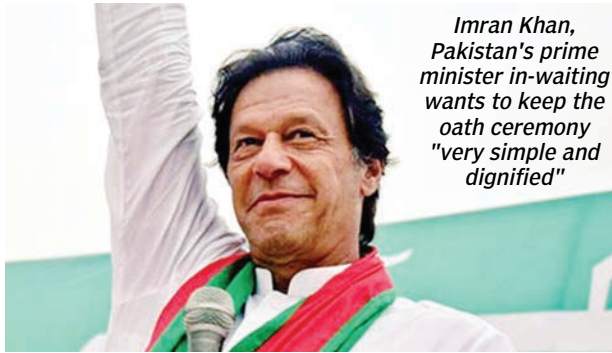


Imran Khan Favors Austere Oath Ceremony: No Foreign Leader will be invited



Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister in-waiting wants to keep the oath ceremony "very simple and dignified"

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, on Thursday, August 2, said that no foreign leader will be invited to the oath-taking ceremony of Imran Khan, as the prime minister in-waiting wants to keep the event very simple and dignified. *contd on Page 32*

Intelligence heads warn of foreign interference in US elections

"We know that, through decades, Russia had tried to use its propaganda and methods to sew discord in America. However, they stepped up their game big time in 2016."- Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats.

WASHINGTON (TIP): A number of top intelligence community officials gathered, August 2, at White House briefing to discuss U.S. efforts going forward to combat election interference attempts. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was joined by FBI Director Christopher Wray, Director of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, National Security Advisor John Bolton, and National Security Agency Director Gen. Paul Nakasone. *contd on Page 32*



Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, National Security Adviser John Bolton, DHS Secretary Nielsen and FBI Director Chris Wray each took turns describing how each of their agencies is working to combat the threat.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) demands citizenship rights for Afghan Sikhs and Hindus

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday, August 2, urged the central government to grant full citizenship rights to the minority Hindu and Sikh immigrants from Afghanistan who have been forced to flee to India. Also, it sought Central intervention for granting minority status to Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation of SAD MPs, led by Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh pressing for citizenship rights to the immigrants from Afghanistan. The delegation comprised SS Dhindsa, Naresh Gujral and Prem Singh Chandumajra. Former MP Tarlochan Singh, president of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) Manjit Singh (GK),

contd on Page 32



Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal along with DSGMC chief Manjit Singh GK and SAD MPs at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday, August 2
Photo / Courtesy Manas Ranjan Bhui-Tribune

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Apple becomes first U.S. public company to reach \$1 trillion valuation



WASHINGTON (TIP): The tech giant on Thursday, August 2, became the first public U.S. company to reach a valuation of \$1 trillion. Amazon had been close behind Apple in the race to the one trillion mark, surpassing \$900 billion market value

contd on Page 32

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ANUJ SHARMA, ESQ.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

THE LONG AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY BACK HOME - OR WHAT WAS HOME

Title: The Surajpur Connection

Author: Prabhu Dayal

Publisher: Zorba Books

Pages: 160

Price: Rs 199

REVIEW BY VIKAS DATTA

The hardest journey to undertake, if it is even possible, is to return to one's childhood home, particularly if it was a happy period. But even this happiness -- which may not be everyone's lot -- can be disrupted by forces beyond relentless time. Within a twinkling of eye, all comforts and happiness being replaced by pain, deprivation and oppression.

And even if you can surmount the problems and even manage to return, it will never be the same.

It is this inexorable truth of life that former diplomat Prabhu Dayal portrays in his second work, a novella which is poignant and heart-wrenching but also showcases hope, and how kindness and generosity -- no matter how expressed -- can be encountered as often as cruelty and self-interest.

Beginning with an evocative prologue, where a well-heeled expatriate businessman, on a trip to Mumbai, is casually reading the paper in his hotel room when something catches his attention and forces him to change his whole schedule and leave for north India.

The scene then shifts over a quarter century or so into the past, to the rural areas in Uttar Pradesh's Allahabad, where a prominent and influential landlord has repeatedly spurned the (then) all-powerful Congress' repeated requests to be the party candidate for the coming elections (1967).

The reason is simple -- for "after years of pills, prayers and pilgrimages", he and his wife finally have a son, they fondly call Sonu.



Former Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha and Shatrughan Sinha launching "The Surajpur Connection" in Delhi on May 15. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Shalini Gupta, publisher of the book, Prabhu Dayal, Shatrughan Sinha, Yashwant Sinha, Amod K Kanth, Chandini Dayal

But while his parents are overjoyed, there are others, who pretend to adore him as much but have darker intentions in their heart, and soon act on them without mercy.

One post-monsoon afternoon, the household is sleeping and a four-year Sonu playing outside when he goes missing. An extensive search is made, police swing into action, desperate efforts are made to find him, but there is no trace and not even a ransom demand.

Little his grieving parents know that their innocent son has become the victim of a particular dreadful crime and is even no longer in the country, but far away beyond the seas, doing a dangerous chore in a desert land.

But while after six months of torture, danger and worse, Sonu and a fellow prisoner do manage to escape, will the unforgiving desert allow them to survive? Will he, if he

stays alive and manages to find his way home to his own land, by some miracle, be able to make his way home, given he doesn't know the name of his parents or where he lived, despite this promise made to himself?

And what is the connection between Sonu and the successful businessman we meet in the initial pages?

These are all the questions the author engagingly answers, in this short but powerful account which covers a fairly wide spectrum of the human condition -- from depravity to decency.

In his second book after the uproarious yet incisive "Karachi Halwa" about his stint in Pakistan, Ambassador Dayal moves effortlessly and adroitly to fiction.

With his four-decade-long service having encompassed the Middle East, Europe and America, he makes good use of both his roots and experience, especially in the Arab world,

to sketch vivid portraits of mofussil Uttar Pradesh to Dubai, in its transition from a small town to a glittering megapolis, as well as a range of characters, spanning evil uncles, oppressive trainers, kind-hearted sailors, maternal teachers and so on.

Though at a superficial level -- in its plot, set pieces, telescoped action, and its rather dramatic denouement and so on -- it may seem like a Bollywood film, it is not so simple, for it raises some vital questions and issues.

These include, but are not limited to, identity, the concept of home and family, the need to be anchored, the (transient nature of) happiness, whether loyalty deserves the name if for an evil purpose, can kindness be graded on its intention, and much more, which makes this story a short but most engrossing and thoughtful read.

(Vikas Datta can be contacted at vikas.d@ians.in)

'India is at a crucial crossroads'; Sam Pitroda appeals NRIs for help

NEW YORK (TIP): "India is at a crucial crossroads and unless NRIs come forward in preserving truth, trust, inclusion, and non-violence, India's democracy could be in jeopardy," said Mr. Sam Pitroda, Chairman of the Overseas Congress Department of All India Congress Committee. Mr. Pitroda was inaugurating the National Conference of the Indian Overseas Congress that was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in New York. "A climate of fear is gripping the nation and lies are constantly propagated for political ends" Pitroda added citing the case against National Herald newspaper. "Congress believes in the bottom-up development, not top-down approach followed by the current government that benefits a few". Pointing to the upcoming parliamentary elections in 2019, he urged the delegates who have gathered there to collaborate and work together in unity so that Congress party can restore the democratic values that have been the hallmark of the nation for the last 7 decades.

Dr. Surinder Malhotra, who has served as the President of INOC, USA for a number of years and a member of the governing Board of IOC appealed to the gathering for an end to groupism and division and to move forward. Mr. George Abraham, the Vice-Chair of the IOC detailed various threats to democracy in



Sam Pitroda addressing the delegates

India and asked the meeting to be pro-active in dealing with critical issues. "Constitution is out there to protect us; however, if we don't protect the constitution, it will not protect us either" Abraham added.

Mr. Mohinder Singh, Gilzian, President of the INOC, USA lauded the Congress party for its enormous contribution to India that made it a prosperous economy and detailed some of



Madhu Yaskhi speaking, Sam Pitroda, Mohinder Singh Gilzian, Shudh Prakash Singh, Himanshu Vyas, George Abraham, Surinder Malhotra on the dias

his plans to grow the Overseas Congress in the USA. He promised to increase the membership of the organization and bring in more young people to the fold primarily by reaching out to the large pool of Indian students at the Universities. He has also promised to conduct charitable programs on

behalf of the organization and to send volunteers to the upcoming elections in India. In addition, he expressed optimism that a 'Congress Bhavan' can be built as headquarters for IOC in the not so distant future.

contd on Page 6

KOJAIN Honors Six Individuals at the 9th KOJAIN Sammelan



Award Recipients with Award Committee Chair and Members



Award Recipient receiving Award from Dr. Ela Dedhia



Award acceptance speech by Navin S. Dedhia, San Jose, CA

NEW YORK (TIP): KOJAIN recognized the six individuals at the San Mateo Marriott San Francisco Airport Hotel in San Mateo, Calif, July 13 -15 during the 9th KOJAIN Sammelan 2018.

During the Sammelan, KOJAIN honors persons of Kutchi Oswal heritage in North America who have achieved excellence and unique contributions in fields of 1) Art and Crafts, 2) Science, 3) Education, 4) Cultural Activities and 5) Community Services. This year's awardees included:

(1) Lifetime Achievement Award presented

to Navin S. Dedhia, San Jose, California "For Vision, Leadership, and Lifetime Commitment to Support and Promote KOJAIN"

- (2) Leadership Award presented to Hemant M. Shah, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, "For Acting as an Ambassador of Indian Culture and Trade in Canada"
- (3) Special Recognition Award presented to Late Meenaben Shah, Hockessin, Delaware, "For a Leader and Tireless Community Service Worker and Generous Donor To KOJAIN and Other

- Jain Organizations"
- (4) Service Award presented To Nikita Dedhia Shah, St. Louis, Missouri, "For Promoting Education Opportunities in Germany for Indians"
- (5) Recognition Award presented to Tanvi Chheda, Stanford, California, "For Excellence In Scholastic Achievement"
- (6) Recognition Award presented To Jesika Haria, San Francisco, California, "For Excellence In Scholastic Achievement"

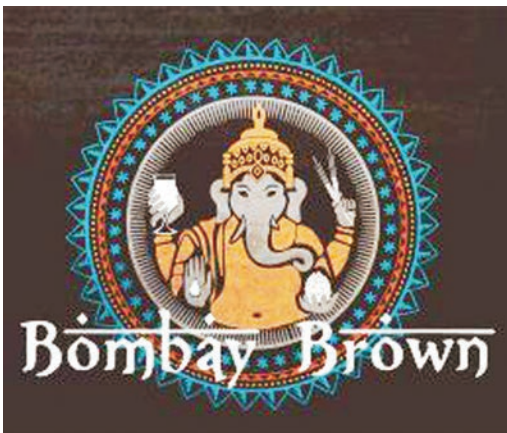
Mr. Peter Bheddah, Chair of the KOJAIN Recognition Committee invited Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Ela Dedhia and KOJAIN President, Geeta Gala for Awards distribution.

Awards Committee members were called upon to introduce the Award Recipient.

Award Recipient was given two minutes for the Awards Acceptance Speech. Each Awardee was given a beautiful plaque.

KOJAIN is a Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1996 and incorporated in the State of Maryland. Its mission includes operating and promoting cultural, charitable, educational, and humanitarian activities in North America and elsewhere. Its strength lies in serving 6000+ individuals residing in North America. One of the objectives of the organization is to maintain, educate, enhance, advance and preserve the heritage of Kachchh through art, language and culture. Kachchh is a region located in the Northwestern part of Gujarat State in India. [Note: Kutch or Kachchh are synonymous words]

Missouri brewery apologizes & removes beer linked Lord Ganesha image after Hindu protest



NEW YORK (TIP): Springfield (Missouri) based award-winning Springfield Brewing Company (SBC) has apologized and removed Hindu deity Lord Ganesha image portrayed on its Bombay Brown IPA beer label after upset Hindus protested, calling it "highly inappropriate".

"SBC sincerely apologizes to Rajan Zed and The Universal Society of Hinduism for the inappropriate usage of Lord Ganesha on our beer brand, Bombay Brown IPA. It was never our intention to offend any person with the artwork used for this brand", an SBC release said. Lord Ganesha image associated with Bombay Brown does not show up anymore on the SBC website.

Distinguished Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, who spearheaded this protest thanked SBC and its management for understanding the concerns of Hindu community, which thought image of Lord Ganesha on such a product was highly insensitive.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, suggested that companies should send their senior executives for training in religious and cultural sensitivity so that they had an understanding of the feelings of customers and communities when introducing new products or launching advertising campaigns.

Rajan Zed had said that inappropriate usage of Hindu deities or concepts or symbols for commercial or other agenda was not okay as it hurt the devotees.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

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INDIAN AMERICAN 15-YEAR-OLD GRADUATED AS A BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER



15-year-old Tanishq Abraham graduated from the University of California

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Indian American Tanishq Abraham, 15, reached a milestone in his academic journey and is all set to start his doctorate after completing his graduation in biomedical engineering, according to a media report.

This child prodigy, graduated from the University of California, Davis with the highest honors of summa cum laude.

"Of course, I feel very happy, very excited, and I'm very proud of my accomplishments," Tanishq told the media.

"He's got a lot of passion and we have to keep up with him, pretty much," said his parents, Taji and Bijou Abraham, hailing from Kerala.

Tanishq has also designed a device that could measure the heart rate of burn patients without touching them.

As for the future, it's back into the lab at Davis for a Ph.D. and eventually medical school. Tanishq has big dreams of finding solutions to problems, the report said.

"Yeah, of course, what everybody likes to say and what I am also interested in is, of course, cancer and developing new treatments for cancer, more effective treatments for cancer," he said. Tanishq has already been accepted into the University of California, Davis graduate program where he plans to get his MD in the next four to five years.

Indian American Senatorial candidate assaulted by racist man



Ayyadurai, 54, who is running Independent against powerful incumbent Elizabeth Warren from the Democratic party was attacked last week by her supporter.

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Shiva Ayyadurai, running for senate, has been assaulted allegedly by a racist man who punched him in the face leaving him severely bleeding at a town hall in Massachusetts.

According to the media reports, Ayyadurai, 54, who is running Independent against powerful incumbent Elizabeth Warren from the Democratic party was attacked last week by her supporter. Mr Ayyadurai, an eminent scientist and an outspoken critic, was punched by a man, wearing a t-shirt which said "liberal" and a Warren for Senate sticker.

He approached Mr Ayyadurai with an umbrella where he was scheduled to appear, the report said. "I was just punched in face by a racist @SenWarren supporter," Mr Ayyadurai tweeted. "This is how these white privileged white supremacists react. What you just witnessed is how you white supremacists react when you don't want to hear the truth from a dark-skinned Indian guy.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian Australian Mathematician Wins Fields Medal, the 'Nobel of Mathematics'

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math.

The Fields medals are awarded every four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.

Akshay Venkatesh, 36, who is currently teaching at Stanford University, has won the Fields Medal for his "profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics."

The citation for his medal - awarded on August 1, at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Rio de Janeiro - highlights his "profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics" and his "strikingly far-reaching conjectures."

Each winner received a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize.

At least two, and preferably four people, are always honored in the award ceremony.

The prize was inaugurated in 1932 at the request of Canadian mathematician John Charles Fields, who ran the 1924



Akshay Venkatesh, 36, currently teaching at Stanford University, has won the Fields Medal for his "profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics."

Mathematics Congress in Toronto.

From being a child prodigy to becoming one of the most renowned researchers in the field of mathematics, Mr Venkatesh's journey has been full of achievements and accolades.

He moved to Perth, Australia, with his parents when he was 2 from New Delhi, India.

He participated in physics and math Olympiads - the premier international competitions for high school students and won medals in the two subjects at ages 11 and 12, respectively.

He finished high school when he was 13 and went to the University of Western Australia, graduating with first class honors in mathematics in 1997, at the age of 16.

In 2002, he earned his PhD at the age of 20. Since then, he has gone from holding a post-doctoral position at MIT to becoming a Clay Research Fellow and, now a professor at Stanford University.

Mr Venkatesh has worked at the highest level in number theory, arithmetic geometry, topology, automorphic forms and ergodic theory. NT

His research has been recognized with many awards, including the Ostrowski Prize, the Infosys Prize, the Salem Prize and Sastra Ramanujan Prize.

Indian-Origin Scientist, one amongst developing drug to reverse hair loss

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian-origin scientist is one amongst others to develop an experimental drug that could successfully reverse hair loss, hair whitening and skin inflammation -- all previously linked to diets heavy in fat and cholesterol (in mice).

Treatment with D-threo-1-phenyl-2-decanoylamino-3-morpholino-1-propanol (D-PDMP) halts the production of certain fats called glycosphingolipids, or GSLs.

GSLs are major components of skin and other cell membranes and could reverse hair discoloration, extensive hair loss and inflammation of skin exhibited by multiple wounds which result due to high fat diets, the researchers explained.

"Our findings show promise for someday using the drug we developed for skin diseases such as psoriasis, and wounds resulting from diabetes or plastic surgery," said Subroto Chatterjee from the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, US.



Subroto Chatterjee from the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, US is working with a team of scientists on drug to reverse hair loss

In the study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, the team fed Western diet high in fat and cholesterol, and standard chow to two groups of mice who had atherosclerosis -- a disease in which arteries are clogged by fat deposits.

The analysis said that mice who had

Western diet had lost hair, formed skin lesions and suffered from hair whitening as compared to those who ate standard chow.

These results became more severe when the mice continued eating a Western diet for 36 weeks, with 75 per cent of the mice having skin, hair loss and multiple skin lesions.

But, mice who also received 1 mg and 10 mg of D-PDMP in a capsule per kilogram of body weight started regaining hair and hair color, and their skin inflammation reduced.

The drug also significantly reduced the number of neutrophils, implying reduced skin inflammation and wounding.

However, the researchers cautioned that the results in mice do not mean that the same effects would occur in people. But the findings do shed light on possible pathways for addressing hair loss and skin wounds in humans with oral or topical medications, they noted.

Indian American Raj Shukla announces his candidacy for Madison, Wisconsin Mayor

MADISON, WI (TIP): Indian American Raj Shukla has announced that he will run for the Madison, Wisconsin, mayor. "I am running for mayor to lead Madison to become all we know it can be," he said on his website announcing the candidacy. "I've helped businesses, nonprofits and governments move forward and live up to their ideals. I will do same for the people of Madison, WI."

The University of Wisconsin-Madison grad is currently the executive director of River Alliance of Wisconsin, a coalition of individuals, businesses and watershed groups that works toward protecting and restoring the state's waters. Shukla also heads the Sustainable Madison Committee - an advisory panel appointed by the mayor



Indian American Raj Shukla announced his candidacy for Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin

that is tasked with ensuring that Madison is safe, clean and healthy. He once worked for former Vice President Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. According to the Political

Action Committee Indian American Impact Fund, if elected, Shukla would become the first Indian American mayor of one of the 100 largest cities in the United States.

The primary will be held on February 19, 2019, and the general mayoral election is scheduled for April 2, 2019.

Madison is an overwhelmingly progressive and Democratic city. The last time a Republican won a mayoral election in the city was in 1969.

Shukla is the fourth Democrat to enter the race. The current Mayor Paul Soglin, who is running for Wisconsin governor, announced on July 17 that he will not seek re-election. Shukla and his wife, Tora Frank, have been residents of Madison since 2006. They have three daughters.



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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WEEK CLOSING CASES, OPENING DOORS

August 6-10, 2018

QUEENS, NY(TIP): Borough President Melinda Katz and the Legal Aid Society announced details of their upcoming "Know Your Rights Week: Closing Cases, Opening Doors", a week-long series of public legal workshops between August 6-10 in various neighborhoods throughout Queens. Participants can access free, confidential advice from lawyers on ways to alleviate unnecessary barriers to employment and economic opportunity, including applications to seal their non-violent criminal conviction records, cleaning up rap sheets, and obtaining Certificates of Relief and Good Conduct.

"If you've proven that you've turned your life around and are making good, the burden of a past non-violent mistake should not ruin or impede your future opportunities for the rest of your life," Borough President KATZ said. "Second chances and social justice reform are an integral part of New York values. This is about eliminating barriers to employment and economic opportunity, reducing recidivism rates and breaking the cycle. Our hope and aim with 'Know Your Rights Weeks' is to bolster public awareness and connect eligible New Yorkers with free legal assistance and, ultimately, relief. The tireless efforts on the part of our community partners - and especially the Legal Aid Society - to equip and empower New Yorkers of their rights have a direct impact on building a better future for the growing families of Queens."

"Everyone deserves a second chance, and that includes a genuine opportunity to seal dated convictions that jeopardize housing, employment and other livelihoods," said TINA LUONGO, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society. "We're proud to partner with Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and many community based partner organizations for



'Know Your Rights Week'. Providing services and critical knowledge of the law to communities throughout this City is the key work of our Community Justice Unit and the core mission of everyone at The Legal Aid Society.

Any criminal conviction can significantly hinder a person's ability to secure employment, housing, financial aid, professional licenses and numerous other rights and benefits. New York's conviction sealing law* is based on the belief that non-violent offenders who have turned their lives around for the better should no longer have to bear the stigma of a conviction or face unnecessary barriers to opportunity and employment.

The new law went into effect on October 7, 2017 after Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation into law in April 2017. According to news reports, court officials believe that as many as 600,000 people in New York State could be eligible to seal their convictions, but as of May 2018, only 346 people statewide had their convictions sealed.

The August 2018 "Know Your Rights Week: Closing Cases, Opening Doors" is in partnership with 696 Build Queensbridge,

LIFE Camp, Inc., Sheltering Arms NY - Rock Safe Streets, Transitional Services for New York, Inc. and the Queens Library. The week is part of Borough President Katz's slate of "Know Your Rights Weeks" and a continuation of her long-running partnership with the borough's legal professionals to expand services across communities. All services and legal consultations provided during the week are free and confidential; RSVP is recommended but walk-ins are welcome.

Borough President Katz has partnered with attorneys for several years to provide legal services at various Resource Fairs; as demands and needs increased, Borough President Katz launched her "Know Your Rights Week" initiative. The June 2018 series featured workshops and clinics focused on immigration; upcoming scheduled series include another week of "Closing Cases, Opening Doors" in September 2018, and on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in October 2018.

"The 696 Build Queensbridge team whole heartedly supports having The Legal Aid Society's 'Case Closed' Program coming into Queensbridge," said K. BAIN, Founding Director 696 Build Queensbridge. "We believe

that this program will open doors that were previously shut off to those who have fallen victim to the criminal justice system. In a society where mass incarceration and the privatization of prisons appear to be driving the economy one's record being sealed for any person who has not committed a crime in 10 years and has no more than 2 convictions can make all the difference by bettering your chances at advancing your career, obtaining housing, and gaining access to resources. Additionally, this human justice approach to two legal reform can be used to heal, low income communities of color, like ours, who have been targeted by biased policing and institutional discrimination and systemic oppression. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with The Legal Aid Society that promotes the livelihood of all members in our communities, especially those who have been left behind for far too long." "This program is giving people an opportunity to start over and get a second chance," said ERICA FORD, LIFE Camp, Inc. "Investing into our communities is very important and I am glad to be a part of this process." *Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news*

'India is at a crucial crossroads'; Sam Pitroda appeals NRIs for help

CONTD FROM PAGE 2

Mr. Himanshu Vyas, newly appointed Secretary to the Overseas Congress Department of AICC spoke about building strong Overseas Congress Chapters around the globe and asked the participants to communicate with him for any extra help from his Delhi office.

Mr. Madhu Yaskhi, former Member of Parliament and AICC Secretary Spoke about the challenges to Indian democracy and pointed out, in particular, the corruption at the highest levels citing the Rafael Jet purchasing case. He urged NRIs to get involved and bring about a change that is essential for the survival of India's democracy.

Mr. Shudh Prakash Singh, President of INOC (I) introduced several members of INOC (I) to the audience. Mr. Harbachan Singh, Secretary-General of the INOC, USA and Rajender Dichpally, General Secretary of INOC (I), Mr. Kamalpreet Singh Dhaliwal, President of IOC, United Kingdom and Dr. Dayan Naik also addressed the conference.

Mr. Manoj Shinde presented an integrated IT plan for the organization and asked members to provide him with the content.

Ms. Tavishi Alagh, the Media Coordinator for Overseas Congress Department of AICC, screened several videos at the conference showing the history the Congress Party and fortitude of the past leaders of the freedom struggle along with Mr. Rahul Gandhi's vision



Audience

for a more inclusive India.

In the ensuing discussions, delegates from all Chapters spoke about the vision and missions of the organization and stressed the issue of unity

as a pre-requisite to moving forward in achieving set goals. T. J. Gill, Malini Shah, John Joseph, Gurmit Singh Gill, Charan Singh, Phuman Singh, Ravi Chopra, Thomas T.

Oommen, Satish Sharma, R. Jayachandran, Zinda Singh, Kulbir Singh Prempur Sarpanch, Sarvjit Singh, Prasad Kambapathy, Devendra Vora, Girish Vaidya, Ajay Singh Lakhan, Santok Singh, Paul Sihota, Rana Gill, Jaya Sundaram, Ram Gadula, Harkesh Thakur, Oommen Koshy, Chandu Patel, Santhosh Nair, Rajesh Allahdad, Thomas Mathew, Krishan Arora, Leela Maret, Sawaran Singh, Vishak Cherian, Paul Paramby, Ramesh Chandra, Nikhil G. Reddy, Saji Karimpamuur, Rajan Padavathil, Mr. Sravanth Poreddy, Krishna Chaithanya and Anil Patel, Dr. Mohammed Jameel, Dr. Enu Karuvathu, Joy Thomas, Saji Abraham, Madhu Erugu, Raj Boda, Rajeev Mohanan also participated in the discussions. Delegates from various States including New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, Illinois, California, Indiana, Texas, Minnesota, Washington, Florida, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan and Ontario (Canada) were present at the meeting.

A copy of the constitution was presented to the meeting by Mr. Harbachan Singh who is the main architect behind that effort. The document was referred to Sanjay Dubey Esq to resolve various legal questions concerning that within the next two weeks.

The meeting also appointed committee Chairpersons for Finance, Membership, Youth group, Women's group, IT group, Social Media etc. and a detailed list will be published soon.



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GUEST COMMENT

On a positive note: Modi-Khan talk of peace and progress

With Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerging as the single largest party in the General Assembly, his becoming the Prime Minister of Pakistan is a foregone conclusion. Even as Khan extended an olive branch to the Indian establishment in his speeches, Prime Minister Modi too has responded in kind by calling him up and expressing hope for better relations between the two neighbors. This is a good beginning, although too much cannot be read in it.

The lure of quick emotional appeal by blaming the other side for failures is de rigueur for political players. India and Pakistan have long been on a destructive streak of avoidable escalation of issues and mutual condemnation. Imran Khan's appeal lies much in him being perceived as an outsider in the power structure of Pakistan, even though he enjoys the support of the most powerful political force in the country, the army. He has shown a willingness to change the narrative that had long confined itself to narrow partisanship. India must respond to it in kind.

Indeed, Prime Minister Modi, with his penchant for out-of-the-box thinking, could be a willing partner in striving towards greater mutual understanding and peace, even though he has burnt his hands once with his impromptu birthday greetings to Khan's predecessor. More than grand gestures, incremental gains, made by focusing on details and diplomatic processes, that are likely to yield long-lasting results. But then, the beginning is always in setting the tone, which the two leaders have done. Squandering away yet another chance to bring peace to the subcontinent would be a folly that both India and Pakistan can ill afford. Realistically, the two leaders have begun well, and that is all. They both will need to avoid the temptation of heeding to the hawks and the politician's urge to seize the spotlight even as they allow diplomats to interact and to work out solutions that become building blocks which would enable the two countries to negotiate the burdens of history by focusing on the present and the future.

(Tribune, India)

AS I SEE IT

Do sportspersons make good politicians?



By Prabhjot Singh

Politics in sports and sportspersons in politics are two diverse, interesting and highly debatable issues. The emergence of former Test cricketer Imran Khan on the global political scenario has again activated an animated discussion on whether sportspersons make better politicians or not. Never before in the world has a Test cricketer been chosen to lead a country tormented by internal strife, economic turndown, corruption and armed conflict.

For a sportsperson, building a career in politics on his athletic legacy may not be easy unless he has a high popularity profile, as the shift from the peak of being a sports celebrity to a political bigwig may not be possible without a deluge of publicity and unconditional support from the rank and file of the political outfit he intends to head or lead.

There have been lots of Olympians and cricketing heroes who wandered into politics and made a name for themselves. Sportspersons-turned-politicians have held limelight all over, including the US, England, Australia, Canada, Japan, India.

Sprinters Ralph Metcalfe and Jim Ryun, cagers Bill Bradley and Tom McMillen, decathlete Bob Mathias and judoka Nighthorse had successful innings in US politics after successful years in sports.

Richard Charlesworth of Australia belongs to the rare category of people who excelled not only in more than one sport but also hogged limelight and honor as a trainer, a coach and politician. A Test cricketer, Olympic hockey gold medalist and MP, all made one Richard Charlesworth.

Then there is Australian aboriginal Nova Perry, an Olympic gold medalist in hockey and Commonwealth Games gold medalist in athletics. She became the first indigenous woman to be elected to the Australian Parliament and later to the Senate.

Ryoko Tami of Japan, a renowned judoka, who won silver in the Barcelona Olympic Games and gold medals in Sydney and Athens and a bronze in Beijing, turned to politics at the end of her career in sports. She won a seat in the House of Councilors of Japan.

Before Imran Khan made it to the Pakistan National Assembly, his contemporaries in sports - Sarfraz Nawaz (cricket) and Akhtar Rasool (hockey) - also sat in the Punjab provincial Assembly and held ministerial posts.

India has a longer history of sportspersons in politics. There have been numerous instances of eminent sportspersons joining politics, both at the state and national levels. Olympian Jaipal Singh (hockey), Raja Karni Singh, Chetan Chauhan, Kirti Azad, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Sachin Tendulkar, Aslam Sher Khan, Mohammed Azharuddin, Pargat Singh, Dilp Tirkey and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore are some of the stalwarts, who after or during their innings in sports, dabbled in politics. Their entry was either through established political

“Barring a few exceptions, they were all introduced on the political horizon as "bold and big game-changers". Finding their wings clipped and sans all powers, they attempted to walk free, only to end up as "loners" and "failures". What they did on playfields, they could not repeat even one per cent of that in politics. It is all the more intriguing that Indian sports is mired much deeper in politics than the politics of running the world's biggest liberal democracy. But our sports personalities have failed on that front, too", says the author.



Imran Khan is the first sportsperson to have been chosen to lead a country



Sports stars-turned politicians: Kirti Azad, Navjot S Sidhu, Pargat Singh, Rajyavardhan S Rathore.

parties or as independents. Kirti Azad (BJP) is a senior politician. His long innings in cricket and then in politics almost brought him to the brink for alleging wrongdoings in the DDCA.

Why are sports stars damp squibs in politics? Or are they content with just a membership of Parliament or state assemblies?

Athens Olympic medalist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Test cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu may be exceptions. Rathore is a part of the Modi ministry. His portfolio is sports. Sidhu is a minister in Punjab. But his portfolio does not include sports.

It is more than a question of political rehabilitation for those leaving sports and opting for a new career. If politicians are not welcome to national sports federations, how can sports stars expect a warm welcome or assimilation in political administration, is a vexed question.

The last election to the 15th Punjab Vidhan Sabha was, however, different as not only a large number of sportspersons, but also bureaucrats, technocrats, artistes, singers, academicians, journalists and realtors evinced a keen interest in politics.

Besides Sidhu (cricket) and Olympian Pargat Singh (hockey), who were successful in the last

Punjab Assembly elections, Asian Games gold medalist Kartar Singh (wrestling), Sajjan Singh Cheema (Olympian, basketball) and Gulzar Singh (kabaddi) were in the fray, while several others, including Olympians Surinder Singh Sodhi and Hardeep Singh Grewal and Asian Games gold medalist Rajbir Kaur Rai (all hockey), did not get a chance to enter electoral politics.

In all previous instances, sportspersons may have stirred a hornet's nest here and there, but in the long run, their actions have remained far too small to impact national or provincial politics.

Barring a few exceptions, they were all introduced on the political horizon as "bold and big game-changers". Finding their wings clipped and sans all powers, they attempted to walk free, only to end up as "loners" and "failures". What they did on playfields, they could not repeat even one per cent of that in politics. It is all the more intriguing that Indian sports is mired much deeper in politics than the politics of running the world's biggest liberal democracy. But our sports personalities have failed on that front, too.

One may not be able to name a sport that is free from politics. Political affiliations apart, sports administrators defy rules, regulations and guidelines to monopolize state and national sports associations. Governments come and go, but our sports politicians, who have perfected the art of staying in office irrespective of the political party in power, remain indispensable.

It is but natural to ponder that if our sports are so deep into politics, why sports personalities have been generally non-performers on the political scenario.

(Source: Tribune)

(The author is a Chandigarh based senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

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Trump should be Impeached. Are there Republicans with spine who will do it?

BY M.P. PRABHAKARAN

“

Will some Republicans in Congress prove that they have spine by coming forward to initiate the process of impeachment of Trump? Any effort on the part of Democrats will get nowhere, because they are in a minority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The initiative should come from Republicans. They owe it to their country to act before it is too late. And they owe it to the Constitution which they are sworn to "support and defend ... against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

”



U.S. President Donald Trump (right) and Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) in Helsinki, Finland, on July 16, 2018

President Donald Trump has already committed crimes that are impeachable under the U.S. Constitution. Apolitical Americans are demanding that he be impeached right away. Are there Republicans with spine in U.S. Congress who will initiate the process of impeachment without wasting any more time? They don't have to wait until special counsel Robert S. Mueller III completes his investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election and into the alleged collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during that election.

The demand for Trump's impeachment became louder in the wake of his disgraceful performance at the joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir V. Putin, in Helsinki, Finland, on July 16, 2018. Most Americans were appalled to see the president of their country fawning before the Russian dictator, who is also a murderous thug. They bowed their heads in shame when they heard the president challenge the findings of the intelligence community of his own country, in the presence of the man who has been implicated in those findings. Nothing comparable to that has ever happened in the history of their country, they all say.

The press conference followed a secret one-on-one meeting of the two leaders, with only two translators present. Except for some stooges of Trump, all Americans had expected him to cancel the hastily arranged meeting, because, only a week earlier, the Mueller investigation referred to above had taken a critical turn: It had indicted 12 officers of the GRU, Russia's military intelligence service, for their role in their country's attack on America's electoral system. The 29-page indictment detailed how these officers, at the behest of their president, hacked into the computers of over 300 people working for Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton and of the Democratic Party itself; stole thousands of emails and other documents; and used them

to prepare anti-Clinton propaganda material. They opened fake social-media accounts to release the material to the public. (At this writing, Facebook, the social-media site that has the widest reach in the U.S., has announced the closing of 32 fake accounts and their respective web pages, on suspicion of being linked to Russians. The fake accounts were opened to disrupt the mid-term election that will take place in three months.) President Trump, who has been ridiculing the Mueller investigation as a "witch hunt" and the allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 election as a "hoax," paid no heed to the indictment and went ahead with the planned summit with his favorite Russian dictator.

Putin could not have asked for a better warm-up to the summit than the Twitter message Trump issued on the morning of the summit. In that message, he blamed the years of tension with Russia on the "foolishness and stupidity" of his own country, as well as the "Rigged Witch Hunt," meaning the Mueller investigation. Americans are anxious to know what the two leaders discussed at their one-on-one secret meeting. What little they know so far came to them in dribs and drabs from the government-controlled Russian press, not from the free press of their own country. The free press of America, which is the envy of the rest of the world, is being attacked by Trump day in and day out. It puts out only "fake news," he keeps saying, to the delight of Putin and his ilk. Does Mr. Trump know that an attack on the free press is an attack on the First Amendment rights enshrined in the Constitution, which he has sworn to "preserve, protect and defend." The time will come when he will be made to pay a heavy price for this deplorable behavior. But the words he uttered at the press conference that followed the Helsinki meet and the way he conducted himself in the presence of the man, who ordered the

attack on the democratic foundation of his own country, annexed Crimea, is supporting rebels in Ukraine and defending the murderous Assad regime in Syria, and has poisoned his opponents both at home and abroad, call for action right now.

Standing next to that man, Trump challenged the conclusion of the Justice Department, the intelligence community and both houses of the legislature of his own country. Their conclusion was that Russia had attacked the United States during the 2016 presidential election. The attack, which took the form of hacking into the digital devices used in the election, was called cyberattack. It was an attack on the very democratic foundation on which the country is built. As such, it was an attack on the country itself. Despite the irrefutable evidence of the attack contained in the indictment, Trump repeated his ridicule that the Mueller investigation was a "witch hunt," this time in the presence of the man who necessitated it.

Putin, as was expected, denied that his country had anything to do with the hacking. But he did admit, in his answer to a reporter's question, that he wanted Trump, and not his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton, to win the election. The reason for his preference, he added, was that Trump had "talked about bringing the U.S.-Russia relationship back to normal." To a follow-up question, put to Trump, as to whom he trusted more, Putin or his own intelligence community, Trump gave this reply: "I have confidence in both parties. I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today."

That response, and his responses to many other questions, drew strong protests not only from Democrats, but from some Republicans as well. Some even characterized some of his words "treasonous" and called for his impeachment. Let's examine whether those words rise to the level of treason.

contd on Page 30

Malaysia civil aviation chief resigns over MH370 lapses

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): The chief of Malaysia's civil aviation authority resigned on August 1 after an investigation report on the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 showed lapses by the air traffic control centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The report released on Monday on the disappearance four years ago of the airliner during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board shed little fresh light on one of the biggest mysteries of modern aviation history.

In a statement announcing his resignation, Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said the report had highlighted failures by air traffic control to comply with standard operating procedures but had not suggested the aviation authority was to blame for the loss of the aircraft.

"Therefore, it is with regret and after much thought and contemplation that I have decided to resign as the Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia effective 14 days from the date of the resignation notice which I have served today," he said in the statement.

In a 495-page report, investigators said the controls of aircraft were likely deliberately manipulated to take it off course but they were unable to determine who was responsible. (Reuters)

Indonesian court outlaws Islamic State-linked group

JAKARTA (TIP): An Indonesian court on August 1 outlawed Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, a network of militants that supports the Islamic State group, following a series of deadly attacks over the past two years.

Presiding Judge Aris Bawono Langgeng told the South Jakarta District Court that the network of almost two dozen extremist groups is a "forbidden corporation." He said its activities and those of other organizations affiliated with it or IS are banned.

The case against Jemaah Anshorut Daulah was brought by government prosecutors and appeared aimed at empowering stronger police action against militant members of the network and their supporters.

In 2008, a court banned Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida affiliated network responsible for the Bali bombings in 2002. The group was obliterated by a sustained crackdown on militants by Indonesia's counterterrorism police with U.S. and Australian support, but a new threat has emerged in recent years inspired by IS attacks abroad.

The prosecution indictment filed against the IS-linked group said JAD supporters across Indonesia carried out attacks that killed civilians and police and damaged public facilities.

In May, two families carried out suicide bombings in Indonesia's second-largest city, Surabaya, killing a dozen people and two young girls whose parents had involved them in one of the attacks. Police said the father was the head of a local JAD cell.

A radical cleric who founded JAD, Aman Abdurrahman, was sentenced to death last month for inciting attacks including a 2016 suicide bombing at a Starbucks in Jakarta. (AP)

New Zealand student visa scam in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (TIP) – Immigration officers in New Zealand have been forced to review more than 800 student visa applications from Sri Lanka after uncovering a scam.

Foreign media reported that it was uncovered that students applying to go to New Zealand would use a finance company willing to claim they had enough money to support themselves.

It was revealed that New Zealand immigration officials had first uncovered the racket in January this year.

Sri Lanka failing on human rights

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's ethnic tensions remain predictably grim nearly a decade since the end of the country's brutal 26-year civil war. A new report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism released last week makes for depressing reading. Among a litany of concerns, the document categorically states that the Sri Lankan government has not complied with human rights and transitional justice commitments made at the UN Human Rights Council. From the continued use of the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act to ongoing reports of torture, to inhumane prison conditions, institutionalised impunity, persistent militarisation, and a transitional justice process that is struggling, the report's findings are dire. (Report)

Pakistan: Govt officer becomes approver against Shehbaz Sharif in multi-billion graft case

Prime minister-in-waiting Imran Khan has already declared that he would not let Shahbaz go off the hook in the alleged corruption of billions of rupees in different development projects in Punjab province.

LAHORE (TIP): A senior government officer has become approver against former chief minister Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif, in a multi-billion corruption case. Shehbaz, 66, who was the chief minister of Punjab province from June 2013 to June 2018, was elected as PML-N president in March after elder Sharif was disqualified as the party president following a Supreme Court verdict in the Elections Act 2017 case.

Pakistan's top anti-graft body, National Accountability Bureau (NAB), is investigating Shehbaz in three multi-billion corruption scams – Punjab Saaf Pani Company, Punjab Power Development Company and Ashiana Housing Society. The NAB has also summoned Shehbaz on August 20 in the three scams directing him to bring a relevant record to present before a combined investigation team of bureau.

Today, former chief executive officer (CEO) of Punjab Saaf Pani Company Waseem Ajmal turned approver against the alleged



corruption of Shehbaz.

"In the NAB's custody, Waseem Ajmal disclosed that Shehbaz had pressured him to award contracts to his (Shehbaz) favourite firm in violation of rules. Ajmal said most of the board of directors also opposed it but we had to follow Shehbaz's direction," a NAB official told PTI today.

The official said Ajmal, who is in NAB's custody, has agreed to become approver against Shehbaz and is ready to testify in the court. The Saaf

Pani Company scam is worth over Rs 4 billion.

Prime minister-in-waiting Imran Khan has already declared that he would not let Shehbaz go off the hook in the alleged corruption of billions of rupees in different development projects in Punjab province. Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz are facing a 10 and 7-year imprisonment respectively at Adiala Jail Rawalpindi in Avenfield corruption case. (PTI)

Nepal: PM KP Sharma Oli pledges early implementation of transport, transit agreement with China

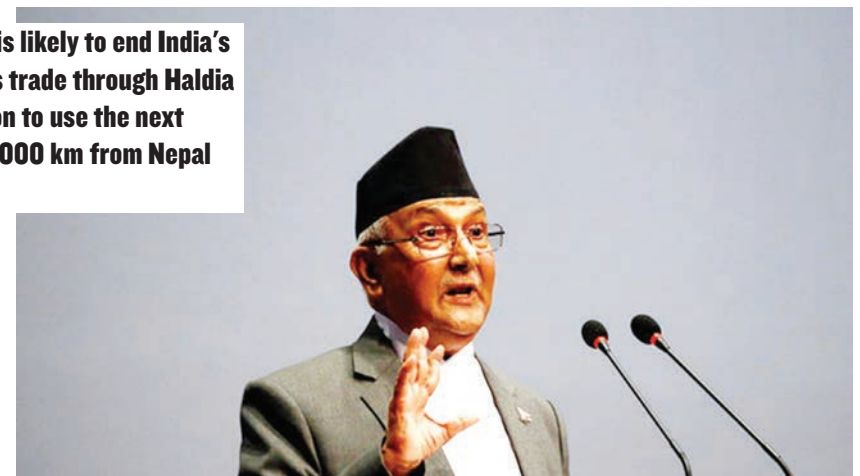
The transit and transportation treaty is likely to end India's monopoly over the landlocked nation's trade through Haldia port in Kolkata. It gives Nepal an option to use the next nearest Tianjin port in China that is 3,000 km from Nepal border.

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has pledged to implement at the earliest the landmark transport and transit agreement signed with China, a move aimed at reducing landlocked country's total dependence on India. The prime minister said this during his meeting with Chinese Deputy Minister of External Affairs Wang Yajun in Kathmandu Sunday.

Oli said the agreement on transport and transit signed between Nepal and China in during his first stint as the premier in 2016 would be taken to a conclusion soon.

"As Nepal is a landlocked country, we want to increase our access to the sea through this agreement," the prime minister said, according to officials.

The transit and transportation treaty with China is likely to end New Delhi's monopoly over the landlocked



nation's trade through Haldia port in Kolkata. It gives Nepal an option to use the next nearest Tianjin port in China that is 3,000 km from the Nepal border. Haldia port is 1,000 km away.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Oli extended an invitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Nepal. "High-level visit is also necessary to further strengthen our relations. We are waiting to welcome the Chinese president and the Chinese prime minister in Nepal," Prime Minister Oli

told the visiting deputy minister.

On the occasion, Chinese Deputy Minister Wang said it was an appropriate time to expand Nepal-China relations adding that China was hurrying to implement the agreements signed between Nepal and China during Oli's China visit last year.

Wang underlined the need to harmonise the government-to-government and people-to-people relations between the two countries. (PTI)

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Plan to rollback auto emission norms triggers backlash in US



WASHINGTON (TIP): California and 18 other US states said on Thursday, August 2, they would sue to stop a Trump administration proposal to weaken Obama-era federal fuel efficiency standards, arguing the US has an obligation to protect the environment for future generations, a Reuters report said.

The administration billed the rollback it announced on Thursday, which would also revoke California's authority to set its own strict vehicle emissions rules, as a way to lower auto prices for consumers. Critics said it would accelerate climate change and increase fuel prices.

The 19 states, and Washington D.C., announced what is likely to be a legal showdown over the proposal.

"We are prepared to go to court to put the brakes on this reckless and illegal plan," the coalition of states attorneys, led by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, said in a news release. The states that have adopted California's emission rules together make up about one third of the U.S. auto market.

The auto industry is pushing for a negotiated settlement between states and the administration to lift uncertainty over the kinds of cars and trucks they will need to produce for the American market in the coming years.

Mueller offers Trump team new proposal for interview

Trump believes he can convince counsel that probe is a witch hunt

WASHINGTON (TIP): In negotiations over a possible interview by prosecutors, special counsel Robert Mueller's team has offered the White House format changes, perhaps willing to limit some questions asked of President Donald Trump or accept some answers in writing, according to a person briefed on the proposal.

Talks between Mr. Trump's lawyers and the special counsel investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election have restarted in recent days, and it is not clear a deal will be struck, according to the person, who spoke Thursday on the condition of anonymity to discuss private negotiations. Mr. Trump has publicly expressed a desire to be interviewed, but his lawyers have repeatedly objected to the investigators' proposals.

Trump attorneys say both sides have exchanged proposals for conditions for such an interview.

The negotiations come amid a backdrop of Mr. Trump's escalating attacks on the probe, including his blunt declaration that his attorney general should terminate "right now" the federal probe into the campaign that took him to the White House, a newly fervent attack on the special counsel investigation that could imperil his presidency. Mr. Trump also assailed the trial, just underway, of his former campaign chairman by the special counsel's team.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders scrambled to explain that Mr. Trump's tweet Wednesday was "not an order" and the president was not directing his attorney general to do anything.

"It's the president's opinion," she said.

But Mr. Trump's early morning tweetstorm again raised the specter that he could try to more directly bring special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia-Trump election-collusion probe to a premature end. And it revived the idea that the president's tweets themselves might be used as evidence that he is attempting to obstruct justice.

Mr. Trump has raged privately in recent days that both the forces of government and



Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team has offered the White House format changes, according to sources

the media are trying to undermine him. That includes trumped-up charges against his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and distorting the outcome of the Helsinki summit to make it appear he was beholden to Russia, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak about private conversations.

Mr. Trump was closely monitoring news coverage of the Manafort proceedings, which provoked the spate of incendiary tweets, according to the two Republicans and two White House officials.

"The president's not obstructing, he's fighting back," said Sanders, dismissing the idea Mr. Trump's tweets could be tantamount to obstruction of justice.

The most inflammatory of Mr. Trump's tweets said, "This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further. Bob Mueller is totally conflicted, and his 17 Angry Democrats that are doing his dirty work are a disgrace to USA!"

The president's anger came the day after the

start of the trial of Manafort, who is facing federal charges of bank fraud and tax evasion. And while Mueller did not bring any election-related charges against Manafort, the specter of the Russian investigation is hanging over the Alexandria, Virginia, courthouse. And Mr. Trump's White House.

"Paul Manafort worked for Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole and many other highly prominent and respected political leaders," Mr. Trump tweeted. "He worked for me for a very short time. Why didn't government tell me that he was under investigation. These old charges have nothing to do with Collusion - a Hoax!"

Later the president invoked one of the nation's most notorious criminals, 1920s gangster Al Capone, and posed the question "who was treated worse" while airing his grievance about Manafort being held in solitary confinement ahead of a conviction. Manafort is in detention after having his bail revoked because of allegations that he was attempting to tamper with witnesses in his case. Federal prosecutors revealed last month that he was afforded unusual privileges while in detention.

Russia now targeting elections in India, Brazil: Oxford expert tells US lawmakers

WASHINGTON (TIP): Russia may target the media in countries like India and Brazil to interfere in their elections, an Oxford University social media expert has alleged before US lawmakers.

The remarks by Philip N. Howard, a statutory Professor of Internet Studies at the Oxford Internet Institute and Balliol College at the University of Oxford came during a hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee on Foreign Influence on Social Media platforms. Howard, however, did not elaborate further about his allegations.

The situation could be more dangerous in those countries where the media is not as professional as that of the US, he said.

Howard's mention of likely Russian interference in the Indian and Brazilian elections through their media, without any further explanation, came in response to a question from Senator Susan Collins after he gave some examples of such interference in the Hungarian media.

"The United States actually has the most professionalized media in the world. It's learned



The situation could be more dangerous in those countries where the media is not as professional as that of the US, he said

certainly to evaluate their sources and no longer report tweets as is given," Howard said.

"I would say that the greater concern would be amongst the media institutions in our

democratic allies. I believe that the Russians have moved from targeting us, in particular, to Brazil and India; other enormous democracies that will be running elections in the next few

years," Howard said. "While we still see significant Russian activity, those countries have the media institutions that need learn, need to develop," Howard said. There were no follow up questions from lawmakers on these countries. The powerful Senate committee held the hearing on the foreign influence on social media platforms with the focus on alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential elections.

In a January 2017 assessment, top US intelligence agencies concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

During the hearing, the Senate Intelligence Committee's Vice Chairman Senator Mark Warner alleged that Russia's active measures have revealed a dark underbelly of the social media ecosystem. "These same tools that spread misinformation can negatively affect other aspects of our lives," Warner said.

Warner, who is also co-chair of the Senate India Caucus said that the United States government is not well-positioned to detect, track or counter these types of influence operations on social media.

U.S. TRADE WAR WON'T WORK, SAYS CHINA

WASHINGTON (TIP): China's Foreign Minister called on the U.S. to remain "cool-headed" on Thursday, August 2, as Washington threatened to raise the tariff rate on the next \$200 billion of Chinese imports.

Slapping additional tariffs on Chinese imports - 60% of which are made by foreign firms, including American companies - will only raise costs for domestic U.S. consumers, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

"We hope that the trade policymakers in the U.S. will be cool-headed and listen to the voice of U.S. consumers... and also pay attention to the voice in the international community," Mr. Wang said.

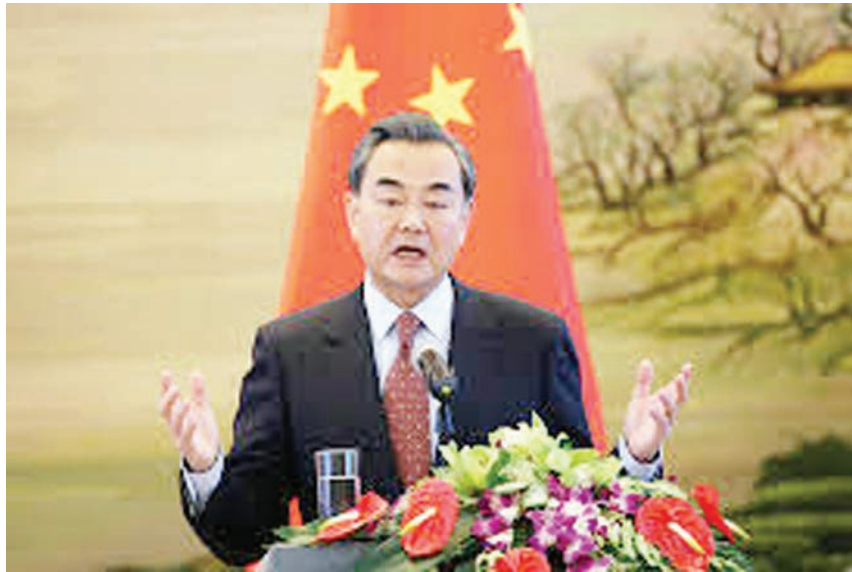
"The U.S. has no regard for the world... playing both soft and hard ball with China will not have any effect, and only serve to disappoint the countries and territories opposed to a trade war," China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement, adding it still hopes to turn the situation around.

President Donald Trump asked the U.S. Trade Representative to consider increasing the proposed tariffs to 25% from the planned 10%, USTR Robert Lighthizer said on Wednesday.

'Harmful behavior'

"We have been very clear about the specific changes China should undertake. Regrettably, instead of changing its harmful behavior, China has illegally retaliated against U.S. workers, farmers, ranchers and businesses," Mr. Lighthizer said.

Officials, however, downplayed



"We hope that the trade policymakers in the U.S. will be cool-headed and listen to the voice of U.S. consumers... and also pay attention to the voice in the international community." - Wang Yi

suggestions the move was intended to compensate for the recent decline in the value of the Chinese currency, which has threatened to take much of the sting out of Mr. Trump's tariffs by making imports cheaper.

The U.S. dollar has been strengthening since April as the Central Bank has been raising lending rates, which draws investors looking for higher returns.

Washington and Beijing are locked in battle over American accusations that China's export economy benefits from unfair policies and subsidies, as well as theft of American technological know-how.

Most exports targeted

Mr. Trump has threatened to slap tariffs on virtually all of China's exports to the U.S.

Officials said they remained in regular contact with their Chinese counterparts but could announce no new meeting.

Mr. Wang, who is in Singapore for a Foreign Ministers' meeting, said the spat will not affect diplomatic cooperation with Washington on North Korea. In a tweet last month, U.S. President Donald Trump suggested that China could be undermining a North Korean denuclearization deal because of the ongoing trade war.

Indian American Woman becomes the first ever CEO of Democratic National Committee

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Seema Nanda has been announced as the CEO of the opposition Democratic National Committee. She vows to fight for the "soul of the country" and ensure the victory of Democrats in every corner of the US in the crucial upcoming mid-term elections.



"We are fighting now for the soul of our country, for our democracy and for opportunity," Ms Nanda, the first Indian-American ever to be the Chief Executive Officer of either the Democratic National Committee or the Republican National Committee took over reigns of the main opposition party on July 23.

Seema Nanda, the first Indian-American ever to be the Chief Executive Officer of either the Democratic National Committee or the Republican National Committee took over reigns of the main opposition party on July 23.

In this capacity, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the powerful Democratic National Committee (DNC).

She would play a key role in party's winning strategy in the mid-term November elections, for which the DNC has set a target of winning back the House of Representatives from the Republicans.

"Democrats are offering the positive solutions so desperately needed right now, solutions forged by the strength of our diversity, the rigor of our ideas, and the decency of our values," she said.

"Since (President Donald) Trump took office, it's been clear that the number one best way for us to set our country back on track is to elect Democrats in every corner of our country. That's why I took this job," Ms Nanda said in her first message to Democratic supporters.

Ms Nanda said supporting the Democratic party is synonymous with building a future for the children that they can be proud of.

"My promise to my two teenage boys is to do all I can to create an America that is bright, fair, and that works for everyone, where opportunity for all means something," she said.

"Our party is strong because it's built on forging positive solutions that include everyone. I'm proud to be the first Asian-American in recent memory to lead the DNC. Democrats are leading with our values and empowering people from diverse backgrounds to speak up and make our voices heard," Nanda said.

The fight to take back the country for working families is one that all must fight together, she said, adding "At the DNC, we have committed to helping Democrats win back seats at all levels of government, because we need Democrats from the school board to the Senate to take back our country".

Noting that everything is at stake with this year's midterm elections in November, Nanda said Democrats are investing in state parties, putting organizers on the ground in all 50 states, and mobilizing 50 million voters by November through their nationwide 'I Will Vote' campaign.

"We're setting our sights and our goals higher than ever before in order to help Democratic leaders fight and win all across our country," Nanda said.

"As we head toward a crucial election, I'm one hundred percent certain that Seema's leadership will help the DNC capitalize on the unprecedented grassroots energy and enthusiasm surging throughout the country," DNC Chairman Tom Perez had said on her appointment last month.

Ms Nanda's appointment is seen as another sign of the political emergence of Indian-American in particular women in the country's political arena.

Nanda, whose parents are dentists, grew up in Connecticut. She went to the Brown University and Boston College Law School.

She also has a background in labor and employment law and has worked in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

US Congress passes Bill to slash Pak's defense aid to \$150 million

WASHINGTON (TIP): Amidst tensions in bilateral ties, the US Congress has passed a defense spending bill capping its security-related aid to Pakistan at USD 150 million, significantly below the historic level of more than USD one billion per year.

The National Defense Authorization Act-2019 (NDAA-19), however, removes certain conditions - like action against Haqqani Network or the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) -- as was the case in the past few years for disbursement of US aid to Pakistan.

The Senate passed the conference report on NDAA-19 by 87 to 10 votes yesterday afternoon. The House of Representatives had passed the conference report last week. It now heads to the White House for President Donald Trump's assent.

"The legislation reduces the total amount of funds provided for reimbursement to Pakistan to USD 150 million. This is a significant reduction from the USD 700 million that was authorized through Coalition Support Fund (CSF) last year," Anish Goel, who was part of Barack Obama's White House National Security Council, told PTI.

However, in doing so, the legislation gets rid of the certification requirements for Pakistan's action



against the Haqqani Network and it also gets rid of the authority to reimburse Pakistan for counter-terrorism, he said.

"Hence, the Pentagon no longer has any tools to put pressure on Pakistan to undertake counter-terrorism activities or action against the Haqqani Network," Goel, who till recently was a senior staffer in the Senate Armed Services Committee, said.

During the previous Obama administration, Pakistan used to get nearly 1.2 billion aid from the US under the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 also known as the Kerry-Lugar-Berman Act.

US President Donald Trump since assuming office has been tough on Pakistan over its inaction against terror groups. Trump in August last year unveiled his new South Asia policy and asked Pakistan to do more against such groups.

The US in January suspended more

than USD 1.15 billion security assistance to Pakistan, accusing it of harboring terror groups like the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network within its border and showing unwillingness to take "decisive actions" against them.

The US has also voiced its disapproval of growing Chinese involvement in Pakistan, adding to tensions in bilateral ties. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday had cautioned the IMF against a possible fresh bailout for Pakistan's new government to pay off Chinese lenders who have invested in the strategic China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Joshua White, who was also a part of Obama's White House National Security Council team and worked on Pakistan, said this year's defense legislation significantly reduces the amount of security assistance that Pakistan can theoretically receive outside of traditional Foreign Military Financing.

"It makes Pakistan ineligible for Coalition Support Funds (CSF), but adds Pakistan to a list of countries that can receive a related form of assistance designed to help partner nations bolster border security," White told PTI and observed, "This legislation is a mixed blessing for Pakistan." (Read full story on www.theindianpanoramanews)

IN GURUGRAM, MUSLIM MAN FORCED TO SHAVE BEARD AFTER ARGUMENT



Jaffruddin talking to the media.

GURUGRAM (TIP): A Muslim man was allegedly forced to shave his beard and thrashed following an altercation in Gurugram's Sector 29. A resident of Haryana's Mewat, Jaffruddin had come to Gurgaon to meet his friend when the accused started abusing the victim in Khandsa Mandi area on Tuesday.

"Jaffruddin initially ignored the religious insults, but later got into an argument. Then the accused started thrashing Jaffruddin. They took him to a salon and chopped his beard off," Gurgaon Police public relations officer Subhash Bokan told PTI.

They also threatened to kill Jaffruddin if he approached the police. However, the next morning, Jaffruddin went to Sector 37 police station and filed an FIR.

"Three persons have been arrested. This is an isolated incident and no organisation is involved in it," said Sumit Kuhar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Gurugram (Crime).

The accused have been identified as Gaurav, Eklash from Uttar Pradesh and Nitin from Haryana. *Source: PTI*

NRI MAN SEES 'SLEAZY' VIDEO OF WIFE, BURNS HER, CHILDREN, SELF IN PUNJAB

KAPURTHALA (TIP): Upset over his wife's alleged affair, an NRI burnt himself, his wife and their two children alive at their house in Kalasingia village of Punjab, police said on August 2.

Kulwinder Singh, 35, who lived in Jordan, was enraged after coming across a video of his wife, they said.

At his native village Kalasingia, he poured petrol on himself, his wife and their two children and set them on fire, police added. Singh, along with his two children Abhi, 5, and Sonal, 8, died on the spot while his wife received more than 80 per cent burn injuries. She later died at a hospital.

Police have registered a case against four people of the same village for making the video around three months ago. The accused blackmailed the woman and later sent the video to her husband. *Source: PTI*

UNION MINISTER ARUN JAITLEY SET TO RESUME WORK IN AUGUST: REPORT

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union minister Arun Jaitley will be back at his North Block office later this month after a three-month-long hiatus, according to people familiar with the matter. Jaitley, who was named Finance Minister by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, underwent a renal transplant in mid-May. Jaitley's first-floor corner office in North Block is being renovated and sanitised so that the minister is protected against infection, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

Jaitley's three-month quarantine period, prescribed by doctors, will end by mid-August, they said. Jaitley has been active on social media for the last few weeks, from taking on opposition parties to writing on issues including cuts to the goods and services tax rates. *Source: Bloomberg*



2019 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

17 Oppn parties to approach EC seeking use of ballot papers

NEW DELHI (TIP): Seventeen Opposition parties, including the Trinamool Congress, are planning to approach the Election Commission, demanding that ballot papers be used to conduct the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

The 17 parties would meet next week to discuss the plan.

"This is a matter on which all Opposition parties agreed. We are planning to meet next week. We plan to go to Election Commission and demand that the EC conduct the coming Lok Sabha elections using ballot papers," TMC leader Derek O'Brien told reporters.

The initiative to solicit the support of all Opposition parties on the matter was taken by TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday, when she visited Parliament to meet Opposition leaders and invite them for her planned rally in Kolkata on 19 January.

Banerjee was heard appealing to opposition party leaders who visited her in the TMC office in Parliament, to send a joint delegation to the Election Commission over reports of EVM tampering and to demand that the 2019 general election be held on ballots.



"All opposition parties should go to EC on this matter. There should be a joint delegation of opposition parties to EC," Banerjee was heard telling opposition party leaders, including from the Congress. The TMC had staged protests outside Parliament, questioning the neutrality of electronic voting machines, and demanded that ballot papers be brought back for the 2019 Lok

Sabha election. The ruling party in West Bengal said it is a "common programme" that will unite all opposition parties.

Interestingly, Banerjee had also urged the Shiv Sena, a BJP ally, to be a part of the delegation.

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray previously demanded that the 2019 Lok Sabha election be conducted using ballot papers instead of EVMs. *Source: PTI*

SC: Adultery law arbitrary, smacks of gender bias

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on August 2 said that there is no rational basis in the adultery law and called the penal provision which requires a woman to have her husband's consent to indulge in adultery as manifestly arbitrary, discriminatory and suffering from gender bias.

A five-Judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, said, "If there is consent of husband, then there is no adultery, which is absurd. This is another indicator of gender bias."

"If sexual freedom is a fundamental right then why should adultery remain a criminal law for man alone. If adultery has its basis in woman being a property of man then Section 497 of IPC is discriminatory," he said.

The bench said it would see whether the provision can stand the test of the right to equality on grounds like "discretion and manifest arbitrariness".

The bench, which also included Justices Rohinton Nariman, A.M. Kanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, also questioned the logic behind punishing only the man, treating him as an accused and not the woman by treating her as a victim when both the partners derive equal benefit.

The court made these initial observation during the hearing on petitions challenging the validity of IPC Section 497 punishing only the man in adultery cases. Arguments will continue on August 7.

"Adultery law reduces woman into a chattel. There is no crime if a woman has an extramarital relationship with the consent or connivance of her husband. Are women the chattels of their husbands?" asked the court.

Justice Malhotra said, "If there is consent of husband, then there is no adultery which is absurd. This is another indicator of gender bias in that woman is considered chattel."

Justice Chandrachud told counsel Kaleeswaram Raj, appearing for petitioner Joseph Shine, "Each partner to a marriage is equally responsible to keep the sanctity of marriage intact. If a married woman has sexual intercourse with a married man other than her husband, why should the man alone be punished when woman too is equal partner to



the crime? Such a distinction appears manifestly arbitrary."

Justice Chandrachud cited a situation where a woman has been staying away from her estranged husband for years. If a woman then has a sexual intercourse with some other man, will it still lead to prosecution under Section 497 on a complaint by her estranged husband? This provision is "peculiar" as there is no offence if sexual intercourse is done by a man with another's wife with the consent or connivance of that woman's husband, he added.

The judge pointed out that the government's rationale that this provision will protect sanctity of marriage doesn't look sound.

"Sanctity of marriage is gone even when a married man has sexual intercourse with an unmarried woman but that's not a crime. It is a crime only if a man has relations with a married woman and the husband of the woman complains. The judge remarked that sanctity of marriage goes out of the window in such situations but the legislature has criminalised only one instance," he said.

CJI Misra, however, drew the distinction between adultery as a criminal offence and as a civil wrong which has been used as a ground for seeking divorce in matrimonial disputes.

The apex court said, "As far as criminalisation or decriminalisation of adultery as an offence is concerned, it is in one compartment. Adultery cannot cease to be a ground for seeking divorce by estranged couple in a court of law."

Over 40 lakh left out of draft National Register of Citizens in Assam

NEW DELHI (TIP): More than 40 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants in Assam were left out of the complete draft National Register of Citizens (NRC), which was published on Monday. The five year exercise was completed at a cost of Rs1,220 crore.

The draft NRC was released in Guwahati by Registrar General of India Sailesh and NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela in the presence of Joint Director (Northeast) in the Ministry of Home Affairs Satyendra Garg.

While the publication of the list triggered a political row in Parliament, the situation in Assam remained largely peaceful, with thousands lining up at NRC Nagarik Seva Kendras (NSKs) to check their status.

Soon after the list was released, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit out at the Centre, accusing it of resorting to "vote bank politics". "This divide and rule policy will finish the country," she said at a press conference in Kolkata.

Including first list

As many as 3,29,91,384 people had applied and the applications of 2,89,83,677 were accepted, said Mr. Sailesh.

The final draft included the names of 1.9 crore applicants who were listed in the first draft published on December 31, 2017.

"The remaining 40,007,707 applicants, whose names didn't figure in the list will be given ample opportunity through a process of claims and objections till September 28, and their citizenship status will not be questioned till the final, error-free draft is prepared," Sailesh said.

Sailesh and Hajela, however, did not specify when the final draft would be prepared. But they indicated the period for claims and objections could be extended by a month.

Those not on the list include 2.48 lakh Doubtful-voters (D-voters) and their siblings and descendants.

'List not final'

"The process has been completely



Those excluded must get fair chance: SC

The Supreme Court said that all those whose names haven't been included in the list must get a fair chance to prove their claims. Attorney General KK Venugopal requested the apex court to issue orders for no coercive action unless full opportunity is granted to everyone.

The Centre told the Supreme Court that it is contemplating taking biometrics details of over 40 lakh people, whose names did not figure in the final NRC draft in Assam, to avoid their influx to other states on false identity. "To allay the fear of states, the government is contemplating to collect biometric data of over 40 lakh people, so that if declared foreigners escapes to another state under a false identity then they may be tracked by authorities concerned," Venugopal said. To this, the bench said the government is free to do whatever it wants and the court will examine it.

"You do whatever you like. At this

moment, we would not like to comment. You do it, then we will examine it. Our silence is not a symbol of agreement nor assurance," the bench said. The bench comprising Justices Ranjan Gogoi and RF Nariman also said that the document released on Monday was just a draft. The Supreme Court, on its part, made it clear that publication of draft NRC can't form the basis of action against anyone by authorities and that the legal process will have to be followed after giving due opportunity to those whose names are missing. It further asked the central government to lay down the standard operating procedure on NRC and submit it for approval. Towards the end of the hearing, an association of transgenders requested the bench to give 20,000 transgenders a second chance to fill NRC forms. The bench said, "You missed the bus. We cannot re-open the entire exercise now". The next date of hearing is 16 August.

transparent, fair, objective and meticulously carried out," Mr. Sailesh said. Reiterating that the list released was only a draft and not the final one, he said, "Those not in the draft will get ample

opportunity with adequate time to establish their citizenship claim. People who lack knowledge will be provided assistance. Full justice will be meted to all." Source: *The Hindu*



INDIA LIKELY TO POSTPONE RAISING TARIFFS ON US GOODS

NEW DELHI (TIP): India plans to delay the imposition of retaliatory duties on US goods, the trade ministry said on Thursday, to allow time to resolve disputes that worsened after President Donald Trump imposed tariff hikes on steel and aluminium.

In June, New Delhi, incensed by Washington's refusal to exempt it from these new tariffs, announced it would raise import tax on some US products including almonds, walnuts and apples.

A commerce ministry spokesman said the government proposed to put the new tariffs, which were due to go into effect on August 4, on hold.

Trade differences between India and the United States have been rising since Trump took office. Bilateral trade rose to \$115 billion in 2016, but the Trump administration wants to reduce its \$31 billion deficit with India, and is pressing New Delhi to ease trade barriers.

"The Ministry of Commerce has suggested to the department of revenue to amend the notification for further extension of retaliatory measures for 45 days," Monideepa Mukherjee, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, told Reuters. Source: Reuters

SWISS COURT SAYS CAN GIVE BANK CLIENT DATA TO INDIA IN TAX EVASION CASE

ZURICH (TIP): Switzerland's highest court has allowed tax authorities to turn over bank account details of two Indian citizens who had fought the release on the grounds that India's request for assistance in a tax-dodging probe arose from stolen bank data.

The case involved information leaked by whistleblower Herve Falciani, a French citizen who worked for HSBC's Swiss private bank and in 2008 disclosed details on thousands of clients he suspected were using accounts to evade tax. The information sparked investigations in several countries and put Swiss banking secrecy in a harsh spotlight. Swiss courts have sentenced Falciani in absentia to five years in jail for industrial espionage but he has avoided prison by remaining outside Switzerland. Source: Reuters

Dissident AAP MLAs defy party, declare Punjab unit 'autonomous'

BATHINDA (TIP): In an act of rebellion, a group of AAP legislators led by Sukhpal Singh Khaira on Aug 2 declared the party's Punjab unit autonomous and dissolved its current organisational structure.

But even while adopting this resolution at a public meeting here, Khaira gave a week's time to the leadership in Delhi to review its decision to remove him from the post of Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly.

Altogether, eight of the 20 AAP MLAs in Punjab took part in the volunteers' convention called here by the Bolath legislator after his removal from the post.

The AAP leadership had summoned all Punjab MLAs to Delhi today to indicate that they were not with Khaira's "anti-party" move. At least 11 of them came to meet the leaders in the capital.

"The Dalit card is a political gimmick to remove me", Khaira said at the convention, referring to Dalit leader Harpal Singh Cheema appointment in his place.

The convention unanimously resolved that the party's Punjab unit was autonomous, and will take its own decisions.



Dissident Punjab AAP MLAs, including former leader of opposition Sukhpal Singh Khaira, at a convention in Bathinda on August 2.

It dissolved the current organisational structure in the state and tasked the dissident MLAs and the convention organisers to frame a new one.

One of the resolutions said the existing organisational structure had eroded the AAP's image and its base in the state.

The convention flayed Khaira's removal as Leader of Opposition in an "undemocratic way" and rejected Cheema's appointment.

Launching a veiled attack on top leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia from the stage he shared with the seven other dissident MLAs, Khaira said, "Punjab cannot be run by remote control."

Khaira said he does not accept the "dictatorial" approach adopted by the "subedars".

"I can sacrifice hundreds of such posts for the welfare of the people of Punjab," he said,

addressing a sizeable gathering of supporters.

Khaira proposed forging a third front of like-minded parties to rid Punjab of the Congress and the Akali Dal as they had "ruined the state."

"Power and money is in play in Punjab politics today," he said.

He said he will start his journey by seeking blessings at the Golden Temple in Amritsar and will visit all 22 districts in the state.

Rallies will be organised at various places, he said.

He thanked the NRIs for their support in bringing the volunteers together and added that the other major parties are perplexed with the response they were getting.

The other MLAs who expressed solidarity with Khaira are Kanwar Sandhu from Kharar; Nazar Singh Mansahia (Mansa), Kulwant Singh (Mehal Kalan), Baldev Singh (Jaitu), Pirmal Singh (Bhadaur), Jagdev Singh Kamalu (Maur) and Jagtar Singh Jagga (Raipur).

The party plunged into a crisis in Punjab when Khaira was removed from his post in the Assembly on July 26. Source: PTI

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Suhana Khan takes her first step in showbiz with a photoshoot

Shah Rukh Khan's darling daughter Suhana Khan has stepped into the world of glamour and how. The 18-year-old is now the face of a fashion magazine's August edition and daddy Shah Rukh couldn't have been prouder. "Holding her in my arms again thanks to Vogue. 'What imperfect carriers of love we are...' except when it comes to our children. So sending u all my love & a big hug. Hello Suhana Khan!" wrote SRK as he launched the cover of August edition of fashion magazine Vogue on Tuesday.

Oozing confidence and oomph in every shot, Suhana looks every bit stunning in her first ever photoshoot. In a glimpse of the shoot tweeted by Gauri, the young and vibrant Suhana shared she has "crooked fingers", is binge-watching "Black Mirror on Netflix" and one character trait she shares with her father is their "shy nature". The magazine describes her as "Student, theatre lover, future star".

While Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan's friends cannot stop gushing over the first photoshoot of the new star on the block, it is Karan Johar who is overwhelmed by it. Sharing one of the many photos of Suhana from the shoot, he wrote, "Have seen her on stage and had my heart bursting with pride!! She is stunning, soulful and a bonafide talent! Welcome to the spotlight my darling! Even in its harshest moments it will envelop you with immense love....and thank you for never calling me UNCLE! Love you."

KANGANA CONFIRMS PRIYANKA CHOPRA-NICK JONAS ENGAGEMENT

Putting an end to days of speculation about Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra's engagement to musician beau Nick Jonas, her friend and actor Kangana Ranaut on July 31 night said she congratulated the Quantico star and the latter seems "excited and very happy."

Priyanka, who is yet to open up about her relationship publicly, reportedly got engaged to Nick on her birthday two weeks ago. The speculation was fuelled by director Ali Abbas Zafar, who while announcing Priyanka's exit from his upcoming film Bharat, said she informed the team about her decision in the "Nick of time."

At the Vogue Beauty Awards 2018, Kangana was asked if she was looking forward to Priyanka's wedding.

"I spoke to Priyanka the other day and I congratulated her. She responded in a very... She seems excited and very happy. If such an event is taking place, I'd love to celebrate with her because she is lovely and she deserves all the happiness. She is a very dear friend. I get very happy and excited with weddings and engagements." Kangana told reporters at the event.

When asked if Priyanka Chopra has confirmed the wedding date, Kangana Ranaut replied, "Not to me."

Nick and Priyanka made a public appearance together at last year's MET gala. Since that event, the two have been inseparable. In a 2017 interview with Jimmy Kimmel, the late-night talk show host asked Priyanka about the dating rumours after their arrival at the MET gala last year. The actor had then replied, "Yeah, we were on the same table and we already know each other. So he was like 'Hey, you wanna go together?' And I was like, 'Yeah, OK, let's go together.' It ended up working out."



Rajkummar Rao says romancing Aishwarya Rai in Fanny Khan was weird yet fun

Acting is the "art of giving" for him and Rajkummar Rao says he would not be truthful to this belief if insecurities overpower him as a performer. Rao is the man of the moment in Bollywood with back-to-back projects and while he calls his routine "hectic", he is not complaining.

"I always feel secure. I can't be a pure actor if I feel insecure. I can't let other things take over my love for acting. For me it's a giving art. It is not something which I am doing for myself. I am doing it for my co-actors, unless it is something like 'Trapped'. Acting for me is giving to your co-actors," Rao told PTI in an interview.

Not insecurities, but nervousness does trouble the 33-year-old actor at times.

"There are times when I do feel very nervous when I start a film. And I feel very nervous before the release. I do get stuck in some scenes but that's very natural and human. It happens to all the artistes in the world," he adds.

Rao believes the change in the definition of a "hero" in Hindi cinema has opened a lot of avenues for actors like him and he credits writers, new age directors and audiences for this shift.

"They are the ones who are writing such characters and audiences are interested in watching them. People are falling in love with



characters now and that is why writers are creating such stories. I am really happy that such stories are getting prominence. "That is the reason why actors like me are getting the

chances to portray great characters on-screen. I think it's the relatability factor which works between me and the audiences. I am one of them. They connect with me as they see a part

of them in me," he says.

The actor is currently one of the busiest stars in the film industry with films like Fanny Khan, Stree, 5 Weddings, Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga in his kitty, but he does not mind switching from one set to the other.

"It is hectic. But as long as I am enjoying what I am doing and I am getting different parts to play I have no complains. It is definitely manageable and practically possible. I am getting the chance to work on some amazing stories and I will keep doing it.

"People like Anil sir (Anil Kapoor), Amit ji (Amitabh Bachchan) inspire me to keep moving forward and apart from that, the fact that I love my job as an actor keeps pushing me ahead. I never had a plan B. I honestly wanted to be an actor and dedicate my life to movies," Rao says.

The actor is excited about his upcoming film, Fanny Khan, which also features Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Pihu Sand and Divya Dutta.

Source: PTI



Emma Thompson: I was always paid less than my male counterparts

Emma Thompson says she was always paid less than her male colleagues. The 59-year-old actor-writer said women are still treated as “second-class citizens”. She also advocated to publish salaries to reveal the gender pay gap.

“I was always paid less than my male counterparts. Publishing figures is the first step. “It’s a forensic way of looking at how women are second-class citizens, and I appreciate that because it’s not emotional. This is the fact: this person does the same work for less money, and that’s just wrong,” Thompson told Good Housekeeping

The Oscar-winning star urged women to be financially independent. “Earn your own living and keep your own money. It’s your cash and you should always decide what to do with it,” she said.

Emma Thompson has been a part of several super hit films like Sense And Sensibility, Love, Actually, Howard’s End and the Harry Potter series. The actor has won two Oscars, two Baftas and two Golden Globes for her stellar performances in her more than three-decade-long career in Hollywood.

Emma is currently working on the Hollywood adaptation of McEwan’s bestseller The Children Act. She will be seen portraying the lead role in the film which also stars Dunkirk star Fionn Whitehead.

Source: PTI

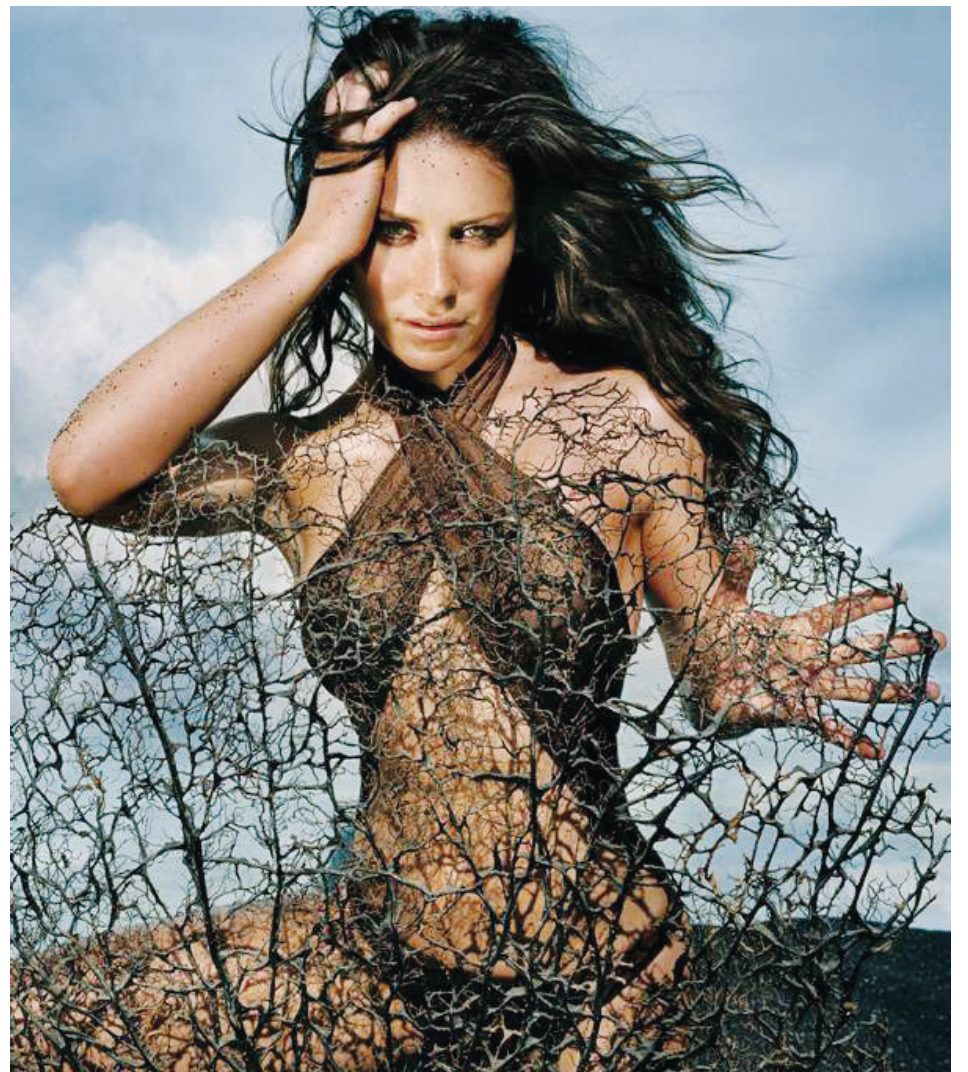
WHEN ANT-MAN AND THE WASP STAR EVANGELINE LILLY GOT STUNG BY AN ACTUAL WASP

This summer, Ant-Man and the Wasp arrived in theaters and the movie delivered on the promise of finally introducing audiences to The Wasp. After her debut in Ant-Man, Evangeline Lilly got to suit up and deliver a memorable performance as The Wasp, working perfectly as a more serious counter to Paul Rudd’s Scott Lang. All in all, people have seemed to really enjoy the character, but actual wasps? Well, that’s a different story. Turns out one wasp wasn’t too thrilled with how it was portrayed on screen and stung Lilly. Here’s Lilly recounting the incident.

Isn’t it weird how Ant-Man can control ants and use them for all sort of situations, but the Wasp can’t do the same with wasps? Not that she really needs to do that, but maybe wasps just aren’t as versatile as ants. Whatever the case is, Evangeline Lilly probably wished that she could control wasps after one stung her. The actress shared the story over Twitter in a video post, explaining that she was stung by a wasp for the first time. She’s currently trying to control the swelling by smearing toothpaste on it, but she’s expecting a full recovery. The suspected wasp is currently in police custody.

After making her debut as Hope van Dyne in Ant-Man back in 2015, Evangeline Lilly formally suited up as the Wasp in Ant-Man and the Wasp. The movie tracks her mission to rescue her mother, the original Wasp Janet van Dyne, from the Quantum Realm, but the villainous Ghost intervenes with motives of her own. While one of the more intense characters in the very silly movie, the Wasp still got plenty of chances to get in on the fun. She also got some pretty cool action sequences, so fans are excited to find out where she will appear next in the MCU.

Well, those fans won’t have to wait long. The Wasp will make her appearance on a



grandeur scale in Avengers 4, but there aren’t many details about what her exact role will be. Evangeline Lilly has previously said that she isn’t in the movie for very long, but given what happens at the end of Ant-Man and the Wasp, that’s still a pretty

intriguing statement. Ant-Man has already gotten some Avengers time in Captain America: Civil War and will do so again in Avengers 4, so it’ll be interesting to see how Hope interacts with the rest of the superhero community.

Mission Impossible Fallout actor Rebecca Ferguson: I don’t go looking for roles of strong women



Rebecca Ferguson feels lucky that “men write incredible roles” for her. But the actor says she doesn’t go looking for “strong roles”.

“It is funny because when I read a script, I don’t read it from that perspective. I don’t pick a role on that basis or go looking for strong women (that I can portray on-screen),” Ferguson told IANS in an interview here when asked about the strong characters that she has brought alive on the big screen.

She wonders if strength translates to whether the character has a “purpose” in the narrative.

“Maybe it means that the character has a purpose. I don’t think strength is only physical strength. I think (it is about) being able to create a purpose for your character. I like the idea if you take a person out of the film then that film will have holes. And that is very important to me. Otherwise there is no necessity of that person,” she added.

The Swedish-English actor has made a name for herself in Hollywood by being part of projects like Hercules, Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation, The Girl on the Train and The Greatest Showman. She is back as Ilsa Faust in Mission: Impossible Fallout.

The actress is going forward in her career with a fearless attitude.

“I am who I am and I do what I do. I don’t stand down and fear the consequences of being who I am with men and women. Maybe, I am lucky that I have had men write incredible roles for me,” she added.

Ferguson said it is a “good time” in Hollywood courtesy the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements, which are bringing people together to create an equal workplace environment.

“We are in a good time right now. There are a lot of discussions and I can feel it on the sets. It is not only in the film world. It is all over and hopefully it is just the beginning and it will continue.” The actress lauds the “Mission:

Impossible” film franchise — which stars Hollywood icon Tom Cruise as the main lead, Ethan Hunt — for having gender equality at its core.

“I always felt very equal and felt like a woman amongst the men. But that is also because I got to do everything that they were doing. We were training together and having fun together.

“So, even before shooting the film with Vanessa Kirby and Angela Bassett and Michelle Monaghan — the quality is already established on the set, which is fantastic in a way it should be,” she said.

Talking about her character Ilsa Faust, she said: “I love her. I think she is interesting, fascinating and I think what makes her relatable for me is that there is not just the good and bad sides. “There is the middle ground. She has one side which is very exciting but she also has vulnerability as part of her personality.”

Source: IANS



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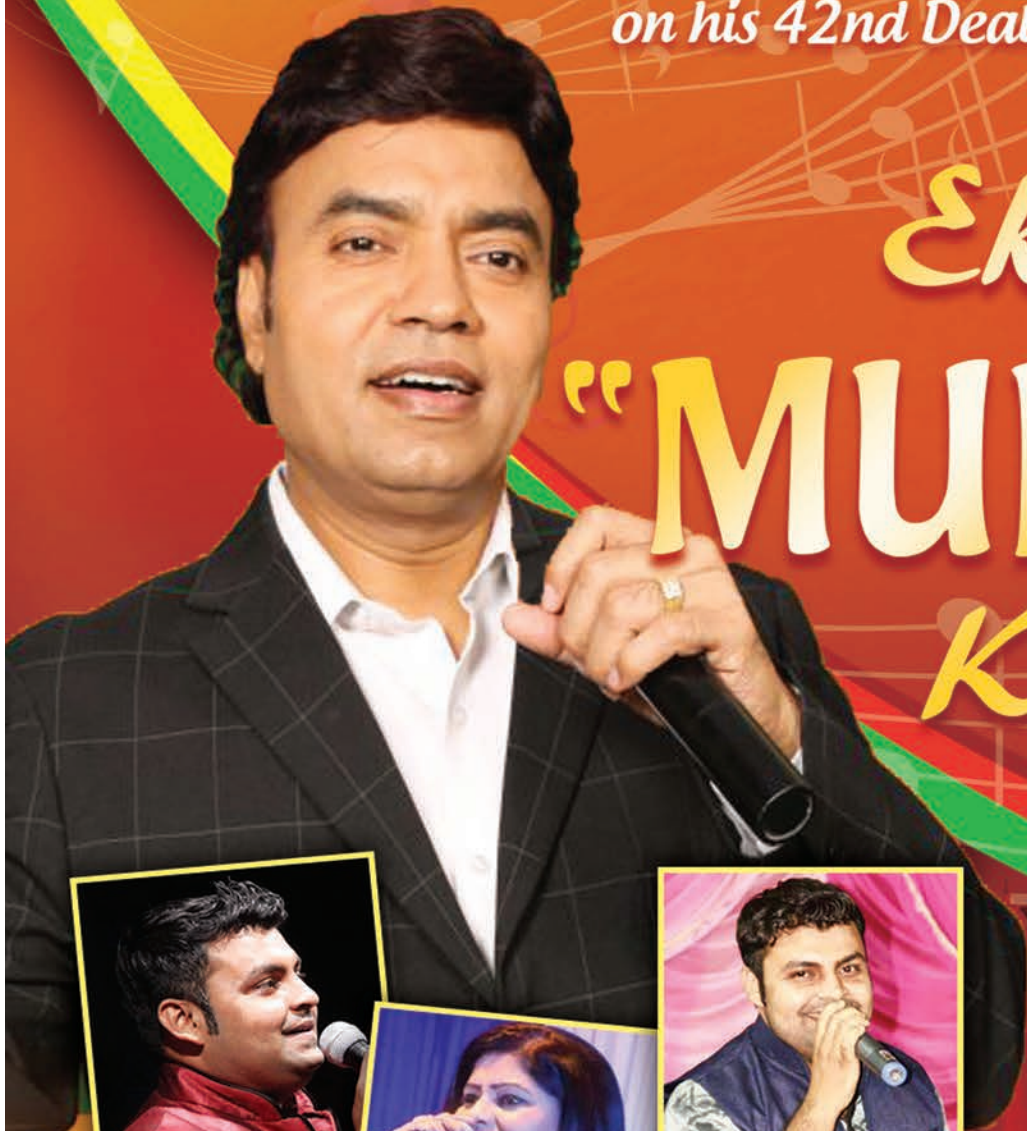
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THE POPE'S GROUNDBREAKING REJECTION OF DEATH PENALTY

In a revised version of the Catechism, the punishment is deemed unacceptable to Christianity

ROME (TIP): Pope Francis has approved a change to the official teachings of the Catholic Church, calling for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. The pope has frequently spoken out against the death penalty; in a speech in Rome last year, for example, Francis called the punishment "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." The new change to the Catechism, which is the official body of the Church's teachings, formalizes that opposition based on "an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost, even after the commission of very serious crimes."

In approving this change, Francis has sent a signal about his priorities—and his posture toward change. The Church has underscored its opposition to the destruction of any kind of life, even when that means defying the state. And Francis is willing to alter Church teaching to make that clear.

The Church has not always been a clear opponent of the death penalty. As Francis pointed out in his 2017 address, past popes presided over executions when they governed the Papal States, the territory in present-day Italy that was controlled by the Church until the late-19th century. Some of these killings were particularly gruesome: When Pope Clement VIII declared Giordano Bruno a heretic in 1600, the philosopher was tied to a stake, burned alive, and dumped in the Tiber. Francis rebuked his predecessors: "Let us take responsibility for the past and recognize that the imposition of the death penalty was dictated by a mentality more legalistic than Christian."

In recent years, however, the Church has been steadily moving toward a rejection of the practice. In 1995, Pope John Paul II welcomed efforts to oppose the death penalty in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, affirming that "modern society in fact has the means of effectively suppressing crime ...



Pope rejected death penalty and said, "Let us take responsibility for the past and recognize that the imposition of the death penalty was dictated by a mentality more legalistic than Christian."

without definitively denying [criminals] the chance to reform." Some local groups of bishops have prioritized this issue: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, for example, has frequently urged legislatures and governors to reject the procedure and put this issue at the center of its advocacy efforts. But the Church never quite declared its full opposition to the death penalty. John Paul II wrote that cases in which the death penalty is an "absolute necessity" are "very rare, if not practically non-existent," but allowed for those exceptions. Until this week, the Catechism had taught that "traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty" if it's the only way to protect human lives.

Now Francis has moved to make the Church's position on the death penalty absolute. "The death penalty is an inhumane measure that, regardless of how it is carried out,

abuses human dignity," he said last fall. He called for an official change to the Catechism, which was formalized this week.

For all of Francis's moral resolution, changing Church teachings is a big step, and can be controversial. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican body that oversees Church teachings, justified the update based on "new" context: "increasing awareness" of the dignity of human beings, a "new understanding" of the consequences of state punishment, and the development of "more effective systems of detention" that still allow for the "possibility of redemption." Because of this, the Church has concluded that the death penalty is "inadmissible." The Church's new position doesn't actually contradict past teachings, they claimed; the context is what has changed.

In general, this posture toward change has been one of Francis's legacies: He believes Church teachings should be updated to reflect contemporary moral understandings. As he said in his 2017 address on the death penalty, "The word of God cannot be mothballed like some old blanket in an attempt to keep insects at bay!"

This is a controversial position within an institution that has often declared itself a bulwark against the moral relativism of modern times. Even when Francis has clearly desired to change Church teachings on various subjects, he has framed these changes as continuous with past teachings and has had to navigate dramatic internal Church politics along the way.

The new Catholic teaching on the death penalty underscores the Church's commitment to the preservation of life. But it's also a case study in how the Church can choose to change to meet the moral demands of modern times.

(Source: The Atlantic)

Mexico and Canada set to finalise deal with US on key Nafta rule

MICHIGAN (TIP): The United States and Mexico are nearing a deal on the key issue of autos content rules at talks to renew the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexican and Canadian officials said on Wednesday.

Guillermo Malpica, head of the trade and NAFTA office for the Mexican government, said the United States had "started showing more flexibility last week" on autos content and other topics at the negotiations, which have dragged on for almost a year.

Speaking to reporters, Malpica said "we are getting close" to an agreement on the so-called autos rules of origin, which dictate how much of a vehicle must be made in the three NAFTA nations to qualify for duty-free status.

Canadian trade negotiator Colin Bird told an auto industry conference in Michigan on Wednesday that NAFTA negotiators are making progress on auto content rules, and endorsed the concept of linking those rules to improving workers' wages.

"Harnessing the power of trade agreements to promote higher wages is the kind of policy all three countries can get behind," Bird said. Speaking to local media on Tuesday, Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo also suggested that negotiators have made progress on auto salaries. The US and Canadian trade unions have complained that more manufacturing has gravitated to Mexico due to the country's low wages. Mexico balked at the prospect of foreign intervention in salaries, but the debate has shifted, Guajardo said.

"Now what we are talking about is that a percentage of what is made in North America would be made in a high-salary zone," he said. "What does this mean? That clearly, within the component of 100 per cent of an automobile made in (the NAFTA zone), a percentage, it could be about 35 to 40 per cent, is made in a high-salary zone."

The Mexican peso spiked 0.2 per cent to its strongest level of the day after news of progress on the autos element of talks, before slipping back. Some analysts forecast the peso will appreciate to below 18 per dollar from its current level of 18.6 if there is a deal. (Reuters)

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern finds new focus as a parent

Ardern is just the second elected world leader in recent history to give birth while holding office, and her story has provided inspiration for working mothers around the world.

Auckland (TIP): New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said those are the things she has obsessed over the most as a new parent, and that the experience of focusing on such basic needs for her baby girl has helped her appreciate why people with young families may not find time for politics.

"So it's our job to make sure that we are serving the needs of people, regardless of whether they have time to engage with what we're doing or not," she said. "That's something that's been really amplified for me."

Ardern spoke with The Associated Press on Thursday at her bungalow in Auckland as she prepared to return to the capital, Wellington, after six weeks of leave following the birth of daughter Neve.

Ardern, 38, is just the second elected world leader in recent history to give birth while holding office, and her story has provided inspiration for working mothers around the world. Ardern said ordinary folk from as far afield as the Netherlands and India have written to congratulate her. But she said that as she came to the end of her leave, she was anxious to demonstrate that she and her partner Clarke Gayford, who will become Neve's primary caregiver, can create a



routine that works.

"That I will come back and do the job that I promised to do," Ardern said.

Asked if she felt pressure to be a role model as a working mother in such a high-profile job, she said that every new parent feels some degree of pressure. "I just happen to be doing it publicly," she said. "So I guess it's different in one regard. But one day, hopefully, it won't be."

She said that becoming a parent hasn't

changed her views on specific government policies, other than reinforcing her view that there needs to be a clear and strong focus on supporting families. She said her vision for the country was for it to live up to how people perceived it.

"We believe ourselves to be clean and green. We believe ourselves to be fair minded, to have a strong sense of social justice, and we think we're innovative," she said. (AP)

Zimbabwe presidential polls: Emmerson Mnangagwa wins Country's first post-Mugabe election

Zimbabwe presidential election: While election day was peaceful in a break from the past, deadly violence on August 1 against people protesting alleged vote-rigging reminded many Zimbabweans of the decades of military-backed repression under Mugabe.

Harare (zimbabwe) (TIP): Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa won election Friday with just over 50 percent of the ballots as the ruling party maintained control of the government in the first vote since the fall of longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

Mnangagwa received 50.8 percent of the vote while main opposition challenger Nelson Chamisa received 44.3 per cent. The opposition is almost certain to challenge the results in the courts or in the streets.

While election day was peaceful in a break from the past, deadly violence on Wednesday against people protesting alleged vote-rigging reminded many Zimbabweans of the decades of military-backed repression under Mugabe.

Zimbabwe's president says he is "humbled" by his win.

"Though we may have been divided at the polls, we are united in our dreams," Mnangagwa said on Twitter.

"This is a new beginning. Let us join hands, in peace, unity & love, & together build a new Zimbabwe for all!" Mnangagwa tweeted, after a week that began with peaceful voting Monday but spiraled into deadly violence in the capital Wednesday as the military fired on protesters.

Western election observers who were banned in previous votes have expressed concern at the military's "excessive" force in the capital, Harare. Their assessments of the election are crucial to the lifting of international sanctions on a country whose economy collapsed years ago.

Shortly before the election commission's announcement, Morgen Komichi, the chief agent for Chamisa's opposition alliance, took the stage and said his party "totally rejects" the results and said he had not signed the election results. Police escorted him from the room.

Later Komichi said the elections were "fraudulent" and "everything has been done illegally." He said he had refused an electoral commission request to sign papers certifying Mnangagwa's win.

"We're not part of it," said Komichi, adding that the



opposition would be challenging the election in the courts.

Commission chair Priscilla Chigumba urged the country to "move on" with the hopeful spirit of election day and beyond the "blemishes" of Wednesday's chaos: "May God bless this nation and its people."

With the military still deployed in Harare, the capital's streets were quiet following the announcement of Mnangagwa's victory.

By the center where the election results were announced, Charity Manyeruke, who teaches political science at the University of Zimbabwe, said she was delighted.

"There is continuity, stability," Manyeruke said. "Zimbabwe is poised for nation-building."

The signs that Mnangagwa's election will be disputed appears to deepen a political crisis that was worsened by Wednesday's violence in Harare as the military swept in with gunfire to disperse opposition supporters alleging vote-rigging. The death toll rose to six, with 14 injured, police said, and 18 people were arrested at the offices of the main opposition party amid tensions over a vote that was supposed to restore trust in Zimbabwe after decades of Mugabe's rule.

While Mnangagwa and the ruling party accused the opposition of inciting the violence, the opposition, human

rights activists and international election observers condemned the "excessive" force used against protesters and appealed to all sides to exercise restraint.

Police raided the headquarters of Chamisa's Movement for Democratic Change party while a lawyers' group said Chamisa was being investigated for allegedly inciting violence. He and several others are suspected of the crimes of "possession of dangerous weapons" and "public violence," according to a copy of a search warrant seen by The Associated Press.

Chamisa, however, said police seized computers and were looking for what he called evidence that his party had gathered of vote-rigging by Mnangagwa's party. The evidence already had been moved to a "safe house," he said.

Mnangagwa called for an "independent investigation" into Wednesday's violence, saying those responsible "should be identified and brought to justice."

Mnangagwa was a longtime Mugabe confidante before his firing in November led his allies in the military to step in and push Mugabe to resign after 37 years in power. Thousands of jubilant Zimbabweans celebrated in the streets of Harare, greeting the military with selfies and cheers.

Since taking office, the 75-year-old Mnangagwa has tried to recast himself as a voice of reform, declaring that Zimbabwe was "open for business" and inviting long-banned Western election observers to observe Monday's vote, which he pledged would be free and fair.

A credible election after past votes were marred by violence against the opposition and alleged irregularities is crucial for the lifting of international sanctions and for the badly needed foreign investment to help Zimbabwe's long-collapsed economy revive. Mnangagwa himself remains under U.S. sanctions.

While Monday's election has been widely judged as peaceful with a high turnout, the deadly violence that erupted on Wednesday brought back chilly memories of decades of repression under Mugabe. (AP)

At least 317 dead in Nicaragua unrest: OAS

President Daniel Ortega has acknowledged 195 dead, while the independent Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Commission has reported 450.

NICARAGUA (TIP): The human rights arm of the Organization of American States said Thursday that 317 people have been killed during violence surrounding anti-government protests in Nicaragua that began in April.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights said the toll included 23 minors and 21 police officers. President Daniel Ortega has acknowledged 195 dead, while the independent Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Commission has reported 450.

The report came as the OAS adopted a resolution calling for the creation of an OAS working group to promote nationwide dialogue for peace. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada rejected the idea, calling it an "interventionist political maneuver."

"This idea is raised when the attempted coup against President Ortega was already neutralized and while Nicaragua gradually restores its daily life and economy," he said.

The OAS rights body said it had verified that Nicaragua's government has persecuted and criminalized protesters. It said that after protest barricades were forcibly removed between July 19 and 30, authorities used armed hooded men to execute arbitrary and violent arrests. Detainees



were not informed of their rights or the charges against them, it added.

The commission urged Nicaraguan officials "to promptly and seriously investigate each of these crimes." Jose Miguel Vivanco, director of the Americas division for Human Rights Watch, praised the resolution adopted by OAS, calling it "the greatest institutional promotion in defense of democracy and human rights" by the regional body in recent times.

The resolution was adopted by 20 votes in favor, eight abstentions and four votes against. The proposal was introduced by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru and the United States. Mexican Ambassador Jorge Lomonaco noted that Nicaragua's government previously rejected other OAS initiatives but later

accepted them. "This is the way diplomatic processes are. It is part of the negotiations," he said.

He added that the resolution's adoption was important because that while several OAS bodies are already working in Nicaragua, "one ingredient was missing: the role of the united countries. This resolution adds that." The resolution came less than two weeks after the OAS condemned human rights violations committed by Nicaraguan police and pro-government armed civilian groups.

In April, Ortega asked the Roman Catholic Church to mediate in the political unrest, but that effort was suspended after the president refused to give up power before elections scheduled for 2021. Ortega has since criticized church leaders, and his supporters have been accused of harassing and attacking priests. (AP)

Saudi-led coalition strikes on Yemen's Hodeidah fishing port kill 26

There was no immediate comment from the Saudi-led coalition. Saudi Arabia and Sunni Muslim allies have been fighting in Yemen for three years against the Iran-aligned Houthis

HODEIDAH (TIP): Twenty-six people were killed and 35 others were wounded in Saudi-led coalition air strikes on the fishing port and fish market in the Yemeni city of Hodeidah, Yemeni medical sources told Reuters on August 2.

Saudi Arabia and Sunni Muslim allies have been fighting in Yemen for three years against the Iran-aligned Houthis, who control much of north Yemen including the capital Sanaa and drove a Saudi-backed government into exile in 2014. There was no immediate comment from the Saudi-led coalition. (Reuters)

THINGS EVERY WOMAN LOVES TO HEAR

There are endless ways you can compliment women. You can tell them their outfit is killer, that their eyes shine like the light from the sun, or that you love the way they're able to argue with you for an hour straight about why poha is the best breakfast. And yet, so many people (read: men) seem to get it wrong.

Actions speak louder than words, but that doesn't mean that what you say doesn't hold significance in your relationship. There are certain things women appreciate, and they don't always involve gifts and flowers. When it comes to making a woman feel loved, think simple, thoughtful, and sweet.

You smell really good

Whether it's your floral perfume, lavender essential oils, or the bold scent of fearlessness, it's nice to know that other people have noticed how good you smell.

You look so healthy

Instead of telling someone they look so "skinny," or "little," maybe you should just let them know they look healthy. Because ultimately, compliments should make a person feel good about themselves.

You are a genius

Even if it's something like suggesting a two-for-one pizza deal, someone's ingenuity must be recognised.

Your hair looks amazing

Many women will agree that it takes time and effort to look effortlessly good, so compliment away!

What's your skin regimen?

Asking what women do in terms of face and make-up is one of the biggest compliments. It makes women feel like Deepika Padukone, which is not a feeling they can often get.

Can you share your salad recipe



This is an indirect way of saying, "I can't live without this thing you made" and that you're a good cook. Let it be known you appreciate a woman's culinary efforts, because we're telling you, it's not easy making a tasty salad.

I love your house

If you like what a woman's done with her place, totally let her know, because chances are she wants someone to appreciate her interior designing skills.

You're really good at what you do

We should take pride in what we do for a living. Doesn't matter if it's teaching, cooking, singing, marketing, engineering, or writing. Everyone wants to be amazing. So yeah.

You kind of look like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan right now

Or whatever celebrity you want to equate someone to. Come on, it always feels good when someone compares you to someone famous.

Source: HT



HOW TO DEAL WITH A PARTNER WHO CAN'T STOP CHEATING?

Love is blind, they say. And, sometimes, quite literally! How many of us are guilty of forgiving our partners once too often for their hurtful actions? When it comes to a cheating spouse, however, you would think there was no scope for forgiveness. Surprisingly, today, not many think cheating is the ultimate sin in a relationship. If you are one of those who doesn't mind giving your partner a second chance, here are ways you can deal with his or her cheating ways...

Count yourself out

This is less about you and more about your partner. So, quit blaming yourself. Realise that it is a flaw in your significant other that got them to stray from the relationship, so spare yourself thoughts like, 'I am not good enough' or 'I should have been better.' Remember this, if you weren't good enough, they should have dumped you instead of keeping you as a backup while enjoying with someone else.

Confront the person

Yes, we know this sounds more difficult than it seems, but it is important no matter how hard it may be. You cannot let this go without hearing the words, 'Yes I cheated.' Address the person with your doubts (or proof) and let them know that you are aware of their 'fun' time. Make sure you have a face to face conversation about the same.

Get a confession

While confrontation may lead to this step, you've got to be assertive that you ask them clearly whatever is on your mind, so you know the real deal. For instance, if you have a partner who is cheating on you by being just physical with someone, ask them why they did the same. Nonetheless, if your partner were both emotionally and physically available to someone else, that could be a red alert that your relationship has slipped out of your hand for good, and restoring it could take more effort and time.

Check if they are repentant

Going off on a guilt trip post cheating is normal... people do that all the time. But how genuinely sorry is your partner, that is for you to decipher. Is your partner taking it easy, behaving like 'well, cheating is just another thing in a relationship!' If so, he or she is a serial cheater who just doesn't feel sorry about doing you wrong. But if you're with someone who admits they're sorry, and makes efforts to mend their life and your relationship, maybe another chance (depending on how many you've already given them) would not be a bad thing.

Can you forgive

After hearing your partner out, ask yourself this question... Can you forgive them for what they did wrong? While we know this whole space resembles a religious doctrine, we must admit that forgiving your partner is step one of moving on to a healthier space in your relationship. Unless you do the same, there is just no sense in being together. Face it-- it is important to be okay with what went wrong before getting back on track.

Voice out the rules

To set in trust in your relationship, you and your partner need to be vocal about what is right and what (even remotely) seems wrong. Tell the other person about everything that makes you insecure, jealous, possessive and most importantly, everything that is unacceptable to you when in a relationship. Setting ground rules for both is a good start.

FOOD CORNER

RASMALAI

INGREDIENTS

- Milk - 1 litre
- Paneer - 100 g
- Sugar - 3/4 cup
- Saffron Strands - 4
- Almonds - 1 tsp, sliced
- Pistachios - 1 tsp, sliced
- Cardamom Powder - 1/4 tsp
- Maida - 2 tsp

METHOD

- Crumble the paneer and mix with maida to a smooth dough.
- Make small balls and lightly flatten them.
- Heat 1 cup of water in a pan.
- Add 1/4 cup of sugar and bring to a boil until sugar has fully dissolved.
- Remove from flame.
- While it is still hot, add the paneer balls and cover with a lid.
- Keep aside for few hours.
- Boil the milk in a heavy pan until reduced in half.
- Add 1/2 cup of sugar and stir well until fully dissolved.



- Remove from flame.
- Add cardamom powder, saffron strands and mix well.
- 12. Remove the balls from the sugar syrup and squeeze gently.
- Add to the hot milk.
- Garnish with almonds and pistachios.
- Keep it in the fridge for 2 to 3 hours.
- Serve chilled.

THREE IN 5 NEWBORNS NOT BREASTFED WITHIN FIRST HOUR OF LIFE: UNICEF

An estimated 78 million babies — or three out of five — worldwide are not breastfed within the first hour of life which puts them at higher risk of death and diseases and lower their chances of meeting physical and mental growth standards, according to a new Unicef and WHO report.

However, India has made some progress within a decade from 2005-15 and has doubled breastfeeding initiation in the first hour of birth. But the early initiation rates were found significantly lower among newborns delivered by caesarean section in the country.

"The India data points to the fact that the breastfeeding initiation within an hour after birth has almost doubled in India, increasing from 23.1 per cent in 2005 to 41.5 per cent in 2015," the report said.

Citing the National Family Health Survey (2015-16), the report notes that 54.9 per cent children are exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life and use of water and other fluids is one of the main reasons for discontinuation of exclusive breastfeeding.

Children who are not breastfed within one of hour of birth have 33 per cent higher risk of neonatal mortality and the challenge that India faces is to ensure that breastfeeding starts in time and children are given only breastmilk in the first six months of life, the report warns.

"Breastfeeding gives all girls and boys the healthiest start in life. It stimulates brain development, boosts their immune systems and helps protect them from chronic conditions later in life," said Yasmin Ali Haque, Unicef India Representative.

"Breastfeeding is one of the smartest investments to boost human capital,



stimulate economic growth and give every child the same opportunity to thrive. We need to support all mothers to initiate breastfeeding early, exclusive breastfeed for the first six months and continue to breastfeed for at least the first two years."

Globally, the report says, delays in breastfeeding have endangered babies. "When breastfeeding is delayed after birth, the consequences can be life-threatening -- and the longer newborns are left waiting, the greater the risk.

"Improving breastfeeding practices could save the lives of more than 800,000 children under five every year, the vast majority of whom are under six months of age." The report warned that a delay in breastfeeding is linked to an increased risk of infant death. Those first breastfed between two and 23 hours after birth face a 30 per cent higher risk of death within their first 28 days than those breastfed within the first hour

after birth, it said.

Babies breastfed for the first time at 24 hours after birth had twice the risk of death than those breastfed within their first hour.

The report is based on United Nations Children's Fund data from 76 countries. It does not include figures for North America, Australia, New Zealand or western Europe.

It also notes that the proportion of babies breastfed immediately after birth varied greatly from country to country.

It said breastfeeding rates within the first hour after birth are highest in east and Southern Africa (65 per cent) and lowest in east Asia and the Pacific (32 per cent).

Nearly one in 10 babies born in Burundi, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu are breastfed within the first hour. By contrast, only two in 10 babies born in Azerbaijan, Chad and Montenegro do so.

Source: IANS



MAGNETIC SURGICAL CEMENT CAN HEAL SPINAL FRACTURES

Scientists have developed a magnetised surgical cement that can be used to heal spinal fractures, and deliver drugs to hard-to-reach areas.

Patients with spinal fractures caused by tumours or osteoporosis usually undergo a procedure called kyphoplasty, where the fracture is filled with surgical cement.

While kyphoplasty can stabilise the bone, cancer patients are still often left with spinal column tumours that are very hard to reach with conventional chemotherapy, which has to cross the blood-brain barrier when delivered intravenously.

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in the US found that by adding magnetic particles to surgical cement used to heal spinal fractures, they could guide magnetic nanoparticles directly to lesions near the fractures.

Nanoparticles bound to various drugs have been used to target drugs to specific locations or types of cells in the body. Most commonly, this is achieved by binding a minute amount of drug to the nanoparticle, which is designed to also bind to a specific type of cell, such as a cancer cell.

"By modifying the kyphoplasty bone cement, we can both stabilise the spinal column and provide a targeted drug delivery system. This is a very promising technology as it has the potential to become a surgical option for patients with primary spinal column tumours or tumours that metastasise to the spinal column," said Steven Denyer, co-lead author of the study published in the journal PLOS ONE.

Using a pig model to study the magnetically-guided drug delivery system, scientists were successfully able to steer magnetic nanoparticles to the magnetic cement in the animal's spinal vertebrae.

In future studies to test the efficacy of this technique on treating spinal column tumours, the magnetic nanoparticles would be bound to tiny amounts of chemotherapy drugs.

"Our study provides an in vivo proof-of-concept that this novel drug delivery system can help treat underlying causes of spinal fractures in addition to providing structural support," said Abhiraj Bhimani, a student at UIC.

Source: PTI

Drinks that help you lose belly fat

Healthy drinks to lose weight: Yes, it is possible to lose weight and pesky belly fat by having the right drinks. Here are 5 that you need to start having now.

Matcha

A finely ground green tea, matcha was consumed by monks in ancient Japan as a beverage of choice. Today, it is either dissolved in milk or water and is consumed for its health benefits. Matcha is high in antioxidants, increases energy levels, helps to burn calories, detoxifies the human body and improves cholesterol levels.

Apple cider vinegar

This common form of vinegar has many health benefits, including weight loss. Apple cider vinegar contains an ingredient called acetic acid, which according to studies can prevent a person from gaining body fat.

Cranberry juice

Cranberry juice is a natural diuretic



and flushes out excess water. It also contains anthocyanin an antioxidant which combats infections, disease and manages cholesterol levels.

Turmeric tea

Believed to accelerate digestion, turmeric tea boosts your metabolism and promote weight loss. Turmeric has a bioactive compound called curcumin, which has healing properties and suppresses the growth of fat tissues to reduce weight.



Fenugreek (methi) seeds soaked in water

Fenugreek seeds contain galactomanna, a water soluble component which keeps you satiated. It also increases the metabolic rate of the body. You need to roast some methi seeds and crush it into a fine powder. Have it on an empty stomach with water first thing in the morning or soak it overnight and chew on the seeds in the morning.

Source: HT

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GOOGLE MAKES IT EASIER TO FIND RELEVANT DATA IN SEARCH

When it comes to text, videos or images, millions of people around the world rely on Google Search to get the relevant results. Now Google has identified ways to make the results of even tabular data search more relevant.

The advancement is important in view of the fact that the importance of data journalism is on a rise across news organisations and data tables are often the most useful format for them.

"Based on feedback from 30 of the top data journalists in the world, we identified an opportunity to improve how tabular data appears in Google Search and in doing so make it easier for all people to find the data they're looking for," Simon Rogers, Data Editor at Google News Lab said in a blog post on Tuesday.

News organisations that publish data in the form of tables can add additional structured data to make the dataset parts of the page easier to identify for use in relevant Search features.

They add the structured data to their existing html of a page, which means that news organisations can still control how their tables are presented to readers, Rogers said.

Source: IANS



WhatsApp rolls out group calling; four can call at one time

Facebook-owned WhatsApp on Tuesday rolled out its group calling feature — for both voice and video options — on iOS and Android devices for its 1.5 billion users.

The group calling feature supports up to four people simultaneously.

"You can make a group call with up to four people total — anytime and anywhere. Just start a one-on-one voice or video call and tap the new "add participant" button in the top right corner to add more contacts to the call," WhatsApp said in a statement.

WhatsApp users currently spend over two billion minutes on calls per day.

"Group calls are always end-to-end encrypted, and we've designed calling to work reliably around the world in different network conditions," WhatsApp added.

At Facebook's F8 developer conference in May, WhatsApp had announced to bring group calling support on its platform.

The instant messaging service unveiled video chatting in 2016 and voice calling in 2014.

Source: IANS

NEW WEARABLE SENSOR TECHNOLOGY MAY HELP QUIT SMOKING

Using wearable sensor technology, researchers have developed an automatic alert system that may help people to quit smoking by sending video messages.

The smartphone app—initially limited to android-based operating systems—automatically texts 20 to 120-second video messages to smokers when sensors detect specific arm and body motions associated with smoking.

"We have been able to differentiate between a single motion, which could be confused with eating or drinking, and a sequence of motions more clearly linked to the act of smoking a cigarette," said lead author Ming-Chun Huang from the Case Western Reserve University in the US.

According to the researchers, the mobile alert system that they are testing may be the first that combines an existing online platform with mindfulness training and a personalized plan for quitting smoking.

It also combines a personalized text-messaging service that reminds the user of either their own plan to quit, or sends video messages that stress the health and financial benefits of quitting.

Previous research has shown there are



more than 7,000 chemicals in cigarettes, including carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and nitrogen oxides in cigarette smoke.

Further, the National Cancer Institute has reported that there are 69 known cancer-causing agents in tobacco smoke.

For the study, published in the journal Smart Health, the researchers recruited a

small group of population to test the wearable technology, which has gained popularity in the fight against addiction.

The researchers said that most previous studies have relied on smokers self-reporting how often they smoked, while the Case Western Reserve system more accurately tracked smoking activity based on the sensors.

Source: IANS

Mars terraforming not possible with current technologies

Terraforming or creating a habitable environment on Mars, that would allow humans to explore it without life support, is still a far-fetched dream, say scientists who found that existing technologies are incapable of forming an Earth-like atmosphere on the red planet.

Science fiction writers have long featured terraforming, the process of creating an Earth-like or habitable environment on another planet, in their stories. Scientists themselves have proposed terraforming to enable the long-term colonisation of Mars.

A solution common to both groups is to release carbon dioxide gas trapped in the Martian surface to thicken the atmosphere and act as a blanket to warm the planet.

However, according to scientists from University of Colorado, Boulder in the US, Mars does not retain enough carbon dioxide that could practically be put back into the atmosphere to warm the planet. Transforming the inhospitable Martian environment into a place astronauts could explore without life support is not possible without technology well beyond today's capabilities, researchers said.

Although the current Martian atmosphere itself consists mostly of carbon dioxide, it is far too thin and cold to support liquid water, an essential ingredient for life.

On Mars, the pressure of the atmosphere is less than one percent of the pressure of Earth's atmosphere. Any



liquid water on the surface would very quickly evaporate or freeze.

Proponents of terraforming Mars propose releasing gases from a variety of sources on the Red Planet to thicken the atmosphere and increase the temperature to the point where liquid water is stable on the surface.

These gases are called "greenhouse gases" for their ability to trap heat and warm the climate. "Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapour (H₂O) are the only greenhouse gases that are likely to be present on Mars in sufficient abundance to provide any significant greenhouse warming," said Bruce Jakosky of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Although studies investigating the possibility of terraforming Mars have been made before, the new result takes

advantage of about 20 years of additional spacecraft observations of Mars. "These data have provided substantial new information on the history of easily vaporised (volatile) materials like CO₂ and H₂O on the planet, the abundance of volatiles locked up on and below the surface, and the loss of gas from the atmosphere to space," said Christopher Edwards of Northern Arizona University in the US.

The researchers analysed the abundance of carbon-bearing minerals and the occurrence of CO₂ in polar ice using data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and Mars Odyssey spacecraft, and used data on the loss of the Martian atmosphere to space by NASA's MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) spacecraft.

Source: PTI

WHATSAPP ALL SET TO MAKE MONEY FROM BUSINESS MESSAGES

Facebook on Wednesday set out to make money from WhatsApp with a scheme to connect businesses with customers via the smartphone messaging service.

Facebook said it has been testing a "WhatsApp Business" tool for months with more than 90 companies including Uber and Singapore Airlines.

"We're introducing a solution for businesses that require more powerful tools to chat on WhatsApp and a new way for people to quickly start a WhatsApp conversation from an ad on Facebook," the leading social network said in an online post.

WhatsApp Business lets companies send "non-promotional" content such as shipping information, charging for confirmed deliveries.

Companies will be able to respond free to questions or comments sent to them on WhatsApp, as long as the responses are fired off within 24 hours. Tardy responses by businesses will incur costs.

Some Facebook ads will also feature an easy way to initiate WhatsApp conversations with the businesses.

"Facebook Ads that click to WhatsApp help people discover your business, help you engage with them to explain your product or service and grow a relationship," the social network's team said.

Facebook has long been testing ways to make money from WhatsApp, which it bought in early 2014 in a deal valued at \$19 billion.



Facebook said it has been testing a 'WhatsApp Business' tool for months with more than 90 companies including Uber and Singapore Airlines

Growth has been the priority at WhatsApp, which now boasts some 1.5 billion users around the world.

"You will continue to have full control over the messages you receive," Facebook promised WhatsApp users.

"Businesses will pay to send certain messages so they are selective and your chats don't get cluttered."

Messages will remain encrypted end-to-end, with people able to block businesses if they wish. Facebook planned to gradually make the new tool

available to more businesses, focusing first on companies with strong need to manage customer communications.

Facebook shares plummeted last week on disappointing results.

Sentiment was also dented by the downcast outlook for Facebook, which signaled it expects slower user growth, partly due to the effect of data privacy scandals. Profits will also likely be hit by costly investments to address the problems.

Source: AFP

Cisco to buy cyber-security company Duo for \$2.35 billion

Cisco Systems Inc said on Thursday it would buy Duo Security, a venture capital-backed cyber security company, for \$2.35 billion in cash, as part of its push to expand into a faster growing area of software than its core business.

The deal is the biggest acquisition for Cisco since its \$3.7-billion purchase of business performance monitoring software company AppDynamics last year, and its largest in the cyber security sector since its \$2.7-billion takeover of Sourcefire in 2013.

The deal is an example of "a move toward software and our shift to more recurring revenue with new subscription-based solutions," Robert Salvagno, head of Cisco's corporate development said on a conference call Thursday.

Many companies are on the hunt for deals to expand their cybersecurity offerings as corporations want to bulk up their defences against a wave of cyber attacks by criminals, spies and hacker activists. Earlier this month, telecommunications firm AT&T Inc bought AlienVault, a cybersecurity provider for small and medium-size businesses.



"Cisco is getting its act together in the cyber security market," Credit Suisse analyst Brad Zelnick said in a research note, noting that Cisco has acquired five security companies over the past three years. Cisco shares rose 1.6 percent at \$42.54 on Thursday.

The deal represents a rare multi-billion dollar exit for cybersecurity venture investors who have been pouring money at a record pace into a crowded market. There are over 3,000 cyber security companies with more than 400

being funded per year, according to advisory firm Momentum Cyber.

One venture capital firm, Benchmark, saw a 20 times return on its early investment in the company, according to a source familiar with the matter. Benchmark declined to comment.

Based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Duo had raised \$119 million to date from investors such as Lead Edge Capital, Index Ventures, Workday, Redpoint Ventures and True Ventures.

Source: Reuters

DUBAI AIMS FOR 20 MILLION TOURISTS BY 2020, INDIA AMONG TOP TARGETS



KOLKATA (TIP): Dubai is aiming for 20 million visitors from around the globe by 2020 and is heavily banking on tourists from India, which is currently the country's number one source market with 13 per cent of its total tourist share, a Dubai Tourism official said here on Monday.

"Our vision for year 2020 is to achieve 20 million visitors from all over the world. In terms of total tourist inflow in Dubai, we have reached the 16 million-mark in 2017. The Dubai Tourism is taking up multipronged strategies to grow that number," Khalid Al Awar, the manager of India and Pakistan International Operations for Dubai Tourism, said on the sidelines of a city roadshow event here.

"India is Dubai's number one source market in terms of visitors for the last two years. In 2017, we received 2.07 million visitors which is 13 per cent of the total international tourists in Dubai that year," he said.

The official said India is also at the top in terms of growth in the number of tourists on a yearly basis with an increase of 15 per cent in 2017.

"The growth that we see from India is massive. India has become a hotbed for other destinations as well, but Dubai has a very special relationship with India. The tourist inflow from 2016 to 2017 from India to Dubai increased by 15 per cent while the overall growth was 6-7 per cent," he said.

Pointing out that Dubai aims to become the biggest family tourism destination in the world, the official said the Tourism Department is taking certain initiatives like providing visa on arrival for the stopover visitors and waiving off visa charges for the minors.

Source: IANS

RBI HIKES REPO RATE BY 25 BASIS POINTS TO 6.5%

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the policy repo rate by 25 basis points.

The MPC reiterates its commitment to achieving the medium-term target for headline inflation of 4 per cent on a durable basis.

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation at its meeting on Wednesday, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to increase the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent.

Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands has been adjusted to 6.25 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate to 6.75 per cent.

The RBI said in a statement that the decision of the MPC is consistent with the neutral stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/-2 per cent, while supporting growth.

On the risks to the economy, the MPC noted that domestic economic activity had continued to sustain momentum and the output gap had virtually closed. However, uncertainty around domestic inflation needed to be carefully monitored in the coming months. In addition, recent global developments raise some concerns.

"Rising trade protectionism poses a grave risk to near-term and long-term global growth prospects by adversely impacting investment, disrupting global supply chains and hampering productivity. Geopolitical tensions and elevated oil prices continue to be the other sources of risk to global growth," the RBI cautioned.

Source: The Tribune



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE AUGUST 6 - AUGUST 12, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says fasten your seat belt and zoom away. Astrology never compels. There is powerful energy coursing through your veins and you triumph over roadblocks with consummate ease. There are expenses and indulgences, love, passion and bonding. There are also domestic calls. Your plate is full and all your considerable energies are utilized to the hilt. There is no time to stand and stare. Ganesha blesses you.

Taurus:

'Let everything happen to you, beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final,' said Rainer Maria Rilke. You are in the throes of passion. It grips you like a boa constrictor and you are consumed in its fire. There is no escape from it as it lacerates your core. You could go down under, or emerge victorious and wiser. But, for sure, you will be a changed human being after this. You are also faced with several possibilities and are unable to make up your mind.

Gemini:

There is more stability now and you are able to see the full picture clearly. Once the blueprint is organized, action is easy. The ideating has been accomplished. Working on a clear road map, you accomplish a great deal. You are also able to take the team along and manage to lead from the front. You win kudos, accolades and applause. You also make good money and are able to share the cake.

Cancer:

'It is best and easiest not to discredit others but to prepare oneself to be as good as possible,' said Socrates. You are propelling ahead with the velocity of a thunderbolt. Nothing can stop you, nothing can even dare to. You roll up your sleeves and get down to the hard slog. There are money and honey and your efforts are well rewarded. There are several expenses, but you are not caught unawares. With careful planning you surmount all that is thrown your way and evolve into a better human being.

Leo:

I could be wrong, but this period is devoted entirely to the family. There could be holidays together, fun times, festivities and many purchases. There could be engagements, marriages and an addition to the family. You enjoy yourself to the hilt. Those in steady relationships bond like newly introduced lovebirds. Your emotions are raw and on fire. On the flip side, you could also lose your cool and get overly demanding and possessive.

Virgo:

'Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage,' said Anaïs Nin, the writer. You want to do great things. You are in love with heroism of any kind. This is a good time to travel, even if it is solo. You may go on a pilgrimage, go looking for a guru or check out something as outlandish as the ancient secrets of the Incas. You want to widen your horizons, and risk taking is just small change for the great realizations you are courting so desperately.

Libra:

You are curious about the world. You want to know more about the unfamiliar and the unconventional. You are able to discuss emotionally charged issues easily. There are no ego drives and you don't mind a healthy argument or difference of opinion. You are detached and objective and are able to communicate important matters without diffidence. Your interactions are lively, and others find you a joy to hang around with. There are hope and optimism, lucky breaks and windfalls.

Scorpio:

You continue to progress, but you also make it a point to rebel against authority. If you are the boss, it is fine. If you aren't, remember, 'the boss is always right'. You are easily upset and angered and interpret all dissent as a threat to your ego. There could be altercations and cloudbursts as you assert yourself. You could be articulating frustrated ego energies. Rein them in. It will pass, but let not the passing internal explosions of the moment derail your progress.

Sagittarius:

You focus on your work, profession or important social duties. You plan for the future and manage to bring your family in the loop. You also take time off from the hurly-burly of life to reflect on plans. You do not want to be caught off guard, and chalk out every detail and move meticulously. You do everything in your power to ensure success. This is a significant period for scientists and others working on issues facing mankind.

Capricorn:

Your energies are high. You feel good with yourself and your output is phenomenal. This is a great period for sustained work. You know what you want and to decision making is easy. You are able to take calculated risks and are optimistic and positive. You also know where to draw the line, and that is a big plus in business. You manage to fall short of greed. You refuse to bite more than you can chew. The force is with you. Ganesha blesses you.

Aquarius:

You bask in the comfortable aura of an all-pervasive sense of well-being. You are filled with inner radiance and feel very warm and friendly to the people around you. The happiness within shows, and you offer emotional and physical support to anyone who needs it. You are a great hit with kids and elders, and everyone just loves to be around you.

Pisces:

Your amorous inclinations are aroused. You feel like being bonded and in complete submission to a partner with whom you can express your love. You want to feel whole and your soul cries out for a mate. You want to give and receive love. You are overly self-involved as you chase the softness of a kindred human heart. This could well be a passing phase, and the mood will soon settle. Nothing lasts forever. You are on the brink of creative change and look to stepping up on a higher rung of evolution. Ganesha watches.

LORD KARTIKEYA

Kartikay is a son of Shiva and brother to Ganesha. While Ganesha symbolizes a spiritual attitude, Kartikay is the scientist of the gods. Kartikay bears 31 names, among which are Karttikeya, Kumara, Guha... Kartikay rides on a peacock, the killer of serpents.

In Sanskrit literature, Kartikay is the son of Shiva and Sati, who immolated herself at her father Daksha's feast. In some versions Parvati is his mother. Shiva retreated into many years of yogic meditation after the death of Sati.

At this time the demon Taraka had been granted a boon of invulnerability to all but a son of Shiva, by Brahma, the creator god. As Shiva had retreated to a life of asceticism, Taraka assumed Shiva would never marry again, and rampaged across the Earth.

The reincarnation of Sati, Parvati (or sometimes Uma) was persuaded to be married to Shiva. Kama, the god of love and sexual desire fired a flower at Shiva in an attempt to cause Shiva to marry Parvati. Kama was obliterated by the light of Shiva's third eye.

However, Shiva was later persuaded to marry Parvati and have a son with her. Shiva then offered his seed to the god of fire, Agni. Agni was unable to bear the brightness and intensity of the heat and they were given for safekeeping to Ganga. The seeds then matured into six children who were raised by the Kartika or Pleiades. Parvati was then united with the children, whom she transformed into one child.

Kartikay was then sent out to do battle with the asura, Taraka, accompanied by the devas. He later slew Taraka after seven battles in different sites across India. After his defeat of Taraka, Kartikay is said to have become the general of the gods and to have led them to victory on various occasions. He later earned the title of war god and general of the demi-gods.

Lord Kartikeya symbolizes a person of perfection. He is the war God and was created by all the Gods to bring an end to the demons. Lord Kartikeya is very masculine and fierce. He is also regarded as fire and is very fiery in nature. The Lord has a spear in his hand called Sakti which represents the destruction of evil and with his other hand he is found blessing his devotees. Lord Kartikeya's vehicle or Vahana is a peacock that has the capacity of killing serpents by gripping in his feet. Thus, the peacock represents the destroyer of harmful and sensual desires of humans.

HINDU GOD OF WAR

Kartikeya, also known as Murugan, is the Hindu god of war or the Hindu Mars. The birth of Kartikeya has many legendary stories.

Kartikeya is represented as god mounting on his Vahana, the Peacock and carries the weapon the Vel. He is sometimes depicted with many weapons including a sword, a spike, a scepter, a discus and a bow although more usually he is depicted wielding a sakti or spear. This signifies Kartikeya's purification of human ills. His spike symbolizes protection; discus portrays his knowledge of the truth. The mace represents his strength and the bow is a sign of his ability to defeat all ills. His peacock mount symbolizes his destruction of the ego. The six heads of Kartikeya is represented as the six Siddhis granted upon yogis over the course of their spiritual development.

In prehistoric ages in India, Kartikeya was regarded as the patron deity of thieves. In the Puranas it is said that Kartikeya had dug through the Krauncha Mountain to kill the demon Taraka and his brothers. Kartikeya helped Shiva fight the newborn Ganesha, other son of Shiva. In the Brahma Vaivarta Purana, he is represented as the elder son of Shiva and Ganesha as the younger. In South India, it is believed that he is the younger of the two. Kartikeya is believed to be a handsome bachelor. Other stories say that he had two wives Valli and Devayani.

Warrior God

While Ganpati is more of a chilled out god, who loves to eat and relax, Karthikey is known



for his fighting skills. He is therefore called the Warrior God.

The Snake and the Peacock

This is gonna be interesting. If you see Kartikeya's picture carefully, you'll notice that he rides on a Peacock and the peacock clutches a snake in his claw.

Well, the snake symbolizes ego. Kartikeya is smart, he doesn't want to give up ego (I am sure nobody can) but has the ability to control it. Now that's what you call a perfect man!

The one with six heads

Yes, you read it right! He has 6 heads. There are many stories behind this. Some say that the 6 heads allow him to see in all possible directions in a war.

A dozen hands and feet

Not only 6 heads, he had 12 hands and 12 feet to add on to the strength required to fight a war. Just imagine, 1 man with a dozen hands and a dozen feet! Super cool, right? He could easily list his name as one of the Marvel characters!

The unbelievable myths

Some say that there were actually 6 babies that were born and when Parvati saw them and she was mesmerized by their beauty. She was so mesmerized that she hugged them all at

one time. Her hug was so powerful that all the 6 babies merged into one baby and only the heads, hands and feet remained.

Who's the smarter one?

We all know our strong and weak points, isn't it? So did Kartikeya and Ganesh. Once they were asked to prove that who loved their parents (Shiva and Parvati) more. To come to a conclusion, they were told to take a round of the entire world thrice and whoever would

come first, would prove that he loved his parents more.

Kartikeya sat on his peacock and went on to complete the task whereas Ganesh didn't have anything to ride on, so he played it smart. He took 3 rounds around Shiva and Parvati and said that his parents mean the world to him.

Hence proved- Ganesh knew his strength and that was his wit and intelligence while Karthikey knew his, and that was power and speed.

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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.'

Trump should be Impeached. Are there Republicans with spine who will do it?

COND FROM PAGE 9

"Treason" Under the U.S. Constitution

Under the U.S. Constitution, "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid or Comfort."

Russia is the enemy and it has been waging war against the U.S. for some time now. As stated above, it is a new kind of war, something unheard of at the time the U.S. Constitution was written. The term used to refer to it is "cyberwar." If it can be established that cyberwar falls within the purview of war as defined in the Constitution, President Trump's performance in Helsinki was treasonous, and the demand for his impeachment is justified. He called Putin's denial of the cyberwar "powerful," praised him as a "good competitor," hastening to add that "the word competitor is a compliment;" and denigrated his own country as "foolish" for allowing its relationship with Russia to deteriorate.

There was also a moment when he uttered something which even his lackeys back home found loathsome. He did it when Putin offered, while responding to a reporter's question, to allow the Mueller team to interview the 12 Russians indicted by the special counsel, in exchange for allowing Russian investigators to interview Bill Browder and those close to him. Mr. Browder, a billionaire, born in the U.S. but now a British citizen (which fact Putin didn't seem to know), has been at the top of the list of Putin's foreign enemies for 10 years. Trump welcomed what Putin said as "an incredible offer." If words like these don't give comfort to an enemy, what will? The charge of treason leveled against Trump is a valid one.

How did Bill Browder make the list of Putin's enemies? Browder himself has answered the question in an article, titled "Viewpoint: The View from the Top of Putin's Enemies List," published in the July 30, 2018, issue of TIME magazine: "Putin almost never utters the names of his enemies - except for mine, which lately seems to be very much on his mind. Why? Because I am the person responsible for lobbying the Obama Administration to pass the Magnitsky Act in 2012. The law allows the U.S. to freeze the assets and withhold the visas of people who are violating human rights in Russia. The act was named for my lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who was murdered in a Moscow jail in 2009 after uncovering a massive \$230 million Russian government corruption scheme - one we have since traced to Putin's cronies."

Since the passage of the Magnitsky Act, Russia has been reeling from the punishing sanctions imposed on it by the Obama administration, and re-imposed by the Trump administration after a great deal of arm-twisting by both Democrats and Republicans. Several European allies of the U.S. have expressed solidarity with it by passing their own versions of the Magnitsky Act and imposing sanctions on Russia. Many other countries around the world are also in the process of taking similar steps. No wonder Putin detests Bill Browder.

Browder's TIMES article also gives a clue to why Trump did not have a word of a word of criticism for Putin and was obsequious toward him throughout the news conference.

Trump's Links to Russian Oligarchs

Rumors have been rife that Donald Trump's business activities in Russia were bankrolled by Russian oligarchs. Some of them could as well be "Putin's cronies" that Browder referred to in his article. The fear of his questionable dealings with those cronies being exposed may be the reason behind Trump's persistent refusal to release his tax returns. The same fear may be what stands in the way of his confronting Putin for the election meddling. That also explains his tirade against the Mueller investigation which, among other things, has been looking into Trump's business activities in Russia.

We will know more about those activities and about Trump's links to Russian oligarchs as the trial of his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, progresses. The trial, in a federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, has entered its second day as I write this. This is the first trial stemming from Mueller's Russia probe, though the crimes Manafort is charged with have nothing to do with the Russian meddling in the U.S. election. He is charged with tax evasion and bank fraud. The 32 charges he is facing arose largely from his work as a political consultant in Ukraine.

The star prosecution witness in the case is Rick Gates, Manafort's longtime partner in the political consultancy work, who had also worked as number two person in Trump's presidential campaign, when Manafort was its chairman. He stayed on with the campaign even after Manafort was removed from it over his work in Ukraine. While Manafort decided to fight the charges against him, Gates pleaded guilty and offered to cooperate with the investigation. He is now one of the 35 prosecution witnesses.

Manafort's main client in Ukraine was Viktor F. Yanukovich, the pro-Russian politician whom he helped to become president of Ukraine in 2010. Since his removal from power in February 2014, Yanukovich has been living in exile in Russia. Manafort also worked for some pro-Russian, pro-Yanukovich Ukrainian oligarchs. Payments for his work came through bank accounts in Cypress. Manafort's defense team says that they were opened by the Ukrainian oligarchs who were his clients. Ukrainian oligarchs' links to Russian oligarchs are well-documented. The possibility of some of them being linked to Donald Trump cannot be ruled out. Since the Manafort trial began, Trump has been going berserk. He and his attorney, Rudolph Giuliani, have intensified their tirade against the Mueller investigation. Trump has even asked attorney general Jeff Sessions to call off the investigation.

Russia's Offer of "Dirt" on Hillary Clinton

The media was abuzz throughout last

with a new revelation on the controversial meeting Donald Trump Jr. had with a Russian lawyer, at Trump Tower, New York, in June 2016. The lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, reportedly has strong ties to the Kremlin. The meeting was held in pursuance of an email Trump Jr. received from Veselnitskaya, offering some "dirt" on Hillary Clinton. The dirt was supposedly gathered by Russian intelligence. The meeting was attended by high-ranking officials of the Trump campaign, including chairman Manafort.

Donald Trump had said all along that he knew nothing about the meeting, held at his own New York residence, which was also his campaign headquarters at the time. Michael Cohen, his longtime personal lawyer, confidant and fixer, who fell out with him recently, threw a bombshell last week, saying that Trump was lying. He had prior knowledge of the meeting, Cohen said. If Cohen has concrete evidence to prove it, the Mueller investigation will be a step closer to proving that the Trump campaign did collude with Russia.

Among the numerous documents confiscated during the FBI raid, in April, on Cohen's apartment in Manhattan were dozens of tapes containing recorded conversations between him and Trump. It was through the airing of one such tape that another lie of Trump's got exposed. It pertained to his affair with Karen McDougal, a former Playboy model, and payment to her of \$150,000 as hush money to buy her silence about the affair. Until the tape, containing Trump's conversation with his then-attorney Cohen about how to pay the money, was aired, Trump had kept denying that he had any affair with Ms. McDougal.

The McDougal story broke out in the wake of the controversy stirred by another Trump lie about his affair with another woman. The woman involved in this was a pornographic film actress known as Stormy Daniels. The hush money paid to her was \$130,000. Here again, the middleman was Michael Cohen. How Cohen raised the money to pay the porn star and what made her break the silence about the affair and expose another Trumpian lie were juicy topics of gossip in the media as well as in political circles. Though the controversy did not derail Trump's presidential campaign and, later, his presidency, he is not out of the woods yet. Stormy Daniels has taken the matter to court. Michael Avenatti, the attorney who represents her, also represents three other women who claim to have had affairs with Trump. All three, Avenatti said, were paid "hush money" before the 2016 election. We will hear more juicy stories when those cases go on trial.

Trump was shocked that that his own personal attorney had been secretly taping his conversations with him. He is also afraid that having been a longtime associate, Cohen may spill the beans on many more of his personal, business and political activities during his testimony in the case that will soon come up in the federal court in New York. Investigators are examining Cohen's role in the payment of hush money to women during the 2016 campaign and whether campaign

finance laws were violated. More than anyone else, Cohen knows that he could be implicated in many questionable activities Trump was involved in as a real estate tycoon. So, his offer to cooperate with the investigators is understandable.

A panic-stricken Trump has launched a Twitter tirade against the Mueller investigation. He is very much aware of the disastrous consequences of what Cohen may reveal to the authorities. His tirade against the investigation has now taken the form of a character assassination campaign against special counsel Mueller himself. His personal attorney now is Rudolf Giuliani, a former New York mayor and himself a federal prosecutor once. Giuliani has been making himself a laughingstock by saying stupid and contradictory things in defense of his client. The latest stupid thing he said is that even if there was collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, collusion is not a crime. I leave it to legal experts to tutor him on that. What he and his client don't seem to realize is that their attacks on the special counsel could be construed as obstruction of justice.

Conclusion

I can go on and on to stress the point that the demand for impeachment of President Trump is a well-founded one. Apart from treason, which we discussed above, "bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanors" are also grounds for impeachment under the Constitution. We already discussed some of the activities and utterances of Trump that fit one or more of those categories. By the time the Muller team completes its work, we will surely learn of many more of the Trumpian activities and utterances that reach the level of impeachability. Remember, we are talking about a man who, according to The Washington Post, utters 6.5 lies a day, on average. He doesn't know when he lies that some of them could be perjurious, which is another ground for impeachment.

If the Congress is serious about impeaching Trump, it doesn't have to wait until the Russia probe is completed. It already has ample bases to initiate the process. Alas, it won't happen as long as the composition of the Congress is what it is. It is Republican-controlled, and most Republicans are too timid to stand up to Trump. His modus operandi is such that even a mafia don could learn a lesson or two from him. He has been running the country as if it were part of his sprawling business empire.

Will some Republicans in Congress prove that they have spine by coming forward to initiate the process of impeachment of Trump? Any effort on the part of Democrats will get nowhere, because they are in a minority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The initiative should come from Republicans. They owe it to their country to act before it is too late. And they owe it to the Constitution which they are sworn to "support and defend ... against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

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

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Air Force base in Ohio confirms 'no real world active shooter incident'

DAYTON (OHIO) (TIP): An Air Force base in Ohio says there was "no real world active shooter incident" hours after authorities responded to reports of a shooter. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base says via Twitter that base personnel remain safe.

The base said the report occurred during a "normal, scheduled installation exercise" that included an active shooter scenario. Security forces and other emergency responders had rushed Thursday to the hospital at Wright-Patterson near Dayton.

Wright-Patterson had sent a tweet saying it was responding to a "reported Active Shooter incident." About two hours later, video from outside of the hospital showed service members and others standing outside the building. Some had come out with their hands in the air.

Federal and state authorities in armored vehicles and unmarked cars had swarmed onto an Air Force base in Ohio on Thursday amid reports of an active shooter at a medical center. Workers at Wright-Patterson were told to shelter in place on the sprawling base. (AP)

WWE wrestler Glenn Jacobs known as Kane wins mayor's race in Tennessee

Jacobs, a Republican who also runs an insurance and real estate company, was leading Democrat Linda Haney by a large margin with most of the votes counted in Knox County.

Knoxville (Tennessee) (TIP): Glenn Jacobs, the WWE wrestler known as Kane, has won the bout for mayor in Tennessee's third largest county.

Jacobs, a Republican who also runs an insurance and real estate company, was leading Democrat Linda Haney by a large margin with most of the votes counted in Knox County on Thursday. The Knoxville News Sentinel reports Jacobs claimed victory at his watch party, saying his decision to seek the mayor's job was met at first with "pretty resounding laughter" from some politicians.

Jacobs won a close primary in May. Results of the primary were delayed when the county's election reporting website crashed after a concerted cyber attack that experts deemed "malicious."

Haney ran small businesses with her husband before she retired. She was considered an underdog in the solidly-Republican county. (AP)



contd from page 1

Intelligence heads warn of foreign interference in US elections

The briefing came after a Senate intelligence hearing Tuesday, July 31 in which key officials criticized the Trump administration for not taking foreign election threats more seriously.

Each intelligence official opened with a statement on what their agency is doing ahead of the 2018 midterm elections while also cautioning that election meddling efforts are real and pervasive.

Nielsen said that "our democracy is in the crosshairs."

Ahead of the briefing on Thursday, Bolton also sent a letter to Democrat Senators outlining how the Trump Administration is taking action to ensure election integrity.

"I think the president has made it abundantly clear to everybody who has responsibility in this area that he cares deeply about it and that he expects them to do their jobs to their fullest ability, and that he supports them fully," Bolton said in the briefing.

Coats, who fielded most of the reporter questions following each official's opening statement, said that while the U.S. is just "one keyboard click away" from encountering a previously unidentified means of Russian meddling, there appears to be a lesser effort ahead of the 2018 midterm elections than there was in 2016.

"Relative to what we have seen for the midterm elections, it is not the kind of robust campaign that we assessed in the 2016 election," Coats said. "We know that, through decades, Russia had tried to use its propaganda and methods to sow discord in America. However, they stepped up their game big time in 2016. We have not seen that kind of robust effort from them so far."

Coats said the current efforts do not appear to target one specific party but mentioned that the U.S. is aware of actors other than Russia with meddling capabilities and who considered attacking.

"The Russians are looking for every opportunity regardless of party, regardless of whether or not it applies to the election, to continue their pervasive efforts to undermine

our fundamental values," he said.

Wray said the FBI has not yet seen foreign attempts at interfering with election infrastructure for the midterms, but that divisive information is being spread from overseas.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) demands citizenship rights for Afghan Sikhs and Hindus

and representatives of Hindu and Sikh immigrants from Afghanistan accompanied the delegation.

Making a distinction between the immigrants in Assam, the delegation said the Hindus and Sikhs were forced to flee Afghanistan on account of religious persecution by the Taliban. They settled in India more than three decades back.

Besides, their parents are from India. "It is lamentable that even though the Government of India's standing policy is to welcome people of Indian origin if they are forced to leave their adopted countries, the immigrants from Afghanistan are made to run from pillar to post to get citizenship rights," the delegation said.

A memorandum was submitted to Rajnath Singh in the regard.

Gujral said Rajnath Singh's attention was also drawn to Sikhs not given minority status in the state of Jammu and Kashmir by the state government.

Rajnath Singh was urged to intervene to ensure safety of life and property of Sikhs residing in Meghalaya and in other north-eastern states.

Raising the issue of Chandigarh Administration amending the Motor Vehicle Act making it mandatory for even the Sikh women to wear helmets, the SAD urged the Centre to intervene.

Gujral said Rajnath Singh assured the delegation of giving a sympathetic consideration to the issues. With regard to granting citizenship rights to the immigrants from Afghanistan, he assured he would convene a meeting of officials, probably on August 14. (Source: Tribune)

Imran Khan Favors Austere Oath Ceremony: No Foreign Leader will be invited

Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) emerged as the single largest party in the elections held on July 25. The 65-year-old leader is expected to take oath on August 11.

Foreign Office spokesman Dr Mohammad Faisal said a simple ceremony will be held at the President House for which no date has been fixed.

"No dignitary from abroad except a few close friends of Chairman PTI Imran Khan would attend the simple and dignified oath-taking at Aiwan-e-Sadar (President House)," said Faisal.

President Mamnoon Hussain will administer Khan the oath of the office.

Imran's party had initially planned to invite several foreign leaders and personalities, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, in an apparent change of heart today, Khan has opted against a fancy ceremony.

Faisal said that the PTI also announced that no foreign leaders would attend the oath-taking ceremony.

In a tweet, the PTI announced that the oath taking will be a simple and dignified ceremony and "it has been decided not to invite foreign dignitaries". (Source: PTI)

Apple becomes first U.S. public company to reach \$1 trillion valuation

In July, but a strong earnings report on Tuesday pushed Apple over the mark. Apple shares briefly touched \$207.05, the mark needed to reach \$1 trillion, but dropped down shortly thereafter. Apple shares remained up 2.4 percent at \$206.35 in early afternoon trading on Thursday.

Other large companies are close to Apple's valuation, but none have hit \$1 trillion. Google is currently worth around \$852 billion and Facebook about \$508 billion. Other well-known companies are smaller, such as Coca-Cola at \$198 billion and Ford at \$39 billion.

Apple was founded in the garage of Steve Jobs in 1976 when personal computers were in their infancy. Along with the other co-founder, Steve Wozniak, Jobs began steering the industry toward devices that would appeal to consumers, culminating in the introduction of the iPhone in 2007.

Along the way, Apple has launched a series of products that changed the way people use technology. It popularized the computer mouse and the graphical user interface, which is now ubiquitous, and it altered music-listening habits with its iPod and accompanying digital music store, iTunes.

The company almost went bankrupt in the late 1990s. It had failed to continue making popular products after Jobs left the company in 1985 amid a dispute with the company's then-CEO. Jobs returned in 1997 and accepted a \$150 million investment from rival Microsoft.

Jobs was featured on the cover of Time magazine, where he thanked Microsoft CEO Bill Gates and said "the world's a better place" after the investment.

The bulk of Apple's revenue comes from selling hardware, particularly iPhones. As growth in smartphones sales has begun to slow and some consumers have turned to cheaper devices from other manufacturers, analysts had begun to question whether Apple would be able to hit \$1 trillion mark.

But recent strength from one of Apple's smaller services business, which includes the App Store, helped convince investors to push the company's stock higher, said Daniel Ives, head of technology research at GBH Insights, a market research firm.

"This is a historic milestone not just for Apple but the overall tech sector as Cook & Co. hit the elusive trillion dollar market cap club," Ives said, referring to Apple CEO Tim Cook. "The services business has been the high octane fuel in Apple's engine and got the company to this trillion dollar valuation quicker than many had thought with a major iPhone product cycle on the horizon."

Patrick Moorhead, principal analyst at Moor Insights & Strategy, a technology advisory firm, said he was not surprised to see Apple hit the trillion mark, but noted that it has some challenges ahead.

"Apple's biggest challenge going forward is to maintain its lead," Moorhead said. "The smartphone market is in decline, and Apple will need to win big in brand-new markets."

It's not often that a smuggling legend becomes the most important historic and natural lineage to a destination. But that's exactly what happened when a 17th century Sufi pilgrim, Baba Budan Giri, tucked away seven seeds of coffee in his belt, while returning from Mecca. He came back and sprung them on the fertile hills of Chikmagalur, making it one of the most rampant coffee cultivating spots in India. Around the lush plantations grew a culture of coffee that was hard to extract away, making the destination a retreat for lovers of this new beverage and cool misty hills. The perfect activity centric scenic getaway is speckled with heritage spots and adventure options with wildlife and nature themes. Home to the highest mountain range of Karnataka, Mullayanagiri, Chikmagalur is also a popular trekking option from Bangalore (245 km).

COFFEE CULTURE

Perfect for a traveller who is happy sauntering between the thick undergrowth of the wild coffee bushes, eyes peeled for exotic birdlife and animals, Chikmagalur is the ideal pick. Most of the accommodations lie in the backdrop of coffee plantations, giving the traveller an opportunity to stay in the middle of a million shades of green. Coffee plantation walks organised by the owners are an essential orientation to understand the variety, seasons, wildlife around the area, history of coffee making, processes and what a planter's life might be like. Coffee plantations of Chikmagalur offer a brilliant atmosphere for both outdoor junkies and those who like to switch off and do nothing. Outdoor enthusiasts during their short hikes to the top of a plantation often make their way through forest streams and spot an array of local avian and animal occupants.

Birding enthusiasts should remember to carry their binoculars. For those who need to unwind without a packed itinerary or an activity should grab a book or an i-pod and sink into a lounging chair or a hammock, and succumb to the sound of nature around. Miles of stunning views, ludicrous amount of green and the whiff of coffee accompany the copious amount of mugs you can down.

MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT

The main highlight of Chikmagalur for most travellers lies in covering the three main peaks of the town? Sheethalagiri, Baba Budan Giri and Mullayanagiri. Head towards Kaimara junction to start at the foothills of this loop and head first towards Sheethalagiri. This is an ancient temple whose history can be traced back to 1000 years and is dedicated to Mallikarjuna Swamy. The temple itself is not very elaborate but is worth your while for its history and the 'prasadam', a fistful of water from a natural trickle of waterfall inside. Next on the same route is Baba Budan Giri hill, also known as Dattagiri Hill Range or Inam Dattatreya Peetha after the famous saint who brought coffee to India. This small shrine is propped at 1895 m offering a breathtaking view of the valley below. The shrine is visited by people of all religions. The next stop is Mullayanagiri, the highest peak (1930 m) in the state of Karnataka. Predictably windy and bone chilling cold, it's apt to stay for a short time to enjoy the view. Many trekkers take on the mammoth mountain despite the winds and near invisible paths due to the mist. The trio are known as the Chandradrona Parvatha Shreni.

KEMMANAGUNDI

Even though Kemmanagundi lies almost 500 m below the highest Karnataka peak, Mullayanagiri, the views from here are equally riveting as the hills cascade down, draped in coffee bushes. It is more accessible than the higher mountain loop and is

CHIKMAGALUR

Karnataka's hill station



embellished by pit stops for tourists; an unimpressive rock garden and a government run children's park are part of Kemmanagundi area but can be avoided. This does not hamper dozens of camera happy tourists enjoying the lush green environs as a backdrop to perfect pictures. What is not to miss is the few spots from where you can see the clouds fill up the valley for a mesmerising view. This was the very reason King Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV chose this as a summer retreat. There are a handful of restaurants, viewing decks and even a place to stay maintained by the Karnataka State Tourism Development Board. Raj Bhavan is one of the most popular viewing points of the hill top. If you're running short of time, stick with the Sheethalagiri-Baba Budan Giri-Mullayanagiri circuit and give this one a miss. The only veritable reason why one should visit Kemmanagundi, is because it is the only access point to Hebbe Falls. Local four wheel jeeps can be hired from here to get to the beautiful untouched waterfalls.

HEBBE FALLS

Adventure lovers are promised a bone rattling yet thrilling drive of 13 km, through forested paths (sometimes no paths at all) from Kemmanagundi to Hebbe Falls. A four wheel experience is the only way to manoeuvre through the bumpy road. There are local jeeps available at the base of Kemmanagundi that charge anywhere around Rs 300-500 for a return trip on a sharing basis. After the 13 km ride, one has to reach the falls on foot, after crossing two shallow streams. The effort is absolutely worth your while as you watch the 551 ft drop from the base. There are two stages of the waterfall: Dodda Hebbe (Big Falls) and



Chikka Hebbe (Small Falls). The white frothy water cascades down with gusto but even though it looks tempting to go stand under it, it is not recommended. The falls are slightly cut off and isolated. It is likely that no medical help can reach soon. It is recommended to remain at its fringes. This is most voluminous after or during monsoons, but this also means that the area is likely to be infested with swift leeches. Carry a small packet of salt to get rid of them soon.

KALHATTI FALLS

Given that Chikmagalur has a large forest cover and entire hillsides covered with plantations, it is not uncommon to see many small and big waterfalls and rivulets around the area. One of the most popular amongst the religious travellers is the Kalhatti waterfall,

even though it is far smaller than the nearby Hebbe Falls. From Kemmanagundi, the drive to Kalhatti is only 10 km. The spot can be recognised with a swathe of people, buses and cars on the main road itself. Stop here, and walk a short distance to the base of the falls. Even though it does not match up to the impression of Hebbe Falls, it makes for a great stop for those who like to tick things of the list when visiting a destination. A temple of Lord Veerabhadra stands at the base of the 122 m drop. The falls are also known as the Kalahasti falls by the locals. There are a few local shops here where one can stop for a quick snack. The waterfall lies on the same loop of Mullayanagiri, Baba Budan Giri and Seethalagiri hills along with Kemmanagundi. It is easy to pack this in one day of sightseeing, in the same direction.

VIRAT KOHLI MASTERCLASS LEADS INDIA FIGHTBACK IN EDGBASTON

BIRMINGHAM (TIP): Virat Kohli ended a four-year debate about his ability to negotiate swing and seam to win a sensational personal battle and for his team on a dramatic second day of the Edgbaston Test against England on August 2.

England had been put up as the Indian skipper's final frontier after failures on his first tour to a country where seaming conditions make life difficult even for the most experienced.

On a day when India's other batsmen didn't show spine as they caved in against rookie left-arm pacer Sam Curran, Ben Stokes and James Anderson, Kohli showed what sheer determination and class can achieve.

He won a monumental battle against Anderson, at 36 still a potent force in seaming conditions and who made Kohli's life difficult after Curran and Stokes together had left India reeling.

Kohli hit a magnificent 149 (225 balls, 22x4, 1x6) before being the last man out to take India within 13 runs of England's first innings total after they were all out for 274 in the final 30 minutes of play.

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But Kohli's discipline of not playing anything outside off-stump, and England wary of bowling into his body or testing him with

short deliveries, formed the epic battle.

The innings was doubly remarkable as India's other batsmen showed no spine despite the pitch hardly being spiteful.

Murali Vijay (20) and Shikhar Dhawan (26) added 50 runs for the first wicket, but once the former was trapped leg before by Curran – the son of late Zimbabwe all-rounder Kevin Curran – the bowler was on a roll.

KL Rahul was bowled second delivery playing away from the body to reduce India to 76/3 at lunch. Stokes then gave his IPL teammate Ajinkya Rahane a torrid time before forcing him to edge one to the slip cordon and bowled Dinesh Karthik.

Kohli though found support in Hardik Pandya (22). England dropped Pandya as well, off Stokes, the delivery after Kohli's first let-off.

Kohli reached his century in last man Umesh Yadav's company and took a toll of the England attack with the ball over 70 overs old.

Kohli and Umesh Yadav raised 57 runs, India's best partnership, and by the time the India skipper played leg-spinner Adil Rashid to Stuart Broad at backward point, the lead had been reduced to almost nothing.

The India skipper had not only made a statement across the cricket world, he had dragged India right back into contention in England's bastion. *Source: HT*

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saina, Sindhu roll on but face tough tests in quarters; Srikanth falls



NANJING (TIP): Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu sailed into the quarterfinals with straight-game wins but it was curtains for Kidambi Srikanth at the badminton World Championships. Saina downed 2013 champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand 21-16 21-19 to set up a meeting with Carolina Marin of Spain.

Sindhu, seeded third, eased past ninth seed Ji Hyun Sung of South Korea 21-10 21-18 in another third round clash. Sindhu will next play eighth seed Nozomi Okuhara of Japan.

"I am really happy with the performance. It was a good match overall even though I won the first set quite easily. But the second game was not easy. There were a lot of rallies so I had to be consistent and be very patient," Sindhu said.

Asked about her clash against Okuhara tomorrow, she added: "We have been playing against each other for a while and tomorrow

will be yet another one and a very important one. I can tell you one thing that it will be a long match so I need to be prepared and will give my 100 per cent."

B Sai Praneeth also eased into the quarterfinals with a comfortable 21-13 21-11 win over Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus. He will next take on sixth seed Kento Momota.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa also stood one step away from a medal after pulling off a stunning 20-22 21-14 21-6 victory over the Malaysian world No.7 combination of Goh Soon Huat and Shevon Jemie Lai.

However, fifth seed Srikanth's dream of winning a medal came crashing down after he was outwitted 18-21 18-21 by the experienced Malaysian Daren Liew in a 41-minute clash.

Source: PTI

WOMEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP

India lose to Ireland in penalty shootout in quarterfinal

LONDON (TIP): India's dream of breaking their 44-year-old last four jinx lay shattered as Ireland registered a 3-1 win via shoot-off in the quarterfinal of the women's hockey World Cup.

Poor execution in shoot-off cost India dearly as skipper Rani Rampal, Monika and Navjot Kaur failed to get past Irish goalie Ayeisha McFerran. Reena was the only scorer for India in the shoot-off.

Even though India goalkeeper Savita produced two saves in the shoot-off to keep her team in the hunt, it was not enough as Ireland scored through Roisin Upton, Alison Meeke and Chloe Watkins to make their maiden World Cup semi-final.

It was great chance for India to recreate history and secure its first World Cup semifinal spot in 44 years but it was not to be.

The only time India had managed to enter the semi-finals of the show-piece event was back in 1974 in Mandelieu, France where they eventually finished fourth.

In the last edition of the tournament in Rosario, Argentina India had finished a disappointing eighth.

Interestingly, it was India's second defeat to world no. 16 Ireland in the tournament after the 0-1 loss at the pool stages.

It was even-stevens in the first quarter with both India and Ireland failed to create any real scoring opportunity.

India and Ireland managed to penetrate each other's circle quite a few times in the opening 15 minutes but both the teams defended stoutly.

Both India and Ireland defenders came up with some strong challenges inside their own circle to deny each other.

Ireland had the first real scoring



opportunity in the 23rd minute when Anna O'Flanagan's deflection from Kathryn Mullan's pass was saved by a diving Savita.

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