

## NOT BY VIOLENCE, MY SIKH BRETHERN

By Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

Sikhs in the US are belittling themselves by indulging in acts of violence against factions which do not agree with their ideology. While there is freedom of expression in this country, there is also a restriction that the expression has to be peaceful. Physical attacks are a felony and the US law enforcement is bound to proceed against the perpetrators of violence.

It pains peaceful Sikhs in America (and elsewhere in the world, too) to find a faction of Sikhs supporting creation of Khalistan in India, making physical attacks on those Sikhs who do not subscribe to their ideology. Nobody questions their right to advertise and advocate their demand for a Khalistan in India, but all eyebrows will be raised when they commit violence against those not supporting them, or rather opposing them.

The Sikh groups supporting Khalistan have of late taken to the forbidden path of violence.

May be, they are frustrated that the mass of Sikhs abroad does not support them. In India, where they want Khalistan, they hardly have any influence. It is their frustration which is driving them to acts of violence against their opponents. They may not realize now, but history has a lesson to be reminded of- there is ultimate failure when a movement goes violent, because then it loses direction, and people's sympathy.

They need to be reminded of the famous words: you may befool some for all the time; all for some time; but not all for all times.

Advocates of Khalistan need to understand this.

They may also do well to remember that Law Enforcement in this country will not allow them the freedom to go violent against individuals. When the law comes calling these people will repent.

In attacking Manjit Singh GK, President, Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Managing Committee, and a Shiromani Akali Dal leader, and his companions at a gurdwara in Yuba City on Saturday, August 25, the attackers who claim to be pro- Khalistan, have shown complete disregard to the Sikh Gurus who have taught us the lesson of universal brotherhood. They have set a bad example for our younger generation. They have strengthened the already strong impression among US law enforcement that the Sikhs are a violent community. They have further sullied the image of the Sikhs worldwide. They have challenged peace loving majority of Sikhs. They have challenged the laws of the land.

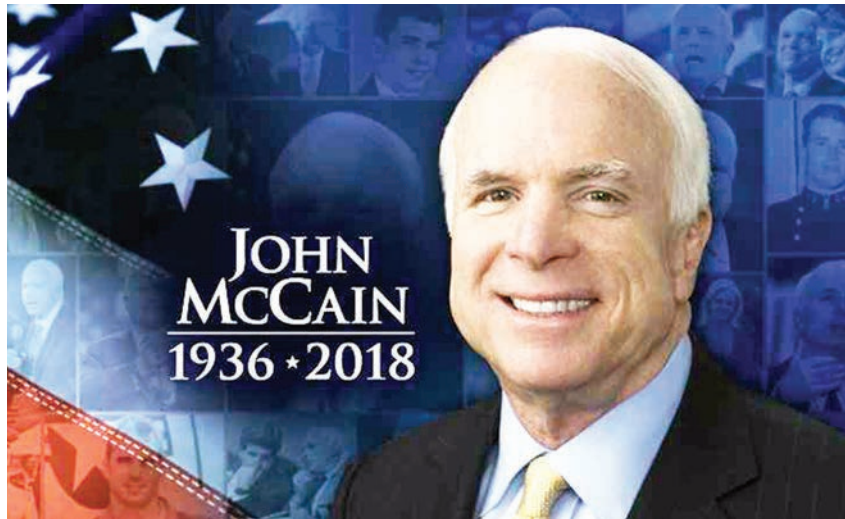
I only hope, wisdom will dawn on them and they will act as the Sikhs our revered Gurus wanted the Sikhs to be- humble, loving and treating the entire mankind as children of One God. Only then will the Khalsa have a sovereign sway.

And, in fine, I urge the US administration to curb with a heavy hand this tendency to resort to violence. Or, else, this nation which has prided itself as being a nation of peaceful and loving people, will soon be faced with the third world situation in respect of law and order.

It is the question of the dignity of the Sikhs and India. It is the question of peace in America.

Are you all listening?

## 'Real hero': Crowds brave Arizona heat to honor John McCain



Real Hero John McCain

PHOENIX, AZ (TIP): Hundreds of people paid their respects to US Senator John McCain on Wednesday, standing for hours in the broiling Arizona sun before filing past the flag-draped casket that his tearful wife, Cindy, lovingly pressed her face against after a ceremony for the former North Vietnam prisoner of war who represented Arizona for decades.

Former military members in shorts and T-shirts stopped and saluted the closed casket flanked by National Guard members at the Arizona Capitol. Families with small children came by, and several people placed their hand over their heart or bowed, including Vietnamese residents who traveled from Southern California. The private service held earlier marked the first appearance

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## Pakistan regurgitating failed approach on Kashmir, says India in the United Nations



Pakistan's Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi rakes up Kashmir issue during debate, drawing a sharp reaction from Permanent Representative of India to the U.N. Syed Akbaruddin  
PTI File Photo

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Pakistan's new government must not indulge in "polemics" but work to build a South Asian region free of terror and violence, India said after Pakistan raked up the Kashmir issue at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Syed Akbaruddin's remarks came during the UNSC debate on Mediation and Settlement of Disputes.

"I take this opportunity to remind - Pakistan - the one isolated delegation that made unwarranted references to an integral part of India, that pacific settlement requires pacific intent

contd on Page 20

## Rs 100-cr scam stings Haryana

### 7 Gurugram ETOs charge sheeted for bogus tax refunds

GURUGRAM, HARYANA, INDIA (TIP): Seven Excise and Taxation Officers (ETOs) posted in Gurugram helped nine firms siphon off funds worth over Rs 100 crore from the state exchequer via bogus tax refund claims. A FIR in this regard was filed in July.

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## Anupam Kher Enlivens Janmashtami Celebrations in Houston

MANU SHAH

HOUSTON (TIP): Bollywood actor Anupam Kher treated Houstonians to the entire array of his onscreen avatars - serious, comic, patriotic, profound, candid, strong and yet vulnerable in his address at the 28th Janmashtami celebrations held at George Brown Convention Center on 25 April. Considered one of the finest actors in Bollywood with a soon-to-be-seen debut in Hollywood, the actor who was the Chief Guest of the evening, lived up to every bit of his reputation and spoke for a full hour only broken by applause and appreciative laughter.

The well attended event which brings all the communities of Houston under one roof to celebrate Lord Krishna's birth, honors outstanding achievements by members of the community and has a lively session of dandiyato round up the evening is organized by the Hindus of Greater Houston.

Kher, who arrived on the dot, took seconds to connect with the gathering. With self-deprecating humor, he



Anupam Kher addressing the gathering

explained why he came to the event in a formal suit and tie. The kurta he had ordered was three sizes too big! After taking off his jacket and tie and looking visibly more comfortable, he launched into a one hour "conversation" with the gathering using his brilliant storytelling

skills, snippets of poetry, anecdotes and rich wit to deliver his serious message- that "failure is an event, not a person." This invaluable lesson was driven home when his parents and grandfather celebrated his academic failures instead of putting him down. contd on Page 20

The INDIAN PANORAMA  
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# “The First Responder”

**Rajan Gangahar packs his film on PTSD with emotion and drama**  
A film on the life and experiences of EMS workers is shot in and around New York



At the shoot. Lucase, Rajan Gangahar, Tara Maldonada

Essentially a loner and a voracious reader, US-based director-writer Rajan Gangahar, has just finished filming "The First Responder", a short film in New York. Says Rajan, "When the Producer approached me to make a film on the life of EMS members' life and experiences, I was not excited. To me, a film is about emotions not just visuals. I liked the perspective, but I wanted to add the most important dimension for a good film. Make it a human story, of a traumatic experience of the EMS worker". Rajan has earlier written and made a feature film, "Khushiyan" in Punjabi, one of the most popular languages in India and won the Best Writer award for the film at PIFA in Toronto, a global

film award mega event. "The film was about human relations and founded on emotions," says Rajan.

Gangahar trained as an actor and worked in theater circuit in India for several years. "Stage performances offered a direct connect with the audience and helped me learn the value of touching the audience's heart. It was instant," he says while talking about his stage experience. Gangahar traveled with a theater group all across Canada and USA for his play. And the response was universal. It connected with the audience everywhere. "I was clear. Any form of creative work will connect and be successful if we can touch the heart".

Whether it is a debate on India or the USA, Gangahar always tends to lean on the freedom of expression. Political or intellectual or creative or even religious subjects are deliberated with same zeal keeping the backdrop of human behavior. The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in any profession, including EMS, is essentially due to some or the other form of guilt, which may be haunting the sufferer. And then the patient enters the state of denial. Whether it is the guilt or fear of facing it again or inability to confess, the person keeps running away from reality.

Whether it is a play or story-screenplay-dialogues or directing, Gangahar has never tried to rush into anything in a quest to do a lot. It's not about lust of fame but the satisfaction of doing good quality creative work that drives the Gangahar. It's not about telling the family and world of friends about making a film but "telling" the story in the right manner on screen or stage or television that stimulates Gangahar. "When the producer of "The First Responder" shared the subject of the film which he had conceived as a

documentary on the life of EMS workers, I was clear, it is a universal subject. Most amongst us have dealt with EMS as volunteers or when we sought their service or when one or other member in our family worked with EMS. We all know the essence of the EMS duty. But what interested me was to adapt it for a fiction short film yet depicting the life and trauma of an EMS staffer," says Gangahar. And a short documentary was transformed into a docu-drama and then to a short film based on fiction, yet close to a real-life story.

"The hero or protagonist of my film has similar trauma. He is suffering every day as his experience haunts him. Days and nights. But he denies and even refuses to take professional help. It reaches an extreme when he can't even take assignment lest he fail again. He wants to pretend and show off machoism yet all around him observe his suffering. He even contemplates suicide," says Gangahar.

"A compassionate boss and a caring wife help him to take professional help. Finally, barriers are broken, and he hugs his wife in elevator while going back home after he completes the treatment," he adds.

"I have been studying cinema for quite some time. Learning from the West, I believe in doing complete homework. It is not about the scale of the subject or canvass. A detailed and thorough pre-production work helps," says Gangahar. With about 16 persons in crew and 10 actors, the unit was small. The creative team could focus on meaningful output especially keeping in mind the limited resources.

The filming has been completed in less than ten days while shooting all around in New York city. Gangahar expects to finish post-production work by end of August and then submit the film for festivals around the world.



EXCLUSIVE  
**INTERVIEW**  
with RAJAN GANGAHAR

## 'Any story that deals with human emotions interests me' - Rajan



**What attracted you to take on this project as a director?**

I would say it was the subject. It is a story of EMT workers and their exposure to traumatic circumstances. We see EMT workers all the time and expect them to be first responders. In worst of the circumstances, constant exposure to these traumatic situations can lead to PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). This medical condition affects everyone around you, the family, friends, colleagues. Unfortunately, there is a macho culture and one

considers a weakness to seek medical help. It is a story of When Helping Hurts.

**Who wrote the story?**

Ron Basci, a friend of mine, has written the script about an EMT worker and silently suffered from PTSD.

**How did you select the cast and the crew?**

Casting was a complicated process. The original casting call attracted more than 600 actors. The team brought it down to 30. Final auditioning went on for a week. All the hard work paid off and we were able to ensemble a cast of 9 -- probably the best from theater and films.

**How was the experience of working with an American unit including an American Producer?**

It was an enriching experience since I was able to share my experience and also adopt to local technical crew. At the end of the day we have been able to create a believable human story.

**How is it different from making an Indian film?**

Internet has created a flat world for every field including in the field of film making. Though some ground realities will always influence working environment like availability of low-cost labor

in Indian film industry. And that translates to multiple resources always available on call. On the contrary, the crew in America is comparatively smaller but better trained in latest technologies, though the gap is diminishing.

**You have been an actor yourself. Why did you not act in the film?**

It is always tempting but I avoid the temptation, especially when as a director the performance of the whole cast needs your undivided attention.

**How is a short film different from making a feature length film?**

Any film less than 50 minutes is considered a short film. The difference is less time to establish characters and still engaging the audience from conflict to resolution. The future of entertainment as predicted by experts would be shorter films because of shorter attention span of the younger generation.

**What is most important to you in making a film?**

Film making is a field of director, DOP Editor Maintaining a single, clear vision through communication before the shoot is the key. Since they all are telling same story in different languages with their respective tools. It is imperative for all of them to have single clear vision. Artistically, I am of the opinion in creating believable characters is the key and I am fascinated by the process of characterization. Acting is doing consciously what we do unconsciously in real life. Recreating that behavior is what creates a great performance.

**What kind of cinema do you like as a film maker?**

Any story that deals with human emotions interests me.

**Where do you see Indian cinema today and five years from now, especially with Netflix and Amazon redefining boundaries?**

With the availability of internet, we human are no longer confined by physical and imaginary boundaries. We are more aware of other cultures, there history, there struggles and sufferings and curious to listen to stories beyond barriers of language and culture. Corporates like Amazon, Netflix, Apple are

trying to ride that wave by creating single international platform for everything from screening films to making films.

**Indian films have recently created history by making almost \$300 million in China? What is the reason? Do you see similar possibilities for Indian cinema in USA?**

The present times are probably the best of times for the Indian film industry. India is producing realistic and sensitive cinema and global audience including in US, China, UK is accepting it. An era of films with universal issues that strike a chord with both foreign and domestic audience has commenced. Rest is a numbers game.

**Why are Indian Directors not making films in Hollywood? Even top Indian actors rarely do films in Hollywood. Why? Do you see this changing in near future?**

No one can live in isolation. There is so much to learn from experiences of each other. Both industries were catering to their own kind of audience, but it is changing. Hollywood studios are experimenting with adding in Indian actors in significant roles. Initially to get wider audience but with time they would be doing it for talent. Future is, both industries working with each other or for each other and launching joint ventures.

**In your view, is human interest story a universal subject? Can a film appeal to all or majority of audiences across the world?**

Yes, there is no doubt in that. Perfect example would be the play "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller -- a story of a middle-class family struggle in 1950. This play was translated and performed in every country and almost every language. So, yes emotions and feelings are universal, dressed in local cultures.

**What is next for your short film? Do you see it appealing to all audiences across the world?**

Yes, I am positive it will, emotions like music are universal.

**What would you like to do next and in what capacity?**

There are stories to be explored and told. I would love to remain a storyteller in any format -- a film, a Play or a book... as a director, an actor or a writer.

# Indian American members of Congress running for re-election

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Never before has there been such a crop of Indian Americans in politics in the US. The Indian American community has come of age in respect of their involvement in politics. Four Indian American members of Congress - Reps Ami Bera, D-CA; Ro Khanna, D-CA; Pramila Jayapal, D-WA; and Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-IL - are running for re-election.

Additionally, the following Indian Americans will be on ballot in November:

**Aftab Pureval, Ohio's 1st congressional district:** Pureval, son of an Indian father and a Tibetan mother, is one of the rising stars in Ohio's Democratic party. He won the May primary unopposed and is running against Republican Rep. Steve Chabot.

## **Sri Preston Kulkarni, Texas' 22nd congressional district:**

A former diplomat, Kulkarni won a contested primary to earn the right to face Republican Pete Olson in the Houston area district.

## **Chintan Desai, Arkansas' first district:**

Desai, a teacher, won the Democratic primary in June and will take on three-term incumbent Republican Rick Crawford in November.

## **Jitendra 'J.D.' Diganvker, Illinois' 6th congressional district:**



*Indian Americans up for re-election to House. Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal, and Raja Krishnamoorthi*

Diganvker, who immigrated to the United States in 1995, is the only Indian American Republican congressional candidate who will be on the ballot in November. He will face the incumbent Indian American Rep. Krishnamoorthi.

# Indian-Origin Satya Tripathi becomes Assistant Secretary-General of UN Environment Body

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** Indian-origin UN official Satya S Tripathi joined the long list of Indians with the United Nations. He has been appointed as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.



*Satya S Tripathi has been with the United Nations since 1998 in various capacities. He is now ASG and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

Tripathi, who will succeed Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago, has since 2017 served as senior adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at UNEP.

A development economist and lawyer with over 35 years of experience, Tripathi has worked for the United Nations since 1998 in Europe, Asia and Africa on strategic assignments in sustainable development, human rights, democratic governance and legal affairs, spokesman for the Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric told reporters at United Nations.

Tripathi was previously the Director and Executive Head of the United Nations Office for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries Coordination in Indonesia, as well as for the United Nations Recovery Coordinator for the \$7 billion post-tsunami and post-conflict recovery efforts in Aceh and Nias.

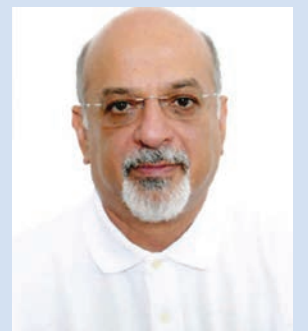
He participated as Chair of the Committees on Laws and Treaties for the United Nations-mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004.

Earlier in his career he acted as a Senior Distinguished Fellow on Natural Resources Governance with the World Agro-forestry Centre and on the World Economic Forum's Global Advisory Council on Forests.

Tripathi holds honors in bachelor's and master's degrees in commerce; and bachelor's and master's degrees in law from Berhampur University, India.

## Indian-Origin Man gets \$1.2 Million in Compensation for "Fake News" Article in Canada

**VANCOUVER, CANADA (TIP):** An Indian-origin Canadian businessman has been awarded \$1.2 million in damages after he was defamed in a series of fake news articles instigated by a prominent American blockchain investor.



*The huge compensation comes to Altaf Nazerali after a seven year legal battle to clear his name*

It is one of the biggest compensations of its kind in Canada. Vancouver-based Altaf Nazerali, who is originally from Bhuj, Gujarat, had sued Patrick Byrne, CEO of online retailer Overstock.com, for a campaign of lies aimed to tarnish the reputation of the NRI businessman.

Last week, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected Patrick Byrne's appeal against \$1.2 million granted to the NRI businessman by the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2016.

The huge compensation for Altaf Nazerali comes after a seven-year legal battle to clear his name after a series of articles published in 2011, on an American website DeepCapture.com tried to depict the NRI businessman as a drug trafficker, arms dealer and gangster and a financial supporter of al-Qaida. The articles tried to show that he had links to Russian and Italian mafias.

The articles were written by Mark Mitchell and published on the website - owned and published by Byrne-which reports on criminal financial conspiracies.

*Read full story @ www.theindianpanorama.news*

## Indian-Origin Man in UK to be Deported to India to Finish Jail Term for Wife's Murder

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian-origin man serving a jail term in a UK jail for killing his wife over eight years ago is to be deported to India to serve the remainder of his murder sentence in Punjab.



*Harpreet Aulakh was sentenced to prison in December 2010 for murdering his wife Geeta Aulakh*

Harpreet Aulakh was sentenced to a minimum of 28 years in London in December 2010 for plotting the murder of his wife, Geeta Aulakh, after she asked for a divorce. The 40-year-old will be deported under the India-UK Repatriation of Prisoners Act, the BBC reported today.

"All arrangements are in place. According to the plan, the UK authorities will bring him to Delhi from where a team of Punjab police officers will bring him to Amritsar," IPS Sahota, a top prison official in Punjab, was quoted as saying.

Inspector general of prisons Roop Kumar said Harpreet Aulakh, who is from Punjab, had told UK authorities that he wanted to serve his remaining term in India.

Geeta Aulakh, 28, was brutally attacked with a machete during the attack in Greenford, west London, in November 2009. She worked for local Indian community radio station, Sunrise Radio, and her murder had hit headlines around the world at the time of the attack.

In November 2009, the victim, who was the mother of Harpreet Aulakh's two sons, was hacked to death with a sword, which her husband of 10 years had chosen from a selection of swords at a store days before the murder.

The attack took place when Geeta Aulakh went to pick up her sons after leaving work at the radio station where she worked as a receptionist.

She was found with head injuries and her right hand severed, and died a few hours later in hospital.

Harpreet Aulakh, also known as Sunny, and two others, Sher Singh, 19, and Jaswant Dhillon, 30, were also found guilty of Geeta Aulakh's murder in 2010. Sher Singh, who actually wielded the sword, and Jaswant Dhillon, who acted as the lookout for the group, were sentenced to 22 years behind bars. During the trial, the court was told that British-born Indian-origin Geeta Aulakh wanted to divorce her husband over his involvement in violent crimes, leading him to plot her murder.

## Indian-Origin Pathologist Accused of Bungling Post-Mortem Reports in UK

**LONDON (TIP):** Indian-origin pathologist, Khalid Ahmed, has been accused of mishandling some post-mortems at a UK hospital and is under police investigation to establish if any criminal charges need to be brought against him. Ahmed, who worked as a consultant pathologist at the Royal Oldham Hospital in Manchester, carried out an undisclosed number of post-mortem tests for the north Manchester coroner's office.



*Khalid Ahmed faces police investigation to establish if any criminal charges need to be brought against him for mishandling post mortem reports*

An investigation revealed that he repeatedly recorded the wrong cause of death for patients, misidentified organs and potentially mixed up bodies, The Daily Telegraph reported.

In May last year, the senior coroner at the north Manchester coroner's office raised concerns about Khalid Ahmed's examinations and a recent review found "significant concerns" with his "inadequate" said reports.

Professor Simon Kim Suvarna, a consultant histopathologist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, carried out the review into Ahmed, who qualified as a medic in Bengaluru in 1989, and found some reports to have an "incorrect" cause of death given.

*Read full story @ www.theindianpanorama.news*

Indian American Democrats win congressional primaries unopposed



Indian Americans Hiral Tipirneni and Sanjay Patel ran and won unopposed on August 28 Democratic primaries in Arizona and Florida.

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian Americans appear to be doing well in politics. In the latest political bouts, Hiral Tipirneni and Sanjay Patel ran and won unopposed on August 28 Democratic primaries in Arizona and Florida.

On Tuesday, another Indian American Democrat, tech executive Anita Malik, is leading by 383 votes against her nearest rival in Arizona's 6th congressional district. Malik's race is too close to call.

Tipirneni, who lost a close special election to Rep. Debbie Lesko in April, will now face the same rival in the midterm elections on November 6 in Arizona's 8th congressional district.

In the highly competitive special election, which was warranted because the incumbent GOP Rep. Trent Franks resigned last December after he was embroiled in a sexual misconduct scandal, Tipirneni received more than 82,300 votes (47.4 percent), roughly 9,000 fewer than Lesko.

However, despite the competitive nature of their last race, Cook Political Report rates the district as a solidly Republican seat in November.

Patel will run against face incumbent Bill Posey, who similarly ran unopposed in the Republican primary in Florida's 8th congressional district.

Patel, a first-generation immigrant and small business owner, also starts as an underdog. Cook Political report rates the district as a solidly Republican seat, with GOP having a 11-percentage point advantage. Sabato's Crystal Ball also rates the district as a "safe" Republican seat.

Patel is also behind in the money race, having raised only \$231,000, less than half of the nearly \$600,000 collected by Posey, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

The Indian American is running on a number of issues such as healthcare, economy and jobs, environment and education.

On healthcare, he has vowed to work "to make healthcare a right for every American by supporting Medicare for All."

With the primary victories of Patel and Tipirneni, the number of Indian Americans on the midterm congressional ballots has reached double digits.

# Ex-Trump campaign chief Paul Manafort seeks to move second trial out of Washington

Manafort, who sought unsuccessfully to move the first trial away from the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia, is hoping for better luck with Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who is presiding over the second case in a federal court in Washington.

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Lawyers for former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort said on August 28 that they would seek to move his second trial, scheduled to start next month, out of Washington, DC, due to concerns that a jury from the Democratic stronghold would be biased.

Their request for a change of venue highlighted the extent to which politics has coursed through the prosecution of Manafort, who US President Donald Trump defended as a "brave man" even after a jury convicted him of tax and bank fraud in the first trial that ended last week.

Manafort, who sought unsuccessfully to move the first trial away from the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia, is hoping for better luck with Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who is presiding over the second case in a federal court in Washington.

Jackson said she would entertain the motion but said she believed he could get a fair trial in her court.

"This jurisdiction has had very high profile cases before," Jackson said at a hearing on Tuesday. "I'd like to believe that is still possible."

Manafort, a longtime Washington lobbyist and consultant, faces seven criminal counts in the upcoming trial, including allegations of money laundering, obstruction of justice and failing to register as a foreign agent for his work on behalf of pro-Russian politicians from Ukraine.

Change of venue requests are rarely approved, according to two jury consultants interviewed by Reuters.

In denying Manafort's motion to move the first trial to Roanoke, Virginia, the judge rejected the notion that a jury pool from Alexandria, which voted two-to-one for



Hillary Clinton in 2016, would be biased against associates of Trump.

The political tilt is more pronounced in Washington, which Clinton won with 90 per cent of the vote.

Leslie Ellis, a director at jury consulting firm DecisionQuest, saw a bigger risk for Manafort in the probability that jurors from the capital would be knowledgeable about lobbying, tax law and other issues central to the case.

"Having case-relevant experience tends to be riskier for defendants because it is easier for someone with some knowledge of a field to hold a defendant to a higher standard than is appropriate or necessary," Ellis said.

## JURY SELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17

Manafort's trials are the first to arise out of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, although Mueller has secured a number of indictments, guilty pleas and immunity deals.

Berman said jury selection for the second trial would start on Sept. 17 and set opening statements for Sept. 24, a scheduling tweak she said was aimed in part at appeasing Manafort's lawyers who had requested a week delay in the trial's start date of Sept. 17.

The move came after an earlier bench conference in which Kevin Downing, one of Manafort's lawyers, could be heard complaining to the judge about the time pressure they were under. The conference was supposed to be inaudible to attendees in the courtroom due to a white-noise machine.

"We don't have the resources," Downing said. "We just finished a trial last week."

Also on Tuesday, Jackson approved the prosecution's request to allow evidence about Justice Department inspections in the 1980's that found Manafort had failed to disclose lobbying activities for foreign governments, one way the government planned to show that Manafort knowingly broke the law.

But Jackson said she would limit what they could show and asked both sides to agree on a stipulation that would tell the jury how Manafort was notified about lobbying disclosure rules in the past in a way that would not prejudice the jury. (Reuters)

## Minorities in Pakistan cry for justice: SAMAF to highlight Pakistani atrocities on Minorities in Pakistan at the Hill on Sept. 5

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** South Asia Minorities Alliance Foundation (SAMAF) is hosting 'Day on The Hill' at Capitol Hill on September 5.

Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, members of think tanks and South Asia experts will attend this historic event at Capitol Hill.

### PROGRAM

**Date:** 5th September 2018  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Address:** Veterans Affairs committee room, 340 Cannon House Off Bldg.  
**Washington D.C. 20515**

This event is aimed at highlighting the issue of religious freedom and minority rights in Pakistan as well as to show solidarity with the Afghan people and US troops and their families. The event will also recognize and honor Congressman Tom Garrett's role in promoting minority rights.



SAMAF, an IRS 501(c)(3) public charity foundation based in the USA, is striving to bring global attention to the injustices, persecution, and ethnic and religious cleansing that minorities are facing in South Asia. SAMAF provides these oppressed

minorities a platform to speak as one voice on Human rights & religious freedom; Economic uplifting and security of minorities; Eradicating terrorism and ensuring stability in South Asia; Promotion of democracy and freedom of press.

# Ahead of 2+2 dialogue, US official says no change in H-1B visa policy

The Trump administration is pushing for a reform of the H-1B system, saying some IT companies were abusing the US work visas to deny jobs to American workers.

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** There is no change in the US' H-1B visa policy which is currently undergoing a review to ensure that it does not disadvantage US workers or wages, a senior Trump administration official has said ahead of next week's 2+2 Dialogue during which India is expected to raise the issue of the work visa popular among Indian IT professionals.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The Trump administration is pushing for a reform of the H-1B system, saying some IT companies were abusing the US work visas to deny jobs to American workers.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told the Rajya Sabha last month that India was taking up the issue with the White House as well as with US Congressmen.

"We will raise it humbly at the 2+2 dialogue

on September 6 in New Delhi," she had said.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a senior official of the administration acknowledged that it was prepared for India raising the H-1B issue at the 2+2 Dialogue, but added that it would not have much to say as the policy remained the same and was undergoing review.

"The Trump Administration's executive order has called for a broad review of the US worker visa programme known as H-1B in the interest of ensuring that they are administered in a way that doesn't disadvantage US workers or wages," the official said.

"But there has been no change to the processing of H-1B visas. So it's really impossible for me to speculate on the outcome and any possible changes to the system. It is obviously an issue that is important to India," the official added.

Recently, the US has extended by over five months the temporary suspension of premium processing for H-1B visas as part of its efforts to clear the backlog.

The H-1B visa has an annual numerical limit cap of 65,000 each fiscal year as mandated by the Congress. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with a US master's degree or higher are exempt from the cap.

Additionally, H-1B workers who are petitioned for or employed at an institution of higher education or its affiliated or related nonprofit entities or a nonprofit research organisation or a government research organisation are not subject to this numerical cap. In July, a report by an American nonprofit body claimed that there has been a substantial increase in denial of H-1B visa petitions of Indians by the US Immigration authority as compared to people of other nationalities.

According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), between 2007 and 2017, it received the maximum number of 2.2 million H-1B petitions from high-skilled Indians. India was followed by China with 301,000 H-1B petitions during the same period. (PTI)

## DONALD TRUMP VOWS TO 'GET INVOLVED' IF JUSTICE DEPT, FBI DON'T DO THEIR JOB

**Trump told Bloomberg News in an interview that Sessions, whom he has repeatedly attacked for recusing himself from oversight of the Russia probe, was safe in his job until the November congressional elections.**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump said on Thursday Attorney General Jeff Sessions was safe in his job until November but warned, at a campaign-style rally in Indiana, that he would "get involved" if the FBI and Justice Department didn't "start doing their job."

Trump told Bloomberg News in an interview that Sessions, whom he has repeatedly attacked for recusing himself from oversight of the Russia probe, was safe in his job until the November congressional elections.

But he declined to say if he would keep Sessions on after that.

Speaking later at a rally in Evansville, Indiana, Trump suggested that the leadership of the Justice Department and FBI were biased against Republicans and that "people are angry."

"Our Justice Department and our FBI - at the top of each, because inside they have incredible people - but our Justice Department and our FBI have to start doing their job and doing it right and doing it now," Trump said.

"I wanted to stay out, but at some point if it doesn't straighten out properly ... I will get involved and I'll get in there if I have to."

Trump has held Sessions responsible, in part, for the Russia investigation. After Sessions recused himself, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Special Counsel Robert Mueller to lead the probe into Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential campaign, which Trump has called a "witch hunt."

Asked in the Bloomberg News interview whether he would comply if Mueller issued a subpoena for him to appear for questioning, Trump said, "I'll see what happens."

"I view it differently," Bloomberg quoted Trump as saying. "I view it as an illegal investigation" because "great scholars" have said that "there should never have been a special counsel."

The president resumed his attacks on Session via Twitter last week, saying the attorney general had never fully exerted control over the Justice Department.

Sessions, in a rare rebuttal, responded that he took control of the department the day he became attorney general and would not allow it to be "improperly influenced by political considerations."

Trump said in a Twitter post on Saturday that Sessions "doesn't understand what is happening underneath his command position." He charged that Mueller's probe was "highly conflicted" and that "real corruption goes untouched."

Some Republican lawmakers have predicted Trump would replace Sessions, a former US senator, after the November 6 elections. (Reuters)

## Asian-American Students Suing Harvard over Admissions Win Justice Dept. Support

**"Harvard has failed to show that it does not unlawfully discriminate against Asian-Americans," the Justice Department said.**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Justice Department lent its support on Thursday, August 30, to students who are suing Harvard University over affirmative action policies that they claim discriminate against Asian-American applicants, in a case that could have far-reaching consequences for the use of affirmative action in college admissions.

In a so-called statement of interest, the department supported the claims of the plaintiffs, a group of Asian-Americans rejected by Harvard. They contend that Harvard has systematically discriminated against them by artificially capping the number of qualified Asian-Americans from attending the school in order to advance less-qualified students of other races.

In its filing, the Justice Department argued that the court should deny Harvard's request to dismiss the case before trial.

The government said that Supreme Court rulings require that universities considering race in admissions meet several standards. They must define their diversity-related goals and show that they cannot meet those goals without using race as a factor in admissions decisions.

The department argued that Harvard does not adequately explain how race factors into its admissions decisions, leaving open the possibility that the university is going beyond what the law allows.

"Harvard has failed to show that it does not unlawfully discriminate against Asian-Americans," the Justice Department said in a statement Thursday.

The Harvard case, which was brought by an anti-affirmative-action group called Students for Fair Admissions, is seen as a test of whether a decades-long effort by conservative politicians and advocates to roll back affirmative action policies will ultimately succeed.

That push has broad support from President Trump. The Department of Education and Justice Department said in July that the administration was abandoning Obama-era policies that asked universities to consider race as a factor in diversifying their campuses and would favor race-blind admissions instead.

## Foundation Stone-laying ceremony of the New Haridham Mandir in Chicago

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** Temple is a divine and majestic place of pilgrimage, where life unites with 'Jagadish' - the divine ruler of this world. It is a place, where devotees unify with their daitee, where soul fades into the ultimate divinity, where our next generation gets a dose of our true Samskara (sacrament) and culture.

It's a place where a mere stone transfigures itself to become a divine idol. This is a place, where our material being, and physical existence convert into a divine temple. It is a place, from where the message of brotherhood, profoundness, unity and intimacy spreads door-to-door.

With such benedictory purpose and a soulful resolve for welfare and well-being of the people, the erection of the temple in Chicago city of Illinois State of the United States began on May 12 with Mahapuja under total Vedic practice.

Along with the celebrations marking the beginning of construction work for the new Temple, the auspicious occasion of Rakshabandhan was also jointly celebrated in the august presence of HH Swamishri.

On this occasion, young members of Chicago Mandal performed mellifluous music including some of the marvelous kirtana and bhajans, which enthralled the listeners.

Shree Himanshubhai narrated the significance the occasion of Rakshabandhan in a poetic way and stated that Guru Hari Swamishri has committed to protect us from all evils from within and outside. He recounted a variety of incidents to explain his philosophy.

HH Swamiji deliberated upon the importance of Rakshabandhan and said, "We celebrate the festival of Rakshabandhan to pray to God so that he continues to protect us in all situations. Five Pandavas conquered the 100 Kauravas, because they had Lord Shri Krishna on their side to protect them. Likewise, if we surrender ourselves to the God of Godly Saint, we will remain protected in all situations. As much faith we put in God, that much we shall be protected."

Read full story on [www.theindianpanoramanews.com](http://www.theindianpanoramanews.com)



HH Swamiji delivering a discourse



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BIMSTEC leaders at the Leaders' Retreat, in Kathmandu, on August 31.

## MODI MEETS SRI LANKAN PREZ IN NEPAL, DISCUSSES BILATERAL COOPERATION

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a bilateral meeting with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit here to discuss ways to boost cooperation.

Modi arrived here in the morning to attend the 4th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit.

"Cementing cooperation with a valued neighbour and close friend. President @MaithripalaS and PM @narendramodi meet on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

The BIMSTEC is a regional grouping comprising Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. The grouping accounts for 22 per cent of the global population. *Source: PTI*

## India, Pakistan hold talks on Indus Waters Treaty



**LAHORE (TIP):** India and Pakistan on Wednesday commenced crucial talks on various aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty here, the first bilateral engagement since Prime Minister Imran Khan took office.

The first round of the two-day meeting is being held at the National Engineering Services Pakistan.

The water commissioners of Pakistan and India are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works, but Pakistan had been facing a lot of problems in timely meetings and visits.

The Indian side is being represented by a delegation of the Indian Water Commission led by Commissioner P K Saxena whereas Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Meher Ali Shah and his delegation are representing Pakistan, it said.

Both the countries are expected to present their reports during the talks. After the meeting, a joint notification would be issued.

Yesterday, Shah and additional commissioner Sheraz Jamil received the nine-member Indian delegation led by Saxena on its arrival here via Wagah border.

The talks will be the first official engagement between India and Pakistan since Khan became prime minister on August 18.

The last meeting of the Pakistan-India Permanent Indus Commission was held in New Delhi in March during which both the sides had shared details of the water flow and the quantum of water being used under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty.

India and Pakistan signed the treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory.

# Rafale jets deal: Rahul Gandhi demands parliamentary probe

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Congress president Rahul Gandhi on August 30 stepped up his attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and finance minister Arun Jaitley on the Rafale jets deal and reiterated his party's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the contract.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) responded soon after, alleging that the Congress was making excuses to cover up for its own inability to strengthen the Indian Air Force (IAF) when the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was in power.

"(Arun) Jaitley is writing lengthy blogs but why is the government silent on the demand for a JPC probe into the deal? Jaitley is scared to ask the Prime Minister about constituting a JPC," Gandhi told a news conference at the party headquarters in Delhi.

"Why did you (Modi) buy an aircraft of Rs 520 crore at the cost of Rs 1,600 crore? Who were you trying to benefit?" he added.

Later in the evening, Gandhi tweeted that the government had not initiated a JPC probe within the 24-hour deadline he had prescribed the previous day. "Dear Mr Jaitley, I guess your boss refused to hold a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the GREAT RAFALE ROBBERY? Too much to hide, too scared to face the people, I suppose..."

The NDA government's decision to



enter an \$8.7 billion government-to-government deal with France to buy 36 Rafale warplanes made by Dassault was announced in April 2015, with an agreement signed a little over a year later. This replaced the UPA decision to buy 126 Rafale aircraft, 108 of which were to be made in India by the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

The deal has become controversial with the Opposition, led by the Congress, saying that the price at which India is buying the aircraft now is Rs 1,670 crore for each, three times the Rs 526 crore initial bid by the company when the UPA was trying to buy the aircraft. It has also claimed the previous deal included a technology transfer agreement with HAL.

The deal has also become controversial on account of the fact that one of the offset deals signed by Dassault is with the Reliance Group of

Anil Ambani. The Congress claims the earlier deal was scrapped and a new one signed just to provide Ambani this opportunity for an offset deal.

Both the government and Reliance have repeatedly denied this.

"It is a clear case. Anil Ambani had never manufactured aircraft. He had a debt of Rs 45,000 crore. He set up a company some days before the deal was signed. On the other hand, HAL has been manufacturing aircraft for last 70 years and has no debts," Gandhi said.

He and Jaitley had sparred on social media on Wednesday over which government had struck a better deal. Jaitley said the current deal also includes customised weaponry and the aircraft being supplied now are "fully loaded" and wrote a 15-point questionnaire to Gandhi in a blog.

Gandhi said Thursday that instead of telling the nation who benefited from the deal, Jaitley was asking questions from him. "He can ask but the government needs to give answers to my three questions and order a JPC probe." The BJP hit back soon after, with a party spokesperson accusing Gandhi of having nothing new to say. "You first need to get your facts right about the pricing. This kindergarten debate was rightly pointed about Mr Arun Jaitley. Rahul Gandhi has quoted seven different figures of the Rafale aircraft so far," Sambit Patra said. *Source: HT*

# Land scam: Court grants bail to Rabri Devi, Tejashwi Yadav

The CBI court also issued a production warrant against Lalu Prasad Yadav for October 6

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Delhi's Patiala House Court on Friday granted bail to former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and her son and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav in the IRCTC land scam case. The accused have to furnish a personal bond and surety amount of Rs 1 lakh each.

The CBI court also issued a production warrant against Lalu Prasad Yadav for October 6. The former Bihar chief minister did not appear before the court today as he is serving time in a Ranchi jail after conviction in fodder scam cases.

The first chargesheet was filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against the RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, son Tejashwi Yadav and 13 others in connection with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) scam. The agency also named RJD leader and Union minister Prem Chand Gupta, his wife Sarla Gupta and a firm Lara projects in the chargesheet.

The former CM and the IRCTC officials have been accused of allegedly misusing their position for granting sub-lease of the rights of two railway hotels at Puri and Ranchi to Ms Sujata Hotel Pvt. Ltd. owned by Vijay and Vinay



Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav (right).

Kochhar.

In return, 358 decimal of land was transferred to Ms Delight Marketing Company Pvt Ltd (a company owned by family of P C Gupta who is a close associate of Prasad and an MP from RJD) in February 2005 at a rate lesser than the then market value.

The agency has accused that Rabri Devi and her son Tejashwi got a valuable piece of land transferred to their name by way of share purchase at nominal prices. It further said that that the purchase was made using funds of 'dubious origin' and had been laundered through several groups of companies.

# Activists held for alleged Maoist links return home after SC reprieve

**PUNE (TIP):** Civil society members on August 30 demanded action against the Pune police for a “vicious and malafide attack” against five activists arrested for alleged Maoist links, even as the investigators contended they had digital evidence to lead the probe to its logical conclusion and state government officials said they will present a “strong case” in the Supreme Court.

A day after the Supreme Court refused custody of the five activists — lawyer and trade union activist Sudha Bhardwaj, poet P Varavara Rao, activist Gautam Navlakha, and lawyers Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves — to the police and ordered house arrest till September 6, Pune police commissioner K Venkatesham said investigations will continue in the case.

“We will continue to investigate the case and will take it to its logical end. We have got some leads about people’s links with banned organisation,” said Venkatesham. He said investigating officials have strong “digital evidence”, which will be submitted in the court.

In Delhi, activists called the Tuesday arrests a mockery of the legal system. “It is a coup against the Constitution. It is a very dire situation, potentially more dangerous than the Emergency,” writer Arundhati Roy said, flanked by lawyer Prashant Bhushan and Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani, among others.

The five activists have been charged with criminal conspiracy, creating fear and enmity between groups, and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The arrests were part of an investigation into violence that broke out in Bhima Koregaon in Maharashtra on January 1 during the bicentennial celebration of a British-era war by Dalits.

State government officials said on the condition of anonymity that they assured the Centre they possessed



Arun Ferreira, a human rights activist and lawyer, after he was arrested by the Pune police in connection with Bhima Koregaon violence case, in Mumbai.

strong evidence in the form of literature and communication seized from devices.

“We had detailed communication with our legal cell in Delhi in the backdrop of the remarks by the SC. We are in the process of dispatching the documents to Delhi, and by Wednesday, the submission in the SC will be completed. Sensitive documents will be submitted to the court in sealed envelopes,” an official from the home department said.

According to Pune Police, an event called Elgar Parishad on December 31, 2017 in Pune where various activists and Dalit organisations came together, was responsible for stoking the violence the next day. In June, the police arrested five people — activist Sudhir Dhawale, lawyer Surendra Gadling, activist Rona Wilson, researcher Mahesh Raut, and retired professor Shoma Sen — for alleged Maoist ties. A separate probe by Pune (rural) police in the January 1 violence has named two Hindu right wing leaders, Milind Ekbote and Shambhaji

Bhide.

Senior Pune police officials said on the condition of anonymity they recovered “incriminating” and “conclusive” evidence. “What we submitted before the court on Wednesday was part of evidence. We have around 250 documents and large amount of electronic evidence, which we will submit in the court,” said another senior official monitoring the probe who asked not to be named.

“We are confident of nailing the suspects,” said Venkatesham.

Pune Police has claimed before the court that the arrested activists were allegedly part of an “anti-fascist” front of the Maoists, were involved in recruiting students and young people, had links with separatists in Kashmir and were intending to strike “high functionaries” in the government. Defence lawyers have rejected the charges, and questioned the arrests.

Source: HT and agencies



## 483 DEAD, FLOOD LOSS MORE THAN KERALA’S ANNUAL OUTLAY, SAYS CM VIJAYAN

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP):** The Kerala flood disaster has claimed 483 lives and the estimated value of destruction “is more than the annual outlay of our state”, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said.

Initiating the debate at a special one-day session of the Assembly to discuss the disaster, Vijayan said 14 people still remained missing although flood waters have receded from almost all parts of the state.

He added that at the height of the floods, the worst to hit the state in a century, there were 14.50 lakh people in more than 3,000 relief camps.

“The latest figure is—there are 59,296 people in 305 relief camps. A total of 57,000 hectares of agriculture crops have been destroyed. An approximate estimate of the loss is more than the annual outlay of our state,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the Meteorological Department gave out adequate warnings regarding the rains but the unprecedented showers led to a deluge.

The predicted rains from August 9 to 15 were 98.5 mm but the state got 352.2 mm, he said.

Hitting out at the government, senior Congress legislator V.D. Sateeshan, whose constituency Paravur in Ernakulam district was submerged, called it “a man-made tragedy”.

“This is not a natural calamity, instead a man-made tragedy due to the faulty handling of the dam water management. Dams in the state were overflowing and the primary reason for this tragedy is the way the dam waters were indiscriminately let out,” he said. Source: IANS

## India not guaranteed sanctions waiver for Russian arms: US



**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A top Pentagon official has cautioned India that there are no guarantees for a special waiver from US sanctions if it buys new weapons platforms from Russia.

Washington is alarmed at the prospect of India, an increasingly important US military ally and the world’s top defence importer, buying new systems from Russia, including its S-400 long-range, surface-to-air missile system.

Under current US rules against Russia, third countries could face sanctions if they transact with Russian defence or intelligence sectors.

But after lobbying from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Congress granted the US president and the secretary of state the option of granting waivers, such as when an ally nation transitions from legacy Russian gear to Western arms. Randall Schriver, the Pentagon’s assistant secretary of defence for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, said the waiver authority had created the impression Washington would insulate India “from any fallout from this legislation no matter what they do.” “I would say that’s a bit misleading,” Schriver told an audience at the Carnegie Endowment For International Peace in Washington.

“We would still have very significant concerns if India pursued major new platforms and systems (from Russia). I can’t sit here and tell you that they would be exempt, that we would use that waiver.” Source: AFP

# SC/STs can get quota in home state only, says Supreme Court

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on August 30 held that a member of an SC/ST community from one state cannot claim the benefit of reservation in government jobs or admission in another state, if his or her caste is not notified there. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi also held that in Delhi, the central reservation policy applicable in jobs of the central government regarding Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), would be applicable.

It unanimously held that a person belonging to SCs or STs in one state cannot be deemed to be a SC or ST in other states where he has migrated for the purpose of employment or education, saying that such persons would be eating away the quota meant for the native SCs or STs.

The verdict came on as many as eight petitions that had raised the issue



whether an SC/ST community member in one state can seek reservation in another state where his caste is not notified as SC/ST. The bench was also seized of the question whether SC/ST people of another state can seek quota benefits for government jobs in Delhi.

The bench, which also comprised Justices N V Ramana, R Banumathi, M M Shantanagoudar and Justice S A Nazeer, said the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes specified in relation to

a state or a union territory does not necessarily carry the same status in another state or union territory.

“A person notified as Scheduled Caste in state A cannot claim the same status in another state on the basis that he is declared as Scheduled Caste in state A,” it said.

The bench said the consideration for specifying a particular caste or tribe or class for inclusion in the list of SCs, STs or Backward Classes in any state depends on the nature and extent of the disadvantages and social hardships suffered by the concerned members of the class in that state.

“These may be absent in another State to which the persons belonging to some other State may migrate,” the bench said. The top court accorded primacy to the list of SC/ST castes prepared by the President and said nobody, including the Court, can order addition or deletion of any caste into that list. Source: PTI


**GUEST  
COMMENT**

# The demonetization debacle: Collateral damage needs immediate redress

The Modi government's biggest policy decision to flush out black money has officially turned out to be a colossal failure. In November 2016, the government had taken the entire nation by surprise when it scrapped bank notes of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denomination worth Rs 15.41 lakh crore. The expectation to unearth black money amounting to around Rs 3 lakh crore now stands belied. After wading through the mountains of scrapped notes, the verdict is that about 99.3 per cent of the demonetized notes have returned to RBI's vaults. It could add up to almost 100 per cent if we include the demonetized notes held by NRIs and in neighboring countries such as Nepal and Bhutan.

The RBI's data, thus, lands us in a quandary - either the country never had any black money at all, or the entire black money has been laundered. The first explanation is hard to believe and the second one hard to prove. It is difficult for any government to admit its mistakes, but no one can defend the indefensible. Rightly, the government has abandoned the alibi of unearthing black money. The other justifications - a boost to digital economy, curb on terror-financing and an attempt to weed out fake currency - have also lost appeal in the absence of corroborating data.

The RBI data suggests that post-demonetization, Indian households have quickly rebuilt their cash reserves, contradicting claims of increased digital transactions. It is also evident that terrorism continues unabated despite demonetization while the National Crime Records Bureau concedes the continued circulation of fake banknotes. The benefits of demonetization are elusive, but its adverse impact on the economy is evident, slowing the country's growth rate by almost 1.5 per cent (a notional loss of Rs 2.25 lakh crore). The worst sufferers have been the poor, whose informal economy was shattered due to a cash crunch after November 2016. The government should assess the damage done to this section of society and help it recover.

(Tribune, Chandigarh)

# OPPORTUNITY FOR USA AND INDIA TO BECOME CLOSE ALLIES



By Ven Parameswaran

Trump administration's decision in July to grant India Tier 1 Strategic Trade Authorization status, a designation given only to close allies has created a golden opportunity for India and the US to become close allies. Will the US be bolder and seek to transform the US-India relationship into a robust strategic partnership?

## TWO PLUS TWO MEETING IN NEW DELHI

Secretary of State Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mattis can begin executing an ambitious strategic partnership with India when they meet with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi in September for the Two plus Two meeting. Will the Government of India and the Indian media discuss this seriously before September?

President Trump has started creating a new world order. Make America Great and America First call for revolutionary changes in US foreign policy and trade relations. Trade deficit is the largest with China. Trump seems to be ready to do serious business with India. India has a comparative advantage over China because the wages are substantially lower in India. If India is able to replace China as the source of American imports of consumer and industrial goods, the US will gain.

Will India be prepared to liberalize its economy and embark on using capitalistic tools as China did with America's help? Will India be prepared to privatize all its public sector corporations and release the assets for building a modern India? Will India adopt new policies to attract large scale foreign private investments?

## INDIA'S RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR MILITARY HARDWARE

Modern wars are won by using sophisticated technology. Though Russia has been a reliable supplier of military hardware, we know no country can compete with the US and Israel on latest technology and sophisticated weapons systems. While India has purchased weapons systems from the US to the tune of \$15 billion since 2008, its use of Russian equipment poses interoperability problems and raises concerns about compromising sensitive technology.

India's decision to procure S-400 Russian air-defense systems is particularly troubling, since those typically involve substantial service and training components. The presence of Russian personnel at the heart of India's air defenses, even if only temporary, could hold up future US-India defense deals. If the S-400 sale cannot be canceled, the best scenario would be to persuade India to limit the scope of Russian support services and turn to another country with a strong record

**"A true strategic partnership offers tremendous benefits to both nations. India gains an opportunity to become a real global power, and the US gains a mammoth regional ally and counterweight to China, with the potential for greater cooperation on issues of global security. Establishing a lasting US-India partnership would be a game-changing success for President Trump and Prime Minister Modi."**



*A true strategic partnership offers tremendous benefits to both nations. Modi hugs Trump at a White House meeting between the two. (File photo)*

of using and improving Russian defense equipment-namely Israel.

## JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES

Meanwhile, the Trump administration can broaden US-India defense cooperation by increasing the number of joint military exercises and expanding the annual Malabar war games. The members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, an informal dialogue initiated in 2007 by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe among the US., Japan, Australia and India, should also be formalized and meet more regularly.

## MODI CALLED THE U.S.A. AN INDISPENSABLE PARTNER DURING HIS 2017 VISIT

Close alliance with India would provide the US with a valuable, democratically committed to thwarting China's intensifying efforts to dominate the region. Already India has been keen to enhance its relationship with America. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the USA an "indispensable partner" during his 2017 visit to Washington. As India scholar Ashley Telis put it, Modi's "daring decision to collaborate wholeheartedly" with America shows he

recognizes that the "the US holds the most important keys for India's long-term success." Greatly concerned about China's economic and diplomatic expansionism in the Indo-Pacific, India has turned to the USA for support. Pakistan's increasingly anti-American and pro-Chinese policies have also brought the USA and India into a closer embrace.

## INDIA'S DEPENDENCE ON IRAN FOR OIL

The resumption of US sanctions on Iranian oil exports Nov.4 will pose a challenge. India has no affection for the Islamic Republic, but after China it is the second-largest importer of Iranian oil, bought at a substantial discount. As the US rightly seeks to block Iranian oil exports, it must be adroit in persuading India to join. Washington needs to grant India a temporary waiver from the sanctions and help New Delhi find acceptable alternative energy sources, perhaps by persuading Gulf allies to sell oil to India at prices comparable to Iran's.

## TRADE TENSIONS NEED TO BE RESOLVED

India has made a formal complaint with the WTO over US tariffs on steel and aluminum, and it is preparing to impose retaliatory tariffs up to 70% on key agricultural exports. Additional rounds of tariffs are reportedly under consideration. Given that India sells \$48.6 billion in goods and services to the US, its largest export market, a good way to proceed would be to grant India a waiver on the newly imposed tariffs and work on negotiating a comprehensive bilateral trade deal.

## CHALLENGES TO CLOSE PARTNERSHIP

India's reliance on Russia, India's dependency on Iran for oil, and US-India trade tensions are challenges that will require policy makers to negotiate hard and make difficult compromises. A true strategic partnership offers tremendous benefits to both nations. India gains an opportunity to become a real global power, and the US gains a mammoth regional ally and counterweight to China, with the potential for greater cooperation on issues of global security. Establishing a lasting US-India partnership would be a game-changing success for President Trump and Prime Minister Modi. I must recall the warm hug and embrace between Trump and Modi at the White House in 2017 and its far-reaching consequences.

*(The author, a 64-year resident in the USA, is Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (30th anniversary). Email: vpwaren@gmail.com)*

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# Pride and foreign aid



By Happymon Jacob

“Whichever way one plays it, New Delhi's unwillingness to accept foreign aid reflects poor judgment, is bad optics, and goes against the spirit of cooperative federalism. Moreover, this decision, when read with the National Democratic Alliance government's adversarial attitude towards foreign-funded NGO activism in the country, suggests a sense of insecurity and paranoia that hardly befits a rising power”.

**“New Delhi's unilateral decision to not let humanitarian assistance reach a needy State also does not befit the federal character of the country as the spirit of federalism demands that such crucial decisions be taken after consultations with the stakeholders. The Union government should consult the affected federating units, which have large populations to care for, before crucial decisions of this nature are taken”, says the author.**

The Central government's decision to decline offers of humanitarian aid from the United Arab Emirates and other concerned countries for Kerala, in the aftermath of the worst flood in the State in close to a century, is unfortunate. Whichever way one plays it, New Delhi's unwillingness to accept foreign aid reflects poor judgment, is bad optics, and goes against the spirit of cooperative federalism. Moreover, this decision, when read with the National Democratic Alliance government's adversarial attitude towards foreign-funded NGO activism in the country, suggests a sense of insecurity and paranoia that hardly befits a rising power.

While the government itself has been very cryptic in its response to the recent foreign aid offers, those in support of the government's informal decision have essentially made five sets of arguments to justify the government's decision. Let's examine their merit.

## Policy precedent

The strongest argument by far for refusing foreign aid flows from past policy and practice. It is argued that there is a policy in place since 2004, enunciated by the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, to not accept foreign aid in times of natural disasters. Dr. Singh had stated in the wake of the tsunami in December that year, "We feel that we can cope with the situation on our own and we will take their help if needed." The practice thereafter has been to shun foreign aid during natural calamities because the government has been confident of "coping with the situation" using internal sources.

However, it is important to note that the 2004 statement by Dr. Singh was a political articulation, not a legal directive or policy document. In any case, his statement did not close the door to external aid ("we will take their help if needed"). Does Kerala need help? Yes, it desperately does. Former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, in a recent tweet, explained the 2004 decision in the following words: "If memory serves, the 2004 decision was to not accept foreign participation in relief but accept it for long term rehabilitation case by case."

In any case, since 2004, various policy documents have explicitly and implicitly suggested that the government may accept foreign aid during emergencies. The 2016 National Disaster Management Plan states: "...if the national government of another country voluntarily offers assistance as a goodwill gesture in solidarity with the disaster victims, the Central Government may accept the offer." Similarly, the National Policy on Disaster Management of 2009 and the Disaster Management Act of 2005 are both positively inclined to coordinating with external agencies and institutions for disaster relief. The 2009 document even argues - thoughtfully so - that "disasters do not recognize geographical boundaries."

In short, while the 2004 policy says that foreign aid can be accepted if need be, the 2016 policy document states that the government "may" accept foreign aid. The question is whether the situation in Kerala can persuade



the Centre to operationalizethe word "may" in a generous manner.

## National pride

The second argument against accepting foreign aid seems to flow from a sense of national pride: that India is a not a poor country any longer and hence it doesn't need anyone's charity. There was a time we were forced to go abroad with a begging bowl, but those days are over, and we can look after ourselves, goes the argument. Despite its powerful emotional appeal, this argument is misplaced at several levels. For one, it is misleading to say that only poor states accept foreign aid in times of natural disasters. For instance, India's offer of aid was accepted by the U.S. in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and by China after the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. The reality is that countries reeling under natural calamities routinely accept emergency aid from other countries irrespective of how rich or poor they are.

## Self-sufficiency

The third argument is that India is self-sufficient and hence does not need relief material to deal with natural disasters. Here, it is important to make a distinction between foreign aid during normal periods and emergency humanitarian and reconstruction assistance. Besides, in the case of Kerala, by providing only a fraction of the emergency and reconstruction assistance requested by the State government despite repeated appeals, the Central government seems to have implicitly indicated that there aren't sufficient funds available. Although New Delhi has taken the line that "in line with the existing policy, the government is committed to meeting the

requirements for relief and rehabilitation through domestic efforts," its actions so far fly in the face of this tall claim. So, if New Delhi is unable to heed Thiruvananthapuram's urgent requests, shouldn't it let Kerala take help from outside?

## Aid with strings

Then there is the argument that foreign aid comes with strings attached. Yes, it has in the past, especially developmental assistance from Western nations or the World Bank. Aid and loans often came with demands of economic restructuring or resetting governance priorities, and an occasional sermon on human rights. But there is again a fundamental difference between such funding and humanitarian assistance. Hence the argument that UAE's disaster relief to Kerala would come with strings attached is ludicrous. Abu Dhabi's rationale for offering aid to Kerala is straightforward: the Malayali population in UAE has been crucial in its development, and the aid offer is a recognition of that bond.

A related issue is the paranoia displayed by successive governments in New Delhi about the 'foreign hand/s' constantly trying to undermine the Indian state. This has increased over the years, particularly under the current regime: consider the manner in which it cancelled the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licenses of thousands of NGOs, including Greenpeace and Amnesty, depriving them of foreign funding.

Ironically, even as New Delhi vows to continue the policy of not allowing foreign humanitarian aid, and of restricting the activities of foreign-funded NGOs, it recently amended the FCRA to allow foreign funding of Indian political parties.

## Money won't bring relief

The fifth argument is that airdropping monetary aid doesn't help in the absence of pre-existing administrative capacity for proper distribution, reconstruction and governance. In fact, some would argue that monetary aid without a focus on governance capacity building is useless or could even make the situation worse. While there is some merit in such an argument, this holds little relevance to the case of Kerala which happens to be one of India's best governed States. What Kerala requires at the moment is monetary assistance, not lessons in governance.

New Delhi's unilateral decision to not let humanitarian assistance reach a needy State also does not befit the federal character of the country as the spirit of federalism demands that such crucial decisions be taken after consultations with the stakeholders. The Union government should consult the affected federating units, which have large populations to care for, before crucial decisions of this nature are taken.

The argument here is not that India should seek/ receive regular foreign aid, but that it should accept foreign aid in times of humanitarian emergency, as do several countries, including the U.S., China and Japan. Moreover, there is an urgent need to evolve sensible, practical and empathetic guidelines on receiving emergency aid for the federal units in times of dire need.

*(The author teaches Disarmament and National Security at the School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi)*

Surveillance State: E-platform in China to air 'safe, true news' from govt media

**It will be called Piyao, which means 'denying a rumour' in Chinese. It will include a website, a mobile app and social media accounts with social media giants Weibo and WeChat.**

**BEIJING (TIP):** China has decided to set up a national-level online platform to identify fake news and rumours that are uploaded online. The platform will be used to alert the public about news deemed to be fake by the government and counter such reports as well as pseudo-scientific theories that are propagated online by individuals. The platform will be hosted by the Chinese government's Internet Illegal Information Reporting Center under the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission.

It will be called Piyao, which means 'denying a rumour' in Chinese. It will include a website, a mobile app and social media accounts with social media giants Weibo and WeChat.

The platform will also allow the public to report on online rumours or fake news. It will even deploy artificial intelligence to identify reports that are false, or which are not from new sources controlled by the government. Via those channels, Piyao will broadcast "real" news, sourcing reports from state-owned media, party-controlled local newspapers, and various government agencies.

The single platform is the integration of 40 rumour-busting websites that have now been integrated into a single national one. As of this month, China has 802 million active internet users, which is 57.7 per cent of its population. In a heavily regulated society, people often turn to the internet to vent their ire.

Media reports state that in July alone, internet regulators had received at least 6.7 million complaints about false information being posted in Chinese social media. "Rumours violate individual rights; rumours create social panic; rumours cause fluctuations in the stock markets; rumours impact normal business operations; rumours blatantly attack revolutionary martyrs," Piyao said in a promotional video of the launch on its website.

The platform will also broadcast news that it deems true and safe, which will be sourced from government-controlled media. The platform operates under the guidance of 27 government departments, including the Central Party School, which trains rising officials, and powerful planning body the National Development and Reform Commission.

President Xi Jinping said last year that China will build a "clean and clear" internet space. (With agency inputs)

## Australian arrested at Cambodian rally convicted of spying

The evidence presented against Ricketson appeared thin, but Cambodia's courts are considered highly politicised and their rulings often tightly align with the ruling party's agenda.

**PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA) (TIP):** An Australian filmmaker arrested after flying a drone to photograph a Cambodian opposition party rally last year was convicted of spying and sentenced to six years in prison on Aug 31.

James Ricketson faced up to 10 years in prison on the charge of endangering national security. Almost two dozen jailed critics or opponents of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government had been freed in recent weeks, raising hopes of leniency in Ricketson's case.

Prosecutors have indicated he was suspected of working with the opposition party or had worked directly for a foreign power, though that country was never specified in court. The charge against him was tantamount in legal terms to espionage.

As the prison van left after the panel of judges delivered the verdict, Ricketson shouted to reporters the same question he often raised throughout his trial: "Who am I spying for?" Before hearing the verdict, he told The Associated Press that based on the evidence and facts in the case, he should be set free.

Ricketson, 69, repeatedly insisted he had no political agenda and his work making documentary films was journalistic in nature. Character witnesses testified to his filmmaking work and financial generosity to several poor Cambodians.

The evidence presented against Ricketson appeared thin, but Cambodia's courts are considered highly politicised and their rulings often tightly align with the ruling party's agenda. A handful of personal emails seized from Ricketson suggested he was sympathetic to the country's political opposition and critical of Hun Sen's government, but revealed no sensitive or secret information. Several of his photos and videos showed security forces on duty, but only in publicly viewable situations.

"Since he arrived in Cambodia, the accused person has been collecting political, social and economic information about Cambodia and sending it to a foreign state," prosecutor Sieng Sok said in his



closing argument Wednesday. "He has kept collecting this information for 22 years, until the day he was arrested. The accused person was using his journalism job and helping poor Cambodians just to hide his real work, but in fact he is a spy and has been filming at the sites of the country's security forces."

The prosecutors had indicated Ricketson also was suspected of working with the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party, which for a time had enough popularity among Cambodians to be a viable challenger to Hun Sen's rule. The party's dissolution by a court ruling last year assured Hun Sen's party of its sweeping victory.

The leniency shown to opponents and critics following the July election followed a pattern of Hun Sen's long rule, with a harsh crackdown on opponents and critics preceding the vote and clemency and conciliatory moves after a resounding victory.

Ricketson testified in his defense that he made contacts with the opposition party strictly for journalistic purposes while making a documentary film. He recounted a filmmaking career dating to the 1970s, and presented acclaimed Australian movie director Peter Weir to attest to his professionalism in the field.

Ricketson's other character witnesses were several Cambodians, including his

informally adopted daughter, who described how he had provided financial assistance to them and other poor members of Cambodian society.

Throughout his trial, Ricketson shouted brief but defiant remarks to reporters as he was led in and out of the court building for each hearing. He decried the paucity of evidence and repeatedly asked the taunting question of what country he was supposed to have been spying for.

At one point, however, he took a tried-and-true approach in trying to earn clemency by expressing contrition.

In a July 1 letter addressed to Hun Sen and published in a pro-government newspaper, he wrote: "May I please, respectfully, send my sincerest apologies to yourself and the Cambodian Government. I now realize that my statements I have made in the press and other media are disruptive and ill-informed. These statements were made from a place of foreign naivety and ignorance about the complexities and difficulties of governing Cambodia," he wrote.

"I apologize unreservedly and without condition for any distress I may have caused as a result of my ignorance of Cambodian issues. If there is anything I can do to remedy my mistake, please let me know as I only want the best for you and Cambodia," the letter said. (AP)

## Russia holds up release of report on North Korea sanctions

The experts' report said sanctions against North Korea are also being violated by transfers of coal at sea and the flouting of an arms embargo and financial restrictions.

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** Russia said on Aug 30 it is holding up release of a report by U.N. experts who said North Korea is violating U.N. sanctions including by not stopping its nuclear and missile programs and by "a massive increase in illicit ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products."

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told reporters after a closed Security Council meeting on the report that he was blocking its release "because we disagree on certain elements of the report."

He said Russia also asked for an investigation into regular leaks of reports on North Korea to the media. The Associated Press and other news organizations reported the panel's latest findings in early August. Nebenzia didn't disclose Russia's concerns but diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because consultations were private, said a key objection was the panel's mention of Russian ships being involved in illegal



ship-to-ship transfers. Britain's UN Ambassador Karen Pierce, the current Security Council president, said there will be informal consultations Friday to determine what Russia's

objections are in hopes of finalizing and releasing the report.

"I need to stress that this panel of experts report is independent," she said. "It's an interesting question as to whether you should be objecting to an independent report. But, as I say, the council hopes we can resolve this."

Pierce said the Security Council has been "very strong" on enforcing sanctions against North Korea, "and getting this report out and implemented is the next stage in enforcing the sanctions." The experts' report said sanctions against North Korea are also being violated by transfers of coal at sea and the flouting of an arms embargo and financial restrictions.

North Korea also attempted to sell small arms and light weapons and other military equipment via foreign intermediaries, including Syrian arms traffickers in the case of Houthi Shiite rebels in Yemen as well as Libya and Sudan, the report said. (AP)

# Canada says NAFTA agreement possible by Friday, but hard work ahead

After more than a year of talks, Mexico and the United States announced a bilateral deal on Monday, clearing the way for Canada to rejoin talks to update 24-year-old NAFTA, which accounts for over \$1 trillion in annual trade between the three nations.

**TORONTO (TIP):** Canada said an agreement to salvage the trilateral North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is possible by a Friday deadline, but it will be hard work to resolve specific issues as talks with the United States entered a second day. After more than a year of talks, Mexico and the United States announced a bilateral deal on Monday, clearing the way for Canada to rejoin talks to update 24-year-old NAFTA which accounts for over \$1 trillion in annual trade between the three nations.

US President Donald Trump set a Friday deadline for the three countries to reach an in-principle agreement and warned he could proceed with a deal with Mexico alone and levy tariffs on Canada if it does not come on board with revised trade terms. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said meeting the Friday deadline is a possibility and Foreign Minister and lead negotiator Chrystia Freeland said she was encouraged by the talks and progress so far.

"We recognize that there is a possibility of getting there by Friday, but it is only a possibility, because it will hinge on whether or not there is ultimately a good deal for Canada," he said at a press conference in northern Ontario on Wednesday. "No NAFTA deal is better than a bad NAFTA deal."

Freeland said she was optimistic that progress can be made this week, but she added: "When it comes to specific issues, we have a huge amount of work to do." She declined to name the specific issues, but said on Tuesday that Mexico's concessions on auto rules of origin and labor rights was a breakthrough.

Ottawa is also ready to make concessions on Canada's protected dairy market in a bid to save a dispute-settlement system, The Globe and Mail



reported late on Tuesday. After being sidelined from the talks for more than two months, Freeland will be under pressure to accept terms the United States and Mexico worked out. The US Congress also wants a deal that includes Canada.

The three countries are aiming to seal a trade pact by Friday to allow Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto to sign it before he leaves office at the end of November. The timeline accommodates a 90-day waiting period under US trade law before Trump can sign the pact.

The political implications are big for the other two countries too. Republicans face mid-term elections in November and Trudeau a national one expected by October 2019. "The strategy is to get a better deal," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Wednesday.

## Sticking Points

One of the issues for Canada in the revised deal is the US effort to dump the Chapter 19 dispute resolution mechanism that hinders the United States from pursuing anti-dumping and anti-subsidy

cases. Lighthizer said on Monday that Mexico had agreed to eliminate the mechanism.

To save that mechanism, Ottawa plans to change one rule that effectively blocked American farmers from exporting ultrafiltered milk, an ingredient in cheesemaking, to Canada, the Globe and Mail reported, citing sources. Trudeau repeated on Wednesday that he will defend Canada's dairy industry.

Other hurdles include intellectual property rights and extensions of copyright protections to 75 years from 50, a higher threshold than Canada has previously supported. "I think that what they probably need by Friday is some indication from Canada to the Americans that it's ready to play ball, that they're ready to negotiate in good faith," said Mark Warner, a trade lawyer with MAAW Law, which specialises in Canadian and US law. "If Chrystia Freeland goes down there and she starts going on and on about red lines again, then I think it's all over," he added. (Reuters)

## Russia to hold Mediterranean naval drills as Syria tensions rise

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Russia's Ministry of Defence said on Thursday it would hold a major naval exercise in the Mediterranean Sea from Sept. 1 to Sept. 8, the TASS news agency reported, a move that coincides with rising tensions between Moscow and Washington over Syria.

Russia has this month been actively expanding its naval forces in the Mediterranean, part of what a Russian newspaper on Tuesday called Moscow's largest naval build-up since it entered the Syrian conflict in 2015.

TASS cited the defence ministry as saying that 25 warships and submarines and 30 planes, including fighter jets and strategic bombers, would take part, and that the drills would involve anti-aircraft, anti-submarine and anti-mining exercises.

The drills come amid rising tensions between Russia and the West over Syria's northern rebel-held region of Idlib. A source said on Wednesday that Russia's ally, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, was preparing a phased offensive there.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday that militants in Idlib had to be liquidated, describing them as "a festering abscess".

"In the interest of ensuring the security of shipping and aircraft flights in line with international law, the areas of the exercise will be declared dangerous for shipping and flights," TASS quoted the defence ministry as saying.

Anatoly Antonov, Russia's Ambassador to the United States, said earlier on Thursday that he had told U.S. officials that Moscow was concerned by signs that the United States was preparing new strikes on Syria. (Reuters)

## Two men burned to death by mob in central Mexico

**MEXICO CITY (TIP):** Some residents of a small town in central Mexico pulled two men accused of trying to kidnap children from police custody and burned them to death. Police in Puebla state say the men aged 53 and 21 had been detained in the township of Acatlan and taken to a local police station.

A crowd of about 150 people gathered and stormed the jail, taking the men who they accused of trying to steal children. The crowd then doused them with an accelerant and burned them and their vehicle.

The state police said Wednesday that local authorities had not followed established procedure to request reinforcements and negotiators. Such instances of mob killings have been increasing in central Mexico. (AP)

## Let police kill criminals, says Brazil presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro

**SAO PAULO (TIP):** A leading candidate in Brazil's presidential election said police should be given license to kill criminals and those who do should receive medals not face prosecution.

Hard-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro said in an interview Tuesday night that he would "leave good people out of range of the shooting" and go at criminals full steam. "This kind of people (criminals), you cannot treat them as if they were normal human beings, ok? We can't let policemen keep dying at the hands of those guys," Bolsonaro said on TV Globo's main nightly news program. "If he kills 10, 15 or 20 with 10 or 30 bullets each, he needs to get a medal and not be prosecuted."

Bolsonaro is polling second ahead of Brazil's October presidential election, with jailed former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the lead. But da Silva is likely to be barred from running by electoral authorities for a corruption conviction.

Bolsonaro has a history of controversial comments. He has defended Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship and made comments opponents have called homophobic and racist. (AP)

# Germany, seeking independence from US, pushes cyber security research

**BERLIN (TIP):** Germany announced a new agency on Wednesday to fund research on cybersecurity and to end its reliance on digital technologies from the United States, China and other countries. Interior Minister Horst Seehofer told reporters that Germany needed new tools to become a top player in cybersecurity and shore up European security and independence.

"It is our joint goal for Germany to take a leading role in cybersecurity on an international level," Seehofer told a news conference with Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen. "We have to acknowledge we're lagging behind, and when one is lagging, one needs completely new approaches." The agency is a joint interior and defence ministry project.

Germany, like many other countries, faces a daily barrage of cyber attacks on

**Interior Minister Horst Seehofer told reporters that Germany needed new tools to become a top player in cybersecurity and shore up European security and independence.**

its government and industry computer networks. However, the opposition Greens criticised the project. "This agency wouldn't increase our information technology security, but further endanger it," said Greens lawmaker Konstantin von Notz.

The agency's work on offensive capabilities would undermine Germany's diplomatic efforts to limit the use of cyber weapons internationally, he said. "As a

state based on the rule of law, we can only lose a cyber politics arms race with states like China, North Korea or Russia," he added, calling for "scarce resources" to be focused on hardening vulnerable systems.

Germany and other European countries also worry about their dependence on US technologies. This follows revelations in 2012 by US NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden of a massive spying network, as well as the US Patriot Act which gave the US government broad powers to compel companies to provide data.

"As a federal government, we cannot stand idly by when the use of sensitive technology with high-security relevance are controlled by other governments. We must secure and expand such key technologies of our digital infrastructure," Seehofer said. (Reuters)



## Has Kriti Sanon called it quits with Sushant Rajput?

Though Kriti Sanon and Sushant Singh Rajput have never really publicly admitted to dating each other, their actions speak loud and clear for their romance chemistry. The two have been spotted on many occasions together. In fact, the duo rang in 2018 together in Switzerland with their close friends.

However, if a report in India Today is anything to go by, it seems the two have decided to part ways. Sushant and Kriti had reportedly hit it off while they were shooting Raabta in Budapest.

"It was never meant to last. Sushant has a roving eye and is an incorrigible flirt, whereas Kriti is a one-man woman," a source was quoted as saying by the publication.

"It is definitely over between them," the source added.

Sushant was earlier dating popular TV actor Ankita Lokhande. The two dated each other for over six years before announcing their split in 2016.

Soon after their break-up, news of Sushant and Kriti's affair started doing the rounds.

Meanwhile, Kriti is currently busy with Lukka Chhupi, which will see her opposite Kartik Aaryan. Sushant has films like Kedarnath, Drive, Sonchiriyaa and Kizie Aur Manny in his kitty.

# PRIYANKA SHOWERING NICK JONAS WITH KISSES



Never the one to indulge in online displays of affection, Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra has finally broken her own code. After making her engagement official with American singer Nick Jonas on August 18, Priyanka has posted a swoon-worthy picture of her fiancé on Instagram.

Priyanka shared Nick's photo on her Instagram stories on Wednesday and plastered a 'kiss' sticker right next to him. In the picture, Nick is seen wearing a white T-shirt with 'Namaste' embossed on it.

Priyanka flew to Los Angeles earlier this week and posted pictures of the beaches and delicious drinks. We assume she made the trip to spend quality time with her to-be husband. However, Priyanka also posted a picture of the stunning pink skies of Mexico as she said 'hola' to the country on

Wednesday.

The actor is not just showing Insta affection to her fiancé but also to his family. Her to-be mother-in-law, Denise Jonas posted a video from Priyanka and Nick's engagement party on Tuesday in which she is seen dancing with Priyanka's mother, Madhu Chopra. In the video, we see Madhu point at Denise and call her 'Munde di maa'. Priyanka also caught on to the cute title and wrote it as a comment on the video. She also commented 'Love!' on the video.

"What an amazing day of celebration for @nickjonas and @priyankachopra engagement and Indian culture," the singer's dad and Denise's husband, Kevin Jonas Sr, had also commented.

Nick arrived in India on Friday, August 17 with his parents. On Saturday, the couple made their engagement official with a

traditional Hindu roka ceremony and threw a huge party for their friends and family at night. The following day, both the families paid a visit to an orphanage in Mumbai.

After the engagement, DNA caught up with Madhu Chopra for her review of her to-be son-in-law. "Nick enjoyed the prayers during the puja. It was a new thing for him and he took it seriously. He followed what our panditji said, and chanted the Sanskrit mantras accurately. Both he and his parents did it beautifully. They are nice people," she said.

Priyanka and Nick met for the first time at the 2017 Met Gala. It was in May 2018 that paparazzi began spotting them together on dates and less than three months later, they announced their engagement.

Source: HT

## Sonam Kapoor starts filming the 'Zoya Factor'

Sonam Kapoor, who started filming her upcoming film The Zoya Factor on Wednesday, has occupied a spot on the trends list on Twitter. On Wednesday, Sonam shared a picture of the draft of The Zoya Factor script on her Instagram story and wrote: "New Start." A few days before the film went on floors, Sonam tweeted: "Super excited to shoot for The Zoya Factor with Dulquer Salmaan. Can't wait to share more updates with you all." The Zoya Factor will be directed by Abhishek Sharma and it will feature Dulquer Salmaan, Angad Bedi and Sonam's uncle Sanjay Kapoor, who will be seen playing Sonam's father onscreen.

Meanwhile, Sonam's father Anil Kapoor wished the team The Zoya Factor by sharing a special tweet. He wrote: "To a new beginning! All the best to the whole team of The Zoya Factor. Let the madness takeover!"

Sonam and Dulquer had announced their association with the film on Twitter in March this year, while Sonam mentioned that she was "super happy" to be a part of the film, Dulquer wrote: "Now this one is really special for me! Introducing The Zoya Factor a movie based on Anuja Chauhan's bestseller. Releasing on April 5, 2019! Co-starring Sonam Kapoor, directed by Abhishek Sharma!"

The Zoya Factor is based on Anuja Chauhan's bestselling novel of the same name. Speaking to IANS about the film, director Abhishek Sharma had mentioned that Sonam will be seen portraying the role of an advertising agency executive whereas Dulquer will be seen playing the role of Nikhil Khoda, the captain of the Indian Cricket Team. "The book has many layers, characters and tracks. Sonam is our Zoya Singh Solanki, an advertising agency executive. She was the first person that came to my mind as she's as bubbly as Zoya. Dulquer will play Nikhil Khoda, the captain of the Indian Cricket Team in the film. It's always great to work with Adlabs Films," said Abhishek.





## Rosamund Pike was asked to strip at audition

Actor Rosamund Pike has revealed she refused to strip during an audition for a James Bond film, but still secured the part. The 39-year-old Oscar-nominated actor made her Hollywood debut as Miranda Frost opposite Pierce Brosnan's Bond in 2002's *Die Another Day* and was just 21 when she auditioned for the role.

Pike was asked by producers to strip to her underwear during casting, something that she flatly refused to do. It was a reaction the filmmakers admired, giving her the part on the spot. "My first audition was for a Bond film and I remember them saying I was to drop my dress and appear in my underwear," the actor told Amazon's *Audible Sessions* this week.

"On the day, I don't know how I got the resolve and strength of mind, but I just thought 'if they're going to see me in my underwear, they better give me the job'. So, I thought, 'There's no way I'm going to take off a dress in the audition for this tape to be sent around Los Angeles and to be judged on that.'"

She said she was told by producers to wear a sexy dress which she would have to then "drop", and was handed "three pieces of string" to wear underneath on the day. Pike said that she picked one of her mother's evening gowns to wear, and the costume designer was so flummoxed he "didn't know what to say". *Source: PTI*

# ELIZABETH HURLEY HULA-HOOPS IN BIKINI

Eternally stunning actor and model Elizabeth Hurley, who seems to have never met a bikini she didn't like, has taken to Instagram to hula-hoop in a tiny pink bathing suit.

The 53-year-old actress showed off her toned stomach and fit physique in a photo she captioned "Hula hoop practice."

Her fans' response was overwhelmingly positive, because what's not to like about the confident star showing off her moves?

"Very pretty lady," wrote one.

Another fan was in awe, writing, "I love what's in that bikini! How do you do it Liz!?! How do you stay so hot fit over 50? Geesh!"

"Stunning.....look like a 25 yr old," added another.

The star knows exactly how to work up her fans on social media. She recently celebrated "International Bikini Day" (yes, that's a thing) in a tiny blue bikini.

Although the mother of one has her brand, Elizabeth Hurley Beach, as an excuse to flaunt her incredible body on Instagram, the longtime model encourages anyone to get into a bikini. All it takes, she says, is finding your light to snap a good photo.

"Like everybody, I really look to find a flattering light and a suit that fits me and suits me," she explains. "We spend a little time setting it up and checking it's flattering, which everybody could learn. There's absolutely nothing wrong with people wanting to make the best of what they have."

And Hurley is not the only celebrity over 50 still rocking a bikini. Salma Hayek, Elle Macpherson, and Halle Berry have all shown off a two-piece this summer.

Hurley told *PEOPLE* about her thoughts on getting older and looking good in 2015.

"If you've got time to think about aging then you're not busy enough," she said. "Being busy and interested is the key to being attractive. Narcissistic bores who stare at themselves in the mirror for hours are the dullest people on earth."



# Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner finalise divorce

Former couple, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner have finally settled their divorce case after three long years.

The final settlement will be filed in a court after Affleck completes his rehabilitation session, reported TMZ. The *Batman v Superman* star is undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation centre for his alcohol addiction. A source told *Entertainment Tonight*: "Jen is proud of the strides he's made, but some of his friends were worried he might be taking some steps backward and could be on a slippery slope. Ben wants nothing more than to get sober for his kids, for Jen and also for his career. He realises the dangers of what he could lose in life if he doesn't stick to the programme, and dedicate himself to these big changes."

People close to Ben and Jennifer said that the former couple has also reached a property settlement. The two-time Oscar winner has been open about his battles in the past as he sought help in 2001 and 2017. After his most recent stint, he wrote on his Facebook page in March last year: "I have completed treatment for alcohol addiction; something I've dealt with in the past and will continue to confront. I want to live life to the fullest and be the best father I can be. I want my kids to know there is no shame in getting help when you need it, and to be a source of strength for anyone out there who needs help but is afraid to take the first step." The couple, who have three children, separated in 2015.

The duo even agreed to a joint custody of their three children. However, the amount of time that both the stars will get to spend with their children hasn't been decided as yet.



## Indian-Origin DBS Employee Loses Job over Posting Image of Torn Singapore Flag



DBS bank said that Avijit Das Patnaik had received counselling after posting the image.

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Indian-origin Avijit Das Patnaik, employee of Singapore's DBS Bank, has lost his job after he posted on Facebook an image of the country's torn flag to reveal the Indian flag underneath on the eve of India's Independence Day. Patnaik had on August 14 posted a picture on the Facebook page of the Singapore Indians & Expats group, showing the Singapore flag on a T-shirt being ripped up to reveal the Indian flag underneath.

Avijit Patnaik, who had been living in Singapore for a decade, had posted the image along with the caption -- Phir Bhi dil hai (Still my heart is Indian) which alludes to a popular Bollywood song.

The post had caused outrage in the city-state, with many terming it "offensive" and "insulting to Singapore". The post has since been taken down.

Singapore-headquartered DBS Bank, in a comment to complaints on its Facebook page on August 19, had said that Avijit Patnaik had posted the image because he "wanted to show that even as he is in Singapore, he remains Indian at heart".

"Upon realizing the graphic was offensive, he took it down immediately," DBS said, adding that it had counselled Avijit Patnaik.

The Bank released a statement on its Facebook page on August 24, saying that Avijit Patnaik was no longer its employee.

"Since the incident, a disciplinary committee has been convened and as of August 24, he (Patnaik) is no longer with the bank," the DBS Bank said in the post.

"DBS strongly disapproves of such actions by our employees. At the same time, it is fair and right that all employees are given the benefit of due process," it said.

When asked about the circumstances surrounding Avijit Patnaik's departure, including whether he resigned or was sacked, a DBS spokesman declined to elaborate, according to the report.

"We have nothing further to share beyond the post," it said quoting the bank as saying.

According to the Singapore Arms and Flag National Anthem Act, any person that treats the flag with disrespect may be fined a maximum of 1,000 Singapore dollar.

Meanwhile, according to the media report, police have confirmed that a report has been made and investigations are underway.

# China denies plan to send forces to Afghanistan, says it's only helping them with defence

Chinese defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian, asked about the mountain brigade at a regular monthly news briefing, said China and Afghanistan had "normal military and security cooperation".

**BEIJING / KABUL (TIP):** China's defence ministry said on Thursday that it was supporting Afghanistan's defence and counterterrorism efforts, a day after Beijing denied a plan to build a base in Afghanistan and to send Chinese forces to the war-torn country.

China's foreign ministry on Wednesday dismissed a report by the South China Morning Post that cited sources with ties to the military as saying it was funding construction of a camp in Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor linking the two countries, and could send hundreds of troops there.

The Hong Kong newspaper later updated its report to quote Afghanistan's embassy in Beijing as saying China was helping the country set up a "mountain brigade" to boost counterterrorism efforts, but that there would be "no Chinese military personnel of any kind on Afghan soil at any time".

Chinese defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian, asked about the mountain brigade at a regular monthly news briefing, said China and Afghanistan had "normal military and security cooperation".

"China and the international community are all supporting Afghanistan to strengthen its defence and counterterrorism building efforts," Wu told reporters.

"At present, both sides are in communication and coordination about the relevant matter. China is willing to continue working hard with Afghanistan to jointly protect both countries and regional security and stability," Wu said.

"As for the so-called reports on China



stationing forces in Afghanistan, this does not accord with the facts," he said, without elaborating.

Reports have repeatedly pointed to China seeking a military presence in Afghanistan, although it has denied them.

In January, the defence ministry dismissed a report that it planned to build a military base in Afghanistan, and it previously refuted assertions that Chinese military vehicles were patrolling in the south Asian nation.

China has long worried that militancy in Afghanistan could spill over into its violence-prone Xinjiang region, home to the Muslim

Uighur people.

In recent years, hundreds of people have been killed in the far western region in unrest China blames on Islamist militants.

China has also worked with Pakistan and the United States to broker peace talks to end Afghanistan's Taliban insurgency that has raged since the militants were ousted by U.S.-backed forces in 2001. Last year, China opened its first overseas military base, in the Horn of Africa country of Djibouti. It has previously denied having plans for other overseas bases, but the United States expects it to build more, with Pakistan a possible location. (Reuters)

## China pulls out of \$1.2-billion Nepal project

**The 750-MW project, the first reservoir project in Nepal, was to be completed by next year as per the CTGI's earliest commitment, but its pull-out without even beginning construction may have an adverse impact on China's credibility.**

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** China's Three Gorges International has decided to pull out from the \$1.2 West Seti Hydro project in Nepal, six years after it signed the MoU to build it. A high-level team of the CTGI, a subsidiary of the China Three Gorges, conveyed to the Nepal government Wednesday that the project is not cost-effective.

The 750-MW project, the first reservoir project in Nepal, was to be completed by next year as per the CTGI's earliest commitment, but its pull-out without even beginning construction may have an adverse impact on China's credibility.

According to sources, Nepal had offered to lower the capacity to 600 MW from 750 MW at the same cost and extend the power purchase agreement to 12 years from 10 years. But China insisted the resettlement and rehabilitation of the to-be-displaced people and the transmission cost would be too high. (PTI)

## Myanmar dam breach floods 85 villages, drives thousands from homes

**The disaster spotlights safety concerns about dams in Southeast Asia after last month's collapse of a hydroelectric dam in neighbouring Laos that displaced thousands of people and killed at least 27.**

**YANGON (TIP):** As many as 85 villages were flooded in Myanmar after a dam failed, unleashing waters that blocked a major highway and forced more than 63,000 people from their homes, a state-run newspaper said on Thursday.

The disaster spotlights safety concerns about dams in Southeast Asia after last month's collapse of a hydroelectric dam in neighbouring Laos that displaced thousands of people and killed at least 27.

Firefighters, troops and officials launched a desperate rescue effort on Wednesday after the spillway of an irrigation dam burst at Swar creek in central Myanmar, sending a torrent of water through villages and the nearby towns of Swar and Yedashe.

Flooding at the dam site has receded, Zaw Lwin Tun, the deputy director general of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, told the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper.

"The collapse is caused by the damaged spillway," the paper quoted him as saying. "The dam is in good condition."

The ruptured spillway had flooded 85 villages, affecting more than 63,000 people and submerging a section of highway, the paper added.

Days earlier, authorities had given the all-clear to the dam, which can hold 216,350 acre-feet of water, despite residents' concerns about overspill, state-run media have said.

Traffic between Myanmar's major cities of Yangon and Mandalay and the capital, Naypyitaw, was disrupted after the flooding damaged a bridge on the highway linking them. (Reuters)

# LABOR DAY IN THE US

Labor Day is a public holiday in the United States. Always observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day celebrates and honors the contribution of the American system of organized labor and workers to the prosperity and economic strength of the nation. The Monday of Labor Day along with the Saturday and Sunday preceding it is known as the Labor Day Weekend and is traditionally considered the end of summer. As a federal holiday, all but essential national, state, and local government offices are typically closed on Labor Day.

Along with the day's historical significance, Americans tend to consider Labor Day as marking the "unofficial end of summer." Many people wrap their vacations around Labor Day in anticipation of fall activities, like the start of school and cool-weather sports.

Labor Day is the day to "throw down your tools," and eat too many hot dogs while thanking American workers for their collective contribution to the strength, prosperity, quality of life, cold beer, and great sales enjoyed across the nation.

In every sense, the underlying meaning of Labor Day is different from that of any other yearly holiday. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another," said Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor. "Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

## Not a Day Off for Everybody, by Far

Of course, it should be noted that millions of hard-working Americans, like those in the retail and service industries, along with those in law enforcement, public safety, and health care observe Labor Day by working as usual. Perhaps they deserve the special appreciation of those of us who do get to spend the day eating the hot dogs and drinking the beers.

## Who Invented Labor Day? The Carpenters or the Machinists?

More than 130 years after the first Labor Day was observed in 1882, there is still disagreement as to who first suggested the "national day off."

America's carpenters and construction workers, along with some historians will tell you that it was Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, who first suggested a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

However, others believe that Matthew Maguire – no relation to Peter J. McGuire – a machinist who would later be elected secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersey proposed Labor Day in 1882 while serving as secretary of New York's Central Labor Union.

Either way, history is clear that the first Labor Day observance was held in accordance with a plan developed by Matthew Maguire's Central Labor Union.

## The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a



year later, on September 5, 1883.

As proposed by the Central Labor Union, the first Labor Day celebration was highlighted by a parade to show the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations."

In 1884, the Labor Day observance was changed to the first Monday in September as originally proposed by the Central Labor Union. The union then urged other unions and trade organizations to begin holding a similar "workingmen's holiday" on the same date. The idea caught on, and by 1885, Labor Day observances were being held in industrial centers nationwide.

## Not to Be Confused With International Workers' Day

In 1866, International Workers' Day or "May First" was established an alternative holiday for the celebration of organized labor. Observed annually on May 1, the day was created by a resolution during the 1884 convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago. The date was chosen due to its proximity to the date of the bloody Chicago Haymarket Affair labor demonstration and bombing of May 4, 1886.

Some labor unions of the day felt that International Workers' Day was a more appropriate tribute to the struggles of their cause than Labor Day, which they considered a frivolous picnic-and-parade day. However, conservative Democratic President Grover Cleveland feared that a holiday to honor labor on May 1 would become a negative commemoration of the Haymarket Affair, rather than a positive celebration of how the nation benefited from labor.

Today, the first day of May is still observed in many countries as "International Workers' Day," or more often as "Labour Day."

## Labor Day Gains Government Recognition

As with most things involving a potential day off, Labor Day became very popular very fast, and by 1885, several city governments have adopted ordinances calling for local observances.

While New York was the first state



Early Labor Day Parade

legislature to propose official, statewide observance of Labor Day, Oregon was the first state to actually adopt a Labor Day law on February 21, 1887. The same year, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York also enacted Labor Day observance laws, and by 1894, 23 other states followed suit.

Always looking for already popular ideas to get behind, the senators and representatives of the U.S. Congress took note of the growing Labor Day movement and June 28, 1894, passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

## How Labor Day Has Changed

As massive displays and gatherings have become larger problems for public safety agencies, especially in large industrial centers, the character of Labor Day celebrations have changed. However, those changes, as noted by the U.S. Department of Labor, have been more of "a shift in emphasis and medium of expression." Thanks mainly to television, the internet, and social media, Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are delivered directly into the homes, swimming pools, and BBQ pits

of Americans nationwide.

"The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy," notes the Labor Department. "It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership—the American worker."

## Labor Day Key Takeaways

- Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States always observed on the first Monday in each September.
- Labor Day is observed to celebrate the contributions of organized labor and workers to the prosperity of the U.S. economy.
- The first Labor Day celebration was held on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, while Oregon was the first state to actually adopt a Labor Day law on February 21, 1887.
- The United States Congress declared Labor Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1894.

Robert Longley (ThoughtCo.)

# STRAWBERRY FACE MASKS FOR GLOWING SKIN

Give your skin a fruity treat by availing numerous beauty benefits of the delicious strawberries. While you can continue devouring their berrylicious flavor, you can also use strawberries to achieve a luminous and clear skin by inducing the fruit's goodness in various face packs. With their anti-oxidant properties and an abundance of vitamin C, strawberries offer you with scientific reasoning for being ideal skin-treatment agents. Here are 5 strawberry face packs that should be included in your daily beauty regime.

## Strawberries and Yogurt Mask

This mask is for those who have an oily and acne-prone skin. Mix strawberry puree with yogurt and a tablespoon of honey. Apply it on your face and leave it to dry for ten minutes. Once dried, wash your face with warm water. This mask will leave you with gradual results of reduced acne and a healthier skin.

## Strawberry and Coco Powder Mask

Want to achieve that gorgeous inner glow to your skin? Look no further than this strawberry and coco powder mask. Mix two tablespoons of coco powder with crushed strawberries. Add a tablespoon of honey and mix well. Apply the mask all over your face and leave it to dry for 15 minutes. Rinse your face with luke warm water and you'll experience immediate results. Furthermore, your skin will feel supple and you'll notice an improved texture by the day.

## Milk, Cornstarch, Honey and Strawberry

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of ripe strawberries
- 1/4 cup of cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon of organic honey
- 1/4 cup of low-fat milk

Mix all the ingredients in a blender



until you derive a thick paste from the products. Apply it on your face and relax until the mask dries. It is necessary to let the mask stay put for at least twenty minutes. Wash your face with fresh cold water and pat it dry with a clean towel. This mask is ideal to maintain a younger looking skin and reduce signs of ageing.

## Rice and Strawberry Face Pack

Applying this face pack has proven to be the perfect remedy to deep cleanse the skin, get rid of dead cells, dirt and impurities. All one needs to do is take 1 tablespoon of uncooked rice soaked in water and blend it with 3 strawberries in a blender. Once a uniform paste is attained, apply it to your face and leave it on for 30 minutes. Wash your face with cold water and pat it dry. Follow this remedy two times in a week and that

would be enough to gain brilliant results.

## Almond Oil, Lemon Juice and Strawberry

Mash 3 fresh strawberries in a bowl until smooth. Add one tablespoon of almond oil and 5 drops of lemon juice to the strawberries. Mix well and apply the mixture with a sanitized brush all over your face and neck. Leave the mask on for not more than ten minutes. Wash your face with warm water and pat dry with a clean towel. Follow up with a suitable skin toner or moisturizer for your skin. This will achieve you an even skin-tone and a better texture. A face pack that is suitable to your skin from the ones mentioned above can be made a part of your daily or weekly beauty regime and we can assure you it would fail you.



## Wake up with beautiful skin

### REMOVE MAKE-UP

This one is probably the biggest beauty blunder we make. Removing every hint of make-up from your face is really important as it lets your skin breathe and avoids chances of infections, especially zits. You can buy make-up removing pads, micellar water or use olive oil to make your own DIY make-up remover.

### CLEANSER

Don't assume using a make-up remover will completely cleanse your face as well. Invest in a good cleanser, depending upon your skin type, and make sure to use it after removing your make-up. It will help in deep cleaning your pores by removing dirt and oil.

### MOISTURISE

A night cream is a must have in beauty kit. It helps to hydrate, nourish and repair the damaged skin cells. Apply a thick layer of it before sleeping and provide the much-needed care. P.S. - night creams are different from day ones. They are sans SPF, and may have a thicker texture.

### UNDER EYE CREAM

The area under your eyes is the thinnest skin of your body and hence needs special care. An eye cream will help to reduce dark circles and puffiness under your eyes. Plus, it will keep the area hydrated and keep wrinkles away!

### FACE MASK

Depending upon your skin condition, applying a face mask once or twice a week is a good idea. It will help in keeping your skin supple, and complexion luminous.

### SLEEP

The importance of sleeping for 7-9 hours every day cannot be overstated. A good skincare regimen starts with a good snoozing time and a healthy diet. It is the only time when your skin gets to revitalise, and gear up for the next day!

### SLEEP ON YOUR BACK

Lying on your stomach is bad for "beauty sleep." The average head weighs 7 to 8 pounds—a lot of pressure to be putting on your face every night. In fact, many dermatologists say they can tell what side of the face people sleep on by the number of wrinkles there.

### GET A LIFT

Sleep with your head elevated on two pillows, or put the headrest area of your bed on 2- to 4-inch pieces of wood. Gravity helps lymph and blood flow so fluid won't accumulate. To wake with defined cheekbones, eat a high-protein, low-sugar dinner (try salmon and asparagus, a natural diuretic). Skip the rice, pasta and potatoes. When our diet's high in glycemic carbohydrates, our features take on a soft, doughy appearance.

### WRAP IT UP

To minimize A.M. frizz, sleep on a satin pillowcase or put your hair in a silk scarf. Those fabrics are much softer than cotton, so there's less friction.

## FOOD CORNER

### CHEESY POTATO WEDGES

#### INGREDIENTS

6 potato, 2 teaspoon mixed herbs, 2 teaspoon chilli flakes, 1 cup chopped onion, 1 tablespoon dijon mustard, 1/2 cup fresh cream, 4 teaspoon butter, 1/2 teaspoon salt, water as required

#### Method

- Wash potatoes under running water, peel and slice them into thick wedges. Then, add the potatoes in a deep-bottomed pan and pour enough water in it, put this pan on high flame and boil the potato slices in it. Once the wedges turn tender, drain the water and keep them aside. Next, put a non-stick pan on medium flame and melt butter in it, and quickly add the chopped onions and saute till they get translucent and pink.
- To the sauteed onions, add the boiled potato wedges and stir once. Then, add chili flakes in the pan followed by adding fresh cream, mustard sauce, mixed herbs, and salt. Mix well all the ingredients and cook for another two minutes. When done, transfer to a plate and serve hot! (Note: You can sprinkle some mixed herbs as garnishing to increase the flavour.)





# NEW DRUGS MAY HELP SMOKERS KICK THE BUTT

Scientists say they have developed over a dozen drugs which may help smokers reduce their consumption of tobacco, if not quit altogether.

The researchers from the Washington State University in the US created the substances with the potential to curb smokers' desire for nicotine by slowing how it is broken down in the body.

The finding, published in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, targets a liver enzyme, called CYP2A6, which metabolises nicotine.

Nicotine triggers the release of dopamine and serotonin, two pleasure causing chemicals produced by the body.

However, as it gets metabolised, users can experience withdrawal symptoms like tingling in the hands and feet, sweating, anxiety and irritability.

This is the feeling that the researchers are targeting, said Travis Denton, an assistant professor at the Washington State University.

Denton and Philip Lazarus, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences, designed dozens of molecules that bind to CYP2A6 and inhibit its ability to metabolise nicotine.

"If you inhibit CYP2A6, it should not bother your overall health," said Lazarus.

"If we could specifically target this



enzyme, people should be fine, and it will possibly help them stop smoking or at least decrease their amount of smoking," he said.

The researchers have tested their candidate drugs to make sure they do not disrupt other major enzymes that help the body metabolise other

substances.

This helped narrow the number of potential drugs down to 18.

Once the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) verifies a drug's safety, clinical trials would begin to see how it works in a human, researchers said.

Source: PTI

# YOGA MUSIC AT BEDTIME BOOSTS HEART HEALTH: RESEARCHERS

Listening to soothing, meditative yoga music before sleep may be good for the heart, according to a study by Indian researchers.

"We use music therapy in our hospital and in this study we showed that yoga music has a beneficial impact on heart rate variability before sleeping," said study author Naresh Sen, a Consultant Cardiologist at HG SMS Hospital in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The study, presented at the ongoing European Society of Cardiology Congress 2018 in Germany, investigated the impact of listening to yoga music, which is a type of soothing or meditative music, before bedtime on heart rate variability.

It included 149 healthy people who participated in three sessions on separate nights: yoga music before sleep at night; pop music with steady beats before sleep at night; and no music or silence before sleep at night.

At each session, heart rate variability was measured for five minutes before the music or silence started, for ten minutes during the music/silence, and five minutes after it had stopped.

In addition, anxiety levels were assessed before and after each session using the Goldberg Anxiety Scale. The level of positive feeling was subjectively measured after each session using a visual analogue scale.

The average age of participants was 26 years. The researchers found that heart rate variability increased during the yoga music, decreased during the pop music, and did not significantly change during the silence.



Anxiety levels fell significantly after the yoga music, rose significantly post the pop music, and increased after the no music session. Participants felt significantly more positive after the yoga music than they did after the pop music.

Sen noted that holistic therapies such as music cannot replace evidence-based drugs and interventions, and should only be used as an add-on.

"Science may have not always agreed,

but Indians have long believed in the power of various therapies other than medicines as a mode of treatment for ailments," he said.

"This is a small study, and more research is needed on the cardiovascular effects of music interventions offered by a trained music therapist. But listening to soothing music before bedtime is a cheap and easy to implement therapy that cannot cause harm," he added.

Source: PTI



## BENEFITS OF POMEGRANATE

Pomegranate is one of the healthiest fruits on earth. Pomegranate has many incredible health benefits for your body. It is called as a divine fruit because it is the most mentioned fruit in theological books. Pomegranate has anti-oxidant, anti-viral and anti-tumor properties and is said to be a good source of vitamins, especially vitamin A, vitamin C, and vitamin E, as well as folic acid. This amazing fruit consists three times as many antioxidants as both wine or green tea. Consuming pomegranate also lowers the risk of all sorts of diseases. Following are the benefits of pomegranate:

### Protects us from free radicals

Pomegranate is rich in anti-oxidants and thus protects our body from free radicals, which are responsible for premature ageing. Free radicals are formed by exposure to sun and due to harmful toxins in the environment.

### It thins your blood

Antioxidants present in pomegranate act as a 'thinner for your blood'. The seeds of pomegranate prevent your blood platelets from forming clots and coagulating.

There are two types of blood clots, first is the good one which speeds the recovery during a cut or an injury and second is when there is any internal clot, like in heart, arteries or anywhere else inside the body. These type of clots are not good and can be fatal.

### Prevention of atherosclerosis

With increasing age and the type of lifestyle we live, the walls of our arteries become harder due to cholesterol, resulting in blockages sometimes. The anti-oxidant property of pomegranate prevents bad cholesterol from oxidizing. So, eating pomegranates removes the excess fat and prevents the hardening of artery walls.

### It acts like an oxygen mask

Pomegranate helps to pump the level of oxygen in our blood. Due to anti-oxidants present in pomegranate, it fights free radicals, reduces cholesterol and prevents blood clot. All this eventually helps blood to flow freely and thus improve the level of oxygen in your body.

### It prevents arthritis

Pomegranate can reduce the damage of the cartilage by fighting the enzyme that does so. Pomegranate also has the ability to reduce inflammation.

### Fights erectile dysfunction

Though it is not a wonder drug but yes pomegranate juice can slightly improve erectile dysfunction. And a lot of theories prove this as true.

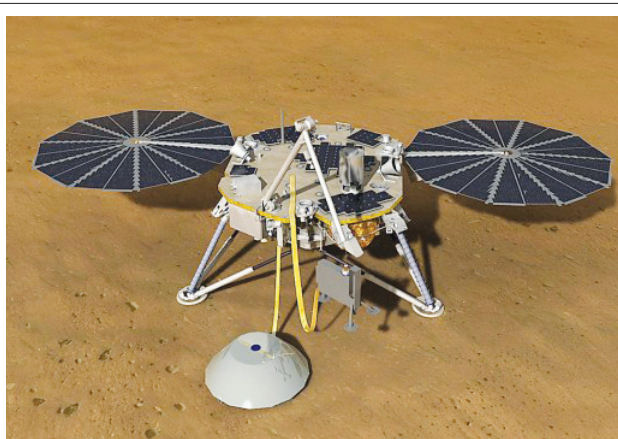
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## NASA INSIGHT MISSION TO FIND HOW GIANT MARS MOUNTAINS FORMED

NASA said its Insight mission to Mars will measure the red planet's temperature for the first time to decode how the massive mountains on the martian surface formed.

Mars has some of the tallest mountains in the solar system. They include Olympus Mons, a volcano nearly three times the height of Mount Everest, NASA said in a statement.

The mountain borders a region called the Tharsis plateau, where three equally awe-inspiring volcanoes dominate the landscape.

NASA and DLR (German Aerospace Center) plan to take the planet's temperature for the first time ever, measuring how heat flows out of the planet and drives this inspiring geology.

Detecting this escaping heat will be a crucial part of InSight mission, managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

InSight, which is scheduled to land on Mars on November 26, will be the first mission to study its deep interior.

The probe will use its Heat Flow and Physical Properties Package (HP3) instrument to measure heat as it is conducted from the interior to the planet's surface, NASA said.

This energy was in part captured when Mars formed more than four billion years ago, preserving a record of its creation.

That energy is also due to the decay of radioactive elements in the rocky interior.

The way heat moves through a planet's mantle and crust determines what surface features it will have, said JPL's Sue Smrekar, the mission's deputy principal investigator.

"Most of the planet's geology is a result of heat," Smrekar said. *Source: PTI*



## FACEBOOK ROLLS OUT VIDEO SERVICE WORLDWIDE

Facebook said on Wednesday it is rolling out globally its Watch video service, which has already been available in the United States for more than a year.

"We designed the product not just in a mindless consumption but in order to get people engaged," said Fidji Simo, Facebook's vice president for video.

Facebook launched Watch amid a shift in video viewing habits away from traditional television to online platforms including Netflix and Hulu, and with more people watching both professional and user content on services like YouTube.

Facebook has been ramping up its video offerings with original shows and this week announced new formats including interactive game shows, quizzes and polls.

The announcement comes two weeks after Facebook revealed it would broadcast for free Spanish topflight division football matches in the Indian subcontinent, and Champions League matches in Latin America. *Source: AFP*

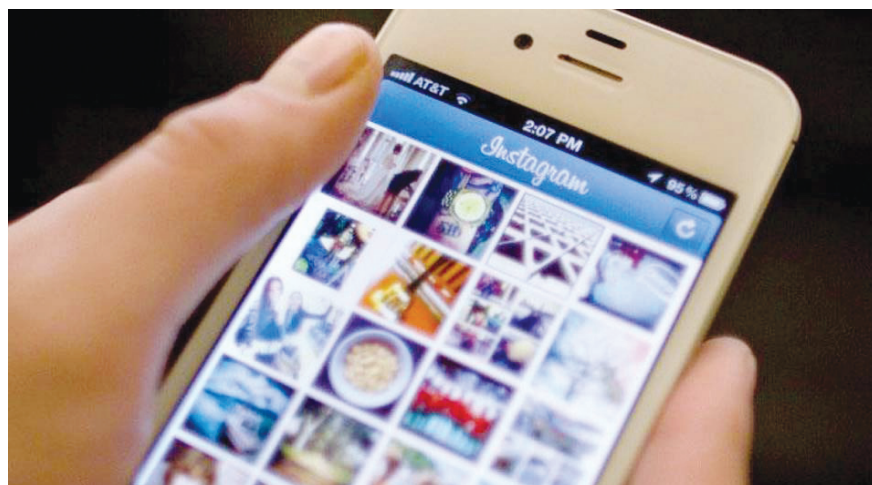
# INSTAGRAM OPENS ITS VERIFICATION PROCESS TO ALL USERS

As rumoured earlier, Instagram has opened its verification process to all users on its platform. Instagram users with large audiences can request for verification through a form within the app.

Verified accounts have a blue tick next to their username indicating that the account is genuine. Every verified account request will be reviewed by Instagram to see if it complies with the company's criteria.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A VERIFIED ACCOUNT ON INSTAGRAM

- Go to your profile on Instagram and open the Settings menu.
- Scroll down to the bottom and select "Request Verification".
- You will then need to provide your username, full name and a copy of your legal or business identification.
- Once your request is reviewed, you will receive a notification confirming or declining it.
- Along with verification requests, Instagram also made two new announcements which are part of its "About This Account" feature. Users will now be able to evaluate the authenticity of accounts by allowing them to see the advertisements an account is



running, the country where the account is located, username changes in the past year as well as other details.

"Keeping people with bad intentions off our platform is incredibly important ... that means trying to make sure the people you follow and the accounts you interact with are who they say they are, and stopping bad actors before they cause harm," Instagram co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Mike Krieger said.

Instagram also said it will allow the use of third-party apps such as DUO Mobile and Google Authenticator for

two-factor authentication to help users securely log in to their accounts.

Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security on top of usernames and passwords by prompting users for information they have access to.

Earlier this month, Facebook introduced this feature for users who managed pages with a large U.S. following, seeking to make it harder to administer a page using a fake or compromised account. These features will be broadly available in the coming weeks, the photo-sharing app said in a blog post. *Source: HT*

## For its campaign against fake news, Whatsapp leans on radio

In a bid to crackdown on spread of fake news on its platform, WhatsApp on Wednesday said it is rolling out radio campaigns across various Indian states, asking people to check the veracity of information received as a forward before they share it with others.

The Facebook-owned company has been on an overdrive after it faced severe criticism from the government over circulation of fake news on its platform that incited multiple incidents of mob lynching across the country.

"The radio campaign will air starting today across 46 Hindi speaking states of All India Radio (AIR) across Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand," a WhatsApp spokesperson told PTI.

The spokesperson added that while the current campaign is available in Hindi, there are plans to offer the same in other regional languages over the next few weeks.

These campaigns advise users to verify authenticity of messages before forwarding them and to report content that they might find to be inflammatory. It also cautions users to be careful about forwarding messages that contain misinformation and said doing so, could have serious repercussions.

WhatsApp, which has been slapped with two notices to check the spread of fake news, has taken a series of measures, including restricting the number of forwards and added 'forward' label to help users identify such messages. It is also in the process of establishing a local corporate entity.



It has, however, not accepted government's demand for traceability of messages saying creating such a software will go against the idea of user privacy and end-to-end encryption.

With general elections slated to be held next year in India, the government is taking a tough stance on use of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp for spread of misinformation.

The government had warned WhatsApp that it will treat the messaging platform as abettor of rumour propagation and legal consequences will follow if adequate checks are not put in place.

In a recent meeting with WhatsApp Head Chris Daniels, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had asserted that the company find a solution to track origin of messages on its platform, set up a local corporate entity that is subject to Indian laws within a defined timeframe as well as appoint a grievance officer. *Source: PTI*

## IBM to develop tech-based solution to tackle natural disasters

IBM on Wednesday announced a partnership with several technology giants as part of its "Call for Code Global Initiative" to create solutions to mitigate the aftermath of natural disasters. The programme, launched by IBM in May 2018, now includes Persistent Systems, Invest India, Wipro Limited, Capgemini and NASSCOM. It aims to bring start-ups, academic and enterprise developers together to solve one of the most pressing societal issues of our time: preventing, responding to and recovering from natural disasters. "2017 has been the costliest year ever for natural disasters in the Indian sub-continent. At the same time, India has the second largest developer community with 3.5 million developers - a community with great potential to create innovative solutions," Seema Kumar, Country Leader, Developer Ecosystem and Start-ups at IBM, said.

# Rupee hits lifetime low at 70.81, falls 22 paise against \$

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The rupee continued its downward slide against the US dollar on August 30, falling to a new record low in opening trade at 70.68 per US dollar.

At 2.23 pm, the partially convertible rupee was trading 22 paise or 0.32% lower than Wednesday's close at 70.77 against the US dollar.

On Wednesday, the rupee witnessed its second biggest single-day crash since August 13, when the unit crumbled 110 paise or 1.6%. The rupee previously had closed at a record low of 70.16 to the dollar on Monday.

The slide was triggered by factors like crude prices hitting multi-month highs fuelled by supply shocks along with concerns over widening current account deficit (CAD), said business news wire Reuters.

The rupee collapsed to another record low of 70.65 during the day as investors finally hit the panic button after reports highlighted risks of India breaching the 3.3% fiscal deficit target for 2018-19. Meanwhile, the BSE Sensex was trading over 60 points lower in late afternoon deals.

## Sensex rises over 250 points, Nifty reclaims 11,400 mark

The benchmark BSE Sensex staged a strong comeback in early trade on Friday gaining over 250 points on widespread buying by participants in metal, realty and banking stocks after the US and China agreed to resume trade talks last night.

Taking positive cues from global equities, the 30-share index was trading



higher by 262.91 points, or 0.69%, at 37,926.47. The index had lost 188.44 points in the previous session.

The NSE Nifty reclaimed the 11,400 mark, by rising 62.15 points, or 0.55%, to 11,447.20.

All sectoral indices, led by metal, FMCG, realty, auto, banking, PSU, healthcare, infrastructure, power, capital goods, oil and gas and IT, recovered up to 1.38%.

Major gainers were Vedanta, Tata Steel, ITC, Yes Bank, Adani Ports, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, SDBI, ICICI Bank, RIL and Asian Paints, rising up to 2.13%. While, Wipro, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto and HDFC were trading in the negative zone, falling up to 0.70%.

Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought shares worth a net of Rs 133.78 crore while foreign portfolio

investors (FPIs) sold shares worth a net of Rs 825.08 crore on Thursday, provisional data showed.

Investor sentiment turned positive after the US and China agreed to resume trade talks last night, traders said.

Amid a stalemate in the trade war with the US, China will send a top official to Washington this month to resume the high-level dialogue to resolve the deadlock over President Donald Trump's demand to drastically reduce the \$375 billion trade deficit.

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan's Nikkei rose 0.44% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.46%, while Shanghai Composite Index was down 0.39%.

US stocks rallied to close higher. The US Dow Jones Industrial Average ended 1.58% higher on Thursday.



## UBER CONSIDERING INDIA FOR 'AERIAL' TAXI SERVICE

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Running late for a crucial meeting in Gurugram? Imagine hailing an air taxi to fly you from your office in, say, Central Delhi to the meeting location in under 10 minutes. If that sounds like a scene straight out of a sci-fi flick, think again.

Uber intends to achieve this feat with 'Uber Elevate', one of its most ambitious projects yet. And the SoftBank-backed company is considering India along with countries like Japan and France to be a part of its futuristic dream.

Uber had named Dallas and Los Angeles as its first two launch cities in the US for the launch of its aerial taxi service and has been on the prowl to select an international city as its third partner.

It has now shortlisted five countries-India, Japan, Australia, Brazil and France-and one of them will become the first Uber Air City outside of the US, Uber said in a statement. Uber hopes to start operating demonstrator flights starting in 2020 and beginning commercial operations in 2023 in the three cities. "In pursuit of our first international launch market, where you will be able to push a button and get a flight, we are announcing a shortlist of five countries where Uber Air can immediately transform transportation and take our technology to new heights," Eric Allison, Head of Uber Aviation Programs, said.

Uber said Indian cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru are among the most congested cities in the world and travelling even a few kilometers can take over an hour.

Source: PTI



## Tim Cook richer by \$57 million after Apple hits \$1-trillion mark

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Apple CEO Tim Cook became richer by over \$57 million in a jiffy when he sold shares given to him as the company's market cap earlier this month exceeded \$1 trillion for the first time.

According to a US regulatory filing, Cook sold 2,65,000 Apple shares worth \$121 million, Business Insider reported late on Wednesday.

Nearly \$64 million of the share options were withheld for tax reasons and Cook took home over \$57 million.

The stock awards were in addition to his salary and bonus scheme.

Cook earned \$12.8 million last year -- \$3 million as base salary and a \$9.3 million cash bonus, rising 46%.

"Cook's net worth is estimated to be \$625 million," the report said.

Earlier this month, Apple became America's first publicly-traded company to hit the \$1-trillion milestone.

Apple, maker of the iPhone, iPad and other devices, said its fiscal 2018 third quarter revenue stood at \$53.3 billion, up 17% from the same period last year.

The company is reportedly introducing at least three new iPhone models next month which may include a considerably larger version of the iPhone X and a less expensive version.

Source: IANS

# 99.3% of demonetised currency returned to banks, says RBI

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** As many as 99.3 per cent of the old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes, that were banned overnight in November 2016, have been returned, the Reserve Bank of India said in its annual report.

Of the Rs 15.41 lakh crore worth 500 and 1,000 rupee notes in circulation before November 8, 2016, notes worth Rs 15.31 lakh crore have been returned.

The "humungous task of processing and verification of specified bank notes (SBNs) was successfully achieved," it said. The SBNs received were verified, counted and processed in the sophisticated high-speed currency verification and processing system (CVPS) for accuracy and genuineness and then shredded, it added.

SBNs refer to the demonetised old 500 and 1,000 rupee.

The RBI said the processing of SBNs has since been completed. "The total SBNs returned from circulation is Rs 15,310.73 billion."

## Note ban deliberate move to help crony capitalists: Rahul

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on



Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of implementing the note ban to help a handful of crony capitalist friends to convert black money into white.

In a blistering attack on the PM, Gandhi said demonetisation was not a mistake; it was PM's deliberate move to hurt people and help India's top industrialists who have huge non-performing assets.

"People apologise when they make mistakes. PM did not make any mistake. He demonetised the currency deliberately. His target was to help India's biggest crony capitalists get back the money they have been spending in marketing him. The PM wanted to see

how to help industrialists because of whom he appears on the television daily. Crony capitalists market the PM; the PM snatches people's money and gives it to these capitalists. It is simple," Gandhi said answering queries on whether he wanted the PM to say sorry for the failure of note ban.

## DeMo led to higher growth: Jaitley

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Thursday the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes led to formalisation of economy, more tax collection and higher growth. His statement comes a day after RBI data revealed that almost all the scrapped notes were returned to banks.

He said the RBI has twice released its reports stating that the demonetised notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 have been substantially deposited in the banks.

"A widely stated comment has been that just because most of the currency came back into the banks, the object of demonetisation has not succeeded. "Was the invalidation of the non-deposited currency the only object of demonetisation? Certainly not," he said in a blog.

contd from page 1

## 'Real hero': Crowds brave...

of McCain's family since the Republican senator died Saturday of brain cancer. It also began two days of official mourning in Arizona before his body is taken to Washington for a viewing at the US Capitol, followed by burial at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

At the emotional private ceremony in Arizona, Gov. Doug Ducey remembered McCain as an internationally known figure and "Arizona's favorite adopted son" on what would have been his 82nd birthday. He was born in the Panama Canal Zone while his father, who went on to become an admiral, served in the military.

"Imagining an Arizona without John McCain is like picturing Arizona without the Grand Canyon," Ducey said.

Former Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl said he had been with McCain across the world and he had better instincts on when to assert US power than anyone else he knew.

"I will miss him as a friend, and a strong force for America, and the world," Kyl said.

Sen. Jeff Flake offered the benediction, expressing gratitude "for his life and for his sacrifice" and "that John made Arizona his home." By the time the service ended, crowds had gathered to wait for the public viewing of McCain's closed casket, seeking shelter from Phoenix's summer heat under tents with coolers filled with ice and water bottles.

The line snaked down streets even as a continuous flow of people flowed past the casket. The visitation was to continue as long as people waited in line, said Rick Davis, McCain's former presidential campaign manager. (Source: AP)

## Pakistan regurgitating failed...

in thinking and pacific content in action," Mr. Akbaruddin said at the debate on Wednesday.

Pakistan's Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi raked up the Kashmir issue during the debate, drawing a sharp reaction from Mr. Akbaruddin. He said Pakistan was "regurgitating a failed approach, which has long been rejected, is neither reflective of pacific intent nor a display of pacific content".

In a reference to the government in Pakistan under newly-elected Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said, "We hope that the new government of Pakistan will, rather than indulge in polemics, work constructively to build a safe, stable, secure and developed South Asian region, free of terror and violence."

**'RESOLUTIONS REMAIN UNIMPLEMENTED':** In her remarks, Ms. Lodhi said the "Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains a long-standing issue" on the agenda of the Council. She said through its various resolutions, the Security Council has provided that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people "expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite" conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

She said the Security Council also instituted several mechanisms, including the U.N. Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP), the deployment of the U.N. Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the appointment of U.N. representatives.

"Sadly, these resolutions remain unimplemented to date. The international community cannot succeed in its efforts to strengthen conflict prevention and promote pacific dispute settlement if the Security Council's own resolutions are held in abeyance, by some. What is, at stake is both the Council's credibility as well as the objective of durable peace in our region. We must not fail these tests," she said.

**U.N. AND OTHER ACTORS CONCERNED:** Mr. Akbaruddin said as recognized by the U.N. Charter, pacific settlement of disputes could be through a variety of mechanisms, and today, there were numerous actors and many forms of pacific settlement that may be better suited to address different issues.

"Instead of putting the United Nations at the center of mediation efforts and exhorting States to support them, perhaps, the international community should lend encouragement to those most motivated and having the capacity to do so to settle these, as appropriate," he said.

"Of course, there could be many forms of division of tasks of pacific settlement of disputes between the United Nations and other actors concerned that can undoubtedly be devised. It is important, however, not to charge the United Nations with responsibilities that it maybe ill-suited to perform. Mediation, in every circumstance, is one such task, it is not geared to fulfil," he said.

Mediation, on the face of it, was based on the interest, consent and commitment by all parties for a peaceful settlement. He stressed that the issue was not whether mediation was a useful tool for peaceful settlement. "Where



## Anupam Kher Enlivens...

Raised in a family that was poor in monetary terms but rich in affection and encouragement, he stated that life's experiences are the best teachers and his many "encounters with failure" took away the fear of failure.

He advised the parents in the gathering to teach their children to be strong, to have the "hunger" to succeed, and challenge them without overprotecting them from the realities of life. He added that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the same "hunger" to take the country forward which is why he has always espoused the Prime Minister's cause.

While dispensing some inspirational advice for the youth he said "Mera gyan meri zindagi keanubhavo se juda hai. (My wisdom comes from life's experiences). Judging from the audience's reaction to his speech, the message of learning from our failures and "living life" clearly touched a chord.

When the applause died down, prominent industrialist Jugal Malanidraped a shawl around Anupam Kher while Sushma Pallod tied a rakhi to him to mark Raksha Bandhan. In a gesture that was touching, Anupam Kher reciprocated by giving her the traditional offering of money a brother gives his sister.

Sanjay Jajoo served as a lively Emcee while HGH President Partha Krishnaswamy appealed for funds for Kerala flood relief. Sewa International has collected \$250,000 from generous Houstonians for relief work.

Two Houstonians were recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award - CEO of Star Pipes Ramesh Bhutada and Beth Kulkarni. Well-known philanthropist, Ramesh Bhutada who has served the community unstintingly with his time, effort and resources stated that he was humbled to receive the award and reiterated Anupam Kher's words on encouraging and "recognizing our children for trying." In her acceptance speech, Beth, who has served many area organizations in leadership and advisory roles, hoped that the award would inspire other Hindus to serve the community in any way they can. The Akhil Chopra Unsung Heroes Award was presented to Richa Dixit, Manish Khatri and Nisha Bhatia.

Other highlights of the celebrations included the children's costume contest where little children dressed as little Krishnas and Radhas, a cultural dance segment, food, apparel and organization booths. A 25 feet in diameter vibrant Rangoli by Sangita Bhutada with the theme of "makhan chor" welcomed visitors to the center.

First time attendee and IMAGH Secretary Saeed Pathan said that the Janmashtami celebrations and the atmosphere brought back wonderful childhood memories of the festival in India.

Members of the Young Hindus of Greater Houston (YHGH) also contributed substantially to the smooth execution of the event. YHGH President Raj Salhotra stated "The 2018 Janmashtami celebration showcased Houston's wonderful tradition of diversity. It was wonderful to witness the outpouring of support from Houston's youth. We are excited to work with youth from across the city to build an organization that represents Hindus from all backgrounds."

acceptable to all parties, it is, in a manner of speaking, settled international law," he said.

**MEDIATION ISSUE:** Mr. Akbaruddin said the questions to be addressed were whether the apparatus of the United Nations, as currently constituted, could perform many of the basic functions required for effective mediation and were the mechanisms at the disposal of the United Nations coherent and flexible to guide dynamic negotiations with an effective strategy. He pointed out that the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, did not come to mediation unencumbered. The problems of the United Nations apparatus as a mediator were ingrained in the nature of inter-governmental organizations.

"Inter-governmental organizations are hindered by complex decision-making procedures. Add to it the specificities of the U.N. Charter, that is premised on cooperation amongst the permanent members. That cooperation is clearly not evident. Where it does manifest, it invariably takes the form of the lowest common denominator," he said.

Further, policy-making within an international organization added another layer of bargaining and trade-offs, he said, adding that it required a time-consuming and uncertain process of consultation and coordination among a multiplicity of actors.

"Such tortuous decision-making process, imbued with political trade-offs, saps the United Nations of necessary dynamism and flexibility in pursuing mediation. Once the U.N. authorized entities agree on a mediating proposal or framework, it cannot easily be modified in response to changing circumstances. Modification requires renegotiation," he said. (Source: PTI)

## Rs 100-cr scam stings Haryana

Subsequently, ETOs Narendra Dhanda and Shobhini Mala were placed under suspension after a preliminary probe.

Now the government has also suspended ETOs SK Singh, Vijender Dhull, Vikas Prashar, Sanjeev Saluja and Suneela Singh. All seven have been charge sheeted under Rule 7 of the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 2016, which can lead to their dismissal and demotion.

As the scam unfolded, investigations into the role of two Gurugram firms further revealed the involvement of 15 firms in Panipat district and two in Kaithal. These firms too submitted bogus claims for tax refund during transition from VAT to GST.

In view of the inter-state ramifications of the scam, CM Manohar Lal Khattar has ordered that the case be handed over to the State Vigilance Bureau (SVB) as recommended by the

Additional Chief Secretary, Excise and Taxation, Sanjeev Kaushal.

### Modus operandi

Unscrupulous dealers would float a fake firm, procure bills of a commodity, such as cigarettes taxed heavily (21 per cent during VAT regime and 28 per cent under GST now), from within the state. They would show the sale on paper to a firm in another state (also fake) with 2 per cent central sales tax (CST), using Form C. Having thus 'paid' 21 per cent VAT and 'charged' 2 per cent CST, the trader would fraudulently claim 19 per cent refund from the government. For example, on a sale of Rs 10 crore, a dealer would claim a refund of Rs 1.9 crore.

### The ETOs' role

Form C was issued to bogus firms by ETOs even when they were not entitled to do business for which they were issued the form. Without the form, the firms could not have shown fake sales. "It was found that two Gurugram firms, Vipin Enterprises and Uma Traders, had created a web of seven more bogus firms - 15 in Panipat and two in Kaithal - and duped the government of nearly Rs 50 crore each by fake claims.

"The role of the Excise and Taxation Officers came under the scanner because they helped the bogus firms commit the fraud by issuing Form C. In some cases, even the address mentioned in their registration certificates were non-existent," Additional Chief Secretary Kaushal explained.

Praising Additional Excise and Taxation Commissioner Vijay Singh, Joint RTC Rajiv Chaudhary and DETC Ashok Panchal, he said that the government had decided to issue commendation certificates to them for unearthing the scam.

### REFUND ON FAKE BILLS

- 1 A fake firm would procure bills of a commodity like cigarettes taxed heavily
- 2 It would show sales outside state and claim refund for VAT paid & CST charged
- 3 It would procure bills from distributors, who generally sell stocks to retailers without bill, charging 1% of the bill amount
- 4 A firm with bills worth Rs 1 cr was presumed to have paid Rs 21 lakh VAT though all it had paid was a mere 1 per cent
- 5 The bogus firm would show sales to another bogus dealer outside Haryana against Form C and charge 2 per cent CST
- 6 Sale on CST is permissible only against Form C. The erring ETOs would issue the form knowing well the firm did not exist
- 7 The firm would then fraudulently claim Rs 19 lakh as refund.

(Source: Tribune, India)

**J**anmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna is celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in India. According to the Hindu calendar this religious festival is celebrated on the Ashtami of Krishna Paksh or the 8th day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadon.

Krishna Janmashtami in 2018 is on the 2nd of September.

Sri Krishna is considered as the one of the most powerful human incarnations of the Lord Vishnu. He was born around 5,200 years ago in Mathura. The sole objective of Sri Krishna's birth was to free the Earth from the evilness of demons. He played an important role in Mahabharata and propagated the theory of bhakti and good karma which are narrated deeply in the Bhagwat Geeta.

Sri Krishna was born in a prison in the custody of Kansa. Vasudev, His father immediately thought of his friend Nand and decided to hand over his child to him to save Krishna from the clutch of Kansa. Krishna grew up in Gokul and finally killed his uncle, King Kansa.

The actual celebration of Janmashtami takes place during the midnight as Sri Krishna is believed to be born on a dark, stormy and windy night to end the rule and violence of his uncle, Kansa. All over India this day is celebrated with devotional songs and dances, pujas, arti, blowing of the Conch and rocking the cradle of baby Sri Krishna.

The Janmashtami celebration of Mathura and Vrindavan, the places where Sri Krishna had spent his life, are very special. On this day temples and homes are wonderfully decorated and illuminated. Night long prayers are offered and religious mantras are sung in the temples.

### Significance

The festival is important for hindus because Lord Vishnu came in the form of Krishna to eradicate evil and restore 'Dharma' at a time when the tyrant and evil ruler of the Vrishni Kingdom Kansa, Devaki's brother, was making people's lives miserable. He had overthrown his father to become King. But he was cursed to die at the hands of the "eighth son of his sister". To try and escape this curse, Kansa killed all of Devaki's babies when they were born. But when Krishna was born at midnight, a divine force helped Vasudev save Krishna from the evil Kansa. Vasudev carried Krishna across the River Yamuna, to Gokul, to his brother-in-law, Nand Raj's house, where Krishna spent his childhood happily.

### Celebration

Krishna is one God in Hindu Mythology, whose life has been written about from birth to 'demise', and since the lord appeared in a human form and intermingled with one and all at different levels, he is worshipped as a god-child, a loveable prankster, a beautiful lover, a divine guide and the supreme power.

Thus, Krishna's birth is celebrated with great excitement, devotion and passion by one and all - by the dynamic youth playing pranks(Breaking the 'Dahi' handi hanging high above), by women whose maternal instincts are roused on this day(they bathe and dress up 'Baby Krishna' and place him in a cot and rock him while singing devotional songs) and by all age groups as they participate in plays and dances based on Krishna's life, particularly his youth( Raas-Leela).

Many devotees keep fast on this day. They clean the temple before placing an idol of the crawling "Divine Child Krishna". The idol is bathed lovingly and is adorned with new clothes. The whole temple is decorated with flowers. White butter and sugar is distributed among people as 'prasad' since baby Krishna loved eating this.

Since Krishna was born at the stroke of midnight, devotees start singing 'bhajans' in beautifully decorated and illuminated temples

# KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI



in the evening. The celebrations go on till midnight. At midnight, conchs' are blown in the temples to announce the baby's arrival amidst much fanfare.

The devotees who kept the fast, break it now and eat the 'Prasad'.

Janmashtami is celebrated with much pomp and show in Mathura and Brindavan. The temples come alive with 'jagarans'(Night Vigil) and dance and drama events, specially based on Krishna's childhood pranks and love affairs(With Radha, his consort).

In Maharashtra, specially Mumbai and Pune, and Dwarka in Gujarat, the festival is celebrated on a large social scale, by the traditional breaking of the 'Dahi/Makhan Handi'(pot with freshly churned butter). With time, the butter has been replaced with money that would be won by the team which manages to reach and break the pot.

In the South, devotees make large Kolams (decorative pattern drawn on the floor with rice floor) and make small foot prints of Baby Krishna outside the main door, depicting the entry of the Lord inside the house.

Not only is this festival celebrated in India, it is also celebrated in many other countries, specially, the US, where ISKON promotes and teaches devotion to Lord Krishna.

### Importance of Being Krishna

For generations, Krishna has been an enigma to some, but God to millions, who go ecstatic even as they hear his name.

People consider Krishna their leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one. Krishna has influenced the Indian thought, life and culture in myriad ways. He has influenced not only its religion and philosophy, but also into its mysticism and literature, painting and sculpture, dance and music, and all aspects of Indian folklore.



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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.'**

## ASIAN GAMES 2018



## INDIA AT THE GAMES

INDIAN ATHLETES END  
CAMPAIGN WITH BEST  
SHOWING IN 40 YEARS

**Indian athletes won two gold medals at the Asian Games 2018 on Thursday, taking their gold medals to seven and the total tally to 19 (10 silver and two bronze), their best ever performance since the 1978 Bangkok Games, and the third best performance overall**

**JAKARTA (TIP):** Some of the best and most enduring moments were witnessed this week as Indian athletes, high on energy, gave it their all, as the six-day athletics programme at the Asian Games 2018 concluded with a strong message being sent out — that India was not willing to accept defeat anymore.

The 4x400m women's relay quartet was a bundle of joy. Dead tired and sweating profusely, had someone told them to do 10 victory laps, Hima Das, MR Poovamma, Sarita Gayakwad and VK Vismaya would have obliged.

After clinching India's fifth consecutive Asian Games relay title in a row in 3:28.72 secs — and dealing a crushing blow on Bahrain's imported athletes — they celebrated as if there was no tomorrow.

Kerala boy Jinson Johnson made it look so simple in the end in 1500m, it seemed as if he was drawing energy from the huge crowd gathered at the GBK Stadium. With a time of 3:44.72, he was a good one second ahead of silver-medallist from Iran, Amir Moradi.

**SILVER FOR MEN'S TEAM**

The Indian men's 4x400m relay quartet of Dharun Ayyasamy, P Kunhu Muhammed, Muhammed Anas and Rajiv Arokia used the last reserves of their energy to win silver with a time of 3:01.85 min.

Discus thrower Seema Antil, all keyed up to defend her title at the Games, was, however, let down by a spur in her right foot which has been troubling her since the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Unfortunately, the tempo was lost after her poor first throw of 58.51 and following that she couldn't do much against the menacing Chinese competitors, Chen Yang (65.12 metres) and Feng Bin (64.25), who finished first and second respectively, pushing the seasoned thrower to third spot.



India's Jinson Johnson celebrates winning the final of the men's 1500m athletics event during the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta on August 30.



The Indian women's relay team win gold.

The slim PU Chitra was only too happy to win her maiden Asian Games medal in 1500m, her toothy smile saying it all. Hailing from Palakkad in Kerala, she timed 4:12.56, not her personal best but good enough for bronze. Bahrain's Kalkidan Befkadu and Belay Tigist finished one-two, clocking 4:07.88 and 4:09.12.

As the track and field events concluded on Thursday, India had a haul of seven gold, 10 silver and two bronze.

**HIMA'S EARLY CHARGE**

The women's 4x400m team's strategy was to beat the Bahrain athletes at their game — speed. Hima Das was chosen as the first runner and the strategy worked.

By the time she handed the baton to seasoned Poovamma, India were leading by more than one and-a-half seconds, courtesy her timing of 52.13.

Poovamma ran an even more inspired race clocking 52.07. Though Sarita Gayakwad and VK Vismaya slackened, the initial momentum had done the job.

Johnson from Kerala was the leader of the pack and had "conserved enough energy" for the last 80 metres to ensure a medal after he had faltered in the last 50 metres in 800m two days back to give the gold to Manjit Singh.

"It is a sweet revenge for me," said Johnson, who overcame a late push from Moradi to win in 3:44.72 minutes. Manjit finished a distant fourth, clocking 3:46.57. However, as the day's proceedings ended, one felt sad for Seema Punia — for the sheer amount of flak she has taken over the years and still managed to win gold at Incheon and bronze here. So, is retirement on the cards, someone asked. "Definitely not," replied Seema. *Source: HT*

After shoot-out  
heartbreak, India play  
Pak for hockey bronze

A total of 76 goals in the Asian Games so far but the Indian men's hockey team failed to step up when it mattered the most, losing their semi-final to Malaysia after a penalty shoot-out on Thursday. The defending champions were denied a direct entry into the 2020 Olympics, with Malaysia again proving to be their Achilles heel.

The Malaysians handed India a heartbreaking 6-7 loss in sudden death after an exhausting shoot-off. India will play eight-time champions Pakistan in the bronze medal play-off. Pakistan lost 0-1 to Japan in the other semi-finals.

Malaysia, who had beaten India in the last-four stage eight years ago at Guangzhou, made their wasteful opponents pay for their mistakes, both in regulation time and shoot-off. Both teams were tied at 2-2 after 60 minutes.

India conceded a late goal to push the match into shoot-off after Harmanpreet Singh and Varun Kumar had scored from penalty corners in the 33rd and 40th minute. Malaysia struck through Faizal Saari (39th min) and Muhammad Razie, who found the all-important equaliser less than two minutes before the end of regulation time.

In the shoot-off, it was anyone's game and Malaysia handled the nerves better to make their second Asiad final.

India, who had scored a record 76 goals in the group stage, were left stunned after SV Sunil missed his attempt in the sudden death. Only Akashdeep and Harmanpreet scored in the first five shots of the shoot-off while Manpreet Singh, Dilpreet Singh and Sunil faltered.

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh kept India in the game as he only let in two goals from Muhammad Ashari and Fitri Saari. Tengku Ahmad, Faizal Saari and Muhammad Azuan missed the target for Malaysia.

In sudden death, Malaysia's all five attempts were successful while India scored the first four before Sunil cracked under pressure. *Source: The Quint*

Neeraj Chopra becomes first  
Indian to win javelin throw gold

Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin-thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal as he shattered his own national record by clearing a distance of 88.06m in Jakarta on Monday.

Chopra's gold is only the second medal India has won in javelin throw in Asian Games history after Gurtej Singh won bronze in 1982 in New Delhi.

The 20-year-old's winning throw came in his third attempt. He began with 83.46m and fouled the second attempt.

Liu Qizhen of China was a distant second, with a best throw of 82.22m, while Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the bronze with a 80.75 effort.

The Commonwealth Games and reigning Asian champion completely dominated the competition as he bettered his own national record of 87.43, which he had come up with in Doha during the first leg of the Diamond League series in May. None of the competitors in the field had a 85-plus throw this season.





### 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](mailto:info@bejandaruwala.com) and on phone **011-91-8141234275** [www.bejandaruwala.com](http://www.bejandaruwala.com)**

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE SEPTEMBER 3- SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

### Aries:

Ganesha says you are in a great mood. You set the stone and the pace. You are ambitious and get down to the task of nation building, even if that is an exaggeration. But that is the mood you are in. You make headway in your career, and those who are freelancing widen their client base substantially. The pickings are good. You also manage to lay the foundations of a nest egg.

### Taurus:

There are boulders but you manage to sidestep them with ease. There are expenses but also several new deals in the offing. Those associated with realty do exceedingly well. This is also a good time for architects, contractors and stock market payers. You are prone to speculation. Your heart strings could also be pulled. Ganesha watches over you. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you,' said Lao-tzu. You win kudos, applause, awards and rewards.

### Gemini:

"If you stumbled today, remember where and how it felt. Tomorrow, take a different path. Life flourishes from its pain and the lessons we gain," said Dodinky. Ganesha agrees. You are in maudlin mode and journey down the past. You meet up with old buddies and have a great time recapitulating old times. It is a pleasant time by all accounts. You are not charged to do heavy work. The health of family members may be a cause for concern, though children bring joy.

### Cancer:

A new intensity scorches you. You want to get things done, and in a hurry too. You feel you have wasted too much time in nothingness and that disturbs you no end. You reach out to others, network furiously and plan out new ventures. There could be secret deals and powerful love and longing. Singles have a wild time and those in relationships bond magically. You may plan an exotic holiday with your partner. Ganesha journeys with you.

### Leo:

This is a mixed period, but certainly not a mixed one. You are into problem solving. You do not want to ruffle feathers and will go out of your way to keep the peace. You want to get to the bottom of any perplexing issue. There are no ego drives and you are at your peaceful best. This wins you brownie points and you are socially on the upscale. You walk away from altercations, confrontations and naked power play.

### Virgo:

You are powerful and vital, brimming with good health. You work hard and accomplish a lot. You have a high self-image, confidence and vigor, and it seeps into all your dealings. You are assertive without getting in the way. There is maturity and repose. Ganesha is thrilled as you also manage to take a stand when necessary. There are new openings and opportunities and you take the chances coming your way.

### Libra:

You power ahead and nothing can get in the way. You are filled with drive, gusto, ambition and self-belief. You also spend like there is no tomorrow. This can be an indulgent phase with holidays, business expansion and new collaborations. Ganesha urges you to use this period well. It is propitious and it will be in your interest to take the tide at the flood.

### Scorpio:

This is a long and eventful period and you should make the most of it. The period favors travels, meetings, conferences, interviews, trips, more brainpower, contacts, communication, correspondence and contracts. You have the Midas touch. There could be international travel and several new deals in the offing. You open the throttle and speed away in sixth gear. There is money and vital associations that pitchfork you into stardom. Wow, says Ganesha

### Sagittarius:

'My words fly up, my thoughts remain below: Words without thoughts never to heaven go,' said the great William Shakespeare, playwright and poet. You are in a fantastic creative phase. This is a gold mine for writers, poets, actors, film folk and those in creative pursuits. There is intense social networking too. You want to experience every vista of life and leave no stone unturned.

### Capricorn:

The trends are propitious and use your free will to advantage. The stars tell you in no uncertain terms that this is the time to sow. 'Fill the brain with the highest ideals, place them day and night before you, and out of that will come great work,' said Swami Vivekananda. There are rewards and awards, plaudits and applause. The period is bullish and everything you touch turns to gold. Don't spare the horses. If you are looking for a lucky time for start-ups, this is it. Ganesha is also with you

### Aquarius:

'When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy,' said Rumi. When it rains it pours. The golden run continues unabated. The compatibility of partners and also the type of life the individual will lead are judged from the placement of stars in the horoscope. You have an intellectual appreciation of beauty. New vistas open and you spend great times under the fast-warming subcontinent sun, if it isn't steaming by now.

### Pisces:

You are moving at a frenetic pace. The phase you are in reminds me of Nikki Lauda, the great race car driver, who came back from the dead to win. Nothing can stop you now. You are irrepensible. 'I think, therefore I am,' said the French philosopher Descartes. You think big, live large, and love even larger. Ganesha is impressed as you go from strength to strength.



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