000 physicians, Fellows and Residents in the United States, while working closely with the Lawmakers individually, regionally and nationally through our AAPI Legislative Day on Capitol

Hill, have consistently supported a comprehensive immigration reform.

Dr. Parikh pointed out that in order to meet the growth in demand and shortage of physicians, the US has looked up to the highly trained and qualified physicians from other countries to meet our growing demand for physicians to meet our nation's healthcare needs. In this context, AAPI has joined other Medical Association in the country in urging the US to expedite and reduce/eliminate the hurdles for speedy process of the applicants seeking H-1B visa. **contd on Page 32**

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Indian American Doctor from Texas Convicted for Raping Patient will Serve 10 Years of Probation

HOUSTON (TIP): An Indian American doctor from Texas will spend 10 years of probation instead of jail for raping a sedated patient in a hospital.

Jurors convicted Shafeeq Sheikh, 46, a former physician at the Baylor College of Medicine, of second-degree sexual assault after a trial that ended this past week.

The crime is punishable by up to 20 years in prison, but the Texas jury sentenced Sheikh to 10 years of probation on August 17.

Sheikh will have to register as a sex offender. Unlike most states and the federal government, Texas grants juries the power to set criminal punishments.

The punishment has surprised defense attorneys, disappointed law enforcement and raised concerns from a victims advocacy group, according to media reports.

The jurors had recommended the sentencing, to which visiting Senior District Judge Terry L. Flenniken was required to follow by law, according to local media report.

Sheikh was working in night shift at Houston's Ben Taub Hospital in 2013 when a woman was admitted for shortness of breath and wheezing. She was in the hospital overnight and sedated when Sheikh came to her room several times during the night and sexually assaulted her.

The woman said she attempted to get help from a nurse, but the call button would not work.

DNA evidence collected from a rape kit matched the DNA sample of the guilty doctor's cheek swab. But it took two years for charges to be filed against Sheikh.

Surveillance video also captured Sheikh on the floor where the woman's room was located. He used his badge to swipe onto her floor at least 12 times that night. "He sought her out. He chose her to prey on," Assistant District Attorney Lauren Reeder said during Friday's sentencing. "You know he's the type of man who would go in multiple times, testing the waters, seeing how far he could go and get back to his normal business after that."

"You know he's the kind of man who walked around for two years before he was charged with this... knowing what he did," she added.

During the trial, the doctor admitted to the sexual contact with the woman, but insisted it was consensual. Lawyers also pleaded with the jury to show some compassion to Sheikh, his wife and children, who also suffered consequences due to his actions.

"The dreams of a man, the childhood dream to become a doctor, were shattered by his conduct. He destroyed his own dreams," Sheikh's lawyer Stanley Schneider said.

"What he has done to himself and his family is punishment. They are serving his sentence with him. His children are serving his sentence with him."

The Texas Medical Board revoked his license in 2015 after they found he was a "continuing threat to public welfare." Sheikh has since left the hospital.

The woman, now 32, said after the sentencing she wanted to move on from the incident. She told KHOU11 in 2015 that she believed there are other victims.

(Source: KHOU11)



Shafeeq Sheikh, a former physician at the Baylor College of Medicine, was convicted of second-degree sexual assault

Indians Living in China Donate Rs. 14 Lakh for Kerala Flood Relief

BEIJING(TIP): Indians living in China have raised over Rs. 14 lakh for the welfare of flood relief victims in Kerala.

In Beijing, the Malayalee Association along with the Indian Community of Beijing (ICB) raised 50,000 yuan (about Rs. five lakh) at a get together.

Suresh Varma, president of the Beijing Malayalee Association, said the money is being routed to the Chief Minister's relief fund in Kerala through the Indian Embassy.

The funds were collected at a special platform setup at the Indian restaurant Taj Pavilion with a lunch and donated to Kerala relief fund, said M H Pastakia, ICB member.

In Yiwu, the international consumer trade hub which has a large Indian community, raised about 80,000 yuan (Rs. eight lakh) to be donated to the relief fund.

In Shanghai, the Indian association has so far raised 20,000 yuan (Rs. two lakh) to be sent to the Kerala flood relief fund, member Amit Waiker said.

The Indian Embassy is helping the community to route the proceeds to the Chief Minister's welfare fund.



Indian-Origin UAE Based Businessmen Donate Rs. 125 Million for Kerala Floods

DUBAI (TIP): Indian-origin UAE based business Tycoons have announced Rs.125 million donation for flood relief operations in the flood-hit Kerala, according to a media report.

164 people have lost their lives in Kerala since August 8 due to floods caused by rains and landslides, while over 3.14 lakh people have been moved to relief camps.

The state is facing the worst flood in 100 years with 80 dams opened and all rivers in spate. A body blow has been dealt to the scenic state, with its infrastructure, standing crops, and tourism facilities severely hit.

Kerala-born businessman Yusuff Ali MA, chairman and managing director of Lulu Group, has announced a Rs.50 million donation for rain-battered Kerala, Khaleej Times reported.

KP Hussain, chairman of Fathima Healthcare Group, has donated Rs.50 million. He said that Rs.10 million out of Rs.50 million will directly go to the Kerala Chief Minister's relief fund, while the rest will be allocated for medical relief aid, the Gulf paper added.

Mr Hussain said that his group has coordinated with the state's health secretary to send volunteers from its medical faculty. This includes doctors and paramedics being sent to relief



camps.

"As per our geological studies and today's condition in Kerala, the stagnant water will be drained much later than expected. Hence, there is a high possibility of more deaths in the event of spread of various diseases like fever, dysentery, gastric issues, skin disorders etc.," he was quoted as saying by the paper. "This situation needs to be handled very seriously and emergency treatment has to be provided with immediate effect. As recommended by the public health secretary, we have received the list of medicines which will be supplied to the

relief camps."

Indian - origin billionaire BR Shetty, chairman of Unimoni and UAE Exchange, pledged Rs. 20 million.

Azad Moopen, Indian physician and philanthropist, and founder chairman and managing director of Aster DM Healthcare, pledged Rs. 5 million. The group also announced that it had mobilized a disaster support team of over 300 volunteers. The Indian community in the UAE, numbering 2.6 million, constitutes 30 per cent of the total population. It is the largest expatriate community in the country.

Indian American Comedian Hasan Minhaj adds to the Current Political and Social Issues



To hell with log kya kahenge. Comedians have privileges

NEW YORK (TIP): The reputed Indian American comedian was quoted saying in one of his events in India "he is not afraid to take 'big swings', and doesn't think 'log kya kahenge', a Hindi phrase for 'what will people say'".

"I am very lucky. I am in an incredible privileged position as a comedian in America and we are given certain protection. Despite the problems that the country has, we are given these incredible privileges and protections," Hasan said.

"I know a lot of journalists, activists and performers around the world who don't get that. So, I just feel incredibly grateful for the opportunities that I have," Hasan said before the release of Lionsgate Films' "The Spy Who Dumped Me" in India.

He essays the role of Topher Duffer, a CIA Harvard alum in the movie -- an action thriller, starring Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon in comical roles. "And because I have those opportunities, I want to take big swings. I want to say things that I really feel

about," he added when asked whether he thinks about the consequences before taking on big names on public platforms.

After doing some gigs, Hasan got his big break when he became a part of "The Daily Show". But he found worldwide fame with his "Homecoming King", debuted Off-Broadway in October 2015. He then recorded a version of that show in January 2017 for his first Netflix special. Growing up in the US as a Muslim from Aligarh was a bumpy ride for Hasan.

Read full story at theindianpanorama.news



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GOPIO MAKES APPEAL FOR FLOOD VICTIMS OF KERALA

NEW YORK (TIP): The fury of recent floods in Kerala is unprecedented in the history and has wreaked havoc on the lives and livelihood of millions of people.

More than 350 people have died in the worst flooding in nearly 100 years. More than 350,000 people have found shelter in relief camps and thousands of others on high ground in areas cut off by floods. Thousands of people who were stranded on rooftops or the upper floors of homes have been rescued. Relief and rescue efforts have been in full swing. Supplying of food, medicine and clean water is a growing challenge for authorities.

More than 82,000 rescue operations have been mounted by the Indian military, disaster management teams and volunteer workers including fishermen. Their efforts, however, have been hampered, by incessant rain, which had limited their work to daylight hours.

The aftermath of the flood can also be beset with many problems. Damage to infrastructure is expected to come to \$3 billion. Roads and 134 bridges have suffered damage, isolating remote areas in the hilly districts of the state which are worst affected. Thousands of homes have been lost; many more have been found severely damaged. Acres and acres of crops have suffered extensive damage.

Millions of people underwent harrowing experiences and lost belonging that they had owned. All of them are faced with daunting task of rebuilding their lives from scratch. The magnitude of rehabilitation will be an enormous task which need help from everyone, the government of Kerala, the central government and development agencies. Affected people are looking up to various agencies, philanthropic and NRIs/PIOs to help the victims in rehabilitation efforts. GOPIO would like to raise awareness of this enormous natural calamity and would appeal to all NRIs/PIOs to help their unfortunate brethren during this challenging phase. *contd on Page 32*

Support for Relief Efforts for Victims of Floods in Kerala, India

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates join with other associations and organizations in expressing our concern and urging support for the people of Kerala (India) affected by the recent devastating floods which that have caused numerous deaths, displacement, suffering, pain and anguish. Several local and international news reports have compared this flooding as the worst in Kerala in a century.

Widespread downpours are forecast for the next 24 hours in the region, although rainfall intensity has declined over the past two days, according to a bulletin from the India Meteorological Department. Kerala's monsoon showers this year have been 41 percent more than normal, contrasting with nationwide rainfall, which is 8 percent below average, the India Meteorological Department said.

IDC commends the efforts being made by the State of Kerala and the Government of India to bring desperately needed relief to the affected citizens to alleviate the difficulties being experienced and for the well-being of its citizens. We urge other countries, as well as local, regional and international relief agencies, individuals, organizations, associations to respond urgently to this disaster and provide needed relief and contributions in a timely manner.

Expressing grief over the unfortunate deaths and damage caused to property due to floods, India's Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi, observed that rescue of people who are still marooned remains the topmost priority.

"Lot of people are still marooned," said P. H. Kurian, relief commissioner of Kerala, said, adding thousands were rescued on Saturday. "We will increase the relief efforts", he said.

IDC urges relief contributions online and desperately needed clothing, materials and non-perishable food by contacting the nearest



Large areas are inundated



People wading through flood waters to find a safe destination

Photos <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-45232327>

Indian High Commission or Indian relief agencies such as International Red Cross, or via bona fide international Consulate, or via bona fide international Cross.

contd from page 1

Asia Society Names 2018 Asia Game Changer Award Honorees

Asia Society, in partnership with Citi, has announced the recipients of its 2018 Asia Game Changer Awards, in recognition of individuals and institutions who have broken barriers, defined courage, worked miracles, and in turn inspired their fellow citizens of the world.

The awards will be presented at the 5th Annual Asia Game Changer Awards Dinner and Celebration in New York City on October 9, 2018 at Cipriani 25 Broadway in Lower Manhattan. The event will also feature the first-ever U.S. performance of Koolulam.

Nooyi, who this month announced she would be stepping down as CEO of PepsiCo, has driven one of the world's most iconic global companies into the future, leading the way when it comes to delivering strong financial performance, while making more nutritious products and advancing women's access and excellence in Asia and around the world.

The Indian-born Nooyi was PepsiCo's first-ever female CEO, joining only a handful of women as leaders of Fortune 500 companies. During her 12-year tenure, she not only established initiatives to meet the changing demands of consumers, increased the company's net revenue more than 80 percent, and saw share price nearly double; she also led

efforts - such as Women With Purpose and Spark A Future - to empower millions of women and girls through education, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities. Under Nooyi's leadership, PepsiCo was consistently rated among the top workplaces for women. Nooyi also transformed PepsiCo into a more environmentally sustainable and health-conscious company.

"Indra Nooyi is truly a transformational leader," said Asia Society President and CEO Josette Sheeran today. "In my United Nations work, I have witnessed firsthand her humanitarian leadership, as she steered Pepsi's life-saving collaboration with the United Nations on food, nutrition, global water, climate, and women's empowerment issues."

Nooyi leads a group of other revolutionary women as Asia Society's Game Changers at a time when their issues and voices are at the forefront of public discourse.

"It is a crucial moment to honor women from Asia who have battled the odds to shatter glass ceilings, opening pathways for a new generation of women to thrive and prosper," said Sheeran. "In addition, we honor those who are devoting their own lives to improve and save the lives of others. Humanity owes them a debt of gratitude and we are so honored to recognize their works of passion and compassion. We are proud to be a part of their journey."

The group of Game Changers includes: the Thai rescuers who saved a dozen teenage soccer players in a flooded cave; the Japanese

first responders who risked their lives following the tsunami and nuclear disaster at Fukushima; the founder of the Syrian White Helmets, whose volunteers are among the few "first responders" remaining in that country; a global champion for "green cities" - Wang Shi of China; Dr. Munjed Al Muderis - a pioneering surgeon who has brought new hope for amputees; and the founders of Koolulam - a musical phenomenon that aims to bridge the most difficult ethnic and religious divides.

This year marks the fifth iteration of the Asia Game Changer Awards, and the fifth time that Asia Society and Citi have given prominence to Asia-Pacific individuals and organizations who are making indelibly positive differences in the lives of others.

"Citi is an institution that connects and seeks to improve the lives of millions of people across the world. This year's recipients of the Asia Game Changer Awards represent further examples of progress makers who make positive contributions in their communities," said Francisco Aristeguieta, Chief Executive Officer of Citi Asia Pacific. "We are thrilled to partner with the Asia Society again in shining a light on these extraordinary Game Changers."

Previous recipients of the Asia Game Changer Awards include His Highness the Aga Khan, founder of the Aga Khan Development Network; Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba; Malala Yousafzai, education activist; the non-profit organization Sesame Workshop; champion for literacy Madhav Chavan; the global architecture icon I.M. Pei,

and dozens more. Honorees are nominated and chosen by members of Asia Society's global network.

More information about the 2018 Asia Society Game Changers is available here. For press inquiries, please email pr@asiasociety.org.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to address a range of challenges facing Asia and the rest of the world. Asia Society has cultural centers and public buildings in New York, Hong Kong, and Houston, and offices in Los Angeles, Manila, Mumbai, Tokyo, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney, Washington, D.C., and Zurich. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, Asia Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration between Asia and the world.

About Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management. Citi is the founding partner of Asia Society's Asia Game Changer Awards.

Taxpayers with high incomes, complex returns: Check withholding soon to avoid a year-end tax surprise

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service today urged high-income taxpayers and those with complex tax returns to check their withholding soon to avoid an unexpected tax bill or penalty when they file their 2018 federal income tax return in 2019.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the tax reform legislation passed in December, made major changes to the tax law, including increasing the standard deduction, removing personal exemptions, increasing the Child Tax Credit, limiting or discontinuing certain deductions and changing tax rates and tax brackets.

Any of these far-reaching changes could have a big impact on the tax refund or balance due on the tax return taxpayers file next year. That's why the IRS encourages every employee to do a "paycheck checkup" soon to check that they are having the right amount of tax taken out of their pay. The IRS Withholding Calculator and Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax, can help.

A checkup is especially important for those with high incomes and complex returns because they are often affected by more of these changes than people with simpler returns. This is also true if they also make quarterly estimated tax payments to cover other sources of income or are subject to the self-employment tax or alternative minimum tax.

Changes that affect high-income taxpayers

For 2018, the standard deduction nearly doubled to \$24,000 for joint filers and \$12,000 for singles. There were also numerous changes to itemized deductions, including:

- A \$10,000 cap on deductions for state and local property, sales and income taxes.
- New limits on deductions for some mortgage interest and home equity debt.
- Higher limits on the percent of income a taxpayer can deduct as charitable contributions.

- No deduction for those miscellaneous expenses that, in prior tax years, had to exceed 2 percent of a filer's income to qualify. These included investment expenses and un-reimbursed employee expenses such as travel, meals, entertainment and uniforms.

Many who itemized in the past may find they'll pay less tax in 2018 by taking the standard deduction.

Do a 'paycheck checkup' soon

Checking and adjusting how much tax is withheld from pay now can prevent an unexpected tax bill and penalties next year at tax time. It can also help taxpayers avoid a large tax refund, if they'd prefer to have their money in their paychecks throughout the year.

Taxpayers need to adjust their withholding as soon as possible for an even, consistent amount of withholding throughout the rest of the year. Waiting means there are fewer pay periods to withhold the necessary federal tax - so more tax will have to be withheld from each remaining paycheck.

Whether someone uses the Withholding Calculator or Publication 505, it's helpful to have their completed 2017 tax return handy to help estimate the amount of income, deductions, adjustments and credits to enter. They'll also need their most recent pay stubs to help compute their withholding to date.

Employees can use the results from the Withholding Calculator or Publication 505 to help determine if they should complete a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, and what information to include on the form.

Though primarily designed for employees who receive wages, the Withholding Calculator can also be helpful to some taxpayers receiving pension and annuity income. Recipients of pensions and annuities can change their withholding by completing Form W-4P and submitting it to their payer.

All taxpayers should remember that if their personal circumstances change during the year, they should re-check their withholding.

Taxpayers who change their withholding for 2018 should recheck their withholding at the start of 2019. This is especially important for taxpayers who reduce their withholding sometime during 2018. A mid-year withholding change in 2018 may have a different full-year impact in 2019. So, if taxpayers don't submit a new Form W-4 for 2019, their withholding might be higher or lower than intended. To help protect against having too little withheld in 2019, taxpayers should check their withholding again early in 2019.

People with more complex situations may need to use Publication 505

Taxpayers with more complex situations might need to use Publication 505 instead of the Withholding Calculator. This includes employees who owe self-employment tax, the alternative minimum tax or tax on unearned income from dependents. It can also help those who receive non-wage income such as dividends, capital gains, rents and royalties. The publication includes worksheets and examples to guide taxpayers through these special situations.

In some of these situations, a household may make estimated tax payments but also have tax withheld by an employer. It's important to account for both amounts when figuring how much tax to have an employer withhold. Publication 505 helps taxpayers include estimated tax payments; the Withholding Calculator does not.

Adjusting withholding

If an employee determines they should

adjust their withholding, they should complete a new Form W-4 and submit it to their employer as soon as possible. Some employers have an electronic method to update a Form W-4.

If an employee has a change in personal circumstances that reduces the number of withholding allowances they can claim, they must submit a new Form W-4 within 10 days of the change with the correct number of allowances.

As a general rule, the fewer withholding allowances an employee enters on the Form W-4, the higher their tax withholding will be. Entering "0" or "1" on line 5 of the Form W-4 means more tax will be withheld. Entering a bigger number means less tax withholding, resulting in a smaller tax refund or potentially a tax bill or penalty.

Taxpayers may also need to determine if they should make adjustments to their state or local withholding. They can contact their state's department of revenue to learn more.

Additional information

The Withholding Calculator does not request personally identifiable information such as name, Social Security number, address or bank account number. The IRS does not save or record the information entered on the calculator. As always, taxpayers should watch out for tax scams, especially via email or phone and be alert to cybercriminals impersonating the IRS. The IRS does not send emails related to the calculator or the information entered in it.

The calculator and Publication 505 are not tax-planning tools. Taxpayers needing advice regarding the new tax law and their personal situation should consult a trusted tax professional.

Taxpayers can get more information on these topics at www.irs.gov/withholding. Additionally, IRS.gov/getready has information about steps taxpayers can take now to get a jump on next year's taxes, including how the new tax law may affect them. **(IRS)**

Xavier University School of Medicine receives full CAAM-HP Accreditation

This is a full accreditation from 2018-2021

ARUBA / NEW YORK (TIP): Xavier University School of Medicine and President Ravishankar Bhooplapur are excited to announce that the University has received full accreditation from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions or CAAM-HP. This is the highest possible accreditation that is offered by CAAM-HP. The standards used are based on the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME) which accredits US medical schools. CAAM-HP is recognized by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA), which is a part of the US Department of Education, as having standards comparable to those used to accredit US Medical Schools. This accreditation makes Xavier fully compliant with the Educational Committee for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) rule that starting in 2023 ECFMG applicants must graduate from a medical school that is accredited by an

accrediting body that is recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and its Programme for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. Xavier School of Medicine now holds full accreditation from (CAAM-HP), and a provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Commission of Colleges of Medicine (ACCM). Both of these accrediting bodies are recognized by ECFMG and the WFME. Xavier graduates will also be eligible for residencies in the state of California starting January 1st, 2020. The state of California has passed legislation that the state now follows the regulations of the ECFMG 2023 rule.

President Bhooplapur and the committed board of trustees are proud to have achieved accreditations of these standards and are working hard to continue providing an excellent education for the school's students. The University currently holds a 94% first time pass rate on the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 exam. This exam is the first of 3 exams you need to take in order to receive your MD degree.

Along with the school's recent full

accreditation from CAAM-HP, Xavier has entered into a collaboration agreement with The Baruch S. Blumberg Institute (BS/BI). The institute is a non-profit translational research organization. BS/BI already has 32 companies at the center and a number of these companies have had their research and discoveries approved by the US FDA and have reached \$1 billion valuations. This will provide the students a unique opportunity to network and conduct research with scientists in the commercial and academic field. This collaboration agreement will give Xavier students a competitive advantage amongst their peers and give them the ability to participate in high level research electives.

Xavier University School of Medicine was founded in 2004 and is chartered by the government of Aruba. The school is a not for profit medical school with the goal of "Cultivating Great Minds for Primary Care Medicine". The campus is located in the largest city in Aruba, Oranjestad. The island of Aruba is located in the southern waters of the Caribbean and is below the hurricane belt. The average temperature on the island is 82

F/28 C. Travel to the island is very accessible because there are direct flights to and from North America offered on a daily basis. Aruba is one of only 2 islands in the Caribbean to have pre-clearance for US bound flights. This allows passengers to avoid having to go through customs once they have landed back in the US as they have already been checked before boarding.

The school has a diverse student population from 27 different nationalities, and under the current leadership has expanded to open pre-med campuses in Ghana, Jordan, and India. In addition to this Xavier has also worked hard to develop new post-graduate courses covering a number of fields including, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Physiology and Radiology.

Xavier University School of Medicine is proud to announce the recent full accreditation it has received from CAAM-HP.

If you would like to learn more information about this recent accreditation announcement, please call Andrew Sheldon at 516-333-2224 or email asheldon@xusom.com.



GUEST COMMENT

Accepting help: on UAE's aid to Kerala

Junk the precedent; taking aid from countries for disaster relief is no sign of weakness

The clearest indication so far that India would turn down offers of financial assistance from foreign governments for relief and rehabilitation work in Kerala came on Wednesday. And yet, it only added to the confusion. The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said that "in line with the existing policy", the Central government would meet requirements in Kerala through "domestic efforts". Various governments have made specific offers to Kerala, from about ₹700 crore from the UAE to about ₹35 lakh from the Maldives. The spokesperson added that only PIOs, NRIs or international foundations could send money from overseas to the Prime Minister's or Chief Minister's relief fund. But as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan indicated, this clarity about existing policy is missing in the Central government's National Disaster Management Plan. Put out in 2016, the Plan states that India will not appeal for foreign aid in the wake of a disaster. But it goes on to say: "... if the national government of another country voluntarily offers assistance as a goodwill gesture in solidarity with the disaster victims, the Central Government may accept the offer." The condition applies that the Union Home Ministry would consult the MEA and assess the requirements "that the foreign teams can provide". So, what exactly is government policy? Is it laid out in the NDMP document that has an opening message from Prime Minister Modi? Or is it based on the decision of the UPA government to refuse aid or assistance in the wake of the 2004 tsunami - a decision born out of a sense of false pride and a misplaced sense of shame - that became a sort of convention thereafter?

It is not only this mismatch between convention and written document that has created space for the current controversy. Irrespective of what was agreed upon in the past, democracies should be supple enough to respond to emergencies in ways that benefit the greater common good. It serves well no citizen of India for the government to stand on mere precedent or pride to turn down genuine offers of help, in terms of funds or expert teams - or to even ask for help. Offers of aid from foreign governments must naturally be scrutinized to see if they compromise national security and other interests. But to stand on notions of self-reliance in a multilateral world, to spurn a helping hand, is to be beholden to a strange pride. There is no shame in taking help, just as there should be no hesitation in offering it. India has a longstanding tradition of rushing help elsewhere. Leaving Centre-State politics, if any, aside, the government should not just gracefully accept the assistance for Kerala, it should junk the 2004 precedent.

(The Hindu)



By Swami Agnivesh

I am an Arya Samaji. I embraced sanyas six decades ago. I did so because I was convinced that spirituality is the light of life. But my idea of spirituality has been, from the beginning, different from its pietistic version. The goal of spirituality is to build a dharmic society, wherein all human beings can attain growth, freedom and dignity. If so, a world-denying, escapist religiosity is clearly unacceptable. So, I developed for myself the vision of Vedic socialism and applied spirituality.

In this, I have been inspired by the teachings of Maharshi Dayanand. The nine principles of Arya Samaj, as formulated by him, have been my guiding light. I became deeply convinced that his endeavor to re-instate reason in the sphere of religion, and his relentless battle against religious obscurantism and superstitions of all kinds, is the way forward for India. I left academics and plunged into spiritual activism under the world-transforming vision of Dayanand, convinced that it was the cause for which I was to live, for the rest of my life.

So, my sanyas is a relentless pursuit to seek the light of truth and to make it prevail in the life of our country. The shaping discipline of my life is 'to doubt, to debate and, if need be, to dissent'. It is not an option for me, hence, to be coopted into anybody's myths, make-believe or partisan agenda. My spiritual discipline obliges me to satisfy my conscience that what I embrace is in full harmony with the light of truth. I have taken a stand against the indoctrination and communal conditioning by religions, using the arsenal of blind faith, of humans from infancy onwards. I have no doubt that this is an atrocity on freedom and is clearly violative of rights. Every form of conditioning, especially the conditioning that begins from birth, militates against the right to choose, which is basic to religious freedom. To me, freedom to choose where I should stand and which cause I need to support, based on a free and informed application of reason, is the essence of the religion I wish to practice and is, hence, the essence also of religious freedom.

Dayanand's campaigns against blind faith and religious obscurantism is an aspect of his commitment to make justice and human dignity prevail in our society. Merely attacking superstition is an academic exercise. I resist and question this evil as part of my commitment to make truth prevail. My reading of history convinces me that blind faith - and the suppression of free and rational thinking it brings about - is the main weapon that agents of injustice, exploitation and oppression use. My spiritual calling and conviction make it incumbent on me to resist this aberration.

I state the above, to alert my countrymen that the attacks launched on me, which can no longer be glossed over as stray instances, are assaults on the freedom of religion that I am

AS I SEE IT

THE FREEDOM TO DIFFER

Space for a rational and responsible debate on ideas and religion is shrinking

"I can understand that my advocacies and interventions are provocative to the Parivar. But the hallmark of the democratic mindset is the freedom to differ in a rational and responsible manner. In our tradition, differences in ideas and beliefs are to be addressed through dialogues - shaastrarths - and not by violence and intimidation. We have always believed that the preference for violence is a sign of weakness, not of strength", says the author.



Swami Agnivesh attacked allegedly by BJP workers

entitled to under Article 25 of our Constitution. The right to practice, preach and propagate my religious vision does not mean, as I understand it, the right to convert anyone. It envisages the freedom to express my spiritual convictions in the public sphere. It protects me from the need to toe the line drawn by some muscular outfits and ideologies.

I see the present trend not only as a personal threat, but also as a dangerous social and national malady. As a sanyasi in the Arya Samaj tradition, I feel that the Samaj itself is under attack. In this respect two strategies are used. First, that of penetration and colonization. RSS elements have penetrated the Arya Samaj in several areas and, with the help of weak and willing collaborators, hollowed out its innards. The crucial distinction between the RSS and the Arya Samaj stands blurred in such pockets.

The orchestrated physical attacks on me signal the inauguration of the second strategy: that of intimidation and coercion. The message is clear: the Arya Samaj will be allowed only a shadowy existence in the backyard of Hindu triumphalism as spearheaded by the Sangh Parivar. Any attempt to articulate the authentic spiritual vision of the Samaj will be crushed.

The RSS and the Arya Samaj are opposites. The one stands for authoritarian, top-down regimentation. It is a threat to social justice and the fundamental values of our Constitution. It scorns the universal vision of the Vedas and espouses a jingoistic and

casteist idea of India, which is intolerant and narrow-minded. It replaces truth with violence, especially the violence of blind faith. It swears by hierarchical stratifications that discriminate against women, Dalits and adivasis. The Arya Samaj, in contrast, insists on the freedom of religion based on the primacy of reason. It has a creedal commitment to gender equality and social justice. It dreams of establishing a society of the noble (arya).

I can understand that my advocacies and interventions are provocative to the Parivar. But the hallmark of the democratic mindset is the freedom to differ in a rational and responsible manner. In our tradition, differences in ideas and beliefs are to be addressed through dialogues - shaastrarths - and not by violence and intimidation. We have always believed that the preference for violence is a sign of weakness, not of strength.

What are the options available to me at the fag end of my life? To be silenced by the agents of aggression or to be coopted by them into an agenda that I am totally convinced is a peril to the country? Or, to soldier on, for as long as I retain my breath, and uphold the relevance of the spiritual vision of Maharshi Dayanand to our times? As for me, this does not present a personal dilemma. It poses a challenge; a challenge significant for the country as a whole.

(The author is an Arya Samaj scholar and social activist)

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REBOOTING THE SYSTEM FOR A SKILLS UPGRADE

BY SANTOSH MEHROTRA / ASHUTOSH PRATAP

Small shops, basements, tin sheds and godowns. These are not random workplaces but places where private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are running in the country (India). Disturbing facts such as these come from the report of the Standing Committee on Labour (2017-18) headed by Bharatiya Janata Party MP Kirit Somaiya, on the "Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Skill Development Initiative Scheme" of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It was submitted to Parliament few months ago.

Explaining the scale-up

The ITIs were initiated in the 1950s. In a span of 60 years, until 2007, around 1,896 public and 2,000 private ITIs were set up. However, in a 10-year period from 2007, more than 9,000 additional private ITIs were accredited.

What explains this huge private sector scale-up? The committee says that it is not efficiency but a disregard for norms and standards. However, the ITIs are not alone. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) today has more than 6,000 private training centers. Since it has short-term courses and its centers open and close frequently, it is all the more prone to a dilution of standards. Private training partners have mushroomed at the rate of five a day (mostly with government support) and it is clear that the government has been unable to regulate private institutions for quality. Private sector engagement in skill development has been taken up by standalone private training partners and not employers. The latter could have made the system demand-driven. Meanwhile, the lack of a regulator for skill development, with teeth, has led to poor quality affiliation, assessment and certification.

The Somaiya committee report is scathing in its tone and specific in details. It outlines instances of responsibility outsourcing, no oversight, connivance and an ownership tussle between the Central and State governments.

Private-ITI accreditation troubles started when the Quality Council of India (QCI), a private body, was hired due to "high workload of affiliation and shortage of [government] staff". The QCI did not follow accreditation norms created by the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and it appears that neither scale nor standard was achieved, but only speed. 'Speed' now risks the future of 13.8 lakh students (on an average, 206 students per ITI) studying in these substandard ITIs, which can be closed any time.

The ITIs have a unique functioning set-up. While they were formed under the government's Craftsman Training Scheme, their day-to-day administration, finances and admissions are with State governments. The NCVT performs an advisory role. The ITIs often run into issues with no one to take ownership. A case in point is the examination process - the question paper is prepared by the NCVT, but administered and evaluated by instructors of the State Councils for VT. The NCVT is just a stamp with no role in actually assessing quality. How can quality outcomes be expected without quality assessments?

The parliamentary committee has shed light on the ITIs. If the same exercise were extended to other skill development schemes, the picture would be grimmer. There are 183 cases pending in High Courts on non-compliance of norms by the ITIs. However, the short-term training programs of the Ministry evade any scrutiny and action. For example, the Standard Training Assessment and Reward scheme spent ₹850 crore in 2013-14 with no norms for quality. There were no Aadhaar checks, attendance requirements and batch size limitations. Private training

There needs to be a road map to rescue private Industrial Training Institutes from their weak state

operators have made a profit with no court cases.

The report also reinforces disturbing findings of a national survey by the research institute (NILERD) of the Planning Commission in 2011 about private ITIs: they offered training in less than five trades (in government ITIs it is less than 10); had fewer classrooms and workshops for practice; and their teachers were very poorly

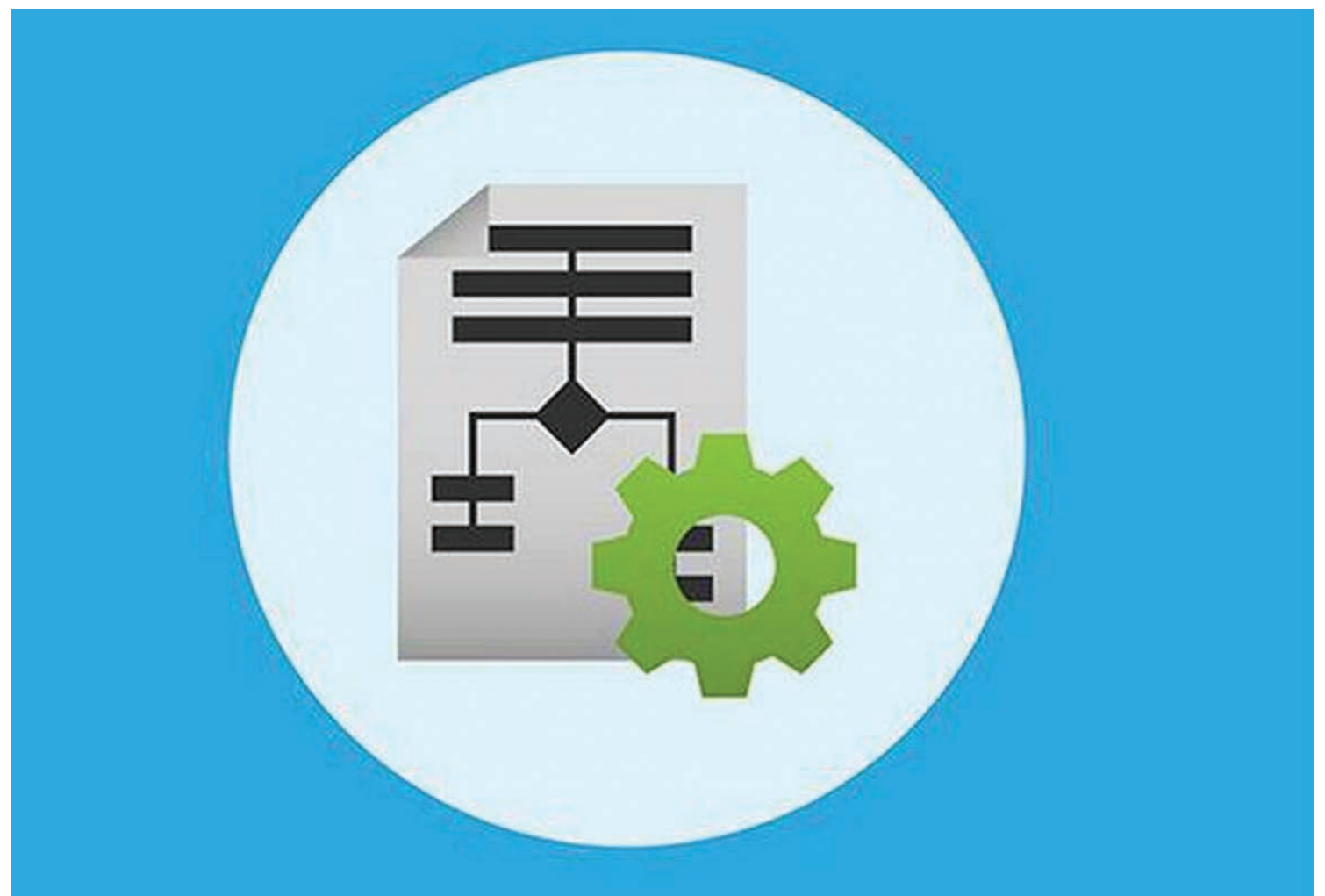
trained and could not teach, and could not work with each other. A unified legal framework can facilitate such a unification. The absence of a law has only weakened regulation and monitoring. What we need is a national vocational act that replaces all scattered regulations - recommended in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Micro-institutional reforms

The ITIs have many internal issues such as staffing and salaries that need attention, as the NILERD nationwide survey in 2011 had found. There is also a critical need to reskill ITI teachers and maintain the student-teacher ratio. Since technology obsolescence is a continuous challenge, financial support envisaged through the NSDC should be extended to the ITIs.

The primary reason for hiring the QCI and the

The only way to mobilize adequate resources the right way is to do skills training and have equipment and tools that keep pace with changing needs and ensure that employers have skin in the game.



paid.

A starting point

So, what can we do systemically? A good point to start would be the Sharda Prasad Committee recommendations.

We need better oversight, with a national board for all skill development programs. The core work (accreditation, assessment, certification and course standards) cannot be outsourced. Like every other education board (such as the CBSE), a board is required in vocational training that is accountable. Since we have the NCVT as a legacy, it should be used as a kernel to constitute the board. We should also have a mandatory rating system for the ITIs that is published periodically. A ranking of the ITIs on several parameters such as the one done by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in tertiary education can be replicated.

There should be one system, with one law and one national vocational education and training system. The silos in which vocational training happens in India is unfortunate. We need to create a unified national vocational system where the ITIs, NSDC private vocational trainers and vocational education in schools, and the other Central ministries conducting

mess that followed was this: "huge workload of affiliation and shortage of staff". This is true even today. It is unlikely that without fixing this, the QCI mistake will not be repeated. There has been a tremendous push by the government for private sector talent in government; perhaps it is worth considering talent from the open market to fill up higher posts in skill development.

Institutional reforms such as moving the office of the Directorate General of Employment (the arm that has all data on employment) from the Ministry of Labour to the MSDE would help. It would also complement the Directorate General of Training already under MSDE.

Employers and financing

This is the last but perennial challenge. Given the scale of our demographic challenge, a belief that financing from corporate social responsibility, multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, and the government will meet the financial needs for skill development is wishful thinking.

The only way to mobilize adequate resources the right way is to do skills training and have equipment and tools that keep pace with changing needs and ensure that employers have skin in the game. This is possible through a

reimbursable industry contribution (RIC) - a 1-2% payroll tax that will be reimbursed when employers train using public/private infrastructure and provide data. RIC, which is implemented in 62 other countries, was recommended in the 12th Plan and is an idea whose time has come. An estimate by the first author of this article indicated that such a tax would generate ₹17,000 crore per annum for skilling in India - which is several multiples of State/Union governments' current annual budget for skilling.

Finally, while there is so much talk of skills for the future and the impact of artificial intelligence and automation, data show that 13.8 lakh students in the ITIs are suffering due to poor institutional accreditation. Placement in NSDC training has been less than 15%. Maybe if we take care of the present, we will be better prepared for the future.

(Santosh Mehrotra is Professor of Economics, Centre for Labour, Jawaharlal Nehru University, a member of the Prasad Expert Committee on Sector Skill Councils, and a lead author of the National Skills Qualification Framework. Ashutosh Pratap works on skills and jobs issues and has worked with the Expert Committee)

In Unusual Put-Down, Pakistan Asks US to 'Correct' Official Version of Imran Khan-Mike Pompeo Phone Call

ISLAMABAD (TIP): In an unusual move, Pakistan has asked the US to "immediately correct" a readout issued by the State Department in which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was quoted as saying that he asked Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan to take "decisive action" against all terrorists operating in the country.

State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said in a statement that Pompeo, in his talks with Khan, raised the importance of Pakistan taking "decisive action" against all terrorists operating in Pakistan and its vital role in promoting the Afghan peace process.

However, according to the Foreign Office (FO), Pompeo congratulated Khan while discussing other issues of interest and there was no mention of "terrorists operating in Pakistan".

FO spokesman Mohammad Faisal said "Pakistan takes exception to the factually incorrect statement issued by US State Department on today's phone call between Prime Minister Khan and Secretary Pompeo".

"There was no mention at all in the conversation about terrorists operating in Pakistan. This should be immediately corrected," Faisal said. The Pakistani media this week reported that Pompeo is likely to visit Islamabad in the first week of September to hold talks with newly-elected Prime Minister Khan.

Pompeo, who is expected in Islamabad on September 5, would be the first foreign dignitary to meet Khan, Dawn reported, quoting the diplomatic and official sources.

The relations between Pakistan and the US nose-dived after President Donald Trump in January accused Islamabad of giving nothing to Washington but "lies and deceit" and providing "safe haven" to terrorists.

The US Congress also passed a bill to slash Pakistan's defence aid to \$150 million, significantly below the historic level of more than USD one billion per year.

In his victory speech last month, Khan said he wants a balanced relation between Pakistan and America which should be mutually beneficial, not one sided. **(With PTI inputs)**

Pakistani, Indian troops exchange sweets on Eid-ul-Azha

WAGAH (TIP): Pakistani and Indian border troops exchanged sweets along the Line of Control on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Pakistan Rangers and India's Border Security Force exchanged sweets on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha on Wednesday at Chakan Da Bagh crossing point along the LoC in Poonch, an Indian defence spokesperson was quoted as saying by The Hindu. The sweets exchange is a gesture appreciated by both countries and is expected to go a long way in promoting peace, harmony and compassion in the true spirit of the festival, the spokesperson said.

Troops from both sides of the border exchange sweets on days of national importance for the two countries and on the occasion of major religious festivals. (PTI)

Indian, Pakistani troops take part for the first time in SCO military drill

India is participating in the drill for the first time since becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017. As part of the SCO initiatives, the SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for the SCO member states.

Beijing/moscow (TIP): For the first time, the militaries of India and Pakistan are taking part in a mega anti-terror drill of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia aimed at expanding cooperation among the member countries to deal with the growing menace of terrorism and extremism.

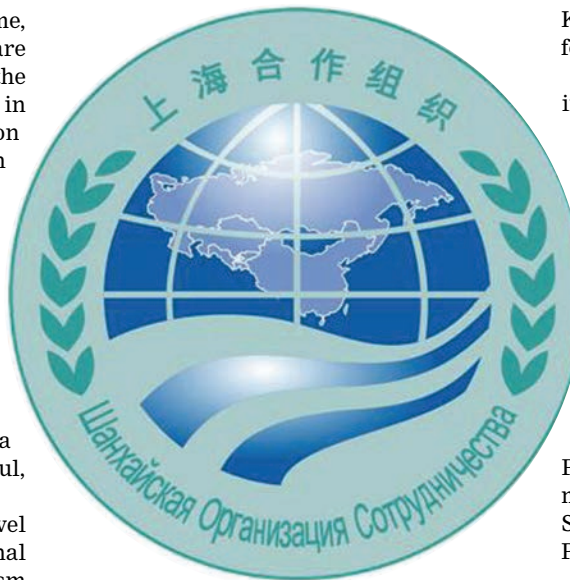
India is participating in the drill for the first time since becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017. As part of the SCO initiatives, the SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for the SCO member states.

The joint exercise is being conducted by the Central Military Commission of Russia from August 22 to August 29 at Chebarkul, Russia.

The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international counterinsurgency or counter-terrorism environment under the SCO Charter.

At least 3,000 soldiers from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan are participating in the drill, according to the Chinese media reports.

Ten representatives from Uzbekistan will serve as observers, state-run Global Times reported. The Indian contingent of 200 personnel is primarily composed of troops from infantry and affiliated arms and services along with the Indian Air Force. The Indian contingent has been put through a strenuous training schedule which includes firing, heliborne operations, combat conditioning, tactical operations and house intervention drills, according to curtain raiser of the exercise released by the



Ministry of Defence in New Delhi.

The joint exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, interoperability and enable sharing of best practices among armed forces of the SCO nations.

The previous SCO counter-terrorism drills were mainly limited to the Central Asian nations, the Chinese media said.

But due to the entry of India and Pakistan, the SCO's counter-terrorism mission has expanded to South Asia, Li Wei, a counter-terrorism expert at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing, told the Global Times.

The SCO was established in Shanghai in 2001, with China, Russia, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as founding members.

It expanded to include India and Pakistan in 2017.

"The effective counter-terrorism cooperation among SCO countries has greatly undermined terrorist groups in Central Asia in recent years, and it's expected that this effective cooperation will also boost stability in South Asia, a region facing a more complicated counter-terrorism situation with a variety of active terrorist groups," Li said.

Sun Zhuangzhi, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said Peace Mission 2018 will also greatly improve military and political mutual trust among SCO countries, especially between India and Pakistan.

"It's a rare opportunity for Pakistan and India, which have long been involved in military conflict, to enhance military exchanges and trust. This could improve regional stability," Sun said.

Li said future counter-terrorism drills among SCO countries have to come up with new drills on targeting terrorist groups in South Asia. He suggested that the SCO further expand to include Afghanistan, which is currently an observer country, to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts in South Asia.

The Peace Mission 2018 also created a historic chance for four major military powers in Eurasia – China, Russia, Pakistan and India – to participate in the same military drill, Sun said. (PTI)

United Nations warns of 'lost generation' of Rohingya children

Geneva (TIP): The United Nations warned on August 23 of what it described as a lost generation of Muslim Rohingya children, with half a million in refugee camps in Bangladesh facing dangers including disease and floods and those still in Myanmar lacking access to proper education.

One year since 700,000 Rohingyas fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar security forces in Rakhine state, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) gave a bleak assessment of the outlook for children on either side of the border.

"We are talking about risking the loss or the potential loss of a generation of Rohingya children," UNICEF spokesman Simon Ingram told news conference in Geneva after spending six weeks in the camps in Cox's Bazar.

"It isn't just the half a million children or so on the Bangladeshi side of border but it's also those who are still left behind in Rakhine state, whose access to education is patchy at best and highly limited," he said.

The UN estimates that 530,000 to 600,000 stateless Rohingyas remain in Rakhine state, including some 360,000 children, he said. The UN has limited access there.

The Rohingya, who regard themselves as native to Rakhine state, are widely considered as interlopers by Myanmar's Buddhist



majority and are denied citizenship.

Myanmar's military launched the crackdown in northern Rakhine a year ago in response to militant attacks. The civilian administration of government leader Aung San Suu Kyi defended what it described as a legitimate counter-insurgency operation.

The administration has said it is ready to accept back refugees. Suu Kyi said on Tuesday spaces have been mapped out for the resettlement of people who fled.

Ingram said the prospects for their return to Myanmar anytime soon were bleak, despite a voluntary repatriation agreement signed by the Yangon government and U.N. agencies in June. He said conditions in Rakhine remained unsafe.

UNICEF said it was expanding education programmes in the camps in Bangladesh, currently for children up to the age of 14, to try to meet the needs of older children. (Reuters)

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US-China trade war escalates as new tariffs come in

BEIJING / WASHINGTON (TIP): The United States and China escalated their acrimonious trade war on Thursday, August 23, implementing punitive 25 percent tariffs on \$16 billion worth of each other's goods, even as mid-level officials from both sides resumed talks in Washington.

The world's two largest economies have now slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on a combined \$100 billion of products since early July, with more in the pipeline, adding to risks to global economic growth.

China's Commerce Ministry said Washington was "remaining obstinate" by implementing the latest tariffs, which kicked-in on both sides as scheduled at 12:01 p.m. in Beijing (0401 GMT).

"China resolutely opposes this, and will continue to take necessary countermeasures," it said in a brief statement.

"At the same time, to safeguard free trade and multilateral systems, and defend its own lawful interests, China will file suit regarding these tariff measures under the WTO dispute resolution mechanism," it said.

President Donald Trump has threatened to put duties on almost all of the more than \$500 billion of Chinese goods exported to the United States annually unless Beijing agrees to sweeping changes to its intellectual property practices, industrial subsidy programs and tariff structures, and buys more U.S. goods.

That figure would be far more than China imports from the United States, raising concerns that Beijing could consider other forms of retaliation, such as making life more difficult for American firms in China or allowing its yuan currency to weaken further to support its exporters.

'We have more bullets'

Trump administration officials have been



Trump and Xi in Florida

File picture

divided over how hard to press Beijing, but the White House appears to believe it is winning the trade war as China's economy slows and its stock markets tumble.

"They're not going to give that up easily. Naturally they'll retaliate a little bit," US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on CNBC on Wednesday at a Century Aluminum smelter in Hawesville, Kentucky, which is restarting idled production lines due to Trump's aluminum tariffs.

"But at the end of the day, we have many more bullets than they do. They know it. We have a much stronger economy than they have, they know that too," Ross said.

Economists reckon that every \$100 billion of imports hit by tariffs would reduce global trade by around 0.5 percent.

They have assumed a direct impact on China's economic growth in 2018 of 0.1-0.3 percentage points, and somewhat less for the

United States, but the impact will be bigger next year, along with collateral damage for other countries and companies tied into China's global supply chains.

The tariffs took effect amid two days of talks in Washington between mid-level officials from both sides, the first formal negotiations since US Commerce Secretary met with Chinese economic adviser Liu He in Beijing in June.

Business groups expressed hope that the meeting would mark the start of serious negotiations over Chinese trade and economic policy changes demanded by Trump.

However, Trump on Monday told Reuters in an interview that he did not "anticipate much" from the talks led by US Treasury Under Secretary David Malpass and Chinese Commerce Vice Minister Wang Shouwen.

Trump's hard line has rattled Beijing and spurred rare criticism within the highest levels of China's ruling Communist Party over

its handling of the trade war, sources have said.

Beijing has denied US allegations that it systematically forces the unfair transfer of U.S. technology and has said that it adheres to World Trade Organization rules.

The official Xinhua news agency said in a commentary on Thursday that China approached the latest round of talks in good faith, but that Washington remains vague about what it wants.

"As US President Donald Trump said in his book on making deals, 'the point is that you can't be too greedy.' The two sides would hence be advisable to define their top concerns in this round of talks and outline a roadmap, in a bid to find a way out of the current impasse and towards the final settlement of the issues."

Washington's latest tariffs apply to 279 product categories including semiconductors, plastics, chemicals and railway equipment that the Office of the US Trade Representative has said benefit from Beijing's "Made in China 2025" industrial plan to make China competitive in high-tech industries.

China's list of 333 US product categories hit with duties includes coal, copper scrap, fuel, steel products, buses and medical equipment.

Though it is too early for the trade battle to show up in much economic data as yet, tariffs are beginning to increase costs for consumers and businesses on both sides of the Pacific, forcing companies to adjust their supply chains and pricing, with some U.S. firms looking to decrease their reliance on China.

One executive at a major US manufacturer in China told Reuters the uncertainty about the duration of the trade conflict was more damaging than the tariffs themselves because it made business planning difficult. (Reuters)

'Ekal' Targeting \$10 Million with Dazzling Galas



Subhash Gupta, Mohan Wanchoo, Dr. Subhash Chandra

HOUSTON (TIP): After last year's phenomenal success of magnificent fund-raising gala - 'Future of India' - "Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF)", this year, is launching the most ambitious plan to host three Galas, at three strategic locations in USA. In sold-out Yr.2017 Gala at majestic art-deco Cipriani-Wall Street" banquet hall, 'Ekal' raised \$2 Million for its Literacy, Healthcare and Integral-Development projects for rural India. It was Ekal's first ever attempt at gathering generous individuals for its nation-building cause. According to EVF-USA President, Suresh Iyer, this unprecedented show of support from philanthropists brought the year-end tally of donations to \$8 Million.

Every year, Ekal's hosts over 50 fund-raising events in major metropolitan centers across USA, by bringing famous 'Bollywood Artistes' for concerts. Earlier this year, Ekal had invited

two groups of talented performers for this purpose. One group was headed by Kathak dancers Aditi Bhagwat & Kunal Tavri and another group was headed by Kaushik & Pranita Deshpande. They each were the star attractions in 23 and 30 concert-events, respectively. The response to these concerts was so overwhelming that the events were sold-out at most of the places in advance. Over the years, Ekal's progress has been consistently exponential. Now with three forthcoming Ekal galas planned for high net-worth supporters, Ramesh Shah, the Chairman of EVF-USA has no doubt that Ekal in 2018, is going to hit \$10 Million magical mark for the first time.

As of now, Ekal has 72,000 schools under its wings, grooming 1.92 Million children annually - more than half of which are girls. Hon. PM Modi, in his clarion call to eradicate illiteracy



Suresh Iyer, President, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, USA

from every small corner of the nation, wants Ekal to establish 100,000 schools by year Yr.2022 - 75th anniversary of India's independence. The primary objective of glittering galas is not only to raise funds for this task of national concern, but also, to encourage every sphere, every strata of Indian diaspora to invest itself in India's future. Three eagerly-awaited galas are all taking place in October - Houston, TX on October 6; Bethesda MD on October 12 and in New York City NY on October 13. For details of venue, tickets and sponsorship kindly tap into <<http://www.nycgala.ekal.org/>>

OR <www.ekal.org>. The distinguished speaker at all three galas will be Media Moghul Dr Subhash Chandra (Chairman, Essel Gr of Companies that includes ZEE-TV). In addition, at NYC gala iconic former CEO of Pepsi and Apple, John Sculley, is going to grace the evening as a Chief guest speaker. This NYC gathering will also be entertained by 'Indian

Idol' competition winner - 'Sreeramchandra'. In Houston, along with Dr Subhash Chandra, another highlight of the evening is going to be renowned motivational speaker, Shiv Kherra.

As the largest grass-root educational movement undertaken by Indians and NRIs, Ekal is socially conscientious, wherever it operates. Last year during 'Hurricane Harvey', Ekal volunteers not only worked along side 'Sewa International' in rescue and rehabilitation efforts in Houston region but also raised money for the victims. As the catastrophic destruction is currently unfolding in Kerala due to torrential rain and floods, 'Ekal-India' is actively involved there too with "Sewa Bharati". Bajrang Bagra, CEO of 'Ekal-India' says, "the whole Ekal movement is all about giving dignity and self-esteem to rural-tribal folks of India".

(Based on a press Release issued by Prakash Waghmare)

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, Head of Science of Spirituality, inaugurates spectacular new National Headquarters in Chicago



Science of Spirituality Center

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Over the last three decades, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj has impacted the lives of millions of people throughout the world with his message of personal transformation through meditation on the inner Light and Sound. As witness to his global influence, thousands of people from 30 different countries gathered in Lisle, IL on Saturday, July 28, for the inauguration of the new National Headquarters for the Science of Spirituality.

Accompanied by a delegation of dignitaries from local cities, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj cut the ribbon to inaugurate the iconic building. The organization's new home embodies love, grace, and universality, bringing together design elements from the East and the West, just as the spiritual Master's message brings together people from all walks of life.

The ribbon-cutting took place in front of the reflecting pool where a three-ton sculpture named "The Meditator" embodies the Science of Spirituality logo and represents a person in meditation. The gently rippling pool in which it sits echoes the inner stillness and peace a person experiences in meditation. In the middle of the main building, the circular, gold-colored main hall rises from the tinted, curved glass arms that surround it, evoking two hands cupped in prayer and reaching to the heavens for divine inspiration and love.

Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the building is a separate golden circular structure designed as a meditation sanctuary. It sits on a floor that was poured separately so that sound or vibration cannot travel from any other part of the building. The sanctuary is only for meditation. With its transitional lighting and serene atmosphere, the sanctuary

will serve the community as a place to sit in silence and discover the peace and joy embedded within.

The architect, Gensler, is widely recognized as the world's largest and leading collaborative architectural design firm, while the general contractor, Skender, has been the builder of choice for many of the world's leading brands. The Science of Spirituality Meditation Center, built in accordance with green standards, represents one of Gensler's and Skender's most recent successes.

The inauguration program, featuring a panel of honored guests as speakers, took place on the stage of the main hall immediately following the ribbon-cutting. Speaking first, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj expressed his appreciation to the guests, after which he outlined the four main purposes of the Meditation Center.

He said, "We have a wisdom awaiting us deep within. Instead of only logging onto the Internet, we can take some time daily to log into our own inner essence to lead to a wisdom to enrich our lives. We can discover how to enter our personal sanctuary through meditation, leading to inner and outer peace and lasting joy. Meditation can help us uncover our spiritual side and discover the wonders within."

U.S. Congressman Bill Foster, from the 11th District of Illinois, commented on how the Science of Spirituality has brought together people from all backgrounds. "I cannot tell you how proud I am to look out at the wonderful diversity in this audience and think how it reflects the diversity of these communities, of the state of Illinois, the United States and all of humanity. Thank you for representing them."

Kathryn Kruger, PhD read a welcome letter



Inauguration of the new Science of Spirituality National Headquarters, Lisle, Illinois.

l to r: Wheaton Mayor, Michael Gresk; Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj's wife, Mata Rita Ji; Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj; U.S. Congressman, Bill Foster; and Village of Lisle Mayor, Chris Pecak

from U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Illinois: "There's an old saying: travel light, live light, spread the light, be the light. The Science of Spirituality has been the light in Lisle, Illinois for years, and today, with the inauguration of its new meditation center, that light shines a little bit brighter. Thank you for all you do and all you will continue to do in this community. Your work matters and makes a meaningful difference in all the lives you touch."

Marina Faz-Huppert, the Chicago Director for U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Illinois, read the Senator's congratulatory letter, in which she said, "I am particularly appreciative of the Center's mission to support people from all walks of life in coming together to encourage peace. Your efforts are vital in uniting people all over the world and emphasizing the values of kindness, goodness, and harmony."

U.S. Representative Grace Meng from New York, after mentioning the organization's affiliation with the United Nations as an NGO and praising its commitment to enriching the lives of those it serves, wrote: "I commend Science of Spirituality for its unwavering

dedication to supporting its community and beyond."

All the thanks and appreciation are a testament to the tireless efforts of Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj whose vision for humanity is both individual and global. It is one in which all people can realize the true value of their deepest self. Through meditation we deepen our commitment to serving the world with love and compassion. Through meditation we realize that all life forms are vital and valuable members of one family of God.

When the Meditation Center opens its doors to the public in September, not only will the community find a sanctuary of peace where they can spend time in meditation, but they will also be able to register for a variety of classes, programs, and events. These, as with all Science of Spirituality programs, are free. From vegetarian cooking classes, to learning how to meditate or participating in retreats, the Meditation Center will offer the community a full schedule of activities. All are welcome.

For more information see: www.sos.org
(Based on a press release issued by Renee Mehra)

Trump says market would 'crash' if he was impeached

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Thursday that the US economy would collapse if he was impeached. "I will tell you what, if I ever got impeached, I think the market would crash. I think everybody would be very poor, because without this thinking, you would see you would see numbers that you wouldn't believe in reverse," Trump told the program Fox and Friends. Trump was responding to a question on his mounting legal woes after his former attorney Michael Cohen said under oath that Trump instructed him to commit a felony by breaking US campaign finance laws. The US president then launched into a rambling statement on job creation and other economic progress he said had been made during his presidency and insisted Americans would be much worse off if Hillary Clinton had won the 2016 election. "I don't know how you can impeach somebody who has done a great job," Trump said.



Trump in the program Fox and Friends (Screen shot)

Chicago Marathon - Priya's Running for a Cure!

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): There's no better feeling than making the world a better place and having the time of your life along the way. I'll be running the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 7 with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) - Team in Training! This race is more than a run - LLS and I are trying to cross the finish line in finding a cure for cancer and would love your help!

LLS offers a variety of programs and services to patients and their families in support of its mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

By fundraising, we can help have an impact in fighting cancers of all forms - driving life-saving results for millions of people. Please visit my fundraising page and join in making that happen through a tax-deductible contribution: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/nyc/chicago18/PPatel>

Gauri Lankesh killers had a long hit-list?

Most of 16 pistols recovered in Maharashtra were acquired recently: police

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj

BENGALURU(TIP): Most of the 16 country-made pistols recovered from the three right-wing activists arrested in Maharashtra were procured recently, most likely after the arrest of K.T. Naveen Kumar - one of the accused in the Gauri Lankesh case - in February 2018. Sources said this is a cause for concern as it indicates that the people involved were plotting to kill more people on their hit list, many in a short span of time.



Gauri Lankesh

These are suspected to include the two pistols used in the murders of Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, M.M. Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh. They are being tested for possible matches with cartridges found at the crime scene.

During the course of their investigation into the murder of Gauri Lankesh, the SIT in May 2018 had recovered a hit list of 34 intellectuals from Amol Kale's diary, eight of who were from Karnataka. The probe revealed an ambitious plan to set in motion multiple murder plots simultaneously in Karnataka.

The probe revealed a plot to kill Mysuru-based rationalist Prof. K.S. Bhagavan, which investigators said was at an advanced stage of implementation. K.T. Naveen Kumar, 37, of Hindu Yuva Sena, a fringe group, was arrested by Bengaluru police in February 2018 when he was trying to procure a country-made pistol for the murder. This indicated that the gang had no weapon other than the one used to kill Gauri Lankesh. FSL reports have linked the weapon to the murder of M.M. Kalburgi.

The pistol, which was used to kill Narendra Dabholkar and was also one of the weapons used in the murder of Govind Pansare, is not working, the probe had indicated.

Amol Kale reportedly told interrogators that they were trying to create 'multiple self-contained teams' to execute multiple plots. His diary had entries pointing to several plots targeting rationalists in Karnataka.

"At that time, we doubted their ability to carry out multiple assassinations. But now, the 16 pistols indicate that they seemed to have been moving towards that goal," said a senior officer, who said it is alarming as it indicates that remnants of the gang continue to be active and furthering the conspiracy even after the arrest of most of their key players. Sources said Srikanth Pangarkar, a former Shiv Sena councillor from Jalna who was arrested by the Maharashtra ATS, was a close associate of Amol Kale, the alleged kingpin in the Gauri Lankesh case. The investigation indicates that they were in constant touch for the past one year and Pangarkar had visited well-known country-made pistol hubs in central India.

Source: The Hindu

No chance at all, says CEC on simultaneous LS, Assembly polls

NEW DELHI (TIP): Putting to rest all speculation, Chief Election Commissioner O P Rawat on Thursday emphatically ruled out the possibility of holding simultaneous elections to the state assemblies along with the Lok Sabha polls without a "legal framework" in place.

"Koi chance nahi" (no chance at all), Rawat told a select media meet in Aurangabad when asked if it was still feasible to hold simultaneous Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections. The Lok Sabha elections are due in April-May next year while Assembly polls to Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and Mizoram are scheduled to be held later this year.

House for every Indian by 2022, promises PM Narendra Modi

AHMEDABAD (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi told villagers in his native Gujarat on Thursday that it is his dream to see every Indian having a house by 2022, the 75th year of Independence.

"Till now, we have only heard about politicians getting their own homes. Now, we are hearing about the poor getting their own homes," Modi told a gathering at Jujwa village in Gujarat's Valsad town.

The event was attended by a large gathering of beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin).

More than 100,000 houses were handed over to beneficiaries across 26 districts of the state. Beneficiaries in several districts were connected through a video link to the main event, and the Prime Minister interacted with some of them.

The homes under PMAY are being made possible because there are no middlemen, he said, adding, "It is my dream, it is our endeavour to ensure that every Indian has his own house by 2022."

Modi also distributed certificates and employment letters to some beneficiaries under various development schemes, including Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Gramodaya Yojana and National Rural Livelihood Mission. He distributed appointment letters and mini-ATMs to women bank correspondents.

The PM also performed the ground breaking ceremony of a Rs.586-crore scheme for providing drinking water for villages in the interior areas of Dharampur and Kaprada areas.

The Prime Minister inaugurated various projects in Junagadh district, including a government hospital, a milk processing plant and some buildings of the Junagadh Agriculture University.

Addressing a public meeting in



Rahul Gandhi slams Modi govt, says joblessness major cause of lynchings

HAMBURG (TIP): Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who reached Hamburg on Wednesday as part of a four-day tour of the United Kingdom and Germany, made a strong attack on the Narendra Modi government by referring to incidents of lynching, attacks on Dalits, women safety, Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetisation.

Speaking at the Bucerius Summer School in Hamburg in Germany, the Congress President also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over attacks on women, "lack of jobs," demonetisation and "flawed" implementation of the Goods and Services Tax and said corporates were being favoured over the rights of the marginalised communities.

Junagadh, he said that there are nine initiatives worth over Rs 500 crore, which are either being dedicated on Thursday, or their foundation stones are being laid. He said that there is a new energy and vibrancy in India's development journey.

He said that in Gujarat, there is a constant effort to ensure that adequate water reaches every part of the state. "We are also working towards water conservation," he added.

Modi also spoke about the Jan

Aushadhi Yojana, under which chemist stores are being opened, offering medicines at cheaper rates. "It is important that the poor and the middle class gets access to affordable medicines," he added.

Modi said the government's emphasis on cleanliness has been universally appreciated. The emphasis on cleanliness is important because a clean India ensures people do not suffer from diseases, he added.

Source: Livemint

CSIR tech to make combat aircraft Tejas 20% lighter

NEW DELHI (TIP): Technology indigenously developed by a government laboratory for manufacturing carbon components will make India's light combat aircrafts 20% lighter.

The technology developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Aerospace Laboratory (CSIR-NAL) uses indigenously developed carbon fibre, which is pre-impregnated with the organic polymer 'resin', to make complex parts like fin, rudder, wing spars and fairings in a single mould.

"For making the composite material, this pre-impregnated carbon fibre is autoclaved or treated under extreme heat and temperature. The autoclaving technology has also developed by our lab," said Jitendra Jadhav, director of CSIR-NAL.

"The material is then moulded into



complex components of the aircraft. This reduces the number of parts used in the aircraft as well as the number of fasteners needed to assemble it," he said.

The use of the complete home-grown technology will reduce the number of parts of the light combat aircraft by 40%, the number of fasteners by 50%, and the time on the assembly line by 30%. The composite technology is

critical of the fourth generation fighter aircraft.

"The composite material is sturdier than aluminium, more heat resistant, the wear and tear is less and corrosion," said Jadhav. The laboratory has received an order for 20 sets of parts for the aircrafts worth more than ~100 crore from the government owned aerospace company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). CSIR-NAL has now transferred the technology to manufacturing partner Tata Advanced Materials Limited (TAML), Bengaluru. The project began with two technology demonstrator aircrafts and then five prototype aircrafts.

"It is a matter of pride that India's light combat aircraft - Tejas - has one of the highest percentage deployment of composites among contemporary aircrafts of its class anywhere.

Source: HT

Bodies found as floods recede in Kerala, death toll rises to 400

KOCHI (TIP): Receding flood waters left Indian troops and rescuers the grim task Monday of hunting for bodies left by the worst monsoon in a century in Kerala as the death toll rose above 400. With nearly three quarters of a million people packed into relief camps in the southern state, known for its tourist beaches and hill resorts, authorities also fear outbreaks of disease.

After a week of fierce downpours, rainfall eased Monday and flood levels have fallen in many districts. Army helicopters and boats kept up missions to find trapped survivors and drop food and water in isolated villages.

Officials said 22,000 people were rescued on Sunday. At least 30 bodies were also found taking the death toll above 200 since the torrential rain started falling on 8 August and more than 400 since the monsoon started in June. Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the priority now was to provide clean drinking water and restore power supplies to the state of 33 million people.

"The total number of people taking refuge at the 5,645 relief camps has risen to 724,649," Vijayan told reporters Sunday. He said health officers would be deployed in each village to check the spread of communicable diseases.

Thousands of army, navy and air force personnel have fanned out to help those stranded in remote and hilly areas.



A man cleans up his house after flood water subsided, in Puthenvelikkara near Kochi. Pic credit: PTI

Dozens of helicopters have been dropping tonnes of food, medicine and water over areas cut off due to damaged roads and bridges.

In worst hit areas such as Thrissur and Chengannur, rescuers are searching inundated houses where they have found the bodies of those trapped by the fast rising floodwaters.

"They didn't think that it would rise this high—10 to 15 feet at some places—when the initial warnings were issued," said Ashraf Ali K.M, who is leading the search in the small town of Mala in Thrissur.

Fishermen have sailed inland from Kerala's coast to join the search, as volunteers set up soup kitchens and an international appeal was made for financial help.

Vijayan praised the fishermen for joining the rescue mission.

The state government said each boat would get Rs 3,000 for each day of their work and that authorities would pay for any damage to them. The Kerala floods have caused an estimated \$3 billion in damage but the bill is likely to rise as the scale of devastation becomes clearer.

Source: AFP

Arun Jaitley returns as finance minister amid new challenges

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union minister Arun Jaitley on August 23 resumed charge as the Finance and Corporate Affairs minister after a gap of about three months.

Jaitley was recuperating from a kidney transplant surgery that took place on May 14 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. Prior to operation, Jaitley had stopped attending office in April. He was suffering from a kidney ailment.

"The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed to assign the portfolios of the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs to Arun Jaitley," an official notification issued on Thursday said.

He takes over at a time when the government is in the last phase of decision-making before it gets into election mode in the run-up to 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Jaitley's first-floor office at North Block has been renovated and sanitised so that he can be protected against infection. He is likely to limit public interaction until his health improves further.

In Jaitley's absence, minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal held the additional charge of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs.

During his three-month stint, the government decided to withdraw controversial Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill from Lok Sabha in view of public fear over the safety of bank deposits.

Goyal also announced project Sashakt to deal with the problem of stressed assets faced by the public sector banks.

Last month, the Goods and Services Tax



(GST) Council chaired by him slashed rates of about 100 items, including sanitary napkins. The move was described as populist by many experts.

The finance ministry also decided to withdraw around 27,000 court cases related to direct and indirect tax by increasing the threshold for filing an appeal in tax cases at various levels from tax tribunals to Supreme Court in a move to provide relief to small taxpayers.

A 10-member panel under the chairmanship of the secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) was formed to examine 'decriminalisation' of certain offences under the Companies Act, 2013.

Defense min raises corridor through PoK In meet with China

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and China on Aug 23 decided to work towards firming up a new bilateral pact on defence cooperation and agreed to increase interactions between their militaries at multiple levels to avoid Doklam-like standoffs.

The decisions were taken at a two-hour meeting between Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe, officials said, adding the focus was to build mutual trust between the two armies guarding the 3,500-km border.

The two sides also decided on early operationalisation of the proposed hotline between the two armies as part of confidence-building measures, the defence ministry said. Sources said Sitharaman talked about security challenges India has been facing because of cross-border terrorism, its views on bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan and the need for ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight in South China Sea.

Source: PTI

WHATSAPP SAYS NO TO TRACEABILITY INFORMATION

NEW DELHI (TIP): WhatsApp has rejected India's demand for a solution to track the origin of messages on its platform, saying building traceability would undermine end-to-end encryption and affect privacy protection for users.

Emphasising that people use its platform for all kinds of "sensitive conversations", the Facebook-owned company said the focus is on educating people about misinformation.

The government has been pushing WhatsApp to find a technology solution to trace the origin of messages, a move it believes can help curb horrific crimes like mob-lynching emanating from fake news.

"WhatsApp will not weaken the privacy protections we provide," a WhatsApp spokesperson said. WhatsApp Head Chris Daniels had met IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad earlier this week. Prasad told reporters that the government had asked WhatsApp to set up a local corporate entity and find a technology solution to trace the origin of fake messages as well as appoint a grievance officer. Source: PTI

Satya Pal Malik sworn in as Jammu and Kashmir governor



SRINAGAR (TIP): Satya Pal Malik on August 23 took oath as the 13th Jammu and Kashmir governor. He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Gita Mittal at a function at Raj Bhawan here.

Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were among over 400 guests present at the ceremony.

Malik, who was Bihar governor, replaced N.N. Vohra, who has occupied the J&K Raj Bhawan since 2008.

The appointment of a person from a socialist background and not from the uniformed forces, as was being speculated earlier, reflects the Centre's willingness to continue dialogue and engagement in the State, currently under Governor's rule.

Though there is no fixed tenure for the Governor, Vohra continued in office at the pleasure of the President of India. Vohra's second six-year term (that equals the State Assembly's term of six years) ended on June 25. He continued in office after the State was placed under Governor's rule on June 20 and Centre needed an experienced administrator given the ongoing Amarnath Yatra that concludes on August 28. Malik started out as a student leader in Meerut. In 1974 he joined Charan Singh's Lok Dal and was elected an MLA to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. He was later elected twice to Rajya Sabha — in 1980 as a Lok Dal candidate and in 1986 from the Congress.

INS Vikramaditya to be have marine hydraulic systems

NEW DELHI (TIP): INS Vikramaditya, India's only aircraft carrier, is going to be fitted with marine hydraulic system for the first time as part of its upgrade that will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship.

The systems would be fitted by Russia's Rostec State Corporation through its subsidiary, Technodinamika.

While the preparation for assembling is now being conducted, assembling will start in October this year and complete by May 2019, Technodinamika CEO Igor Nasenkov said in an interaction with IANS. The GS-1MF and GS-3 marine hydraulic systems are used for refuelling, cleaning and pressurization of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters which form part of the air-capable wing of INS Vikramaditya. GS-1MF hydraulic system are used for helicopters while GS-3 are used for aircraft. The upgradation would take place in India only and would include installation supervision, commissioning and sea trials of the ship.

LITTLE ROCK, Play

BY MABEL PAIS

HISTORY CALLED IT HEROISM. THEY CALLED IT HIGH SCHOOL.

LITTLE ROCK tells the riveting true story of the Little Rock Nine, the first black students to attend their city's formerly segregated central high school.

Three years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal, nine African American students—Minnijean Brown, Terrance Roberts, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Patillo, Gloria Ray, Jefferson Thomas, and Melba Pattillo Beals began their quest for a better education that soon became a national crisis, igniting the passions of a divided country and sparking a historic fight for justice in the Jim Crow South.



Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj

On the cusp of the Civil Rights Movement, a changing world watched as these nine children from Arkansas battled for their rights with only a book and pencil. At once harrowing and hopeful, *LITTLE ROCK* brings urgently to life the Nine's untold personal stories of challenge and resilience, conjuring memories of America not so long ago.

From writer and director Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj, this deeply moving play honors the bravery of these young heroes and asks audiences: Would you have had the courage?

Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj is an Indo-Afro-Caribbean American artist, educator and activist. He was hailed in the *New York Times* as "one of the most talented directors in New York these days". He is the former Artistic Director of New Freedom Theatre in Philadelphia as well as a former member of Theater Philadelphia Board of Directors and Chairman of the Diversity Committee for the Philadelphia Theater Alliance.

As a playwright, Maharaj has authored several plays, including *Little Rock*, a historical drama about the Little Rock Nine (2015 Barrymore Award; TCG/NEA New Generations Grant). He has also adapted, co-written and co-conceived several other works during his artistic career.

Playwright/Director Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj spoke to Mabel Pais about his journey in writing the play.

Thank you for giving us this brilliant, moving play showing a very important piece of American history. It's an amazing direction of talented actors playing multiple roles.

Why now write this now, 60 years after the event?

I started this journey of writing *Little Rock*

“Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj does a beautiful job of balancing heartache with just enough humor in this viscerally affecting play”
-The New York Times

years ago. I was in Arkansas directing *Dream Girls* for Arkansas Repertory Theater. I had a day off and I went to Central (High School) and (for me) it was a life-changing experience.

A few months earlier, I had the pleasure of meeting August Wilson, one of the great American playwrights of color, of all time,

and he had said to me that when your ancestors take a hold of you, it will be Sankofa and the story has to emerge, and it has to come out.

I really didn't understand it until I went to Central. From this moment on, I started on this journey of wanting to tell the story and share (it) with the world. And, I think we did a really wonderful job of being able to do that.

Explain Sankofa.

Sankofa is the journey when your ancestors take you back, in time, to a different time so you can lessons of stories that will help you in this time and space.

Like reincarnation, in many ways, you go back to a different time and you bring forth energy in stories that state African tradition. And it's been very true that the show continues to evolve; and having it perform off Broadway in New York right now with all the current strife and political discourse that's occurring in our country... and many people are trying to turn the clock back.

We're reminded of the sacrifice, the courage and tenacity of a group of 9 kids, 15-16 years old, who are able to give to the world and people of color. It's such a great opportunity right now.

Describe the process of 13 years of writing *Little Rock*.

I was always fascinated, as a writer of color, with documentary theater where you sit with the men, women and children who have experienced the events and you write the story with them. Very much like the work of what Anna Deavere Smith had done in *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* or *Fires In The Mirror*; or Moises Kaufman did with the *Laramie Project* in the Shepard's Story.

And being able to go instead and talk with

“Very powerful, very enlightening, very heartbreaking. I learned about the Little Rock integration in school, but to see what happened and all the raw emotion, makes the story profound & real. One of the very best off-Broadway shows I have ever seen.”
-James Flaig, theatergoer

the Little Rock Nine; and men and women of all views on the left and right who lived through it and had the legacy of it, was a game-changer for me in my own humanity. With Klansmen, former Klansmen and folks who had changed and evolved, and people who were stuck in being on the wrong side of



The Little Rock Nine at the entrance of Central High School, Little Rock.

Photo Courtesy / Richard Hillman PR

history and their ideology became the hammer and chisel to me writing this play.

And, then we did workshops, readings and productions and development over 13 years at the Arkansas Rep, at Classical Theater in New Jersey, at TheatreWorks in California, and countless readings in New York.

And, it prepared us to bring it Off-Broadway.

How many of the Little Rock Nine are still alive? How did they contribute their experiences to the story of your play?

Eight of the Little Rock Nine are still with us. Only Jefferson passed (away). They've all been very generous and supportive of the play and its success. You have to remember they are in their 70s and 80s now; and, to honor them with a play and live on? And, they never even thought that people knew their story; and, they were very touched that it took 13 years of my artistic life and sacrifice to bring it. They have said many times that I'm the 10th member of the 9 that touched me deeply; and, that every member of the Nine had high praise for the play.

Describe and explain the Jim Crow South. Jim Crow is a set of laws and social norms that are set up to keep African Americans at the time in a position of inferiority within our society.

Do you believe that America was founded by White Supremacists?

I believe that history shows us that the Founding Fathers of this country removed Native Americans from their land and enslaved African Americans for hundreds of years. It feels like that it would be true, a fact,

that it (America) was built on that.

And, today when you look at the border and what's happening to brown and black people from our neighbors, you know, this struggle continues.

I do think there is, definitely, in our society the ills of racism that continue to fester in every aspect of our society.

You have been called an activist. Talk to us about your activism.

For me, when I was coming up, I had the pleasure of meeting the great Ozzie Davis and Ruby Dee, two great American actors of color who were part of the Civil Rights Movement with Dr. King and Malcolm X. They were brilliant artists and activists. They once said to me that inherently as an artist of color you are an activist. Make sure that you make choices that matter and can uplift and open doors for people of color and to be mindful

that we are all part of that American dream.

So, that for me that has always been a part of it and I've always used the theater as my lightning bolt for social change whether it's dealing with the Little Rock Nine story or the story of Trayvon Martin, his murder or the successful piece that I did was the "Mother Emmanuel" shooting down in Charleston (North Carolina).

My work really focuses on people who are living today and reminding us that we still have a lot of work to do in the world and "The River Voices" (referring to the Arkansas River) came out of when I was down in Arkansas. We brought together artists from the African American community and Latino community and it was really, really fruitful.

Where are you taking this play?

Nothing is set yet. I may take this play overseas to East London as they are interested in American history.

What is your next project?

Yes, I'm working on a project where men and men of color have been taken apart from their families at the border by ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). I'm interviewing men, women and children and like *Little Rock*, I'm going to be creating their journey.

Little Rock runs until September 8.

To learn more about *Little Rock*, visit www.littlerockplay.com.

To learn more about the playwright/director, visit www.RajendraMaharaj.com.

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

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Dia Mirza: I don't believe that taking a break for a good reason can be a risk

Actor Dia Mirza, who with Rajkumar Hirani's *Sanju*, returned to films after a four-year gap, hopes to do movies on a regular basis now. Playing the role of Sanjay Dutt's (played by Ranbir Kapoor) wife Maanayata in the actor's biopic, Dia received rave reviews for her performance.

In an earlier interview with us, Dia had stated that the break was a conscious choice, but one still wonders if it was a risk to her career in any way.

However, brushing aside any such concerns, she says, "I have discovered the virtue of patience and I don't quite believe that taking a break for good reason can be a risk. It's important to be able to give oneself that time, perspective, and more than anything else, to stand for what one believes in, or what one deserves, or for seeking out meritorious opportunities. Sometimes, those opportunities take time and sometimes, you need to create them for yourselves."

Adding that in her case, a break never really mattered, Dia adds, "I think good work, sincerity and discipline speak for themselves. As soon as the opportunity opens up, it instantly takes away the gap that one may have taken."

MADHURI TO RECREATE MADHUBALA'S ICONIC SONG FROM MUGHAL-E-AZAM

Remember the iconic *Mohe Panghat Pe Nandlal Chhed Gayo Re* from K Asif's *Mughal-e-Azam*? As the enigmatic beauty Madhubala swirled to the gentle rhythm of the Naushad composed song, many a cinema lover fell in love with the 'idea of love' all over again. Madhubala in her golden and maroon lehenga epitomised beauty, grace and sensuality all at once. That was back in 1960.

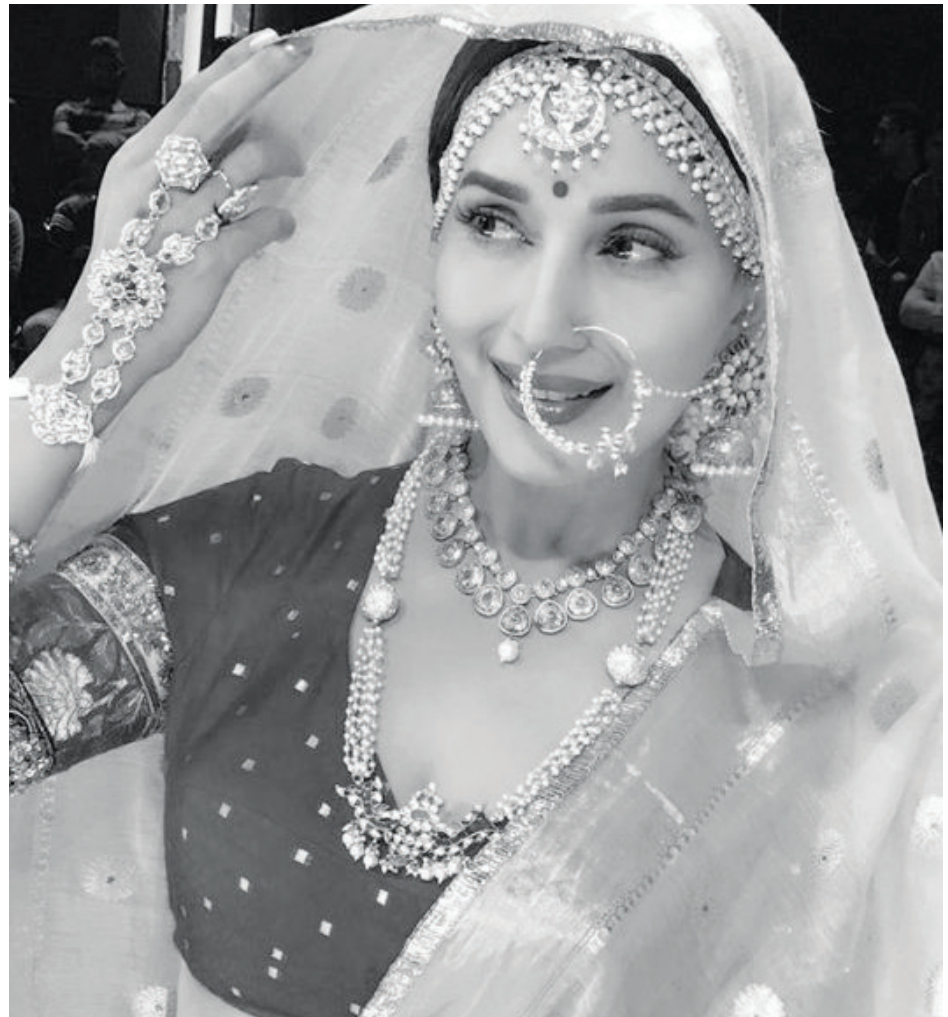
Turns out a beauty from another era will recreate the magic of this song once again in an upcoming episode of *Dance Deewane*. The beauty in question is Madhuri Dixit. Late on Monday, Madhuri took to social media, and said: "Retro feels today on #DanceDeewane".

Dressed in an orange and silver embroidered lehenga, a maroon coloured choli, jewellery matching those that Madhubala wore in the iconic song (notice the heavy mang tikka), Madhuri is all-smiles at the camera.

Makeup artist Mickey Contractor also shared a black-and-white picture of Madhuri in the *Mughal-e-Azam* get up and wrote: "The gorgeous gorgeous Madhuri Dixit for *Dance Deewane* in a retro avatar."

In the said song, a coy yet flirty Madhubala as Anarkali is singing for Salim (Dilip Kumar) even as the rest of the court is under the impression that she is merely re-enacting Radha's playful interaction with Krishna. The song has acquired an extra edge over time as Madhubala and Dilip Kumar had been one-time real-life lovers.

Meanwhile, Madhuri remains as busy as ever. After judging dance reality show *Jhalak Dikha Ja* for four years, she finally quit it in 2014. However she keeps appearing every once in a while as a celebrity judge, like she will in a special edition of *Dance Deewane* where she will also perform to the



iconic song from *Mughal-e-Azam*.

On film's front, Madhuri has two big budget, high profile films in her kitty. These include *Kalank*, a Karan Johar presentation with an ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan among

others and *Total Dhamaal*, an Indra Kumar production (with whom she has done a number of films in the past) with Ajay Devgn, Anil Kapoor, Esha Deol, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi and Jaaved Jaffrey.

Source: HT

Alia Bhatt on wedding rumours: I am fine as long as you don't enter my bathroom

Alia Bhatt today said she doesn't believe in reacting to rumours about her marriage but feels she is in a happy place, both personally and professionally. The *Uda Punjab* star is currently dating Ranbir Kapoor and there have been speculations that the couple might tie the knot next year.

When asked about the same, Alia told reporters, "I don't react to rumours. Rumours are not meant to be reacted upon. As long as you aren't entering my bathroom, I am fine because if you are not talking about me then maybe I am not relevant enough."

"But honestly, I am in a very good place both personally and professionally so no issues whatsoever," she added.

In an interview to a fashion magazine earlier this year, Ranbir had opened up about his relationship with Alia. The duo will share screen space for the first time in *Brahmastra*.

When asked if it adds to the performance if one is dating their co-star, Alia said, "When you're an actor, your job is to act. When you're in front of the camera, it doesn't matter who you are dating, not dating, whether you're tall or short or fat or unhappy or very happy."

"Sometimes, there have been days when I've been very upset but I had to dance around and feel very excited. So that's the process of being an actor."

Alia was speaking at the launch of the new collection of Caprese bags, for which she also walked the ramp.

Source: PTI





Key to lasting romance is supporting each other, says Jessica Alba

Hollywood star Jessica Alba says the secret for her lasting romance with husband Cash Warren is that they always have each other's support.

The 37-year-old actor, who has been married to the film producer since 2008, said they work so well together because they make sure to spend some quality time.

"We support each other. I think it's just nice to have someone who can just listen and be there for you and cuddle and.

"I don't know, we do a lot of down time, and being chill. It's important to have a date night once in a while," Alba told People magazine.

Alba and Warren are parents to daughters -- Honor, 10, and Haven, six -- and son Hayes, who was born earlier this year.

Source: PTI

LINDSAY LOHAN FEELS #METOO MOVEMENT MAKES WOMEN WHO SPEAK AGAINST ABUSE LOOK WEAK



Actor Lindsay Lohan has slammed #MeToo movement saying the campaign makes women look "weak". The movement came to the fore last year after the alleged sex crimes of Harvey Weinstein prompted women across the globe to bravely share their own harrowing experiences. Lohan spoke about the movement in an interview with The Times, explaining that she never had negative experiences in Hollywood.

"So, I don't really have anything to say. I can't speak on something I didn't live, right? Look, I am very supportive of

women. Everyone goes through their own experiences in their own ways," she said.

"If it happens at that moment, you discuss it at that moment. You make it a real thing by making it a police report. I'm going to really hate myself for saying this, but I think by women speaking against all these things, it makes them look weak when they are very strong women. You have these girls who come out, who don't even know who they are, who do it for the attention. That is taking away from the fact that it happened," Lohan added.

Last year, the actor had defended

disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein after he initially faced a slew of sexual assault allegations.

"I feel very bad for Harvey Weinstein right now. I don't think it's right what's going on. I think Georgina needs to take a stand and be there for her husband. He's never harmed me or did anything to me. We've done several movies together. I think everyone needs to stop. I think it's wrong. So, stand up," she had said in an Instagram video, which she later deleted.

Source: PTI

Brad Pitt says he loaned \$8 million to Angelina Jolie, accuses her of manipulating media

Brad Pitt on Wednesday rebutted claims that he had failed to support his children and accused his estranged wife Angelina Jolie of trying to manipulate the media in their long drawn-out divorce.

In the latest round of bitter accusations between the Hollywood power couple once known as Brangelina, Pitt's attorneys said the actor had paid over \$1.3 million in bills for Jolie and their six children since their 2016 separation.

In documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, the attorneys also said Pitt had loaned Jolie \$8 million to help her buy a new home.

Jolie's attorney responded by saying that Pitt was charging Jolie interest on the loan for the new house and that the actress has had to shoulder most of the expenses for the children alone.

"What has been filed by Brad's side today is a blatant attempt to obfuscate the truth and distract from the fact that he has not fully met his legal obligations to support the children," attorney Samantha Bley DeJean said in a statement.

Jolie had said in a Tuesday court filing that Pitt had "paid no meaningful child support" since Jolie filed for divorce in September 2016.

Pitt's attorneys said that Jolie's claims were "a thinly-veiled effort to manipulate media coverage."

Pitt and Jolie were married for two years and enjoyed a 10-year romance that had made the pair one of Hollywood's most glamorous couples. They have six children for whom she is seeking primary custody.

The "Maleficent" actress said on Tuesday that she wanted to expedite the divorce and return to single status by the end of 2018.

Pitt's court filing said it was the actor, not Jolie, who first made the request to speed up the divorce.

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.

Source: Reuters



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Indian-Origin Student Group In Uk Calls For Action On Fake Calls Scam

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin student group in London called for action to support members who had been subjected to a fake calls scam, which involves fraudsters claiming to be from the UK Home Office and threatening innocent students with deportation.

Indian National Students Association (INSA) UK resolved at its annual National Executive meeting in London over the weekend to provide support to students affected by the scam.

"At the meeting, representatives from Westminster University and King's College London chapters highlighted the issue of fake calls being made to Indian students and resolved to provide support to those affected," INSA UK said in a statement.

The case of Hardik Somani, from Westminster University, emerged as a case study after he was targeted by fraudsters posing as "officials of the Home Office".

He was threatened with immediate deportation for failing to fill out paperwork "correctly" and was warned he faced a 10-year ban from the UK unless he paid a "fine" of up to 6,500 pounds. INSA UK said it supported him through the process of alerting the UK authorities.

Shweta Kulkarni, President of the students' body, said: "INSA UK was set up to speak up on behalf of Indian students and we are keen to address all issues of concern, including such fake calls and visa hurdles.

"We urge the authorities to take action against the fraudsters and increase the level of support for the targeted students."

A Home Office spokesperson said: "Legitimate Home Office officials will never contact individuals to demand payment over the phone for visa fees or fines.

"Anyone who thinks they have been a victim of fraud should contact the police."

Earlier this month, another Indian students' body - the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK - and the University of Manchester had issued alerts directed at Indian students, warning them to be wary of such scam phone calls.

It called on students not to engage with such callers, who use software to create "spoof" numbers that may seem legitimate.

"The fraudster may use the terms 'deportation notice', 'alien registration form' and 'late fee charges'... Do not make any payment... Report the matter to Action Fraud," the advisory said.

Typhoon Cimaron slices through western Japan, heads north

TOKYO (TIP): A powerful typhoon sliced across western Japan on Friday, dumping heavy rain before heading out to sea and turning towards the northern island of Hokkaido after reports that three students were swept out to sea. There were scattered reports of damage and significant transportation delays but the region appeared to have escaped the devastation and mass casualties it experienced in floods in early July.

The centre of Typhoon Cimaron was estimated to be about 210 km (130 miles) northwest of Wajima city in Ishikawa prefecture at 9 a.m. (0000GMT) and heading north, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Three college students were thought to have been swept away by high waves from a beach in Shizuoka, public broadcaster NHK said. The students' sandals, backpacks, smartphones and wallets were found on the beach, it said. Evacuation orders were issued in areas including Wakayama, Hyogo and Osaka prefectures and train and plane services were disrupted, NHK said. (Reuters)

Treasurer Scott Morrison to become Australia's next prime minister

Incumbent Malcolm Turnbull did not contest the party ballot.

CANBERRA (TIP): Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison will become Australia's new prime minister after winning a Liberal party leadership vote on Friday, ending an internecine battle that has scarred the conservative government ahead of an election due by May 2019.

Morrison, who will be Australia's sixth prime minister in less than 10 years, emerged victorious from a three-way race with former home affairs minister Peter Dutton and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

Incumbent Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who called the leadership meeting after losing the majority support of the party, opted not to contest the vote.

The Liberal party is the senior partner in the ruling conservative coalition. The Liberal-National government has consistently trailed opposition Labor in opinion polls in recent months.

The leadership battle was sparked on Tuesday by an unsuccessful challenge by Dutton, who narrowly lost a vote against Turnbull. Under intense pressure to call a second vote, Turnbull convened a party meeting on Friday after receiving a letter signed by the majority of party members



calling for a change of leader.

Turnbull said before the ballot that if he lost the prime ministership he would resign from parliament, leaving the new government facing a by-election for his Sydney seat that could see it lose its one-seat majority. Australian media reported that foreign minister Bishop, having been

defeated in the leadership ballot, would likely also resign from politics.

Turnbull came to power in a party-room coup in September 2015. A social liberal and multi-millionaire former merchant banker, he has struggled to appeal to conservative voters and only narrowly won a general election in 2016. (Reuters)

North Korea speeds construction spree ahead of anniversary

Samjiyon is one of the main focuses of a massive nationwide construction campaign ahead of North Korea's 70th anniversary in what leader Kim Jong Un has described as a symbolic battle against anyone who would oppose his country.

SAMJIYON (TIP): Thousands of North Korean 'soldier-builders' in olive green uniforms and bright red hardhats are doing everything from digging ditches to putting up walls on multi-story apartment blocks and government buildings in this northern city near the Chinese border.

Samjiyon is one of the main focuses of a massive nationwide construction campaign ahead of North Korea's 70th anniversary in what leader Kim Jong Un has described as a symbolic battle against anyone who would oppose his country.

The September 9 anniversary is shaping up to be the biggest event since Kim assumed power in late 2011. Along with huge rallies in Pyongyang on the day itself and the revival of North Korea's trademark mass games at the stadium, Kim has deployed soldiers and ordinary citizens alike to erect buildings, improve roads and work on other infrastructure on a scale unseen in recent years.

The construction spree is intended to improve living conditions in keeping with one of Kim's first promises to the nation, that he would bolster the economy so they would no longer need to "tighten their belts." But it is also a demonstration of the power of his regime in the face of U.S.-backed international sanctions intended to squeeze his economy and force him to abandon his nuclear weapons.

Kim made that political message clear during a visit to Samjiyon with his wife last week, when he was quoted by state media as saying "the hostile forces' persistent sanctions and obstructive moves" have come as a serious setback, but added the North Korean people have risen to the

challenge and are "making a history of legendary miracles despite the most difficult conditions."

Kim said that by 'showily' building up Samjiyon, the nation is in effect fighting a symbolic battle against those who would try to stifle its "socialist civilization."

Samjiyon lies at the foot of Mount Paektu, which is closely linked to the Kim family and is considered the spiritual center of the North Korean revolution.

Steam rollers and other heavy equipment are rare, so roadwork is particularly labor-intensive. Work crews spreading out nearly 20 kilometers (10 miles) from the city limits fill potholes with shovelfuls of dirt and flatten surfaces with wooden tools.

The work has transformed Samjiyon from a relatively sleepy provincial center surrounded by potato farms into a buzzing hub of activity the likes of which would be hard to find anywhere else. The government says it is to be the model for future development projects nationwide. The Associated Press was allowed to view the city on the same day Kim visited, but was not allowed to shoot photos.

One important aspect of the current building boom is that much of the work is being done outside of Pyongyang. Under three generations of Kim leadership, the capital has gotten the bulk of funding and is far more developed than the rest of the country, creating a glaring _ and potentially destabilizing _ gap between the capital and the provinces.

Along with Samjiyon, major construction projects are underway in several other cities _ including 20-story high-rise apartments in the eastern port city of Chongjin and

extensive infrastructure and tourism-related facilities in Wonsan, another port on the country's eastern coast. Under Kim, Wonsan has gotten a new airport that officials hope will attract international visitors in the near future. More than a dozen resort hotels are being built near its coastline.

The construction campaign is all the more ambitious considering that it comes at a very sensitive time for Kim, who has held a series of summits over the past several months with China, South Korea and the United States in an attempt to undermine international support for sanctions and establish his position on the global stage as the head of a nuclear power.

His diplomatic gambit appears to be paying off in many ways.

Chinese businesspeople and tourists are once again flowing over the borders _ several large tourist groups were in Samjiyon last week _ and South Korean officials are seriously considering ways to help the North improve its roads and railways. But doubts are growing over whether Kim has any real intention to meet Washington's main demand and unilaterally abandon the nuclear weapons he worked so hard to develop over the past five years.

That rift with Washington could significantly complicate Kim's rapprochement with his neighbors and stifle his efforts to woo the trade and investment he needs to fund his development projects. A crucial indicator of where Kim stands will come soon after the Sept. 9 anniversary when he is scheduled to hold another summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, this time in Pyongyang. (AP)

Reaction to the British government's 'no deal' Brexit plans

Below is some reaction to Brexit minister Dominic Raab's speech on the government's 'no deal' planning and the guidance notes it has published on preparing for that scenario

LONDON (TIP): Britain on Thursday set out a series of notes detailing what could happen if it fails to reach a Brexit deal with the European Union, acknowledging that firms would face a tangle of red tape and possible delays at the border.

Below is some reaction to Brexit minister Dominic Raab's speech on the government's 'no deal' planning and the guidance notes it has published on preparing for that scenario:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SPOKESMAN

"We are working constructively to reach a deal. It is also clear that the withdrawal of the UK is going to lead to disruptions regardless, with a deal or without a deal. And that's why everybody, in particular economic operators, needs to be prepared."

KEIR STARMER, BREXIT SPOKESMAN, OPPOSITION LABOUR PARTY

"The speech was thin on detail, thin on substance and provided no answers to how ministers intend to mitigate the serious consequences of leaving the EU without an agreement." "A no deal Brexit has never been viable and would represent a complete failure of the government's negotiating strategy."

STEPHEN JONES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, UK FINANCE

"The government is taking a pragmatic approach to addressing critical cliff-edge issues and to ensure consumers and businesses can continue accessing vital cross-border services." "However, these issues cannot be addressed by the UK acting alone. It is therefore vital that negotiators on both sides work together to agree solutions that prevent any unnecessary disruption and additional costs for customers in both the EU and UK."

ADAM MARSHALL, BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR GENERAL

"The stark reality is that in a 'no deal' scenario, it appears that the government's intention is to impose full-blown customs controls on trade between the EU and the UK immediately ... Given well-publicised concerns surrounding the capacity and readiness of UK customs systems, we question whether this outcome is realistic."

STEPHEN MARTIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

"This is a welcome step from the government, though not before time."



"Further detail on what steps the government would take to mitigate the effect of no deal is especially important for business confidence. The government must continue to come clean about these plans so that firms are truly in the know when making their own preparations. A no deal would be bad, but a no deal with no planning would be worse."

JOSH HARDIE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, CBI

"By now, few can be in any doubt that 'no deal' would wreak havoc on economies across Europe. These papers show that those who claim crashing out of the EU on World Trade Organisation rules is acceptable live in a world of fantasy, where facts are not allowed to challenge ideology." "It's right and responsible that the government have supplied information to businesses on issues from financial services passporting to food labelling, all of which will help lower the risks of the harshest outcomes from a 'no deal' Brexit. But without a similar response from the EU, many of these mitigating measures would be blunted."

STEPHEN PHIPSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EEF

"EEF welcomes the increased clarity for businesses from the publication of today's raft of technical notices. However the remaining notices need to be published at the utmost speed so companies have the full picture to enable them to prepare properly for a no-deal scenario."

MINETTE BATTERS, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION

"The technical notice for organic farming is a warning for us on the future of trade of all agri-food products – if all these products were subjected to the same problems in approvals and certification

then this could result in effectively a trade embargo on exports to the EU. Not only would this be hugely disruptive but it threatens livelihoods and businesses in the UK."

HELEN DICKINSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM

"Any delays caused by increased red tape will have a serious impact on over one-third of our food imports. The government's technical notices demonstrate the facts of a no-deal Brexit – reduced availability and higher prices of food and medicine, increased delays and red tape at borders, and a VAT bombshell for consumers and businesses."

MICHAEL RUSSELL, SCOTTISH GOVT BREXIT MINISTER

"These technical notices reveal the 'no deal' Brexit nightmare facing Scotland and lay bare the risks facing Scottish businesses, the economy and public services. "From the bureaucratic burden that will be imposed on EU imports and exports to the need to strike a wide range of 'no deal' deals before the end of March, these notices only add to the uncertainty."

THILO BRODTMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GERMAN ENGINEERING FEDERATION VDMA

"In view of the slow progress of negotiations, it is indeed logical that both sides also consider the option of a failure of the exit talks. But emergency plans do not absolve politicians of the responsibility to do everything to ensure that an emergency does not arise. Companies must in fact now arm themselves protectively for a hard Brexit; we hope, however, that these preparations will never need to be put into practice." (Reuters)

statement to Reuters responding to comments by Trump adviser John Bolton.

"The Trump administration has ... established that it intends to use trade, tariffs and sanctions to start a global trade war," Kalin said, pointing to similar disputes with Mexico, Canada, Europe and China. "Turkey has no intention of starting an economic war with any party. It cannot, however, be expected to keep silent in the face of attacks against its economy and judiciary," he said. (Reuters)

South Korea appeals court gives ex-president Park Geun-hye 25-year jail term

SEOUL (TIP): A South Korean appeals court sentenced former President Park Geun-hye to 25 years in jail on Aug 24, the Yonhap news agency reported, in a case arising from a corruption scandal that toppled her from power in early 2017.

The Seoul High Court found Park guilty of charges including bribery, Yonhap reported.

A lower court jailed Park for 24 years in April, saying she colluded with her friend, Choi Soon-sil, to receive tens of billions of won from major conglomerates such as Samsung and Lotte to help Choi's family and fund non-profit foundations owned by her.

Prosecutors had appealed against that ruling, seeking a tougher sentence. (Reuters)

Two killed in knife attack in Paris suburb, ISIS claims responsibility

PARIS (TIP): Two people were killed and one seriously wounded in a knife attack in the Paris suburb of Trappes, French authorities said.

The knife attacker was then shot dead by police.

"The police operation is over ... the person was neutralised and is dead," the local prefecture said on Twitter.

Islamic State issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack. BFM TV said the attacker shouted "Allahu akbar", but police could not immediately confirm it.

One Interior ministry source said the victims might be relatives of the attacker and police are looking into whether it was a family quarrel.

"The reason behind the attack and his profile are not known yet and are being looked into," another source said.

Counter-terrorism officials have yet to be asked to join the investigation, a judicial source said.

Trappes is an underprivileged town situated in an overall wealthy area west of Paris. Dozens of radicalised youths from the town of about 30,000 habitants have left for Syria. (Reuters)

Third Brazilian soldier dies after massive anti-drug raid in Rio slums

RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP): A third Brazilian soldier, wounded in a sweeping operation this week targeting warring drug gangs in slums across Rio de Janeiro, has died, the army said on August 22.

At least five civilians and two soldiers died in the coordinated raids across violent neighborhoods in the north of the city on Monday, the army said at the time.

However, on Wednesday, authorities said a third soldier, who had been wounded in the raids, died of injuries that had initially been considered treatable.

The soldiers are the first troops to die in a six-month-old federal intervention in Rio, which has been criticized for military tactics, a lack of transparency and unclear goals.

In February, President Michel Temer announced emergency measures authorizing the army to take command of police forces in Rio de Janeiro state, where drug gangs and militias have triggered a sharp rise in violence.

Since the operation began, both murders and the number of people killed in police confrontations have risen, casting doubts on the strategy, according to official data.

Nearly 64,000 people were murdered in Brazil in 2017, a record high, and the rise in violence has become a key issue ahead of presidential elections in October. Candidates across the political spectrum are playing up their crime-fighting credentials to appeal to an electorate fed up with a weak economy and endemic graft. (Reuters)

Turkey accuses US of waging 'economic war' in pastor dispute

ANKARA (TIP): Turkey accused Washington on Wednesday of waging "economic war" and failing to respect its legal system over the fate of an evangelical Christian pastor whose 21-month-long detention on terrorism charges has roiled

relations between the NATO allies.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman said comments by President Donald Trump's national security adviser were proof that the United States is targeting Turkey's economy and not reflecting the fundamental principles and values of the NATO alliance.

"His statement is proof that the Trump administration is targeting a NATO ally as part of an economic war," Erdogan spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said in a written

HOW TO LOOK NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL AND GO MAKE UP-FREE

In today's changing world, beauty is associated with going natural. Make up products are losing the crowd. Celebrities like Chrissy Teigen, Gigi Hadid, Miley Cyrus and many more are going make up free and we are seeing that a lot more lately.

Let's be honest, putting on expensive make up and degrading your skin is not sensible. We all girls love make-up but the new generation is planning on eliminating it's use.

Kim Kardashian has joined the bare face trend as well! Confidence, now relies inside the natural look. The society puts a lot of pressure on woman to look perfect and radiant with a lot of make up on. Girls find this as a way to impress other people but it is time to unlock your natural beauty. Follow these simple steps to embrace your natural skin and add a little glamour to your beauty routine.

Use face mask instead of serum

We all know the power of natural remedies because we have tried them and checked the result. Instead of using expensive serum that provides temporary solution, it is time to let the remedies do their work. Do not feel lazy to create the perfect face mask for your skin. One of the sure-shot solution for the glow on your face is taking steam, in addition, scrubbing your face with lemon and honey after the steam will clear the pores and provide instant radiance.

Get glossy lips with colored lip balms

Why do you even need lip gloss when lip balms can do the work? The market is changing and you must have seen different brands introducing colored lip care products that are competing with harmful make-up items.



Avoid concealer

Concealer is a cosmetic stick that is used to cover dark spots, blemishes, and dark circles. Make use of natural remedy like cucumber and leave it on in the night. It can do wonders! When you wake up next morning, you will see that your eyes are not swelled and face is absolutely fresh. It is time to try it!

Stay hydrated

Make-up can never be a girl's best friend because it never sticks

permanently. The benefit that you can get from drinking a lot of water during a day is remarkable! Healthy eating will give you a healthy skin! This solution will never let acne appear on your face, isn't that great?

Beauty sleep

A woman should get seven to eight hours of sleep every night. It reduces stress and works amazing on the skin. Acne, dark circles indicates tension on your face but we all know how we can fix it.



GIRLS RAISED BY WORKING MOMS MORE SUCCESSFUL

Growing up with a working mother may be beneficial for kids. A research has been conducted in United States and United Kingdom, which analysed data on more than 100,000 men and women, to determine whether a mother's employment status is in any way connected to her child's outcomes in adulthood, CNN reported.

The results of the research suggest that girls raised by working moms are more likely to be successful in life. Whereas, sons raised in homes with working mothers spend their adulthood caring for family members. The research did not register any significant connection between a mother's employment status and her children growing up to happy adults. These children were found to be just as happy as those of stay-at-home mothers.

The study only measured the relationship between a mother's employment status and her children's outcome later in life. It did not imply that there are fewer benefits for the children of stay-at-home moms.

Source: ANI

HACKS TO KEEP YOUR HAIR COLOUR GAME STRONG



Wait to shampoo

Always wait for a full 72 hours after colouring your hair before you shampoo it. This allows your hair cuticle enough time to close, making your colour last longer. Thereafter, try to fit in as many days as possible between hair washes. That's because shampooing not only gets grime off but also strips your hair of natural oils and dislodges colour molecules. If your hair tends to become greasy, use a dry shampoo at the roots.

Shampoo right

When you do wash your hair, use a sulphate-free shampoo or one that is meant for coloured hair. Go a step further and use filtered water to wash your tresses. This will limit the amount of chlorine and minerals reaching your hair and will keep the hair colour from fading. Most importantly, avoid hot showers as they open up the hair cuticle, releasing moisture and hair colour.

Reverse wash

While conditioning after shampooing is the norm, go for the reverse wash system to keep hair colour locked in. Condition your hair, rinse, shampoo, and rinse! This way, you reinforce the protective layer of your hair, preventing colour molecules from washing out.

Protect your hair

Wear a hat or bandana every time you step out in the sun to prevent colour from fading. Prevent hair colour from seeping out when you hit the pool by simply rubbing coconut oil into your hair. Avoid heat when styling your hair as much as you can. If you need to apply heat, use lower temperature settings, and always use a heat protectant product first.

Source: Femina

FOOD CORNER

DUM PANEER KALI MIRCH

Ingredients

1 tsp Oil, 4 Cloves, 4 Green cardamoms, 1 inch piece Cinnamon, 1 Onion (fried till brown and blended with little water to make paste), Paste of 1 tsp ginger and 1 tsp garlic with 4 green chillies, 3 Tbsp Dahi / Yogurt, 1 tsp Dhaniya / Coriander powder, 1 tsp Pepper powder, 3/4 tsp Cumin powder, 1 tsp Salt, 2 Tbsp Cream, 1/4 tsp Rang mirch / Paprika, 1/4 tsp Haldi / Turmeric, 1/4 tsp Garam masala, 250 Gram Paneer, To garnish Coriander, To garnish Fresh mint leaves

Method

- Heat oil and add the cloves, cardamoms and cinnamon till it's nice and fragrant.
- Now add onion paste and cook well.
- Add ginger, garlic and green chilli paste. Saute.
- Add yogurt / dahi.
- Cook and add coriander powder, cumin powder, pepper powder, haldi and rang mirch / red chilli.
- Add salt. Cook and add cottage cheese cubes and cream as well as 1/2 cup water.
- Seal the pan with foil and put a lid on top.
- Reduce flame to low and let it simmer for 15 minutes.



- Now open it and cook further if you like to dry it up.
- Check for salt adding more if needed, serve garnished with coriander and mint leaves.

EAT STRAWBERRIES TO IMPROVE GUT HEALTH

Eating strawberries at a dose equivalent to as low as three quarters of a cup may reduce colonic inflammation and improve gut health, a study has found.

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a set of painful conditions that can cause severe diarrhoea and fatigue and the treatment can include medications and surgery.

The findings suggest that the dietary consumption of whole strawberries, significantly suppressed symptoms like weight loss and bloody diarrhoea in mice with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

"The sedentary lifestyle and dietary habits of many people in this country—high-sugar, high-animal fat, but low-fibre diets—may promote colonic inflammation and increase the risk of IBD," said lead author Hang Xiao from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the US.

The study, to be presented at the 256th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society (ACS), also found that strawberry treatments diminished inflammatory responses in the mice colonic issue.

To establish an effective and practical approach to decrease colonic inflammation in both IBD patients and the general population, the team focused on strawberries due to their wide consumption. For the study, the researchers used four groups of mice—a group of healthy mice consuming a regular diet, and three groups of mice



with IBD consuming a regular diet which had 2.5 per cent whole strawberry powder or a diet with five per cent whole strawberry powder.

They tried to feed the mice doses of strawberries that would be in line with what a human could reasonably

consume.

The team found that along with decreased inflammation, a reversal of the unhealthy microbiota pathways in the IBD mice was also observed—which in turn could lead to the decreased colonic inflammation. *Source: IANS*



HIGHER BMI MAY INCREASE YOUR BP AS WELL: STUDY

If you have a higher body mass index (BMI) then there are chances that you may have increased blood pressure (BP) too, a new study has found.

The findings, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, showed a strong correlation between the degree of obesity and high blood pressure.

Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to several cardiovascular diseases such as heart attack, stroke and heart failure.

For the study, the research team involved 1.7 million Chinese men and women aged between 35 and 80 years and recorded the participants' blood pressure from September 2014 to June 2017.

They observed an increase of 0.8 to 1.7 mm Hg (kg/m²) in blood pressure per additional unit of BMI in individuals who were not taking anti-hypertensive medication.

Overall, the population had a mean BMI of 24.7 and a mean systolic blood pressure of 136.5, which qualifies as stage-I hypertension, according to American Heart Association guidelines.

"If trends in overweight and obesity continue in China, the implication of our study is that hypertension, already a major risk factor, is likely to become even more important," said senior author Harlan Krumholz from Yale University in the US.

"This paper is ringing the bell that the time is now to focus on these risk factors," he added.

"The enormous size of the dataset -- the result of an unprecedented effort in China -- allows us to characterise this relationship between BMI and blood pressure across tens of thousands of subgroups, which simply would not be possible in a smaller study," said author George Linderman from the varsity.

This research has been supported by grants from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences Innovation Fund for Medical Science, the Ministry of Finance of China and the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China to name a few. *Source: IANS*

Reduce stress at work by including some physical activity when in office

Greater physical activity at the office can help reduce psychological stress during after work hours, a new study reveals. Workers in open office seating had less daytime stress and greater daytime activity levels compared to workers in private offices and cubicles, according to new research led by the University of Arizona. This is the first known study to investigate the effects of office workstation type on these objective measures.

The study evaluated 231 people who work in federal office buildings and wore stress and activity sensors around the clock for three workdays and two nights. The intent was to evaluate the workers' activity and stress levels both inside and outside of the office environments.

The study showed that workers in open bench seating arrangements were 32% more physically active at office than those in private offices and 20% more active than those in cubicles. Significantly, workers who were more physically active at office had 14% less physiological stress after working hours as compared to those with less physical activity at work.

"This research highlights how office design, driven by office workstation type, could be an important health-



Workers in open office seating had less daytime stress and greater daytime activity levels compared to workers in private offices and cubicles, according to new research led by the University of Arizona. This is the first known study to investigate the effects of office workstation type on these objective measures

promoting factor," said senior study author Sternberg. Office workers are at a particularly high risk for low levels of physical activity and the associated poor health outcomes. According to a 2015

report published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, workplace-related illnesses cost the U.S. economy more than 225 billion USD a year. *Source: ANI*

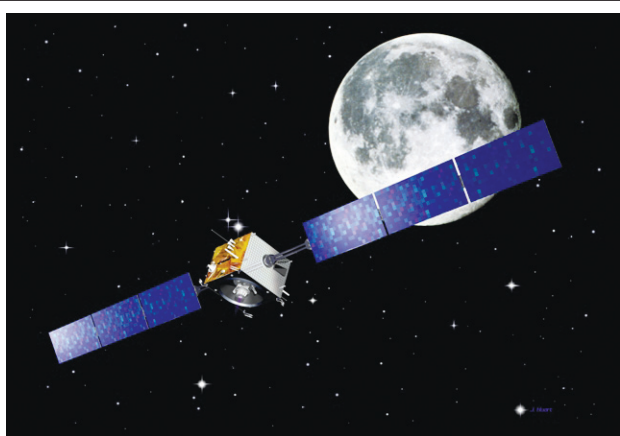
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CHANDRAYAAN-I DATA CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF ICE ON MOON

Scientists have confirmed the presence of frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, that was launched by India 10 years ago, NASA said on Friday.

With enough ice sitting at the surface—within the top few millimetres—water would possibly be accessible as a resource for future expeditions to explore and even stay on the Moon, and potentially easier to access than the water detected beneath the Moon's surface.

The ice deposits are patchily distributed and could possibly be ancient, according to the study published in the journal PNAS.

At the southern pole, most of the ice is concentrated at lunar craters, while the northern pole's ice is more widely, but sparsely spread.

Scientists used data from NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) instrument to identify three specific signatures that definitively prove there is water ice at the surface of the Moon.

M3, aboard the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, launched in 2008 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was uniquely equipped to confirm the presence of solid ice on the Moon.

It collected data that not only picked up the reflective properties we would expect from ice, but was able to directly measure the distinctive way its molecules absorb infrared light, so it can differentiate between liquid water or vapour and solid ice.

Most of the newfound water ice lies in the shadows of craters near the poles, where the warmest temperatures never reach above minus 156 degrees Celsius.

Due to the very small tilt of the Moon's rotation axis, sunlight never reaches these regions.

Previous observations indirectly found possible signs of surface ice at the lunar south pole, but these could have been explained by other phenomena, such as unusually reflective lunar soil.

Source: PTI

Nvidia launches graphics-chip design for gaming devices

Nvidia on Monday released a new generation of gaming chips that combine its latest "ray tracing" technology and artificial intelligence to give gamers access to more realistic graphics.

At a Gamescom 2018 press conference in Cologne, Germany, Nvidia rolled out its newest generation of gaming chips - the RTX 2070, RTX 2080 and RTX 2080 Ti. They are based on its recently launched chip blueprint called "Turing," which Nvidia is also using for higher-priced chips announced last week for game designers, movie makers and other computer graphics professionals.

The chips will range from \$499 to \$999 and will be available in retail stores starting September 20, Chief Executive Jensen Huang said at the event.

The biggest selling point of the gaming chips released on Monday is an improvement in so-called "real-time ray tracing," or the ability for the chip to simulate how light rays will bounce around in a visual scene, which helps video games and other computer graphics more closely resemble shadows and reflections in the real world.

Part of how the new chip achieves high resolution graphics quickly is a special section of the chip that finishes most of the image but then uses artificial intelligence to guess what the unfinished pixels should look like. That task was difficult to do well in the past, Huang said in his presentation.

Source: Reuters

ENHANCED 'LISTENING SKILL' MAKES ROBOT BETTER AT TALKING

Scientists have upgraded a conversational human-like robot, giving it a greater ability to have a natural dialogue with people by enhancing its listening skills.

The android ERICA, created by Hiroshi Ishiguro of Osaka University in Japan, was specifically designed for natural conversation through incorporation of human-like facial expressions and gestures.

"When we talk to one another, it's never a simple back and forward progression of information," said Tatsuya Kawahara of Kyoto University in Japan.

"Listening is active. We express agreement by nodding or saying 'uh-huh' to maintain the momentum of conversation. This is called 'back-channeling', and is something we wanted to implement with ERICA," said Kawahara.

The team also focused on developing a system for 'attentive listening'. This is when a listener asks elaborating questions, or repeats the last word of the speaker's sentence, allowing for more engaging dialogue.

Deploying a series of distance sensors, facial recognition cameras, and microphone arrays, the team began collecting data on parameters necessary for a fluid dialogue between ERICA and a human subject.



"We looked at three qualities when studying back-channeling. These were: timing — when a response happens; lexical form — what is being said; and prosody, or how the response happens," said Kawahara.

Responses were generated through machine learning using a counselling dialogue corpus, resulting in dramatically improved dialog engagement.

Testing in five-minute sessions with a human subject, ERICA demonstrated significantly more dynamic speaking skill, including the use of back-channeling, partial repeats, and statement assessments.

"Making a human-like conversational robot is a major challenge. This project reveals how much complexity there is in listening, which we might consider mundane," said Kawahara. Source: PTI

Google Assistant to now read 'good news' of the day

To brighten up your day as you wade through a sea of bad news, Google Assistant will now deliver curated good news — stories about people who are solving real-life problems across the world.

"Tell me something good" is a new experimental feature, currently available for Assistant users in the US.

Just say "Hey Google, tell me something good" to receive your daily dose of good news, Google said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Real people are making progress solving real issues and hearing about those stories is a crucial part of a balanced media diet," said Ryan Burke, Creative Producer, Creative Lab at Google.

The daily dose of good stories will be curated and summarised by the Solutions Journalism Network, a non-partisan, non-profit organisation.

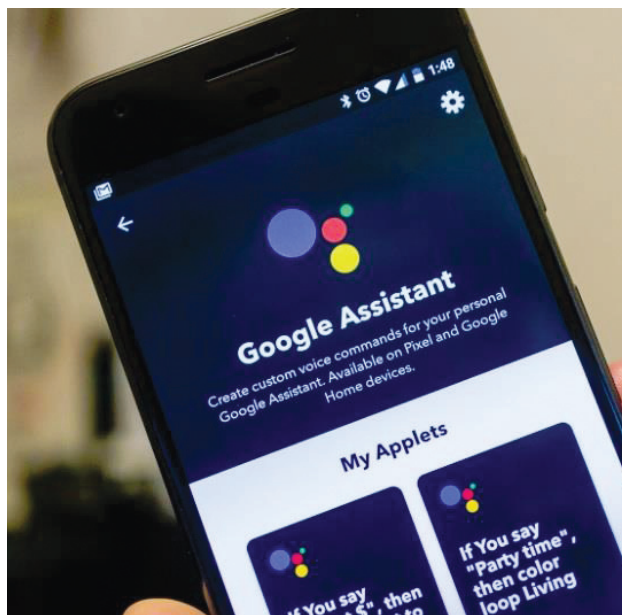
"Solutions journalism empowers and energises audiences, helping to combat negative news fatigue. We're exploring how to incorporate more solutions journalism wherever you access Google News," the tech giant said.

The feature will work on any Google Assistant-enabled device, including phone, Smart Display or Google Home smart speaker.

The Google Assistant can now connect with more than 5,000 devices at your home.

"That includes cameras, dishwashers, doorbells, dryers, lights, plugs, thermostats, security systems, switches, vacuums, washers, fans, locks, sensors, heaters, AC units, air purifiers, refrigerators, ovens, we can keep on going!" Michele Turner, Director, Smart Home Ecosystem at Google, recently wrote in a blog post.

Source: IANS



Facebook to pull VPN app from App Store over data worry

Facebook will pull Onavo Protect virtual private network application from the App Store after getting word that it violates Apple's data collection rules, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

The free application creates an encrypted VPN connection that routes internet activity through computer servers managed and secured by Facebook. The app also alerts users when sites they visit might be malicious.

Facebook is able to gather information about how people use smartphones outside of the leading social network's services, potentially gleaning insights about rivals or internet trends. "We've always been clear when people download Onavo about the information that is collected and how it is used," a Facebook spokeswoman told AFP.

"As a developer on Apple's platform we follow the rules they've put in place."

Fuel prices to increase as rupee falls to record low

OIL IMPORT BILL TO GO UP \$26 BILLION

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's crude oil import bill is likely to jump by about \$ 26 billion in 2018-19 as rupee dropping to a record low has made buying of oil from overseas costlier, government officials said on Thursday.

Besides, the rupee hitting a record low of 70.32 to a US dollar in the opening deal today will also lead to a hike in the retail selling price of petrol, diesel and cooking gas (LPG).

India, which imports over 80 per cent of its oil needs, spent \$ 87.7 billion (Rs 5.65 lakh crore) on importing 220.43 million tonne (MT) of crude oil in 2017-18. For 2018-19, the imports are pegged at almost 227 MT.

"We at the beginning of the financial year estimated that crude oil import bill will be around \$ 108 billion (Rs 7.02 lakh crore) at an average crude oil price of \$ 65 per barrel and exchange rate of Rs 65 per dollar," an official said.

But the exchange rate has been at an average of Rs 67.6 till August 14. If the rupee is to stay around 70 per dollar for the rest of the ongoing fiscal, the oil import bill will be \$ 114 billion, he said.

The rupee has been among the worst performing currencies in Asia, witnessing 8.6% slump this year.

Fanned by a higher oil import bill, India's trade deficit, or the gap between exports and imports, in July widened to \$ 18 billion, the most in more than five years.

Trade shortfall puts pressure on the current account deficit (CAD), a key vulnerability for the economy.



Rupee depreciation will result in higher earnings for exporters as well as domestic oil producers like Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) who bill refiners in US dollar terms.

But this would result in rise in petrol and diesel prices, with full impact likely to be visible later this month.

"Though oil firms fix retail selling price of petrol and diesel on a daily basis, the inputs for that fixation are an average of previous fortnight. So today's rate is based on average benchmark of international oil prices and the exchange rate of August 1-15.

"And since the rupee in the beginning of the month was at 68.3 to 68.6 a dollar, the exact impact of today's depreciation is not visible," he said. Prices of petrol

and diesel were on Thursday hiked by 6 paise a litre each to Rs 77.20 and Rs 68.78, respectively in Delhi. Rates are highest in two months. Fuel prices in Delhi are the cheapest in all metros and most state capitals due to lower sales tax or VAT.

If oil prices continue at these levels and rupee at 70 a dollar, retail rates should go up by 50-60 paise a litre.

Petrol price had touched an all-time high of Rs 78.43 a litre on May 29 and had since receded. On that day, the diesel price had touched an all-time high of Rs 69.30.

State-owned oil firms had in mid-June last year dumped 15-year practice of revising rates on 1st and 16th of every month in favour of daily price revisions.

Source: PTI



FB PARTNERS WITH NYU TO MAKE MRI FASTER WITH AI

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Facebook has forged a partnership with the New York University (NYU) on a research project that aims to make magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans up to 10 times faster by leveraging the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI). If the project, called fastMRI, yields the desired results, it will make MRI technology available to more people, expanding access to this key diagnostic tool, Facebook said in a blog post on Monday.

MRI scanners provide doctors and patients with images that typically show a greater level of detail related to soft tissues — such as organs and blood vessels — than is captured by other forms of medical imaging.

But they are relatively slow, taking anywhere from 15 minutes to over an hour, compared with less than a second or up to a minute, respectively, for X-ray and CT scans.

These long scan times can make MRI machines challenging for young children, as well as for people who are claustrophobic or for whom lying down is painful.

Additionally, there are MRI shortages in many rural areas and in other countries with limited access, resulting in long scheduling backlogs.

Making MRI scanners faster has several benefits, including increased access to these devices for patients.

Sufficiently accelerated MRI devices could also reduce the amount of time patients must hold their breath during imaging of the heart, liver, or other organs in the abdomen and torso.

Increased speed could let MRI machines fill the role of X-ray and CT machines for some applications, allowing patients to avoid the ionising radiation associated with those scans. This NYU-Facebook project will initially focus on changing how MRI machines operate.

Source: IANS

CHECK FRAUD OR FACE ACTION: FINMIN TO BANKERS

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a stern warning to bankers, the Finance Ministry has asked chief executives of public sector banks (PSBs) to check all NPA accounts exceeding Rs 50 crore for fraud or they could face criminal conspiracy charges, according to official sources.

This missive comes in the light of arrest of Bhushan Steel's erstwhile promoter Neeraj Singal by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) for allegedly siphoning off funds.

The sources said bankers could be held accountable under Section 120B of Indian Penal Code if they fail to report fraud in an account which is later unearthed by investigating agencies, sources said.

If the investigating agencies find diversion of funds in those defaulting accounts, bankers may be liable to face criminal proceedings, the sources said, adding this advisory is like an extra precaution to keep bankers from getting into legal tangles.

Source: PTI

WALMART COMPLETES DEAL TO BUY 77% STAKE IN FLIPKART

NEW DELHI (TIP): US-based retail giant Walmart Inc said on Saturday it has completed deal with Flipkart and now holds 77% stake in the Indian e-commerce major.

Besides, the Bentonville giant's investment includes \$2 billion of new equity funding to help accelerate the growth of the Flipkart business.

"With the completion of the investment, Walmart now holds approximately 77 per cent of Flipkart. The remainder of the business is held by other shareholders, including Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, Tencent, Tiger Global and Microsoft Corp," a statement said on Saturday.

Moving forward, Flipkart's financials will be reported as part of Walmart's International business segment, it added.

US slaps anti-dumping duty of 50.5% on Indian metal pipes

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US has announced hefty preliminary anti-dumping duties on metal pipes imported from India, China and four other countries, in an aggressive tactic by the Trump administration to protect the American industry and lower the trade deficit. Six US pipe manufacturers had filed the anti-dumping complaint with the Commerce Department in January.

Announcing the preliminary determinations in anti-dumping duty investigations of imports of the pipes, the US Department of Commerce on Tuesday said the six countries were selling the large diameter-welded pipe — used to transport oil, gas and other fluids — far below the fair price, and that dumping harms the US industry.

India has been slapped with an anti-dumping duty of 50.55%. US imports of the pipe from India last year totalled \$294.7 million.

The other countries being hit with duties are China (132.63%), Greece (22.51%), Canada (24.38%), South Korea (14.97 to 22.21%) and Turkey (3.45 to 5.29%). Dumping occurs when a foreign company sells an imported product at an

LEVY IMPOSED ON SIX COUNTRIES



- The US last year imported pipes from India to the tune of \$294.7 million
- The other countries being hit with duties are China (132.63%), Greece (22.51%), Canada (24.38%), South Korea (14.97 to 22.21%) and Turkey (3.45 to 5.29%)
- Dumping occurs when a foreign company sells an imported product at an artificially low price

artificially low price.

The US Customs and Border Protection will collect cash deposits from India and the five other importers, according to a statement by the US Commerce Department.

"With respect to the India and Turkey investigations, Commerce will adjust the cash deposit rates by the amount of export subsidies found in the companion countervailing duty investigations," it said.

Source: PTI



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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www.bejandaruwalla.com**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE AUGUST 27- SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

Aries:

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

Taurus:

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

Gemini:

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

Cancer:

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

Leo:

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

Virgo:

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

Libra:

Your conciliatory moves and work success are highly appreciated. There is enhanced income and prestige. You party a lot now and look at finances in the form of inheritance and legacies. You are a social butterfly and spend time at various gatherings enjoying yourself thoroughly. You are ebullient and enthusiastic, and your happy mood is contagious.

Scorpio:

You are again on the work track. You are confident, pragmatic and determined and will forge ahead furiously. You earn plaudits for your achievements and decide to expand further and make more money, which is never out of your sights for long. You look at holistic progress and make the necessary adjustments to your personal and work life so that both show steady progress and harmony. There are expenses and minor delays to your plans including some medical expenses.

Sagittarius:

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

Capricorn:

You see yourself in a new light and are empowered by your success. The early part of the year was hectic and now you try to enjoy yourself and ride on the momentum generated in the previous months. There is a welcome change in your perspective and the way you are looking at the world. There is a new you eyeballing the world and whatever it has to offer. But, at the same time, while all this is hunky dory, avoid unnecessary show downs and run-ins with friends, family, colleagues and the law.

Aquarius:

You are busier than ever before and highly motivated in all that you undertake - and it shows in the results. But there are pinpricks like unexpected expenses, ill-health in the family, and a frittering away of valuable resources on issues that are of no relevance to you; in other words, there is highly avoidable wastage of both time and money. There is envy and politics at the workplace and you have to tread with caution. There may also be a brush with the law. Don't put your faith in people without ascertaining their credentials.

Pisces:

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

Rakhi is basically a sacred thread of protection embellished with the love and affection of a sister for her brother. This day is also known as Raksha Bandhan and celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravana in India. This frail of thread of Rakhi is considered as stronger than iron chains as it binds the most beautiful relationship in an inseparable bond of love and trust. Rakhi festival also has a social significance because it underlines the notion that everybody should live in harmonious coexistence with each other.

History

The traditional Hindu festival 'Raksha Bandhan' (knot of protection) was came into origin about 6000 years back when Aryans created first civilization - The Indus Valley Civilization. With many languages and cultures, the traditional method to Rakhi festival celebration differs from place to place across India. Following are some historical evidences of Raksha Bandhan celebration from the Indian history.

Rani Karnawati and Emperor Humayun

The story of Rani Karnavati and Emperor Humayun is the most significant evidence in the history. During the medieval era, Rajputs were fighting Muslim invasions. Rakhi at that time meant a spiritual binding and protection of sisters was foremost. When Rani Karnawati the widowed queen of the king of Chittor realised that she could in no way defend the invasion of the Sultan of Gujarat, Bahadur Shah, she sent a rakhi to Emperor Humayun. The Emperor touched by the gesture started off with his troops without wasting any time.

Alexander The Great and King Puru

The oldest reference to the festival of rakhi goes back to 300 B.C. at the time when Alexander invaded India. It is said that the great conqueror, King Alexander of Macedonia was shaken by the fury of the Indian king Puru in his first attempt. Upset by this, Alexander's wife, who had heard of the Rakhi festival, approached King Puru. King Puru accepted her as his sister and when the opportunity came during the war, he refrained from Alexander.

Lord Krishna and Draupathi

In order to protect the good people, Lord Krishna killed the evil King Shishupal. Krishna was hurt during the war and left with bleeding finger. Seeing this, Draupathi had torn a strip of cloth from her sari and tied around his wrist to stop the bleeding. Lord Krishna, realizing her affections and concern about him, declared himself bounded by her sisterly love. He promised her to repay this debt whenever she need in future. Many years later, when the pandavas lost Draupathi in the game of dice and Kauravas were removing her saari, Krishna helped her divinely elongating the saari so that they could not remove it.

King Bali and Goddess Lakshmi

The demon king Mahabali was a great devotee of lord Vishnu. Because of his immense devotion, Vishnu has taken the task of protecting Bali's Kingdom leaving his normal place in Vikundam. Goddess lakshmi - the wife of lord Vishnu - has became sad because of this as she wanted lord Vishnu along with her. So she went to Bali and discussed as a Brahmin woman and taken refuge in his palace. On Shravana purnima, she tied Rakhi on King Bali's wrist. Goddess Lakshmi revealed who she is and why she is there. The king was touched by Her and Lord Vishnu's good will and affection towards him and his family, Bali requested Lord Vishnu to accompany her to vaikuntam. Due to this festival is also called

RAKSHA BANDHAN: THE KNOT OF PROTECTION



Baleva as Bali Raja's devotion to the Lord Vishnu. It is said that since that day it has become a tradition to invite sisters on sravan pournima to tie the sacred thread of Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan.

Traditions & Customs

Generally, the fancy Rakhis and delicious sweets are prepared long before the Shravana Purnima. According to the Indian tradition, the family members get ready for the rituals early in the morning. They take a bath to purify mind and body before starting any preparations. Sisters prepare the puja thali which consists of roli, tilak, Rakhi threads, rice grains, aggarbattis (incense sticks), diyas and sweets. After offering the rituals to the deities of the family, the sister perform aarti of their brothers and ties Rakhi on their wrist. Then, they put kumkum powder on the forehead of their brother and offer sweets.

Legends

For the siblings it is the eternal tie of love, for Brahmins the day to take the pledge of Brahmanik rites and for those who depend sea and monsoon, it is the beginning of the new season.

Indian festivals are based on the weather changes and their significance in the lives of people but they do have a story to support the celebrations. The rich Indian Mythology provides a religious reason to celebrate the day in a specific way. Many epics are related to the day and the origin of Raksha Bandhan. The festival finds a mention in most of the epics and its origin can be traced back to the mythological Pauranic times.

The legend in the Bhavishya Puran

The legend refers to a war between the Gods and the Demons. The demon King Brutra was advancing and the Gods lead by lord Indra, were on verge of defeat. The king of Gods, Indra approached Guru Brihaspati to find a solution to the situation. Brihaspati asked Indra to tie a sacred thread on his wrist, powered by the sacred mantras on the Shravan Purnima. Lord Indra's Queen Sachi also called Indrani, empowered the thread and tied it on to his hand on the decided day. The power of the sacred thread called Raksha helped the Gods to victory.



The tradition of thread tying still continues. It is a gesture of goodwill.

Yama and the Yamuna

It is said that the Raksha Bandhan was a ritual followed by Lord Yama (the Lord of Death) and his sister Yamuna. Yamuna tied rakhi to Yama and bestowed immortality. Yama was so moved by the serenity of the occasion that he declared that whoever gets a rakhi tied from his sister and promised

her protection will become immortal.

In the Epics

Raksha Bandhan finds a mention in Mahabharata when Lord Krishna advised Yudhishtir to perform the ceremony to protect himself and the army from the dangers of the war. It is said that Kunti, the mother of the Pandavas tied rakhi to her grandson Abhimanyu and Draupadi to lord Krishna.

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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.'

TRIBUTE

A Sterling Punjabi

BY BRP BHASKAR

Kuldip Nayar was one of the young millions whose life was disrupted by Partition but rebuilt it and went on to make brilliant contributions in his chosen fields, starting with journalism. Devotion to the fine traditions of Punjab's composite culture enabled him to overcome the bitterness of the early experience and become a lifelong advocate of India-Pakistan friendship and Hindu-Muslim amity.

Journalism was Nayar's first love. He had studied law before landing in Delhi as a refugee but started life as a reporter of an Urdu daily. One of the events he covered at that time was Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

After spending some years in the government's public relations outfit, during which period he served as information officer to Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, he returned to active journalism as chief of the fledgling United News of India which big newspapers had launched to provide for competition in agency journalism.

Once out of the government set-up, Kuldip Nayar was keen to follow the path of independent journalism. Since the colonial days, news agencies had limited political reporting to the coverage of briefings and speeches. He broke the self-imposed barrier and pioneered reporting of political developments based on information gathered informally, himself leading the effort.

Morarji Desai believed that his chances of succeeding Jawaharlal Nehru were botched by Kuldip Nayar's UNI report which said he had "thrown his hat in the ring". Desai came under heavy criticism as Nehru's body was lying in state at the time.

Nayar, who was in Tashkent to cover for UNI the Indo-Pakistan summit hosted by Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin after the 1965 war and reported Shastri's sudden death at midnight there just in time for the morning editions in India.

After leaving UNI, he began a long innings in English print journalism, first as Resident Editor of The Statesman in Delhi and then as Editor of the Express News Service. He invited Indira Gandhi's wrath by trying to mobilize public opinion against the Emergency, particularly the restrictions on the media, and was arrested and detained.

After the Emergency there was a shift in



Kuldip Nayar often went beyond the confines of journalism and articulated them as a human rights activist. He led peace activists to the Wagah border to light candles on August 14-15. Candle-light Vigil 2011-Indo-Pak Border. Seen, among others, are Mahesh Bhatt, Kuldip Nayar, Tara Gandhi

gear which took him briefly into diplomacy and into Parliament.

Matthew Arnold famously said journalism is literature in a hurry. To Kuldip Nayar, it was instant history. He took the earliest opportunity to put in book form many of the events to which he was a witness as a journalist. The title of his highly successful first book "Between the Lines" was also the title of a column with which he broke new ground. It was syndicated to a large number of newspapers in India and abroad, giving him a reach none of his contemporaries could claim. Many foreign publications turned to him for insights on Indian and South Asian developments.

Human rights were one of Kuldip Nayar's

primary concerns. He often went beyond the confines of journalism and articulated them as an activist. He regularly led peace activists to the Wagah border to light candles on August 14 and 15 as Pakistan and India celebrated their Independence anniversaries.

A staunch secularist, in the last four years, Kuldip Nayar repeatedly raised his voice against the organized attempts at communal polarization.

Born in Sialkot in 1923. Began his career in journalism in Urdu press.

Nayar was in Tashkent when Lal Bahadur Shastri died. Soon after midnight on January 11, 1966 when most newspapers in India had gone to bed, Nayar phoned in the flash to the United News of India.

High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom in 1990 and Member of the Rajya Sabha in 1997

Honored with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the eighth edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence awards for his contribution to the field of journalism in 2015

Opposed the Defamation Bill introduced by the Centre in the late 1980s, seen as an attempt to contain free speech in India. It was later withdrawn by the Union government.

Article titled 'Immigrants or vote banks?' was published in the Nagpur edition of the Lokmat Times on Thursday morning, hours after his death.

(The author is a Senior journalist and Nayar's former colleague)

Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar passes away at 95

contd from page 1

He was suffering from pneumonia and was admitted to the hospital five days back, Sudhir said.

The journalist is survived by his wife and two sons

"He kept working till the last and dictated his column before being admitted to the hospital," his granddaughter Mandira Nayar said.

Recalling his enthusiasm, she said he retained the eagerness of a cub reporter and wanted to know details of every development, she said.

Nayar, known as a crusader for civil rights and press freedom, worked in several newspapers, including as the editor in 'The Statesman'.

He had also served as the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in the 1990s and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1997. He was arrested during the Emergency.

Nayar was also known for his efforts to improve frosty relationship between India and Pakistan, including leading peace activists to light candles on the Independence days of Pakistan and India at the Attari-Wagah border near Amritsar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the demise of



Kuldip Nayar was among the journalists who had staunchly opposed the Emergency and was jailed during that period. Seen in the picture, among others, are Kuldip Nayar (second from left) and Khushwant Singh (third from left).

Photo / courtesy Indian Express

Nayar, saying his strong stand against the Emergency, public service and commitment to the country would always be remembered.

"Kuldip Nayar was an intellectual giant of our times. Frank

and fearless in his views, his work spanned across many decades. His strong stand against the Emergency, public service and commitment to a better India will always be remembered. Saddened by his demise. My condolences," Modi said in a tweet.

Editor of the Week magazine, Sachidanand Murthy, remembered Nayar's contribution in fiercely protecting press freedom and civil liberties.

"He had protested against the infamous Defamation Bill which was brought by the Rajiv Gandhi government in late 1980s. He had also worked tirelessly to ensure protection of civil liberties in India," said Murthy.

The Defamation Bill was seen as an attempt to contain free speech in India. Following public outcry, the then government had withdrawn it.

Nayar had written a number of bestsellers, including 'Beyond the Lines: An Autobiography' and 'Between the Lines', a book on politics. Nayar was also one of the most respected syndicated columnists and his columns and op-eds were published in over 50 newspapers.

He was born in Pakistan's Sialkot in 1923 and began his career in journalism in Urdu press. *(With inputs from PTI)*

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contd from page 1

President Trump in soup as 2 ex-aides face jail

Michael Cohen, long-time lawyer and self-declared 'fixer' for Mr. Trump, pleaded guilty to tax and bank fraud and violation of campaign finance rules, allegedly at the behest of the President. The investigation against Mr. Cohen by U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York was also triggered by the Special Counsel's findings.

Mr. Cohen said he organized hush money for two porn stars, who allegedly had sexual relations with Mr. Trump, who directed him to pay them off. The 22-page plea deal admits this as a violation of campaign finance, as these expenses were not declared as such.

Mr. Cohen told a court on Tuesday, August 21, that he made the payments "in coordination and at the direction of a candidate for federal office," but the plea deal documents do not implicate Mr. Trump in the transaction.

Lanny Davis, Mr. Cohen's attorney, said on Twitter: "Today he stood up and testified under oath that Donald Trump directed him to commit a crime by making payments to two women for the principal purpose of influencing an election. If those payments were a crime for Michael Cohen, then why wouldn't they be a crime for Donald Trump?"

Mr. Davis told CNN that Mr. Cohen has information that would be useful for Mr. Mueller's investigation.

Sitting Presidents are not indicted, but Mr. Trump could be charged once he leaves office, according to several legal scholars.

Meanwhile, Michael Avenatti, lawyer for one of the porn actors who was paid hush money, said he would press for the President's appearance in the court. The porn star is suing Mr. Trump and Mr. Cohen for ending the contract that forced her to remain silent on her sexual ties with the President.

President is in a lot of trouble, says the lawyer.

"The President's in a lot of trouble," he told CNN. "...and we're coming for him. I'm telling you flat out we're going to come for him. We're going to get this deposition."

The President responded to the Manafort verdict but had no word on the Cohen guilty

plea until Wednesday morning. "Paul Manafort is a good man. ... It doesn't involve me, but I still feel - you know, it's a very sad thing that happened," Mr. Trump told reporters ahead of a political rally in West Virginia on Tuesday night. "This has nothing to do with Russian collusion."

Speaking at the rally, he trained his guns on the media and the investigation. "Fake news and the Russian witch hunt...Where is the collusion? You know they're still looking for collusion. Where is the collusion? Find us some collusion. We want to find the collusion."

The White House said Mr. Trump's outside legal team would respond to Mr. Cohen's guilty plea.

Rudy Giuliani, Mr. Trump's attorney, said in a statement: "There is no allegation of any wrongdoing against the President in the government's charges against Mr. Cohen. It is clear that, as the prosecutor noted, Mr. Cohen's actions reflect a pattern of lies and dishonesty over a significant period of time."

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions hits back at Trump criticism

"While I am attorney general, the actions of the Department of Justice will not be improperly influenced by political considerations."

Sessions, a longtime US senator and early supporter of Trump's presidential bid, drew Trump's ire when he recused himself in March 2017 from issues involving the 2016 White House race.

That removed him from oversight of the federal special counsel's investigation of Russia's role in the election and whether Trump's campaign worked with Moscow to influence the vote. Trump has repeatedly called the investigation a witch-hunt and maintained there was no collusion.

Trump told Fox that Sessions should not have recused himself from Russia-related matters.

"He took the job and then he said, 'I'm going to recuse myself,'" Trump said. "I said, 'What kind of a man is this?'"

However, Trump told "Fox & Friends" he would "stay uninvolved" in department

matters.

Trump intensified his criticism of the Justice Department in a Fox News interview broadcast on Thursday, August 23, as the White House grappled to respond to the conviction of former Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, on multiple fraud counts and a plea deal struck by Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer, that implicated the president.

Trump reprised a litany of complaints about the Justice Department and the FBI, attacking both without providing evidence they had treated him and his supporters unfairly.

contd from page 3

AAPI Urges US Govt. to Expedite H-1B, J-1 Visa for Physicians

The J-1 visa to qualified physicians, enabling these foreign-trained physicians to serve our nation's healthcare needs.

His top priorities in the upcoming year will be to enhance membership, enabling AAPI members to recognize the many benefits of being members of AAPI, this attracting new members and sustaining those who are already members of AAPI. Bringing in financial stability to the organization is a major thrust for the new team, he said. Strengthening the many projects and programs in India and the United States, while taking on new initiatives and coordinating individual efforts to maximize results are some of the other plan s, he told the audience.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, President-Elect of AAPI, in his passionate address, praised the leadership of Dr. Naresh Parikh. "I am so fortunate to be able to work under Dr. Parikh," he said. He highlighted the importance of enabling the 2nd generation Indian Americans and help them realize their dreams. "AAPI is very strong," he said and he along with the new team under Dr. Parikh will work together to enhance the image and bring stability to this noble organization.

Dr. Gautam Samadder, the immediate past President of AAPI, urged the new leadership of AAPI to stand united and help make "our voices heard" in the corridors of power. In his brief remarks, Dr. In his felicitation remarks, Dr. Ajay Lodha, the immediate past president of AAPI, praised the leadership of Dr. Parikh. "Under the leadership of Dr. Gautam and his team, AAPI has been brought to new heights," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Editor of The Indian Panorama urged the AAPI leadership to take up a project to supplement the efforts of the Eye Foundation of America, headed by eminent ophthalmologist Dr. V.K. Raju in preventing avoidable blindness among children in India. Dr. Urmilesh Arya, National President of AIA and Dr. Bathija also supported the suggestion of Prof. Saluja

Prof. Saluja also mooted the idea of a media advisory committee which was readily accepted by AAPI president Dr. Naresh Parikh.

Dr. Kusum Punjabi lauded the efforts of AAPI leadership, encouraging young generation of Indian Americans and helping them realize their dreams. She along with Dr. Raj Bhayani was the Emcees at the event. In his brief remarks, Dr. Bhayani, highlighted the fact that Indian-Americans constitute less than one percent of the country's population, but they account for nine percent of the American doctors and physicians. "The overrepresentation of Indians in these fields (engineering, IT and medicine) is striking - in practical terms, one out of seven doctors is likely to be of Indian Heritage. They provide medical care to over 40 million of US

population."

Dr. Raj Bhayani welcomed the AAPI delegates and the media persons to the press conference, while Dr. Suresh Reddy proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Shashi Shah, past BOT chairman introduced the Consul General to the audience. Earlier, during the day, AAPI members attended an outstanding Leadership Conference, addressed by renowned speakers with a working lunch and was followed by a Conference from 10 am to 5.30 pm. The Leadership conference agenda focused on: Self-Management, Team Building Skills; And Addressing Challenges in AAPI.

Towards making this goal and other objectives of AAPI, Dr. Parikh has an excellent and dedicated executive committee, consisting of Dr. Suresh Reddy, President-Elect; Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Vice President; Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Secretary; Dr. Anjana Samadder, Treasurer; and Dr. Ajit Kothari, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Parikh thanked Dr. Ajay Lodha, Dr. Raj Bhayani and Dr. Kusum Punjabi, among many others for their leadership and the initiatives in organizing the conference today. Miss India USA Shree Saini made a special appearance at the event.

On August 19th, AAPI joined the India Day Parade with a multi-color float spreading the message of health and wellness at the largest India Day Parade in New York City, organized by the Federation of Indian Americans. "AAPI takes special pride in saluting our beloved tricolor. Let us recall with pride the great sacrifice of our freedom fighters, whose undying love for India secured us our freedom," Dr. Parikh said, as the float carrying AAPI leaders overflow with delegates from across the nation.

"As we celebrate the 72nd anniversary of India's Independence. AAPI, the premier organization that represents over 65,000 physicians and 25,000 Residents of Indian Origin in the United states, want to convey our greetings to all peoples of Indian origin on this day of national celebration," Dr. Naresh Parikh, AAPI, President, declared. For more information, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

(Based on a Press release issued by Ajay Ghosh)

contd form Page 6

GOPIO MAKES APPEAL FOR FLOOD VICTIMS OF KERALA

With comparatively much better access to resources, majority of the NRIs/PIOs, if not all, are in a better position to give donation that can easily make a huge difference. GOPIO Fund would supplement in the rehabilitation effort and help people as they start to rebuild their lives. You may send your donation as per information given below.

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Better known as Kodagu, Coorg is only six hours away from the busy city of Bangalore and a popular getaway during the monsoon. The rains add a certain charm to this district, even though it experiences a high amount of rainfall because it is situated on the eastern side of the Western Ghats. Madikeri is the most sought-after destination in Coorg. Endowed with a number of things to do and places to see, the drive to Madikeri is not only scenic but probably the brightest green you will ever see in any part of Karnataka. With freshly flushed coffee plantations on either side, the mist of Coorg is likely to call you once again.

RAJA'S SEAT

Raja's Seat is a prominent tourist spot in the centre of Madikeri town. It is a garden where the kings of Kodagu are believed to have spent their sunsets enjoying the scenic change of the sky colours. It was also their recreational space, where they spent time with their queens. It now stands as a big, open-air garden, overlooking the green hills and valleys of Coorg. Whether you want to walk around the space or sit and watch the spectacular changing colours of the low-hanging clouds, this is the perfect spot to enjoy a beautiful evening.

HIKE AROUND MOJO PLANTATION

Mojo Plantation is blessed with some of the best routes for hiking and treks. This part of the Madikeri witnesses more rainfall than the other parts and grows cardamom extensively. After two decades of organic farming, they have a thriving diverse rainforest which grows coffee, vanilla, pepper, pineapple, oranges, passion fruit, mango and kokam. The hike up to the beautiful Shola forests is just a few minutes away. In the correct season (and if nature approves), you can see the rare Nilgirikurinji blossom here. Other hikes include climbing to the Kaloor Ridge and crossing the Kaloor village and river (through scenic rice and spice fields). For more serious trekkers, the climb to Galibeedu forest towards the Sacred Grove may be worth a try. Covering a distance of approximately eight km, this stretch has a varied terrain, with a high probability of interacting with local communities.

SHOP AT COORG GREENS

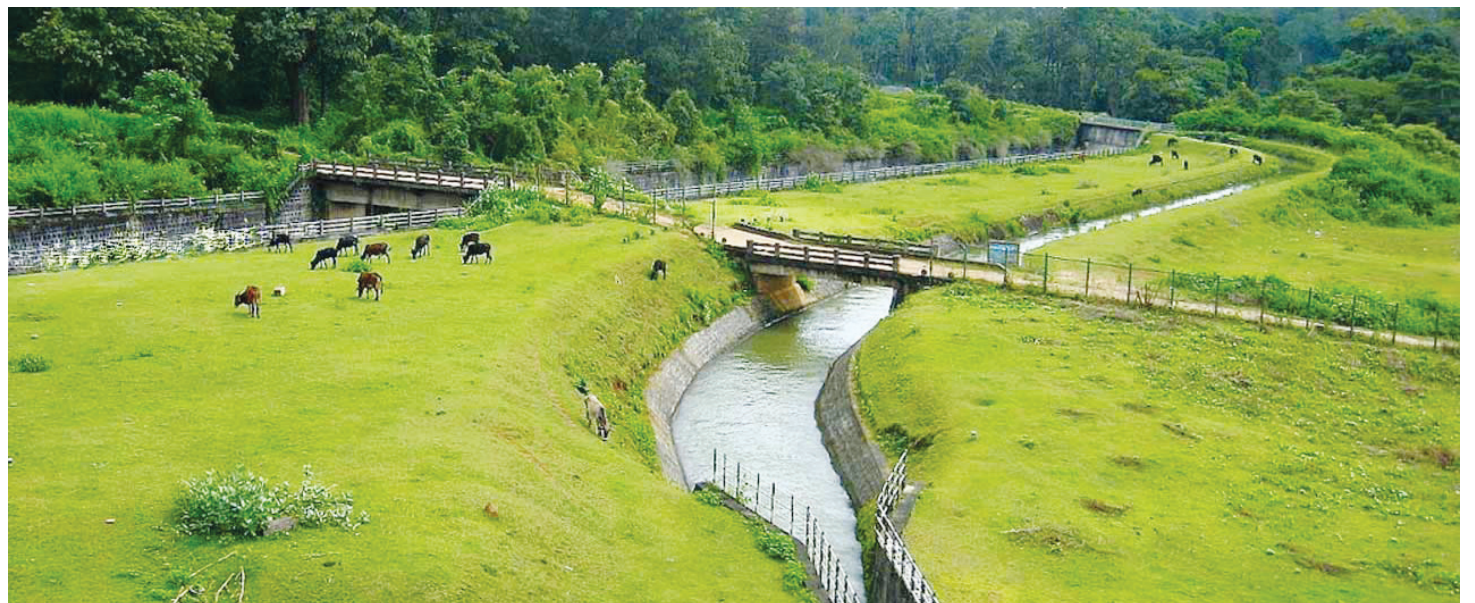
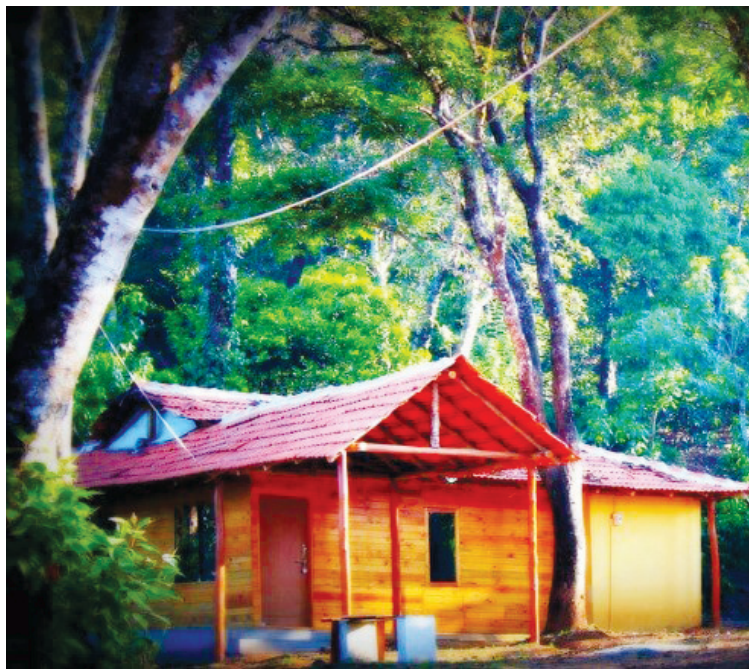
Coorg is synonymous with coffee and chocolates. Due to its popularity as a tourist destination, shopping in Madikeri is a little more expensive than the other regions of the district, but you are sure enough to find everything you want. Coorg Greens has a number of branches across the district, and stocks miscellaneous products in their shop opposite the KSRTC Bus Stand. Here, you can buy Coorgi coffee, either filter or instant. They also have spices, dry fruits, oils and handmade soaps. If you want to take small souvenirs, their assorted box of spices is a good choice. The chocolates on the first floor come in many varieties. The flavours include coffee, vanilla, pan masala and nuts. They are homemade and come in a variety of packages and sizes.

WALK AROUND THE COFFEE PLANTATIONS

Coffee plantations are the most visited places in Coorg. Most homestays and resorts organise a walk around their own plantations where you can see the most popular type of coffee grown here—coffee robusta. The harvest season is in the first week of November, and in case, you would like to see and experience the processing of coffee, this is a good time to visit. Unlike tea plantations, coffee does not grow as disciplined and well-trimmed. Good shoes and good rain cover are definitely recommended. Many of these plantations also grow spices such as pepper and cardamom. Apart from the smaller homestays and lodges, Orange County, Tata Coffee and Bombay Burmah organise tours around their plantations.

Source: Happytrips

COORG: SCOTLAND OF INDIA



ASIAN GAMES 2018

INDIAN ROWERS CLAIM
GOLD IN QUADRUPLER SCULLS

PALEMBANG (TIP): Indian rowers won a gold and two bronze medals in an incredible start to the sixth day of competitions at the 18th Asian Games in Palembang, making up for the disappointment in the days gone by.

The team comprising Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh clocked 6:17.13 to win the gold medal in men's quadruple sculls.

It was redemption of sorts for Bhokanal after Thursday's forgettable show, when he failed to complete his event leaving the coach fuming.

Hosts Indonesia (6:20.58) and Thailand (6:22.41) were placed second and third respectively in the quadruple sculls.

Before landing the top prize, India bagged two bronze medals in the sport through Rohit Kumar and Bhagwan Singh in lightweight double sculls after Dushyant started the day with a third-place finish in lightweight single sculls.

Bopanna, Sharan clinch gold in Tennis

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan beat Denis Yevseyev and Aleksandr Bublik of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-4 to clinch gold in men's doubles tennis. India 22 medals - 6 gold, 4 silver, 12 bronze.

Shooting silver in bag, 15-yr-old Shardul Vihan is youngest Indian to win Asiatic medal



Fifteen-year-old Shardul Vihan on Thursday became the youngest Indian shooter to win a medal at the Asian Games after he finished second in the men's double trap here, extending the sensational run of teenaged shooters from the country.

Vihan's silver was India's eighth medal from the Jakabaring Shooting Range.

The Meerut-based Vihan shot 73 in the final after topping the qualification earlier in the day. The gold went to 34-year-old South Korean Hyunwoo Shin and bronze to 42-year-old from Qatar, Hamad Ali Al Marri.

Vihan took to shooting seriously only four years ago, under the tutelage of



Indian rowing men's quadruple sculls team members Sawarn Singh, Bhokanal Dattu, Om Prakash and S Singh celebrate after the medal ceremony winning the gold medal at the 18th Asian Games in Palembang on August 24, 2018. Photo Credit: PTI



GOLD Medal No. 6 for India folks as Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan beat Kazakh team 6-3, 6-4 in Final.

Shamli-based coach Anwar Sultan, who witnessed his student's success in person.

"The moment he came to me I knew he would excel at whatever he does. Be it table tennis or badminton or any other sport. He has an amazing muscle memory. Now I will prepare him for the trap event," said Sultan, looking at the future as double trap is no more an Olympic sport.

Rahi Sarnobat leads the way with gold, wushu delivers best medal haul

Rahi Sarnobat beat all expectations to become India's first woman shooter with an Asian Games gold and the low-profile wushu players delivered their best ever performance even in defeat on another high-yielding day for the country at the regional showpiece.

In Jakarta, four bronze medals were settled for in wushu and though not one Indian in the fray made the finals, it would still go down as the low-profile sport's best ever performance, in terms of number of medals won, in the Asian Games. Roshibina Devi (women's 60kg), Santosh Kumar (men's 56kg) Surya Bhanu Pratap (men's 60kg) and Narender Grewal (men's 65kg) lost their respective semifinal Sanda bouts but will go back home content after the

stronger-than-expected showing. The previous best was a silver and a bronze in the 2010 Guangzhou Games.

Vinesh Phogat wins historic gold medal



Vinesh Phogat on Monday created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games, brushing aside her rivals with rather ease in the 50kg freestyle category. She was a medal-favourite in her category and was likely to face stiff competition from Japan's Yuki Irie whom she outplayed 6-2 in the final. The gold medal is a ground-breaking achievement for the 23-year-old from Haryana, who is connected to Dangal-famed Phogat family.

Phogat's run to the final had been a confident and dominating one. In the semifinal round, Phogat defeated Uzbekistan's Yakhshimuratova Dauletbiye 10-0 in just 75 seconds, rolling off her opponent thrice in a leg-lock.

Indian men's kabaddi team loses in semi-final to Iran; misses out on gold for first time

Seven-time champion India failed to reach the Asian Games men's kabaddi final for the first time after a shock 18-27 loss to Iran in the semi-finals here on Thursday.

India, who had won the men's kabaddi gold in all the earlier seven Asian Games after the sport was introduced in 1990 in Beijing, produced the worst ever show in the continental mega multi-sporting event.

The country settled for the bronze medal along with Pakistan, which had lost to South Korea in the other semi-final.

India had finished second in the group stage after a loss to South Korea.

The two teams were neck and neck at the end of the first half. But the Iranians sped away to a mini lead in the second half and that set the pulse racing in the Indian camp.

Thereafter, the Indians imploded as they looked desperate for points both in attack and defence. Iran made full use of India's desperation for points and took a massive lead to take a vice-like grip on the match.

Iran scored a total of 18 points in the second half to make it through to the finals of the Asian Games for the third straight time. They had settled for the silver medal on the last two occasions after losing to India in the final.

CRICKET

KOHLI RETURNS TO THE TOP OF ICC TEST RANKINGS AFTER TRENT BRIDGE SHOW



NEW DELHI (TIP): Riding on the back of his match-winning knocks of 97 and 103 in the just concluded third Test between India and England at Trent Bridge, Virat Kohli is back to the top of the ICC Test rankings for batsmen. According to an ICC release, the India skipper's batting display took him to 937 rating points and that helped him topple Steve Smith from the top of the charts. Having reached the No.1 spot after the Edgbaston Test, a poor outing at Lord's saw him slip down.

With 937 points to his name, Kohli is now just one point outside the top 10 of an all-time rating points list: Don Bradman (961 points), Steve Smith (947), Len Hutton (945), Jack Hobbs and Ricky Ponting (both on 942), Peter May (941), and Gary Sobers, Clyde Walcott, Vivian Richards and Kumar Sangakkara (all on 938 points).

Kohli wasn't the only one who rose on the ranking list. All-rounder Hardik Pandya had a great match as he first picked his maiden fiver in the England first innings and then hit an unbeaten 52 in India's second innings. It meant Pandya rose to No.51 in the batsmen's rankings, a jump of eight spots, but his rising stock was more keenly felt in the bowlers' charts: he moved up 23 places to No.51, with a career-high 340 points. His all-round display meant he also moved up significantly in the all-rounders rankings: he now sits at No.17, after a massive jump of 27 places.

Back after an injury lay-off, Jasprit Bumrah also impressed as he finished with figures of 5/85 in the second innings. It helped Bumrah, after just four Tests, move up to No.37 in the rankings. Shikhar Dhawan, who returned to the side after being dropped at Lord's, and Ajinkya Rahane, who found much-needed form again with a crucial 81 in the first innings, both moved up four places. Dhawan now sits at No.22 in the batsmen's rankings, three places below Rahane at No.19.

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* Comparison between web visibilty - NY NJ Newspapers

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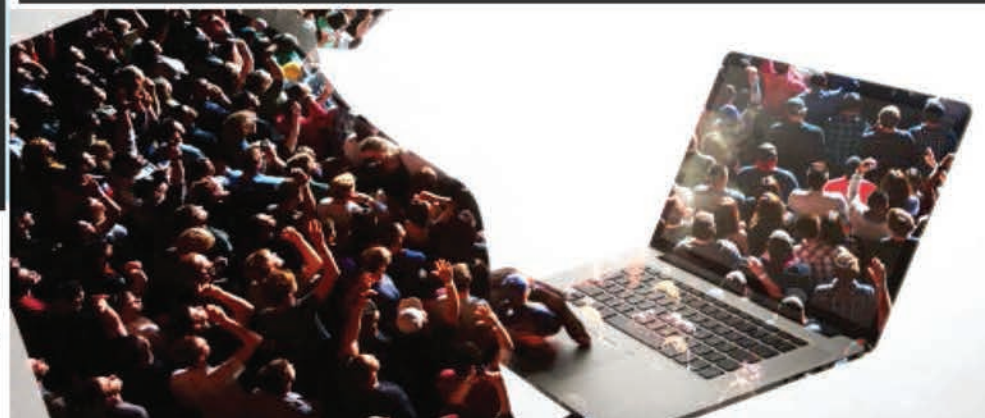
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