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"We have no aspiration of dominance"
RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

MANU SHAH

CHICAGO (TIP): It was a time for connecting and reflection for the 2500 Hindu delegates who had gathered at Hotel Westin in Chicago for the 2nd World Hindu Congress from 7-9 September. The mega initiative, a brainchild of IITian Swami Vigyananand, assessed ways to raise the visibility of Hindus on the world stage and work on challenges facing the community globally. Hindus from 60 countries were present with sizable delegations from Bharat and the US. The event had a historical significance as it commemorated the 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's iconic address at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago.

(Also Read 'Fake Saviors of Hinduism at the World Hindu Congress in Chicago' on page 9)
contd on page 32



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Chief in his inaugural address called upon the Hindus to "think collectively, and act valiantly".
Photo /Jay Mandal-on assignment

Indian Origin Assailants of Akali Dal Leader Manjit Singh GK Arrested



Jasbir Singh (left) and son Gagandeep Singh (right) were arrested by Sutter County police on September 12 for assaulting Shiromani Akali Dal leader and President of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Managing Committee, Manjit Singh GK at a Yuba City Sikh Temple on August 25.

Pics / Courtesy Sutter County Police

PARMINDER S AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): The Sutter County police arrested Jasbir Singh and his son, Gagandeep Singh on September 12,

contd on Page 32



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Hurricane Florence Pounds North Carolina, bringing dangerous water surge and flash flooding

Worst to come; Almost 160,000 without power

NEW YORK (TIP): Hurricane Florence, with tropical storm-force winds hundreds of miles wide, began pounding the Carolina coastline on Thursday, September 13 night as officials made last-minute pleas for residents to evacuate.

Hurricane-force winds are moving across portions of the North Carolina coast, and water levels were rising along parts of the coastline. The threat of tornadoes increases as Florence moves closer, with landfall expected Friday, September 14 morning.

The storm surge is expected to worsen late Thursday and into early Friday during high tide in the Atlantic Ocean.

contd on Page 32



Inferno in Boston after explosions: homes burn after multiple gas blasts; at least one killed, 12 injured

ANDOVER, MA(TIP): Dozens of explosions, apparently triggered by a natural gas pipeline rupture, rocked three communities near Boston on Thursday, September 13, killing at least one person, injuring 12 and prompting the evacuation of hundreds, officials said.

The blasts left dozens of homes and other buildings demolished or engulfed in flames as firefighters



A house on fire in Lawrence, Mass, a suburb of Boston, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018

contd on Page 32

Nirupama Rao to join Columbia University as George W. Ball Professor

PRAKASH M SWAMY CHENNAI /NEW

YORK (TIP): Nirupama Menon Rao, who served as foreign secretary of India from 2009 to 2011 and as India's ambassador to the United States from 2011 to 2013, will join Columbia SIPA's faculty as the George W. Ball Adjunct Professor for the fall 2018 semester. Among many other highlights of her four-decade career



A former foreign secretary of India, Nirupama Rao will join Columbia SIPA's faculty as the George W. Ball Adjunct Professor for the fall 2018 semester.

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Asia Society Hosts Landmark Exhibition - The Progressive Revolution: Modern Art for a New India



Consul General of India Sandeep Chakravorty, inaugurating the "rare exhibition" said, "I think this kind of exhibition has not been organized ever before in the United States".

Image / Bidisha Roy

BIDISHA ROY

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Asia Society of New York hosted a press conference at Asia Society Museum in New York City on September 13 to debut a landmark exhibition of works by members of the Progressive Artists' Group, which was formed in Bombay, now Mumbai, in the aftermath of independence. India's Consul General in New York Ambassador Sandeep Chakraborty inaugurated the show.

In his brief speech Ambassador Chakraborty applauded Asia Society for hosting an exhibition of such magnitude. "I am aware of the hard work (of Asia Society) behind the show because it is not easy to convene such an exhibition. This is a rare exhibition because I think this kind of exhibition has not been organized ever before in the United States



Pic 1 - Progressive Artists' Group, Bombay 1949. The exhibition comprises of important works from the Group's core founders-K. H. Ara, S. K. Bakre, H. A. Gade, M. F. Husain, S. H. Raza, and F. N. Souza - as well as later members: V. S. Gaitonde, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, Tyeb Mehta, Akbar Padamsee, and Mohan Samant. Image / Courtesy Raza Foundation Archives. The Raza Foundation, New Delhi

Pic 2 - A Page from M.F. Hussain's Scrap Book, with a drawing and annotated photographs. Image / Courtesy Private collection, France /Courtesy Grosvenor Gallery

Pic 3 - The Progressive Artists' Group, surrounded by artists, art critics, and patrons at the Bombay Art Society Salon in the 1940s. From Left to Right: (Seated in the first row): Mulk Raj Anand, K.H. Ara, M.F. Hussain. (Seated in the second row): Laxman Pai, Mrs. Langhammer, Emmanuel Schlesinger, Bal Chhabda, among others. (Standing): Khorshed Gandhi, Krishen Khanna, S.K. Bakre, V.S. Gaitonde, Walter Langhammer, and Kekoo Gandhi. Image / Courtesy Chemould Prescott Road Archive



Just after India's independence, six young firebrands came together in Bombay: K. H. Ara, S. K. Bakre, H. A. Gade, M. F. Husain, F. N. Souza, and S. H. Raza united to form the Progressive Artists' Group (PAG). In the early 1950s, Krishen Khanna, V. S. Gaitonde, and Mohan Samant joined their ranks; Ram Kumar, Tyeb Mehta, and Akbar Padamsee became closely affiliated with the Group. Together, the Progressives forged fresh art for an independent India and in time have come to be known as the country's quintessential moderns.

The Progressive Revolution: Modern Art for a New India will examine the founding ideology of the Progressives and explore the ways in which artists from different social, cultural, and religious backgrounds found common cause at a time of massive political and social upheaval.

Though the group disbanded in 1956, the

movement continued to animate and give visual expression to India's modern identity, with many of the group's artists creating their most iconic works after this period. Works in the exhibition - primarily oil paintings from the 1940s to 1960s - underscore how these artists gave visual form to the idea of India as secular, heterogeneous, international, and united. Like their counterparts in the West, India's modern masters mined multiple sources of inspiration while forging their own distinctive styles. Their consideration of the ways in which a new secular republic could emerge from a rich, multi-religious tradition continues to be relevant today.

The exhibition comprises of important works from the Group's core founders-K. H. Ara, S. K. Bakre, H. A. Gade, M. F. Husain, S. H. Raza, and F. N. Souza - as well as later members: V. S. Gaitonde, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, Tyeb Mehta, Akbar Padamsee,

and Mohan Samant.

The exhibition comprises of three sections. The first section, Progressives in Their Time, considers the Group's origins as the artists struggled to cast off the old and invent a new artistic language for the new India. National/International explores the development of the Progressives' styles, as they drew upon multiple sources of inspiration, not only Western motifs, but also South Asian high art and folk traditions, as well as those from Asia more generally. The last section, Masters of the Game, displays some of the most iconic artworks produced by the Progressives, many of which were created long after the Group dissolved, and individual members had developed their signature styles.

A must-see exhibition, it will be on view at Asia Society Museum from September 14, 2018 to January 20, 2019.

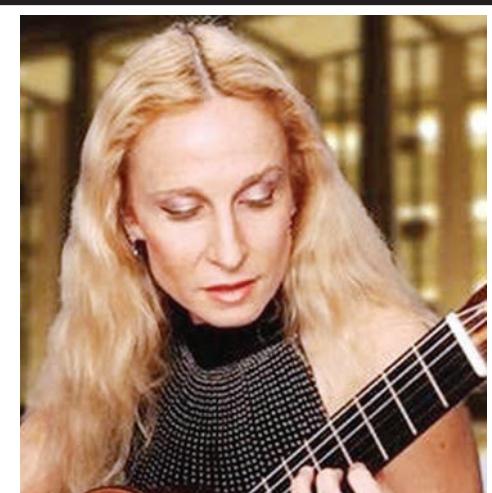
Tali Roth Concert at Juilliard Lincoln Center, with tango dancers, flute and guitar, September 22; Free Admission

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Tali Roth, Head of Guitar Program, The Juilliard School Pre-College Division (www.taliroth.com), is organizing a faculty recital as a part of the centennial Juilliard Pre-College celebration concerts, on Saturday, September 22nd, from 6 to 7 P.M. at Paul Hall, The Juilliard School, 155 West 65th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam (Lincoln Center). Admission to Concert is free.

Tali will collaborate with world renowned colleagues- flutist Carol Wincenc, tango dancers Martin Almiron and Maya Grego, guitarist Diego Campagna, and Juilliard Pre-College guitar and flute students and alums.

Program includes Music by Piazzolla, Gardel, Ramirez, Boccherini, Bartok. Also, part of the program is Tali's recording of sound track from the 2010 Woody Allen Film "You will meet a tall dark stranger".

See Sneak Previews- Short Video Promo with tango dancers
<https://www.facebook.com/789061911/posts/10156601119396912/>
And with Carol Wincenc
<https://youtu.be/Oah3rl3Pq2c>
Tali Roth sends to Readers of The Indian Panorama warm wishes for A Happy New Jewish Year - L'Shana Tova Umetuka!



Tali Roth at a concert

Indian American Anshdeep Singh Bhatia is the first Sikh in Trump Security



Ludhiana-born Anshdeep Singh Bhatia has become the first Sikh to have been inducted into the security detail of US President Donald Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): Ludhiana-born Anshdeep Singh Bhatia has become the first Sikh to have been inducted into the security detail of US President Donald Trump.

Anshdeep was inducted last week after he completed his grueling training in the United States.

His family moved to Ludhiana from Kanpur during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He lost his uncle and a close relative after the frenzied mob stormed their house in Kanpur's KDA Colony in Barra. His aunt's marriage was scheduled in second of week of November and the family was busy making an arrangement.

Anshdeep's father Devendra Singh was also injured in the attack and had received three bullet wounds.

His grandfather Amreek Singh Bhatia, a manager with Punjab and Sind Bank, opted for a transfer to Ludhiana. His father, who was into the pharmaceutical business in Kanpur, married in Ludhiana and moved to the United States with his family in 2000. Anshdeep was 10 at that time. Anshdeep who dreamt of making to the President's security one day stumbled upon a block when he was told he would have to change his looks. But Anshdeep moved the court against the riders and the decision came out in his favor."

Indian-Origin Lawyer Jailed in UK for Fraud

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin Harvinder Kaur Thethi, described as a "bogus immigration lawyer" has been jailed for five years' after she was found guilty of six counts of fraud by false representation. Ms. Thethi, from the West Midlands region of England, had been convicted by Southwark Crown Court in London in July for falsely claiming to be a barrister, solicitor and a UK Home Office official with the ability to progress immigration applications. Despite being unqualified in any of these fields, she went on to obtain GBP 68,000 from vulnerable people in payment for immigration related services, which were promised but not delivered, the court was told. At a hearing, Judge Nicholas Loraine-Smith sentenced the 46-year-old to five years behind bars for each of the six counts, to run concurrently.

"You decided to embark on a fantasy life, when you claimed to be a successful lawyer earning a large income. You were nothing of the sort," the judge said during the sentencing hearing. "The large amounts of money you obtained came entirely from money you had stolen from people you had befriended and cheated," he noted.

The judge observed that people whose immigration status is precarious are "very, very vulnerable", which would make them susceptible to somebody they thought was a family friend and could be convinced to part with large sums of money they could ill afford. Harvinder Kaur Thethi was found to have ingratiated herself to her victims and was, in many cases, treated as a daughter or sister. Her prosecution was the result of an investigation led by the UK's Office of the Immigration Service Commissioner (OISC), in partnership with Immigration Enforcement and the Metropolitan Police Service.

"You preyed on their vulnerability again and again... the investigation was thorough, fair, and - it is clear from the Victim Personal Statements - kind. I commend both officers in this case," the judge concluded. The offences took place between June 1, 2013, and September 8, 2014 in Hounslow, west London. Harvinder Kaur Thethi had been remanded in custody pending a sentencing hearing in July. Ian Leigh, Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner, said his team was delighted with the outcome of the case, which they hope would send a "clear deterrent message" to anyone considering acting similarly.

Indian-Origin US Student to get 'Young Scholar' Award

WASHINGTON (TIP): India-origin scholar in the US, Rajalakshmi Nandakumar, has been chosen for a prestigious award for her work to help detect potentially life-threatening health issues using smartphones.

Ms. Nandakumar, studying at the University of Washington, has created a technology that turns an ordinary smartphone into an active sonar system capable of detecting physiological activities, such as movement and respiration, without requiring physical contact with the device.

She has been selected for the 2018 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar award.

She took inspiration from bats, which use sonar technique to navigate in the dark by sending out acoustic signals and using the reflections to identify objects.

Her system works by transmitting inaudible sound signals from the phone's speaker and tracking their reflections off the human body. The reflections are then analyzed using a combination of algorithms and signal processing techniques, a media release said.

Ms. Nandakumar received her bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Chennai.

She worked for Microsoft Research India before beginning her graduate work at the University of Washington in 2013.



India-origin scholar Rajalakshmi Nandakumar has been selected for the 2018 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar award

Her Madurai-based parents founded a company for distribution of diagnostic medicines to hospital laboratories in

Tamil Nadu.

Young scholars are selected by an international panel comprising engineers from leading universities and companies and receive a USD 5,000 prize plus expenses to attend the annual awards event.

Three other young scholars were also selected this year. Being named 'Young Scholar' brings valuable mentorship and guidance by Marconi Prize winners who include some of the world's leading scientists and researchers.

"I always wanted to find a way to detect physiological signals, like breathing and heart rate, because they are the most commonly used signals for healthcare applications," said Ms. Nandakumar.

Her system is disrupting the sleep industry by creating a non-intrusive, low-cost application ApneaApp for detecting sleep apnea, a breathing disorder affecting millions of people worldwide that often goes undiagnosed, a media release said.

"Rajalakshmi has a knack for selecting problems with high social impact," says Dr Shyam Gollakota, an associate professor at the Allen School.

"Our Young Scholar award attracts the world's brightest young communications researchers," said Dr Vinton Cerf, Chairman of the Marconi Society and 'Father of the Internet'.

Indian-Origin Professor Awarded 'Outstanding Investigator Award'

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian-origin Professor Arul Chinnaiyan has been recognized by the US National Cancer Institute and given the "Outstanding Investigator Award".

Prof. Chinnaiyan is from the University of Michigan. He has been awarded \$6.5 million in funding over seven years, to identify cancer biomarkers to improve diagnosis and develop new targeted therapies.

"The field of precision oncology continues to evolve with the overarching goal of providing cancer patients with enhanced diagnostic and prognostic capabilities and better treatments," Mr Chinnaiyan, said in a statement.

"This grant will help us identify new biomarkers and understand their biological roles in cancer progression," he added. A pioneer in precision oncology, Mr Chinnaiyan in 2010, launched the Michigan Oncology Sequencing (Mi-ONCOSEQ) program. Mi-ONCOSEQ is a research protocol for sequencing the DNA and RNA of metastatic cancers and normal tissue to identify alterations that could help drive treatment.

The program includes a precision medicine tumor board in which experts discuss each case.

Mr Chinnaiyan's lab has also analyzed the global landscape of a portion of the genome that has not been previously well-explored -- long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs). Earlier, considered as the dark matter, new evidence suggests that lncRNAs may play a role in cancer and that understanding them better could lead to new potential targets for improving cancer diagnosis,



Professor Arul Chinnaiyan has been given the "Outstanding Investigator Award" by the US National Cancer Institute

prognosis or treatment. Mr Chinnaiyan's lab has also identified and explored several lncRNAs that could be promising targets for future therapy. "We want to further characterize the dark matter of the genome. Some of these lncRNAs will certainly be very useful as cancer biomarkers and we think a subset are important in biological processes," Mr Chinnaiyan noted.

"We hope to make it commonplace for patients to have a molecular blueprint of their tumor to guide treatment choices."

Indian-Origin Finance Consultant among 3 Killed in US Bank Shooting

NEW YORK(TIP): An Indian-origin Finance consultant was among three people killed when a gunman opened fire in a bank building in the US city of Cincinnati. He was only 25 years old.

Pruthviraj Kandepi, who belonged to Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district, was killed when 29-year-old Omar Enrique Santa Perez from the town of North Bend, Ohio, opened fire at the headquarters for the Fifth Third Bank near Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati, police said.

India's Consul General in New York Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty told the media that the consulate is in touch with the police, Mr Kandepi's family as well as members of the community. An official of the Telugu Association of North

America (TANA) said that Mr Kandepi was working with the bank as a consultant. Arrangements were being made to send his body to India, he added. The two other victims of the Cincinnati bank shooting were identified as 48-year-old Luis Felipe Calderon and 64-year-old Richard Newcomer.

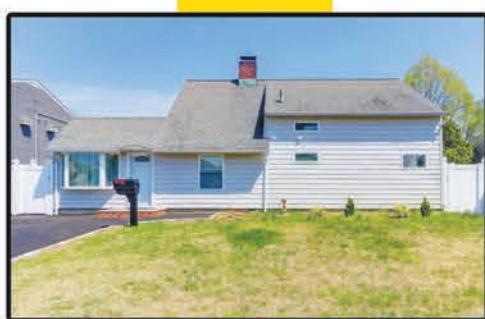
Five people were shot, some multiple times, in the incident, they said, adding that the gunman was killed in a shootout with the police. According to Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac, officers responded to a 911 call at around 9:10 am local time about an "active shooter" at the bank. The gunman was shot multiple times as four police officers approached him, and he died at the scene. He had a pistol and more than 200 rounds of ammunition, Mr Isaac said, adding that the gunman was not a former or current employee of the bank. He had gone to several businesses before going to the bank, he said.



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'Comedy Ka Tadka': a unique blend of comedy and Indian cooking

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Amit Sharma of Cinemamit Productions is bringing an interesting recipe of comedy and cooking to the Indian American community with a new show called "Comedy Ka Tadka."

The show will feature local actors including Dimple Kapoor, Hervender Pal Singh, Jessie Nagpal, Neil Agrawal, Monica Agrawal and Kirti Jain, while Ashish Rego, a Sr. Music Producer and Composer from Mumbai, India who has worked for over 25 years, will be providing the background score for the show.

"Comedy Ka Tadka" is a comedy show about a hilarious neighborhood which also provides very helpful and unique techniques for cooking Indian Food. "The goal is to present a simplified version of, the otherwise, complicated recipes of rich and delicious Indian cuisine in an entertaining manner. We aim to take Indian food to households globally with a unique twist of comedy and storytelling. The simplified version of the recipes will encourage, not only the young and grown up generations but also the non-Indian households to experience the deliciousness of the Indian food flavors," Amit Sharma told us.

A screening event for the show took place on September 10, 2018 at The Marigold Banquets in Somerset, New Jersey, to celebrate the two months of creative dedication that were put into the development of the show.

"We welcome any food brands that would like to promote their Indian spices or kitchen items on this show," Sharma, who has worked for over 20 years in the field of television and film content production with prominent clients such as Viacom, Star Plus, Colors,



Amit Sharma talks about Comedy Ka Tadka

NatGeo, Sony Entertainment, Zee TV, SCTV and Amazon, added.

The aim is to air Season 01 of "Comedy Ka Tadka" by March 2019. For more pictures and update on Cinemamit Productions visit www.cinemamit.com

(Based on a Press Release)



Those involved in Tadka. From left to right: Neil Agrawal, Monica Agrawal, Shalini Polavarapu, Dimple Kapoor, Kirti Jain, Dina Sharma, Master Rudraaksh Sharma, Amit Sharma, Hervender Pal Singh



Hervender Pal Singh (left) and Jessie Nagpal

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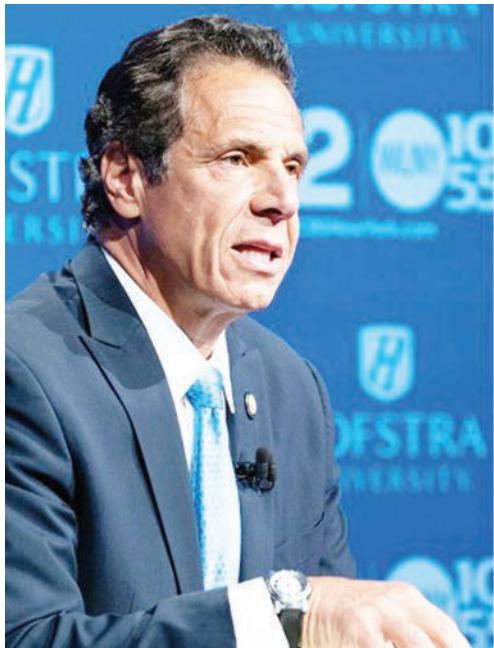
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Andrew Cuomo wins Democratic nomination for New York governor



Cuomo and Cynthia debating at Hofstra



(File photo)

BROOKLYN, N.Y (TIP): Gov. Andrew Cuomo won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination for the third time Thursday, September 13, overcoming a spirited progressive challenge that highlighted the ongoing ideological divide within the Democratic Party.

Cuomo defeated Cynthia Nixon, 52, an actress and education activist backed by an array of left-leaning groups, who had trouble convincing voters that she had the experience needed to run the fourth-largest state in the country.

Both Cuomo and Nixon sought to make the election about Trump. "Together, we can show the entire country that in the era of Donald Trump, New Yorkers will come together and lead our nation forward," Nixon wrote Wednesday evening in a final message to supporters.

Cuomo, for his part, spent millions on ads to argue that he's the most qualified candidate to push back against the White House. He also touted liberal accomplishments such as gun control, free public college tuition and a higher minimum wage.

Cuomo, 60, a two-term incumbent, is due to face Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, a Republican, and former Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner, a Democrat running as an independent, in the November general election. He is heavily favored to win a third term.

Letitia (Tish) James pulls historic victory in Attorney General Race

NEW YORK(TIP): New York City Public Advocate Letitia James has won a four-way Democratic primary for attorney general in New York. The race was a competition over who could best use the office to antagonize President Donald Trump.

James would become the first black woman to hold statewide elected office in New York if she wins in the general election.

In her victory speech Thursday, September 13 night, James took aim at Trump, saying he "can't go a day without dividing us" and telling her supporters they're "in the middle of a fight to save our democracy."

She said Trump "can't go a day without threatening our fundamental rights," or the rights of immigrants.

The 59-year-old was an early favorite in the race after getting endorsements from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and other top Democrats.

James is a favorite to win, as she faces a little-known New York City attorney, Republican Keith Wofford, in November. Even otherwise, New York is considered a preserve of Democrats.



Letitia James has won a four-way Democratic primary for attorney general in New York



AAPI-QLI, IALI Help build Restrooms in Chennai Schools

CHENNAI / NEW YORK (TIP): America Tamil Sangam and Shri Vari Foundation, New York have adopted two corporation schools in Chennai and constructed 10 restrooms partly with donations from American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) QLI and Indian Association of Long Island (IALI) New York.

The two Long Island, NY based associations jointly donated around \$15,000 to Chennai flood relief fund of the Tamil Sangam two years ago which was now utilized to construct restrooms for girl students in two schools.

The kids were peeing in public in one school without any privacy while the other school had fewer restrooms for over a hundred children.

At a function held at Dr Janaki MGR College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu State Minister for Social Welfare Dr V Saroja, an OBGYN, said building restrooms helps improve the health of girl students and praised America Tamil Sangam and Shri Vari Foundation for implementing the project. She said the role of AAPI-QLI and IALI was praiseworthy in reaching out to the needy in their motherland. She announced a government grant of Rs 10 lakhs to the anganwadi (day care center) to be set up in an aided school in Thuluvapushpagiri in Tamil Nadu whose principal in charge was honored



L to R:Prakash M Swamy, Sivasankari, Dr. Natraj, Dr. Saroja, Dr. Maithreyan and Dr. Jayavardhan at the event.

Dr V. Maithreyan, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), guest of honor at the event, said non-resident Tamils played a big role in attracting investments for the development of the state and acting as a bridge between the state government and the country of their residence.

Dr. J Jayavardhan, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha- South Madras), guest of honor at the event, said Tamil sangams abroad fostered language, culture, music and heritage and in addition America Tamil Sangam also chipped in to provide social welfare measures.

Nadu. She had sold her jewels and her house to build classrooms and restrooms in the government school that had dilapidated class rooms with asbestos roof and no restrooms. She then went on to collect Rs 75 lakhs through donations to convert the dingy school into a smart class school with high tech facilities.

The Sangam also honored Dr TG Srinivasan, Chennai City Health Education Officer of the Corporation of Chennai for his untiring work in spreading the message of hygiene and cleanliness under Swatch Bharat program in schools, colleges, welfare associations and slum areas. It also felicitated principals of the two adopted schools - Soundarya Priya and Murugan- for their dedicated service. Two social workers - MV Ramani and Raja Mohan, advocate were also honored.

Prakash M Swamy, president of America Tamil Sangam, said the two schools were chosen for one school produced 100 percent results in tenth standard government exams for the past 8 years and the other excelled in promoting hygiene and discipline among students. Future plans include providing free sanitary napkins to girl students, improving the library and computer education, providing uniforms to students and sprucing up the campus. S Ravishankar, proposed a vote of thanks.



The old and the new: the U.S. Open

Novak Djokovic asserts greatness at the U.S. Open, Naomi Osaka shows she's here to stay

There was a time when Pete Sampras's tally of 14 Grand Slam singles titles - the last of which came at the U.S. Open in 2002 - seemed like the acme of sporting achievement in men's tennis. Little did anybody expect that in the next 16 years, across 64 Majors, not one or two but three players would stand shoulder to shoulder with the American great. On Sunday, Novak Djokovic became that third man, defeating Argentine Juan Martin del Potro, for his third U.S. Open title at Flushing Meadows. The 31-year-old Serb has never been considered a once-in-a-generation talent, as have Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, the ones above him in the trophy count. But nobody represents the modern-day game as well as Djokovic. He is the ultimate practitioner of the attrition-based baseline tennis, and at his best, with his supremely efficient patrolling of the court, is near invincible. Over two weeks in New York he hit these high many times over. In fact, the 95-minute second set in the final was a microcosm of Djokovic's last two years. It was long and weary as fortunes swung back and forth. But adversity energized him, and he found a level which his opponent couldn't match. Coming after his triumphant return at Wimbledon in July, the latest success is evidence enough that technically, tactically and physically Djokovic is back to his best.

If it was about the restoration of the old order on the men's side, it was the continuation of the new in the women's section. There has been a first-time winner in four of the past six Grand Slam tournaments, and 20-year-old Naomi Osaka added to the eclectic mix by becoming the first Japanese to win a Major. In Serena Williams, the winner of 23 singles Slams, the most by any player in the Open Era, Osaka faced the ultimate challenge. It was also an inter-generational battle like none other. The 16-year age gap between Williams and Osaka was the second biggest in the Open Era for a women's final, next only to Monica Seles (17) vs. Martina Navratilova (34) at the 1991 U.S. Open. To her immense credit, Osaka wasn't awed by the stage. While growing up, she had revered Williams. After all, this is someone who chose Williams as her subject for a school essay in third grade. On Saturday she played like she knew the 36-year-old's game like the back of her hand, absorbing everything the American threw at her, and redirecting them with much more panache. The magnitude of her achievement was nearly drowned out by the chaos in the aftermath of Williams's tirade against the chair umpire. Yet, the manner in which Osaka, at an impressionable young age, closed out the match with a cold relentlessness showed she is here to stay.

(The Hindu)

After the devastating floods, Kerala society as a whole now needs to reorient its relationship with nature



By Pulpapre
Balakrishnan

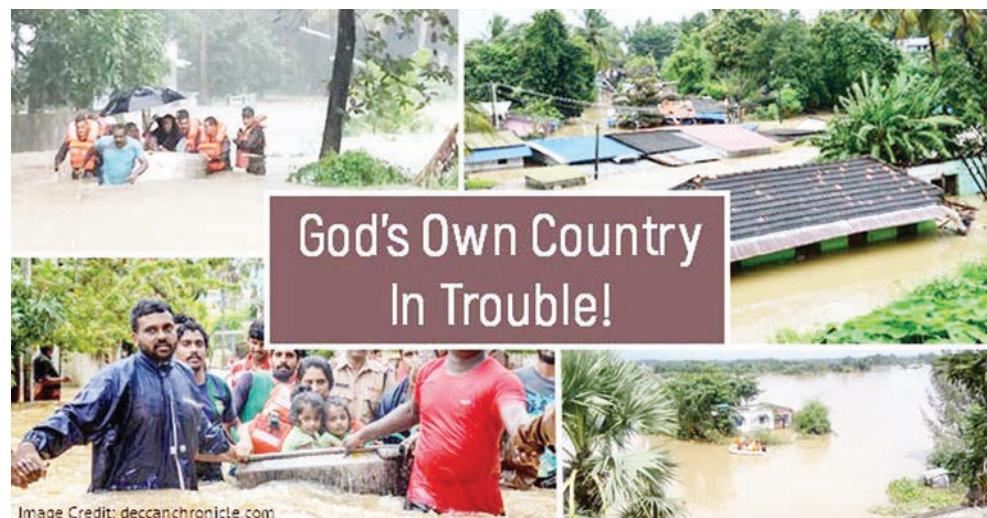
In a national calamity, people look towards a leader to extend them empathy, a sense of somebody being in charge and a route to a more secure future. By any measure, Pinarayi Vijayan, the Chief Minister of Kerala, has lived up to expectation on the first two aspects and may be expected to play a role in identifying the third after the State has had to face its biggest disaster in a century in the form of floods. He has reflected gravitas, displayed pragmatism and expressed a willingness to take assistance from any source. The last is a necessary corrective at a time when false pride, standing in the way of accepting the hand of friendship extended from the outside, is projected as a desirable nationalism. At the very same time, it is necessary to acknowledge the extraordinary outpouring of humanity and material assistance towards the people of Kerala from the rest of India. It is difficult to recall something on this scale as a response to a calamity in a distant corner of the country in recent times.

Natural capital and progress

Now that the Chief Minister has affirmed that the "last person has been rescued", rehabilitation is progressing, and plans are afoot to rebuild Kerala, it is hoped that the last will be approached with an open mind. This would be a mindset that recognizes that much must change in Kerala's civil society, which in turn would trigger change at the level of governance. Indeed, a paradigm shift, being a profound change in the perception of progress, is needed. The central element in this new perception must be that a continuous decline of a society's natural capital cannot be seen as compatible with progress. While it may be pointed out that globally, many other societies, particularly to the east of India, have achieved the same in terms of some standard social indicators, it must be remembered that, as a part of India, it had also to deal with an ossified social structure in the form of caste and the inequalities it perpetuated. Social stratification was far less in east Asian societies making it easier for them to transform. For Kerala to have overcome this burden through a non-violent political revolution is a considerable achievement.

At times though, stories of our success relayed across the world may lead us to be somewhat swayed by praise. This may have happened to the leadership of Kerala society which extends beyond the political class to its intellectuals. While focusing on certain aspects of a society, external observers could miss others that are just as crucial in evaluating its development. Laudatory evaluations of Kerala have masked the decline in natural capital and associated ecosystem services that have accompanied the rise in income. The decline in natural capital has ranged from deforestation

"Kerala society as a whole now needs to reorient its relationship with nature. However inclusive this development may have been - and there is reason to believe that some of the claims made are exaggerated - that by itself does not ensure that the assault on nature will now end", says the author.



that contributes to rainwater run-off contributing to landslides, to sand-mining that leads to rivers over-flowing their banks and building on the flood plains that were meant to provide a cushion. All of these contribute to flooding.

Too much consumption

When we have it upon the word of Madhav Gadgil - who may be considered India's ecological voice and has studied the Kerala topography and its alteration - that human action may have exacerbated the consequences of the unusually heavy rain this year, we would be advised to hear the message. We know exactly the corrective actions necessary to reverse, possibly only at a glacial pace at that, the accumulated man-made factors responsible for this. At the center of it is consumption. In relation to the ecological damage that it can wreak, Kerala consumes too much. At the center of this consumption is luxury housing and commercial holiday resorts, of course luxurious. So, at the back of much of the human factor that has exacerbated the flooding by changing the landscape is luxury housing. It is significant too that some of this housing is not even used or has very few persons living in them. This is hardly a rational use of a scarce resource such as land, especially when it has known catastrophic consequences.

Unsustainable trajectory

Altogether, Kerala's much-acclaimed development trajectory is unsustainable as demonstrated during the recent floods and needs a change. The needed change is radical, and the reality is that its past cannot be a guide to its future. This past has been one of human development, but Kerala society as a whole now needs to reorient its relationship with nature. However inclusive this development may have been - and there is reason to believe that some of the claims made are exaggerated - that by itself does not ensure that the assault on nature will now end. Only the State's civil society can guarantee its future on this score. Political parties are loathe to speak the

language of responsible consumption for fear of losing out on votes.

While, going forward, a path-breaking environmental movement in Kerala's civil society is necessary, it does not mean that governance in Kerala should be left unaccountable out of concern for peaceability. Even in a past that has witnessed progress in the form of an elimination of social barriers, government in Kerala has remained unaccountable with respect to the economy. Malayalis have had to migrate in large numbers, leaving their families behind, to keep the home fires burning. Someone has to take responsibility for the pattern of land use in Kerala, the pathologies of which extend to building resorts on hillsides, turning every public space into a refuse dump for used plastic, and the continuous alienation of agricultural land, all of which may have had a role in exacerbating the floods. It is by now clear that the decentralization of government has been unable to prevent these developments. Land use in the State needs review at the level of the State government.

Calling for a public review

Mr. Vijayan has been statesmanlike in saying that he will take material assistance from every quarter. He must now extend this approach to listening to independent voices on the rebuilding of Kerala. The obvious place to start would be to institute a public review of the dams in Kerala and how they are operated, focusing in particular on how their operation may have affected the flooding. Such a demand has been made by a section of Kerala's legislators. Even a conservative body such as the World Bank had instituted an independent review of the Sardar Sarovar Project in the 1990s and tailored its policy accordingly. Considerations of both transparency and confidence of the people in the functioning of the government machinery demand that such a review be instituted at the earliest.

(The author is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University and Senior Fellow, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode)

DISCLAIMER

Fake Saviors of Hinduism at the World Hindu Congress in Chicago



By Mike Ghouse

“

These guys are frightening some of the innocent and ignorant Hindus to believe that "Hinduism is in danger" and posing themselves as the freaking saviors. Hinduism does not need these men to save it. It is a 5000-year-old robust religion and will always be there like all other religions.

”

The World Hindu Congress held a conference in Chicago in the first week of September 2018, and it was attended by about 3000 Hindus from around the world. Unfortunately, many speakers fouled. Here is an accounting of the two who were divisive and sowed the seeds of ill-will between Indian communities.

Every faith group holds similar conferences. As Americans, we have an opportunity to guide these conferences towards the goal of civility and pluralistic societies, that is, "Respecting the otherness of others." When we do that, conflicts fade, and solutions emerge.

Each one of us must work towards building cohesive societies where we can live without apprehensions and tensions. No matter what religion you belong to, you must put in that effort.

This conference listed over 100 speakers including the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh Chief Mohan Bhagwat and Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu. Can we expect them to talk about the idea of living your life and letting others live theirs? I hope so, but their history points to the opposite. They want to 'dictate' what you eat, wear or believe.

Almost all speakers at the event were hell-bent on breaking India to pieces by placing wedges between fellow Indians, at this time, I am familiar with two of the most virulent speakers, and they are Rajiv Malhotra and

"Every faith group holds similar conferences. As Americans, we have an opportunity to guide these conferences towards the goal of civility and pluralistic societies, that is, "Respecting the otherness of others." When we do that, conflicts fade, and solutions emerge."

"There are millions of Dalit Hindus who live in utter humility and are humiliated on a daily basis. Let these fake saviors of Hinduism give them dignity, treat them as equals, consider them as Brahmins. If not, let them find dignity in other faiths. To a majority of Hindus, Hinduism is an open universal tradition that has a large umbrella to give its beneficence to all faiths. Hinduism is not a dogmatic religion."

Dilip Amin.

We unequivocally condemn their false preaching, but spare them, for they know not.

Malhotra panders to the base instincts of humans, some of whom have fallen for him. A few weeks ago, he sent a message urging Hindus to contribute to help Hindus only in the Kerala flood disaster and not Christians and Muslims. Instead of criticizing him for his egregious tweet, a small percent of Hindus has showered him with glory. I am not sure if these Indian Americans have imbibed the American values of caring for fellow humans - which is the value in all religions.

Malhotra is not only wrong but advocating evil acts in the Indian society, dividing it further, causing everyone to live in the hell of tensions.

These guys are frightening some of the innocent and ignorant Hindus to believe that "Hinduism is in danger" and posing themselves as the freaking saviors. Hinduism does not need these men to save it. It is a 5000-year-old robust religion and will always be there like all other religions.

The other guy speaking at the World Hindu Congress in Chicago is Dilip Amin, whose poster heads as "Interfaith Marriages - Silent Holocaust of Hindus." On his website, he has placed a few good token messages of interfaith marriages, but his goal seems to frighten Hindus to prevent their daughters from marrying Muslims or Christians.

Amin rightfully claims that 38% of Hindus marry outside their faith and alludes that Hinduism is losing out to Muslims and Christians. Dumbly, he also quotes a similar figure of Muslims and Christians marrying outside their faiths as if they are not losing their flock.

On his website, he points out that these marriages ultimately will not pan out as one 18 years-married Hindu man says, we are divorcing, she calls me a Kafir. This is the dumbest idea he is selling in Chicago. When people go through a divorce, they resort to saying anything that pisses off the other. It has nothing to do with religion; it is all about personal conflicts. When a Hindu woman and man go through a divorce, they label some other reason for their divorce including an abusive, violent relationship, but when there is a religion, they make a scapegoat of religion. There is no need to blame the faith for the acts of individuals.

Over the last seven years, I have officiated nearly 75 interfaith weddings of all combinations. Hindu-Muslim, Muslim-Jain, Hindu-Atheist, Christian-Muslim, Jewish-Muslim and other combinations. The only divorce thus far has been between a Jewish-Christian couple - not because of their religion, but because of the differences in raising their combined children.



RSS Chief, Mohan Bhagwat inaugurates the 2nd World Hindu Congress, 2018 by lighting the traditional lamp in Chicago. Also seen in the picture, Ashwin Adhin (2nd from right), Vice President of Surinam

They come to me because I do not require conversions and deliver the sermon in both their religious traditions. Only two people have converted thus far out of their free will, which is a part of the pre-wedding counseling. More at Interfaith Marriages <http://interfaithmarriages.org/>

Those who convert, do feel comfortable sacrificing their belief for the love they have for the other, and to live with least conflicts and more harmony. Why should it matter to you or me? Do we own them and their souls?

Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews or others are individuals who have the freedom to fall in love with anyone and marry anyone for their good. Who are you to dictate who marries whom? American born kids will laugh at these ridiculous attempts to save Hinduism.

One of the members of RSS writes, "Take particular note of World Vision - the worst of the whole bunch bent on harvesting the Lost (Hindu) souls in India via any means - deception, disguise in helping victims. Majority of Christian NGOs are not much better. The Muslims Charities only help fellow Muslims."

This man is very short-sighted and ill-informed. If everyone in the society starts caring for their own, we will have a disaster on hand. During the Gujarat Earthquake, Tsunami, Kerala Floods and other disasters, Indians have come together for each other. Americans have gone all over the world to serve fellow humans. That's the right thing to do.

These men also need to know that Saint Mother Teresa saved so many souls and brought dignity to them; the Catholic

Charities have helped so many Dalits that the upper Caste Hindus refuse to even go near. Islamic Relief has gone and helped people regardless of their religion in every corner of the world and the majority of Hindus have done the same and will continue to serve and care for fellow beings.

If American Christian Charities had taken the same stinky attitude and not sent shiploads of wheat and corn to non-Christians during the famine in the late sixties, India would have suffered a major crisis, that includes extremist Hindus like the men quoted above.

There are millions of Dalit Hindus who live in utter humility and are humiliated on a daily basis. Let these fake saviors of Hinduism give them dignity, treat them as equals, consider them as Brahmins. If not, let them find dignity in other faiths. To a majority of Hindus, Hinduism is an open universal tradition that has a large umbrella to give its beneficence to all faiths. Hinduism is not a dogmatic religion.

Didn't some of these guys come to America for making money? So, what if Dalits convert to Christianity for money and uplifting their own lives. Hinduism is not in danger, these guys are making it appear so, so that they can cash in on the fears of innocent and honest Hindus. I appeal to every Indian not to support divisive individuals or organizations.

We all have to work towards creating better societies.

(The author is the Executive Director of the Center for Pluralism in Washington, DC. He is committed to building cohesive societies and offers pluralistic solutions on issues of the day. More about him at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikeghouse/>)

Why Should NRI's Invest in India?

New York NRI Evicted from his own business without any due process, with Maharashtra Government officials conniving



By Dave Makkar

Harssh Madhok a very well-known and well-established businessman based in Manhattan for last 30 years has embarked on a new journey to fight bureaucratic, political and legal corruption in India. His new journey began after he made a big investment in Mumbai, Maharashtra for his first state of the art dealership of Volkswagen under the banner of Nova Motors Pvt. Ltd in a 70,000 Sq. Ft. facility on a leased property from Akshar Automobiles aka Patel Bros. on Aug. 14, 2017. His goal was to set up 25 state-of-the-art Volkswagen dealerships all over India in the first phase, and gradually moving to 100 dealerships. All his plans turned sour because of the alleged concealment of important material facts by landlord, and the bureaucratic and political meddling in the very first dealership that was providing jobs to 200 local residents.

On 30th October 2017, Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) sealed the entire 70,000 Sq. Ft. facility for non-payment of past Taxes and some unauthorized construction. TMC was told that this matter was between the landlord and TMC at the relevant time. The new owner who has invested crores of rupees must be given time to rectify the problems while running their day-to-day operations. Moreover, this was never disclosed by landlord Patel Bros. that there is any unauthorized construction and they owe back taxes to TMC at the time of signing the lease. The facility remained closed for about 2 months because TMC refused to cooperate. Rather, it put a condition to pay all the back taxes with interest & penalty and correct the construction irregularities.

Volkswagen Company advised Madhok that since the sales/service were shut down and customers faced inconvenience, let the facility



New York based businessman Harssh Madhok speaking at a press conference in Manhattan on Sept. 6, 2018. In a strongly worded warning to the prospective NRI investors; he spoke about the corrupt bureaucracy, political and legal system in India. He further urged NRI's to take a united stand against the corrupt system to change the way India is being run with no protection for NRI investors.

be taken over by Modi Auto Corp Pvt. Ltd aka Nihar Modi an experienced Dealer with multiple dealerships in India, including one in Mumbai. Attorneys for Madhok, Modi & Patel Bros. exchanged e-mails, draft documents and held meetings and finalized financial numbers for the takeover by Modi with the consent of Patel Bros. Patel Bros. assured Madhok that they will settle the issue of all types of financial losses sustained by him due to the closure of the facility separately. They also assured/agreed that there will be no rent until the takeover is complete by Nihar Modi. The Security Deposit of Madhok will be held by them and they will not go to the court to dispossess/evict Madhok.

All of a sudden, around mid-April Patel Bros. changed their mind when the takeover by Modi was near completion. Akshar Automobiles Agencies Pvt. Ltd. aka Patel Bros. executed a new/separate Lease and License Agreement with M/s Tejal Motors Ltd. of Mr. Pawan Kumar Kamal Alsinghani on May 3, 2018. Same day Patel Bros. approached Madhok to vacate the premises

and said, otherwise "there could be deadly consequences." On June 6, 2018 their attorney sent a notice to Madhok to vacate the premises which Madhok's attorneys replied on June 14, 2018 explaining their legal rights of possession of the premises as per the lease agreement dated Aug. 14, 2017.

On June 19, 2018, Showroom and workshop locks were broken without any due process and Court orders. On the same day Madhok lodged a complaint with Kapurbawdi Police Station (KPS), Thane. On June 21, 2018, all the relevant documents were submitted with KPS and an FIR was registered vide CR No. I-177/2018 for the offence punishable U/s. 420, 448, 506, 34 of IPC. Patel Brothers and Directors of M/s. Tejal Motors Ltd. filed for Anticipatory Bail. Upon inspection with police, Madhok found Tejal Group contractor was doing renovation work while some of his belongings were kept aside and a large number of articles were missing.

Initially the KPS was sympathetic to Madhok, but on 08.07.2018, his guards were picked up by the KPS and threatened by an

Officer and told not to enter the premises and let Tejal group contractor work there. According to Madhok, police stopped taking interest in his case after a call by a bureaucrat from the chief minister's office.

At the press conference, Madhok claimed that he had tried to contact the chief minister's office and other higher officials, including PMO & 20 Central Ministries/Departments for a quick resolution of the issue. He also said that "I had waited for more than two months for a resolution of the issue despite stating financial, physical and emotional losses I suffer due to the abrupt closing of my business, but never got any response from anyone in the government. Without naming any specific person, Madhok claimed that he had received threats to life if he did not leave Mumbai and went back to America. He was moving in Mumbai with private armed bodyguards. He was literally forced to leave Maharashtra to get back to the U.S.

He said that visiting Indian politicians, irrespective of their party affiliations or the state they come from, should be confronted with the question of corruption, bribery, political and bureaucratic interference that frustrate NRI investors like him and generally discourage them from giving back to their motherland.

Madhok appealed to all the NRIs around the world to share if they have similar experience on his website <https://www.justiceformadhok.com>. He further requested everyone should write to the Indian Consulate or Embassy to demand justice for him and protection for future NRI investors in India. He repeatedly called for ending bureaucratic and political interference saying that police were not able to help him due to "pressures from higher authorities." and urged the NRI community to take a united stand against corruption and injustice to him.

(The author is a social activist. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

A Young Student's Perception of Mesopotamian and Egyptian Civilizations

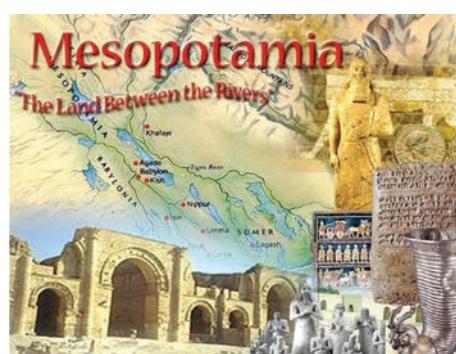


By Chitagam Saluja

"Egypt was a more stable civilization compared to Mesopotamia and also fuller of life and fun. Economically perhaps Mesopotamia flourished more than Egypt, and in art and culture Egypt edged over Mesopotamia", says the young scholar.

Mesopotamian and Egyptian Civilizations of Middle East and North Africa were closely interlinked and influenced by each other. In more ways than one these civilizations grew up in contrast of each other.

The structure of Government of Egypt was central and authoritative and Mesopotamian stressed mostly on city-state



Mesopotamia-the first civilization

layout. The difference in architecture was huge. Where the Egyptians liked majestic structures, the Mesopotamian art was simple and had a strong literary element which Egypt lacked.

The bureaucracy was endlessly affected by the structures. Mesopotamians were more practical in their thinking and did not believe in the Egyptian preparation for afterlife.

Both these civilizations carried out extensive trading, but the economic



Egypt- The prosperity of the ancient civilization came partly from the ability to adapt to the condition of the Nile valley

implication varied in most cases. Mesopotamia was more technological in its approach and the environment was very difficult to manage than the Nile valley. The contacts of trade were a lot vaster and far flung and special importance was given to the merchant class and commercial law.

The social differences were also huge. Like the difference in social status of women in the two contrary civilizations. It is concluded

that in Egyptian society women were given more importance as well. To stabilize the Egyptian monarchy women of the upper class were important and were treated with much care and respect which wasn't the case in Mesopotamian.

Since these civilizations grew up in similar environments they had a symbiotic relationship. Their origins are largely different; so is their way of working.

Egypt was a more stable civilization compared to Mesopotamia and also fuller of life and fun.

Economically perhaps Mesopotamia flourished more than Egypt, and in art and culture Egypt edged over Mesopotamia.

(The author is an undergraduate student at Nassau County Community College in New York. He can be reached at agysaluja1@gmail.com)

The Indian Panorama invites young students to contribute their articles. They may write on any subject under the Sun. Articles may please be submitted to editor@theindianpanorama.com

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Netflix Matchmaking Show Seeks Single South Asian Millennials

NEW YORK (TIP): A new Netflix Global documentary series is offering a select group of single South Asian men and women the chance to find their perfect match by working with India's most elite matchmaker.

The series will follow upwardly mobile millennials in North America and India as they search for their perfect partner. If selected, they will have the opportunity to work with the top desi matchmaker in the world, who will present them with curated matches from her extensive database of global clientele. All services will be free of charge to selected candidates.

Those who are single and serious about getting married and want the opportunity to work with one of the world's top matchmakers should send an email to:

MatchmakingProject2018@gmail.com

More info:

<https://matchmakingproject.wixsite.com/2018>

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Dr. Leana Wen to Serve as President of Planned Parenthood

First Physician to Lead Organization in nearly 50 Years

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): Planned Parenthood Federation of America has announced that Dr. Leana Wen will serve as its sixth president - the first time in nearly 50 years that a physician will helm the organization.

Planned Parenthood provides essential health care to more than 2.4 million women, men, and young people through more than 600 health centers across the country and is the largest provider of sex education in the country, reaching 1.5 million people a year. With more than 12 million active supporters, Planned Parenthood works to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights nationwide.

Dr. Wen currently serves as the Commissioner of Health for the City of Baltimore. A patient advocate and emergency physician, she has led the Baltimore City Health Department - the oldest, continuously-operated health department in the United States - since January 2015.

"Today is a historic day for Planned Parenthood and the millions of people it serves. After an extensive search, I'm proud to announce that Dr. Leana Wen will serve as our next president," said Naomi Aberly, Chair of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Board of Directors. "A dynamic public health leader and practicing physician, Dr. Wen is the first doctor to lead Planned Parenthood in nearly 50 years. Not only will she help Planned Parenthood continue to provide high-quality care to women, men, and young people across the country, she will be a powerful voice in our fight to ensure women have the ability to make their own health care decisions - no matter what."

"After considering some truly formidable



Dr. Wen's first day at Planned Parenthood Federation of America will be November 12

Photo / Facebook

women, the search committee unanimously, even joyfully selected Dr. Leana Wen," said Anna Quindlen, Chair of the Search Committee and former Planned Parenthood Board Member. "Like so many of our affiliate leaders, she is passionate about balancing public advocacy for reproductive freedom with the daily provision of quality health care. Like so many of our patients, she is an immigrant determined to do the best for this country. As she likes to say, her whole life has been leading to this position."

"For more than 100 years, no organization has done more for women's health than Planned Parenthood, and I'm truly honored to be named its president," said Dr. Leana Wen. "As a patient,

I depended on Planned Parenthood for medical care at various times in my own life, and as a public health leader, I have seen firsthand the lifesaving work it does for our most vulnerable communities. As a doctor, I will ensure we continue to provide high-quality health care, including the full range of reproductive care, and will fight with everything I have to protect the access of millions of patients who rely on Planned Parenthood."

Dr. Wen has dedicated her career to expanding access to health care for the most vulnerable communities, reducing health disparities, and finding innovative solutions to address public health problems. Known as the "Doctor for the City" in Baltimore, she oversees more than 1,000 employees with an annual budget of \$130 million; two clinics that provide more than 18,000 patients with reproductive health services; and medical programs for 180 Baltimore schools.

"Anyone who has worked with Dr. Wen knows that when it comes to protecting her patients, she doesn't back down from a fight," said Representative Elijah Cummings. "In Baltimore, she has been a true partner in our shared mission to provide access to quality health care for all. She has expanded care, eliminated obstacles, and, most important of all, saved lives. Her brilliance and passion for her work shines through in everything she does. There is no question that in selecting Dr. Wen as its president, Planned Parenthood is gaining a powerful and effective advocate, and millions across this country will benefit from her leadership."

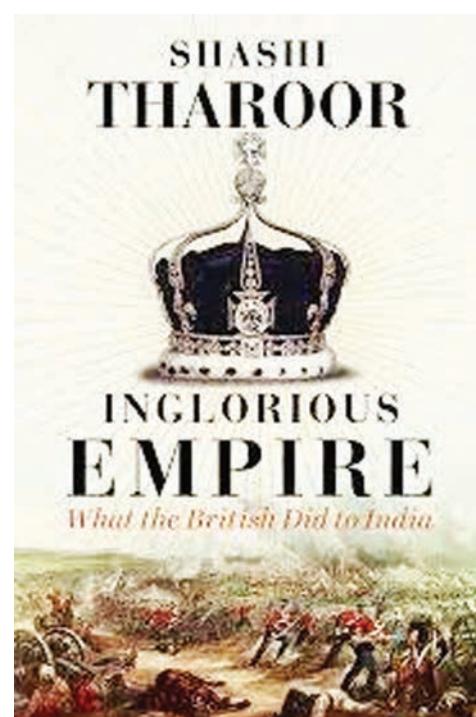
Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian Politician, Diplomat & Author to Launch Two Books at DIAC Literary Event

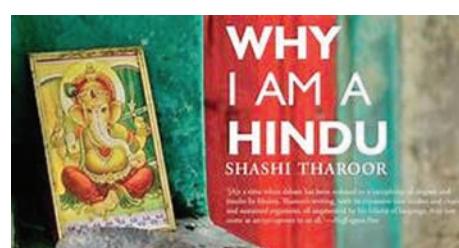
DALLAS, TX (TIP): Dallas Indian Arts Collective (DIAC), in partnership with Teamwork Arts, proudly presents a Fireside Chat with Indian politician, diplomat and author, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Center Stage, located at 111 Oak Lawn Avenue in the Design District. The conversation will be moderated by Sanjoy Roy, founder and producer of the world-renowned Jaipur Literature Festival.

Tharoor, an award-winning author of 17 books of fiction and non-fiction, including Inglorious Empire (published in June 2018) and the newly published Why I Am A Hindu (not available for sale in North America until October 2018, but available at this event), is a second-term Member of Parliament representing Thiruvananthapuram and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. He has served as Minister of State for Human Resource Development and External Affairs in the Government of India.

In a profound re-examination of Hinduism, one of the world's oldest and greatest religious traditions, India's leading public intellectual, Shashi Tharoor, lays out Hinduism's origins and its key philosophical concepts, major texts and everyday Hindu beliefs and practices, from worship to pilgrimage to caste. Tharoor is unsparing in his criticism of extremism and unequivocal in his belief that what makes India a distinctive nation with a unique culture will be imperiled if Hindu "fundamentalists"



the proponents of "Hindutva," or politicized Hinduism-seize the high ground. In his view, it is precisely because Hindus form the majority that India has survived as a plural, secular democracy. A book that will be read and debated now and, in the future, Why I Am a Hindu, written in Tharoor's captivating prose, is a revelatory and original contribution to our understanding of the role of religion in society



and politics.

PRAISE FOR WHY I AM A HINDU (available for pre-sale at the event):

"Shashi Tharoor is the most charming and persuasive writer in India. His new book is a brave and characteristically articulate attempt to save a great and wonderfully elusive religion from the certainties of the fundamentalists and the politicization of the bigots."-William Dalrymple

"[O]ne of India's most articulate liberals and a leading voice of those who reject the aggressively fundamentalist strains of Hindu nationalism."-Victor Mallett, Financial Times

"A profound book on one of the world's oldest and greatest religions."-Hindustan Times

In the eighteenth century, India's share of the world economy was as large as Europe's. By 1947, after two centuries of British rule, it had decreased six-fold. Beyond conquest and deception, the Empire blew rebels from cannon, massacred unarmed protesters, entrenched institutionalized racism, and caused millions to die from starvation. British imperialism justified itself as enlightened

despotism for the benefit of the governed, but Shashi Tharoor takes on and demolishes this position, demonstrating how every supposed imperial "gift"- from the railways to the rule of law-was designed in Britain's interests alone. He goes on to show how Britain's Industrial Revolution was founded on India's deindustrialization, and the destruction of its textile industry. In this bold and incisive reassessment of colonialism, Tharoor exposes to devastating effect the inglorious reality of Britain's stained Indian legacy.

"Rare indeed is it to come across history that is so readable and so persuasive."-Amitav Ghosh

"Tharoor's impassioned polemic slices straight to the heart of the darkness that drives all empires. Forceful, persuasive and blunt, he demolishes Raj nostalgia, laying bare the grim, and high, cost of the British Empire for its former subjects. An essential read."- Nilanjana Roy, Financial Times

"His writing is a delight and he seldom misses his target ... Tharoor should be applauded for tackling an impossibly contentious subject ... he deserves to be read. Indians are not the only ones who need reminding that empire has a lot to answer for."- Literary Review

Tickets are \$50 and are available at www.diactexas.org. Both Tharoor & Roy will be available for one-on-one media interviews, upon request, from 5 to 6 p.m. Media RSVP to Jitin@JingoMedia.com or 512.773.6679.

(Based on a Press Release by Jitin Hingorani)

U.S. Congressman Krishnamoorthi Challenged for World Hindu Congress Appearance

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Over the two days leading up to the launch of the World Hindu Congress (WHC) 2018 in Chicago, delegations from Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI) visited U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's (D-IL) district office in Schaumburg and his Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C. to register protest against the congressman's presence at the event.

"The World Hindu Congress is a point of concern for us as citizens, as voters, and also as advocates of those who are underrepresented because the World Hindu Congress, under the guise of a religious event, is actually a partisan political event," remarked activist Jada Bernard in a September 6 meeting at the Schaumburg office.

In conversation with Staff Assistant Yasmeen Bankole, he said the WHC was organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and featured Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leaders as its keynote speakers. Describing how these groups fall under the umbrella term "Sangh Parivar," he explained, "Sangh Parivar groups represent Hindutva, which is Hindu supremacy. That ideology is responsible for violence in the past, and because it's responsible for violence in the past, any association with this group in the present could damage elections in the future. That's pretty much our warning. Voters care about lives, even if the Sangh Parivar groups don't."

On the previous day, Pawan Singh visited Krishnamoorthi's D.C. office. In a meeting with Legislative Director Sam Morgante, he



Delegations visit Raja Krishnamoorthi's offices in Illinois and Washington, D.C.

explained how the RSS engages in violence against minorities in India. Discussing the groups involved in the conference, Singh named Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA) and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), pointing out that the HSS is the international wing of the RSS.

"When Mr. Morgante asked me if the RSS in India is any different from the HSS, I told him no," says Singh. "Everything falls under the RSS shell organization. I told him our concern is that events like this are trying to legitimize

the genocides of minorities committed by the RSS. Our concern is that these terrorist groups should not be given a platform on American soil." Speaking in Illinois, Bernard added, "We also want to make other congressional representatives aware of this, but we also want to kind of give a warning because, when congressional representatives show up at events like this, it associates them with the ideology."

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AAPi's Global Healthcare Summit to be held in Mumbai from December 28th to 31st, 2018

To collaborate with the Government of India's healthcare program - Ayushman Bharat

NEW YORK (TIP): Healthcare in India is one of the largest sectors, in terms of revenue and employment. India is making tremendous progress in the healthcare sector and is building modern medical facilities throughout the country. Physicians of Indian origin have earned a name for themselves in the medical field and India is now being touted as a medical tourism hub. With a rise in population, there is an urgent need to create additional health infrastructure, which entails a higher level of planning, collaboration, and investment in the Indian healthcare market in the coming years.

It's in this context, the groundbreaking AAPI Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) from December 28th to 31st, 2018 in Mumbai, organized by the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in collaboration with the Government of India, with participation from some of the world's most well-known physicians, and industry leaders becomes very critical and significant.

"This international healthcare summit is a progressive transformation from the first Indo-US Healthcare Summit launched by AAPI USA in 2007," Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of AAPI, says. "Providing a forum for innovative opportunities for learning, networking and giving back to our motherland that have now enabled us to plan ahead and prepare for an outstanding event that will have over 300 very prominent and



Dr. Naresh Parikh, AAPI President outlines the AAPI vision

USA, and works in tandem with the Clinton and the Gates Foundations.

Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Apple unveils largest, most expensive iPhone

iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Max will start at USD 750, USD 1,000 and USD 1,100



Photo caption: iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Max
Photo / Courtesy Technobuffalo

NEW YORK (TIP): Technology giant Apple has unveiled new iPhones, including one that is its largest and the most expensive one.

In one of the company's signature launch events at its headquarters in Cupertino, California Wednesday, September 12, Apple CEO Tim Cook unveiled the iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Max, the most advanced iPhones ever.

The 5.8-inch iPhone Xs and 6.5-inch iPhone Xs Max feature Super Retina displays, a faster and improved dual camera system, the first 7-nanometer chip in a smartphone among other features. The company said the new iPhones would start at USD 750, USD 1,000 and USD 1,100. Last year, the starting prices were USD 700, USD 800 and USD 1,000.

iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Max will be available for pre-order beginning Friday, September 14, and in stores beginning Friday, September 21.

"iPhone Xs is packed with next-generation technologies and is a huge step forward for the future of the smartphone," Apple's senior vice-president of Worldwide Marketing Philip Schiller said.

He said iPhone Xs is not one, but two new iPhone models, and iPhone Xs Max offers the biggest display ever in an iPhone with the biggest battery ever in an iPhone, delivering up to an hour and a half more battery life.

iPhone XR will be available in 64GB, 128GB and 256GB models in white, black, blue, yellow, coral and red starting at Rs 76,900 through Apple authorized resellers. Customers will be able to pre-order iPhone XR beginning October 19 with availability beginning October 26 in more than 50 countries and territories including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, New Zealand and US.

iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Max build on the all-screen design of iPhone X and feature the sharpest displays with the highest pixel density of any Apple device, the company said. iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Max come with iOS 12, the world's most advanced mobile operating system.

Apple also introduced the Apple Watch Series 4, redesigned and re-engineered to help users stay connected, be more active and manage their health in new ways. While retaining the original iconic design, the fourth-generation Apple Watch has been refined, combining new hardware and software enhancements into a unified form.

The Series 4 watch with watchOS 5 includes revolutionary health capabilities, including a new accelerometer and gyroscope, which are able to detect hard falls, and an electrical heart rate sensor that can take an electrocardiogram (ECG) using the new ECG app, which has been granted a classification by the US federal agency Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**Read the full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news**

CONSULT ME ON FOREIGN TRIPS, SHUN NEPOTISM, MODI'S ADVISE TO BJP'S CHIEF MINISTERS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Shun nepotism was the message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to all the chief ministers of the BJP ruled states. The PM said that the CMs should avoid involving their relatives in governance and ticket distribution.

He also asked them to consult with him before travelling abroad. The remarks were made at the BJP chief ministers and deputy chief ministers' conclave in New Delhi, which was held recently.

Modi cited the electoral loss in Madhya Pradesh several decades ago and reminded that this had happened because too many tickets were given to relatives.

Modi said he was not against foreign travel for CMs, but wanted them to focus entirely on governance with the 2019 Lok Sabha elections fast approaching. The PM's office must be informed of foreign visits either official or private. Modi said prior to the visit, the CM must let him know about the proposed visit, host and also the agenda.

Rajnath Singh to launch first smart fence project along Pakistan border next week

NEW DELHI (TIP): The country's first 'smart fence' pilot project, which entails deploying laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug vulnerable gaps along borders, will be formally launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh next week along the India-Pakistan border, an official said Thursday.

Singh will travel to Jammu to inaugurate the ambitious project on September 17, he added.

The technology is being implemented by the Border Security Force and senior officials of the paramilitary will present a demo of the activation and response mechanism of the 'smart fence' before the home minister during the visit, he said.

BSF Director General K K Sharma had last week said that such gadgetry will be deployed along 2,400 km of India's border with Pakistan and Bangladesh in the future.

President Kovind appoints Justice Ranjan Gogoi as CJI

NEW DELHI (TIP): President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the next Chief Justice of India. He will assume office on 3rd October, 2018, after the retirement of the current Chief Justice Dipak Misra.

Justice Dipak Misra due to retire on October 2 2018.

The Union Law Ministry had earlier sent a communication to Justice Misra due to retire on October 2 2018 to recommend the name of his successor.

Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on September 4 sent a letter to the Central government recommending Justice Ranjan Gogoi as his successor.

Justice Gogoi was born on 18 November 1954. His father Keshab Chandra Gogoi was a Chief minister under the Congress regime in Assam in the year 1982. Justice Gogoi has a reputation for speaking his mind besides giving messages beyond his judgements.

Justice Gogoi was enrolled at the Bar in 1978 and practised at the Gauhati High Court of which he was made a Permanent Judge on 28 February 2001. He was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 9 September 2010 and became its Chief Justice on 12 February 2011. He was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court on 23 April 2012.



Fugitive Vijay Mallya wraps Cong, BJP in war of words

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party continued to target each other over the flight of businessman Vijay Mallya from India in 2016, with Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday reiterating his demand for the resignation of finance minister Arun Jaitley, accusing him of "colluding with" Mallya and "allowing the criminal to flee" and the BJP dismissing the charges with union minister Piyush Goyal countering that it was the Gandhi family's "relations" with Mallya that caused banks to loan money to Mallya in violation of all norms.

Mallya, who fled India even as a debt court in Bangalore was set to act against him for defaulting on loans issued by several banks led by the state-owned State Bank of India, is in London where a court will pronounce its verdict in an extradition hearing against him on December 10. The court finished hearing the case on Wednesday.

Addressing a news conference at the Congress headquarters in Delhi, Gandhi also referred to his party colleague PL Punia, who alleged that he had seen Mallya in conversation with Jaitley on March 1, 2016, a day before the Kingfisher Airlines chief fled the country.

The context was a statement by Mallya on Wednesday claiming that he met Jaitley before leaving India and offered to settle his dues. Jaitley immediately rebutted Mallya's claim and maintained that he had not given the businessman an appointment since 2014, but that the latter used his privilege as a Member of Parliament (MP) and accosted him in Parliament. Mallya too admitted as much subsequently.

"Mr Jaitley is lying, the government is lying on Rafale and the government is lying on Vijay Mallya. A meeting was held with Mr Arun Jaitley and Vijay Mallya. The logistics of Mr Mallya leaving the country were discussed in that meeting," Gandhi told reporters.

Describing it as an "open and shut case of collusion", the Congress chief



Union minister Piyush Goyal and Congress president Rahul Gandhi held press conferences on September 13 after Vijay Mallya's claim of meeting Union minister Arun Jaitley sparked off a political storm.

said there was some deal between Jaitley and Mallya, and demanded the finance minister's resignation and a probe into the matter.

Later in the evening, Gandhi reiterated on Twitter his demand for Jaitley's resignation.

Punia, who was present in the news conference, claimed that he saw the finance minister and Mallya in conversation in the Central Hall of Parliament on March 1, 2016 and two held an elaborate 15-20 minute meeting.

"On March 3, we heard from the media that he (Mallya) fled the country on March 2. I have clearly stated about this in each of my media interviews and TV discussions that I saw the two talking to each other. There are CCTV cameras. We can all see the CCTV footage of March 1, 2016 for the proof. If I am wrong, I will resign from politics. Otherwise Mr Jaitley should quit politics," Punia said.

But the BJP rejected Punia's claim. "Where was he for the last two-and-a-half years? Why was he silent for so long?" Goyal asked at a news conference at the BJP headquarters in Delhi.

"The finance minister has made it clear that he snubbed Mallya. Now the Congress got Punia to say he heard and saw the conversation. Why after two

years did he suddenly remember the incident and decide to disclose it?" he said.

Goyal said Mallya was a criminal, had no credibility as he was under the "glare of law" and his words could not be taken seriously. He asked Gandhi to resign, claiming that due to his family's "relations" with Mallya, banks were pressurised by the UPA government to sanction loans to the fugitive businessman bypassing all norms, laws and regulations.

Goyal alleged that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had told the media of his efforts to bail out private airlines making losses, in an apparent reference to Kingfisher.

"On August 18, 2010, a company-specific letter was sent to RBI (Reserve Bank of India) and the issue was resolved on August 27. In October 2011, Mallya thanked Manmohan Singh and said he needed more help and subsequently RBI was forced to come to their aid again," the minister claimed.

Charging the Congress with spreading lies, Goyal said, "When they broke all laws with the help of banks and RBI and gave special allowances to Kingfisher, then people lost their money. Now, when they are being exposed, they are crying foul."

Fuel price hike: As oppn looks to corner BJP, Mayawati stumps Cong



LUCKNOW (TIP): BSP president Mayawati's remarks holding the previous UPA government and the BJP equally responsible for the steep hike in fuel prices has caught Congress completely by surprise. Congress leaders now feel Mayawati's comments will raise a question mark on attempts at striking an opposition unity ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Mayawati's views on fuel price hike came a day after her party stayed away from the "Bharat bandh" called by the Congress on the issue.

"These remarks, at a time when the need for unity among opposition parties is being felt clearly among all partners, could send a wrong signal both to the

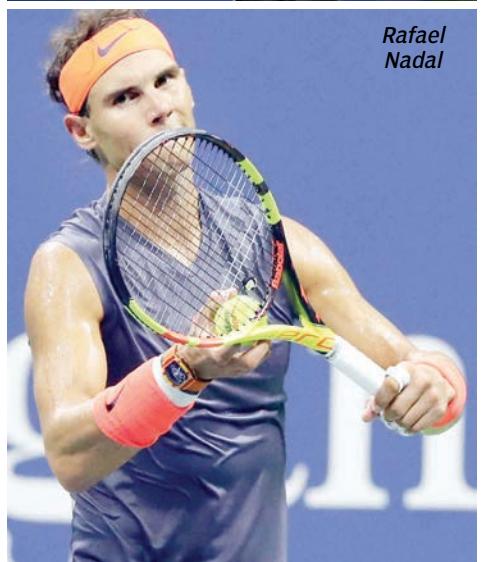
public and the ruling party which is already doubting our strength," a Congress insider told news agency PTI today, requesting anonymity. "Party workers are not happy with Mayawati's observations and they are very sceptical about her intentions," he said, adding that the central party leadership needs to take serious note of it. A senior Congress leader claimed that Mayawati's views on fuel price rise needs to be viewed as her bargaining tactic to get more seats for her party in the upcoming assembly polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. "By doing so, she is sort of trying to gain an upper hand in negotiations for the assembly seats in these states...it is, however, for the central leadership to understand that we should weigh our options and potential before entering into any alliance," he stressed.

US Open through Jay Mandal's Lens

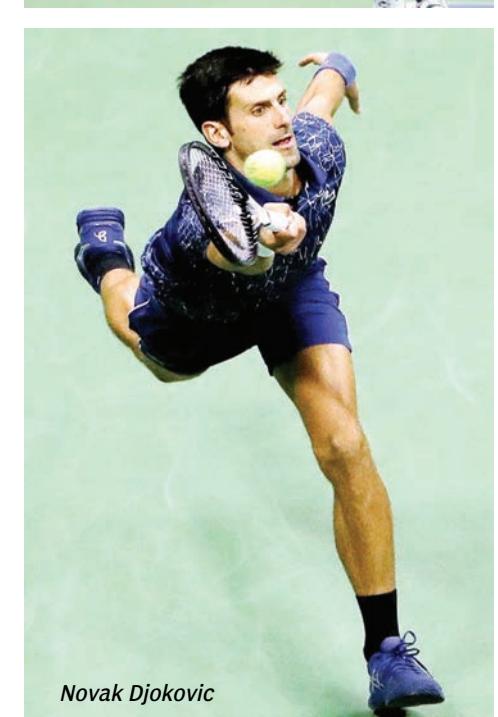
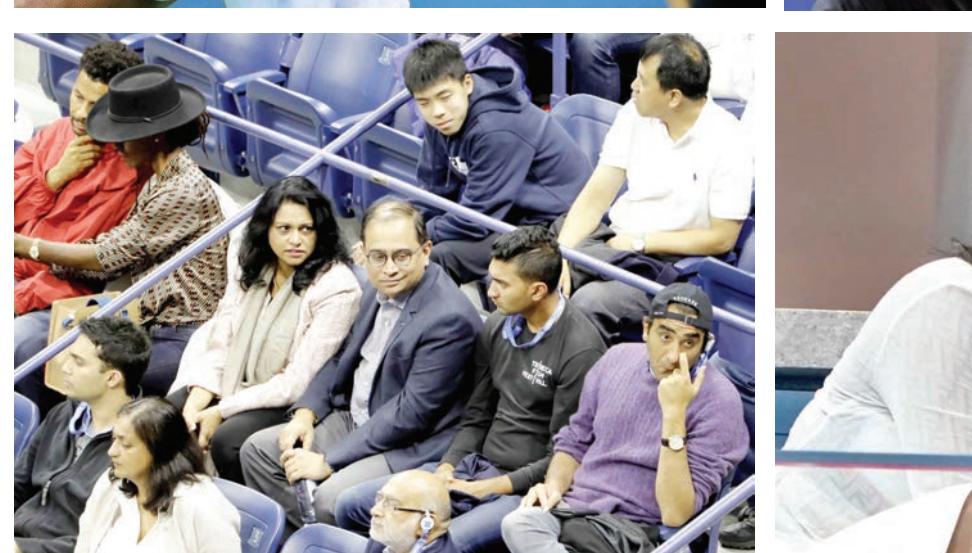
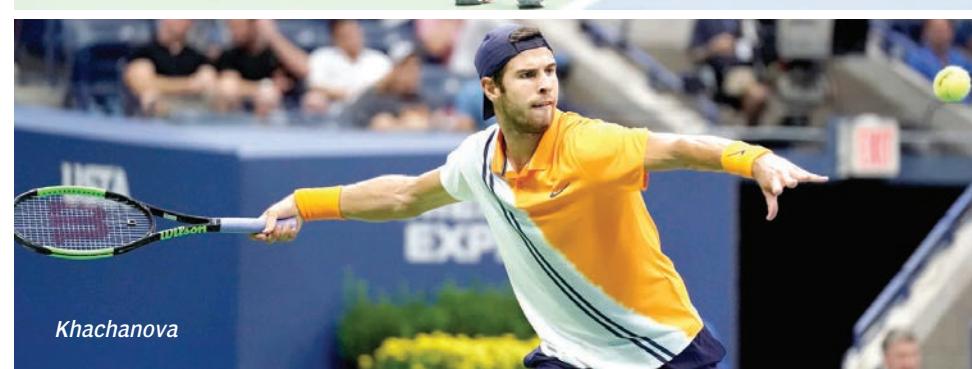
The US Open from Aug 21 to Sep 9, 2018 in New York has been an experience for millions of lovers of Tennis the world over. Those who found opportunity to be at the stadium and watched games, have unforgettable memories of the great sporting event. So it has been with Jay Mandal, the ace photographer who is passionate about capturing action, wherever it is. We bring to our readers some exclusive pictures from his camera lens of the exciting tournament.



Photo / Nisha Biswal



Yuki Bhambri



Women's Association of NJPAC Spotlight Gala 2018 - Sep. 29, 2018

About WANJPAC

The Women's Association of NJPAC (WA) is celebrating 24 years in 2018 and over \$51 Million to NJPAC and its Arts Education program! Membership in the WA is a major opportunity to share in the excitement and energy of NJPAC and to participate in the ongoing renaissance of the City of Newark. It will also connect members with the metro area professional and civic-minded leaders to enjoy lots of opportunities for learning, inspiration, and fun.

How WA Does It

The Women's Association of NJPAC connects women who are impassioned by the arts and who embrace the importance the arts play in children's lives and in the brightness of their futures. It serves as ambassador for the arts that assembles and engages women from divergent communities throughout the great state of New Jersey to support the cultural, educational, and artistic vision of NJPAC.

The WA is 2,000 members strong. Many of the most influential and powerful women in the state lend their time, talent and treasure to the organization through vehicles like their annual Spotlight Gala and annual Spring Luncheon & Auction. WA's strategic moves have helped NJPAC to evolve and expand since its doors opened.

Before the building was even open, the WA (first coined The Women's Board Association), hosted their first Spotlight Gala in a Continental Airlines hanger at Newark Airport starring the soulful legend Ray Charles. The WA was formed by nine pioneering women-Joan Budd, Patti Chambers, Sally Chubb, Ronnie Goldberg, Sheila Labrecque, Gabriella Morris, the late Patricia Ryan, the late Phyllis Cerf Wagner, and, Diana Vagelos - in support of Governor Kean's idea of building an arts center for New Jersey in Newark. Despite the skeptics, the nine women strategized how to introduce influential and prominent New Jersey women to the concept and help to raise the initial funds and friends needed to build NJPAC. They recruited more dedicated women to join their efforts and soon, they established a Board of Trustees and an association of members.

About NJPAC

Vision

NJPAC is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey-where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day.

Mission

- Present the world's greatest artists in the State's most spectacular setting
- Convene ongoing civic, social, cultural and intellectual exchanges
- Engage New Jersey's diverse population
- Enhance and transform the lives of children and families through arts education
- Help drive Newark's revitalization

Arts Education

The WA is downright passionate about Arts Ed. It has raised over \$1.5 Million for the program and continues to look for new and innovative ways to support the fourth largest program of its kind in the USA. It has funded hundreds of scholarships to eager and talented students. It has raised money for tap shoes, ballet slippers, dance studios, scripts, sets, summer musicals, hip hop classes, vocal training, and so much more!

Why? Plain and simple-the arts transform lives. NJPAC's schooltime performances, in-school residencies, and after-school arts training classes reach thousands. WA is confident that exposure to the arts early and often makes for better citizens down the road. When they hear a child singing in the shower, or drumming on his desk, or telling jokes to her friends...WA sees confidence boosting, talent budding, and character building. And that's too hard to ignore.

By Mabel Pais

Special Guest Valerie Simpson of Ashford and Simpson

VALERIE SIMPSON of Ashford & Simpson joins Cyrille Aimée, Southside Johnny, Raul Midón, Alice Smith, Bernie Williams as they perform songs made famous by Jazz Divas: Lena Horne, Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan.

Christian McBride, six-time Grammy-winning Bassist and His Big Band, host the performance to celebrate the Music of Lena, Billie and Sarah.

The (WANJPAC or WA) Women's Association of NJPAC's Spotlight Gala 2018 kicks off NJPAC's season and benefits NJPAC and its arts education programs.

This signature event of the year of The WANJPAC is attended by over 1,000 of the State's most high profile professionals and philanthropists.



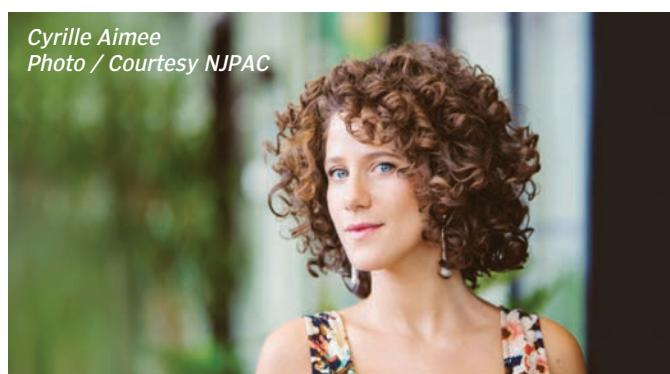
Valerie Simpson
Photo / Courtesy, NJPAC

Valerie Simpson, singer-songwriter is half of the songwriting/performing/producing entity formerly known as Ashford & Simpson. Their award-winning collaborations began four decades ago and she, along with her late husband Nick Ashford, have penned classic hits such as "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "You're All I Need to Get By," "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing" and "Your Precious Love."



Christian McBride.
Photo / Courtesy, NJPAC.

Christian McBride, the multi-Grammy winner, NJPAC's Jazz Advisor, directs the country's biggest names in jazz. From "Stormy Weather" and "Strange Fruit" to "Summertime" and "Misty," expect exciting and original renditions of numbers that will be forever associated with the voices of three legends known simply as Lena, Billie and Sarah.



Cyrille Aimée, a past winner of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition at NJPAC, was a finalist in the 2010 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocal Competition. Her talents recently caught the attention of Stephen Sondheim, who cast her in a special Encore presentation at City Center.

Southside Johnny, the Godfather of "the New Jersey Sound" and the Asbury Jukes have become a staple in the New Jersey music scene having released twelve studio albums since 1976 and featuring a rotating group of members such as Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi, and Steve Van Zandt.

*Southside Johnny
Photo / Courtesy John Cavanagh
Photography by Paul Drake*

Raul Midón, Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter and guitarist "plays with such freedom and joy that his hands smile," writes the *Huffington Post*. His 2016 rendering of John Coltrane's classic "Giant Steps" - which sees him fly through all 12 keys - has earned more than 1.2 million views via Facebook.

*Raul Midón
Photo / Courtesy Raul Midón*



Alice Smith ("Fool for You," "I Put a Spell on You") is a passionate singer-songwriter who has an unshakable sense of self and the attitude to match. She was raised on a steady diet of gospel, pop, soul and go-go. Her sophomore album, *She*, is an intoxicating mixture of rock, pop and R&B.

*Alice Smith
Photo / Courtesy Alice Smith*



*Bernie Williams
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC*

Bernie Williams, retired New York Yankees center fielder and a four-time World Series Champion and five-time All Star, never gave up his passion for the guitar. His critically acclaimed debut album, 2003's *The Journey Within*, featured fusions of jazz, rock and the tropical rhythms of his Puerto Rican heritage. He is a Latin Grammy nominee.

Saturday, September 29, 2018

Event Link:

<https://www.njpac.org/events/detail/celebrating-the-music-of-leena-billie-and-sarah>

For more information on NJPAC or for Performance only tickets visit www.njpac.org or the box office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

Concert only tickets are available.

For full Gala tickets and sponsorship, contact Sarah Rosen at srosen@njpac.org or call 973.297.5806 or visit wanjpac.org. Full Gala tickets include the performance as well as a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing and a dessert extravaganza.

The Gala Co-Chairs are Mindy A. Cohen, Vice President, Women's Association of NJPAC and Kevin P. Conlin, Chairman, President & CEO, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

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



The Association of Indians in America, Inc
Proudly Celebrates (NY Chapter)

31st Deepavali

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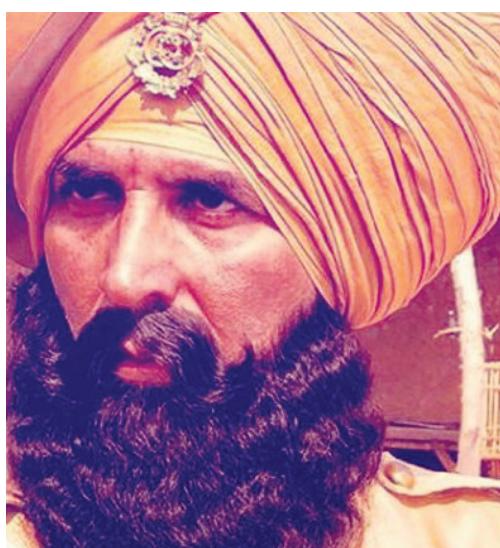
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AKSHAY KUMAR LEADS SOLDIERS INTO BATTLE OF SARAGARHI

Before one Akshay Kumar superhit leaves the theatres, another one is beginning with its promotions. As Gold ends its box office run with over Rs 100 crore in the bank, the first poster for Akshay Kumar's Kesari, based on the Battle of Saragarhi, was revealed on Wednesday. The actor shared the poster on the anniversary of the Saragarhi battle, which took place on September 12, 1897.

Taking to Twitter, Akshay shared the photo in which he is seen with a band of men dressed in Army uniforms. He captioned the photo, "On #SaragarhiDay, here's the first look of #KESARI - our humble tribute to the martyrs of Saragarhi! "Aaj meri pagdi bhi Kesari... Jo bahega mera woh lahu bhi Kesari... Aur mera jawaab bhi Kesari."

Earlier, Akshay had shared a photo in which he was seen wearing a massive turban. He had written alongside the photo, "Feeling nothing but immense pride and gratitude while sharing this. Beginning my 2018 with #KESARI, my most ambitious film and a lot of passion. Need your best wishes as always."

Speaking about the film, Akshay had said, "I've started shooting for my film Kesari, where I'm in the heaviest turban and beard I've ever had to wear. So I shaved my head to make my life a little easier. I'm known for hating wigs, prosthetics and so on, and Kesari is quite demanding. It's probably my favourite look, though it's taxing to fight and sweat in this avatar. But I wouldn't change it for the world."



Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma's upcoming film Sui Dhaaga Made in India narrates the tale of an innocent tailor from heartland India. Rooted deep in the country the film demanded it to be shot as authentically and as genuinely as possible.

And cycle being the most common mode of transportation in small towns, director Sharat Katariya wanted Mauji (Varun's character) to have a cycle to enhance the visual appeal of the location and the character.

"Mauji loves his cycle. He takes it

everywhere he goes. He chills on his cycle, dreams on his cycle, laughs and cries on his cycle. Mauji and Mamta (Anushka Sharma) have some really beautiful moments with each other bonding, talking and getting to know each other when they go for the rides together. The cycle captures the beautiful, innocence of small town life and romance," says Varun.

"I was required to sometimes cycle for nearly 10 hours at a stretch. It was tough. I had to ride it daily for about 15 days and I was exhausted," the Badlapur actor adds.

'Sui Dhaaga' is based on the 'Make in

India' campaign launched by the government in 2014, which was aimed at promoting the country's indigenous textile industries.

Talking about subject of the film, Anushka said, "Our country has produced amazing entrepreneurs over the years. I think start-up and entrepreneurship is big deal over here and we have celebrated that in the film. Our characters in this film didn't have the opportunities but they had lot of talent and the kind of struggle our characters go through to achieve their goal is truly an inspiring story."

Lodge FIR against Salman Khan, actors of Loveratri, court directs police

Acourt in Muzaffarpur, Bihar directed the police to lodge an FIR against actor Salman Khan and the cast and crew of upcoming Bollywood film Loveratri on the basis of a complaint that the title and contents of the movie had hurt the Hindu sentiments.

Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate (East) Shailendra Rai directed the Mithanpura police station in the town to lodge an FIR, based on a complaint filed in the court by advocate Sudhir Kumar Ojha.

Ojha has taken exception to the title of the film, alleging that it is meant to make fun of the holy festival of Navaratri. He has also claimed that the film's scheduled release on October 5 is likely to hurt the Hindu sentiments.

In his complaint, in which Khan, who is the producer of the film, its director and actors have been made parties, Ojha has claimed that he has watched the promos of the film and they contained a lot of vulgarity.

A court in Muzaffarpur has told the police to lodge FIR against Loverati's Salman Khan and other crew members

The complaint was lodged before the court last week under IPC sections 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class), 298 (uttering words etc. with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integrity) and 120B (criminal conspiracy).

Loveratri stars actor Aayush Sharma and Warina Hussain who will both make their Bollywood debuts with the movie. It releases on October 5.

Source: PTI





HENRY CAVILL, BEN AFFLECK QUIT, DC LOSES ITS BATMAN, SUPERMAN: REPORT

In a shocking development, Henry Cavill reportedly is no longer part of DC cinematic universe as Superman. The actor, who first appeared as the superhero in 2013's *Man of Steel*, and later reprised his role in *Superman V Batman* and last year's *Justice League*, is parting ways with Warner Bros, sources tell *The Hollywood Reporter*.

According to insiders, the development comes after talks of Cavill's cameo in *Shazam!* did not come to fruition due to scheduling conflicts. "There's a recognition that some parts of the previous movies didn't work," says the studio insider. Another source says Warners is trying to hit a "reset" button with the DC universe.

Talks are on to find new face for the beloved superhero. "Superman is like James Bond, and after a certain run you have to look at new actors," says a studio source.

The source also added that the decision solidified as Cavill recently signed on to star in Netflix's *The Witcher*. Another insider, however, says that the series commitment came after the impasse with Warners, suggesting a change in the studio's strategy. It is being said the studio has shifted its focus to a *Supergirl* movie, which will be an origin story featuring a teen superheroine, which effectively removes an actor of Cavill's age from the storyline as Superman, aka Kal-El, would be an infant, according to DC lore.

BEN AFFLECK'S RUMORED GIRLFRIEND SHAUNA SEXTON VISITS HIM IN REHAB

Ben Affleck received a visit from his rumored girlfriend Shauna Sexton at rehab.

On Sunday, photographers spotted the 22-year-old Playboy model visiting the California rehab facility where the 46-year-old Oscar winner has been getting treatment. Sexton, wearing a cropped shirt, jeans and Adidas sneakers, spent four hours at the facility before leaving in a car that's rumored to be Affleck's SUV.

Affleck entered rehab for a third time in late August after being driven there by his ex, Jennifer Garner, who staged an intervention prior to taking him to treatment. Following his split with Saturday Night Live producer Lindsay Shookus, Affleck relapsed and began drinking alone, as well as with Sexton, E! News learned. He reached out for help and checked back into rehab with the help of Garner to combat alcohol addiction.

"Ben was doing well for the last few months and very committed to his sobriety. But recently he started to slip up and began drinking again. He wrapped his movie and had some downtime," an insider told E! News after Affleck entered rehab. "This week, he was heavily drinking alone at home and with the Playboy model. Jen had family in town and a lot going on but she was well aware of what was going on."

The source continued, "She saw the photo of the alcohol being delivered to his house and knew he was home all day and that was the breaking point."

Last week, Affleck was spotted for the first time since entering rehab. The Justice League star, dressed in fitness attire, was photographed outside of his house in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Sept. 5. However, a source told E! News that Affleck hasn't left rehab, explaining to us, "He travels to and from in patient to work out. He is



accompanied by his therapist and coach."

The insider added that this is "all part of his regime outline by his rehab."

In regards to his rehab stay, one source

recently told E! News that Affleck is "doing OK" after checking into treatment.

"He seems serious about living in for at least 30 days," the insider shared.

Convicted sexual predator's scene from The Predator removed after Olivia Munn complains

Just hours before the premiere of *The Predator* at the Toronto International Film Festival, Twentieth Century Fox said it removed a scene from the film with actor Steven Wilder Striegel after learning he is a registered sex offender.

A spokesperson for Fox on Thursday said Striegel's single scene in the film was promptly cut after the studio learned of Striegel's background. Fox said it didn't know of the actor's history because of legal limitations on running background checks on actors.

"Our studio was not aware of Mr Striegel's background when he was hired," said the spokesperson. "Several weeks ago, when the studio learned the details, his one scene in the film was removed within 24 hours."

Shane Black, director of the fourth installment in the sci-fi action franchise, has long been a friend of Striegel's and has frequently cast him in his films.

Black said in a statement, "Having read this morning's news reports, it has sadly become clear to me that I was misled by a friend I really wanted to believe was telling me the truth when he described the circumstances of his conviction. I believe strongly in giving people second chances



— but sometimes you discover that chance is not as warranted as you may have hoped. "After learning more

about the affidavit, transcripts and additional details surrounding Steve Striegel's sentence, I am deeply disappointed in myself. I apologize to all of those, past and present, I've let down by having Steve around them without giving them a voice in the decision."

The Los Angeles Times first reported the re-editing of *The Predator* to remove Striegel. It said that Fox was alerted to Striegel's background by actress Olivia Munn. Munn stars in the film, and played opposite Striegel in his one scene.

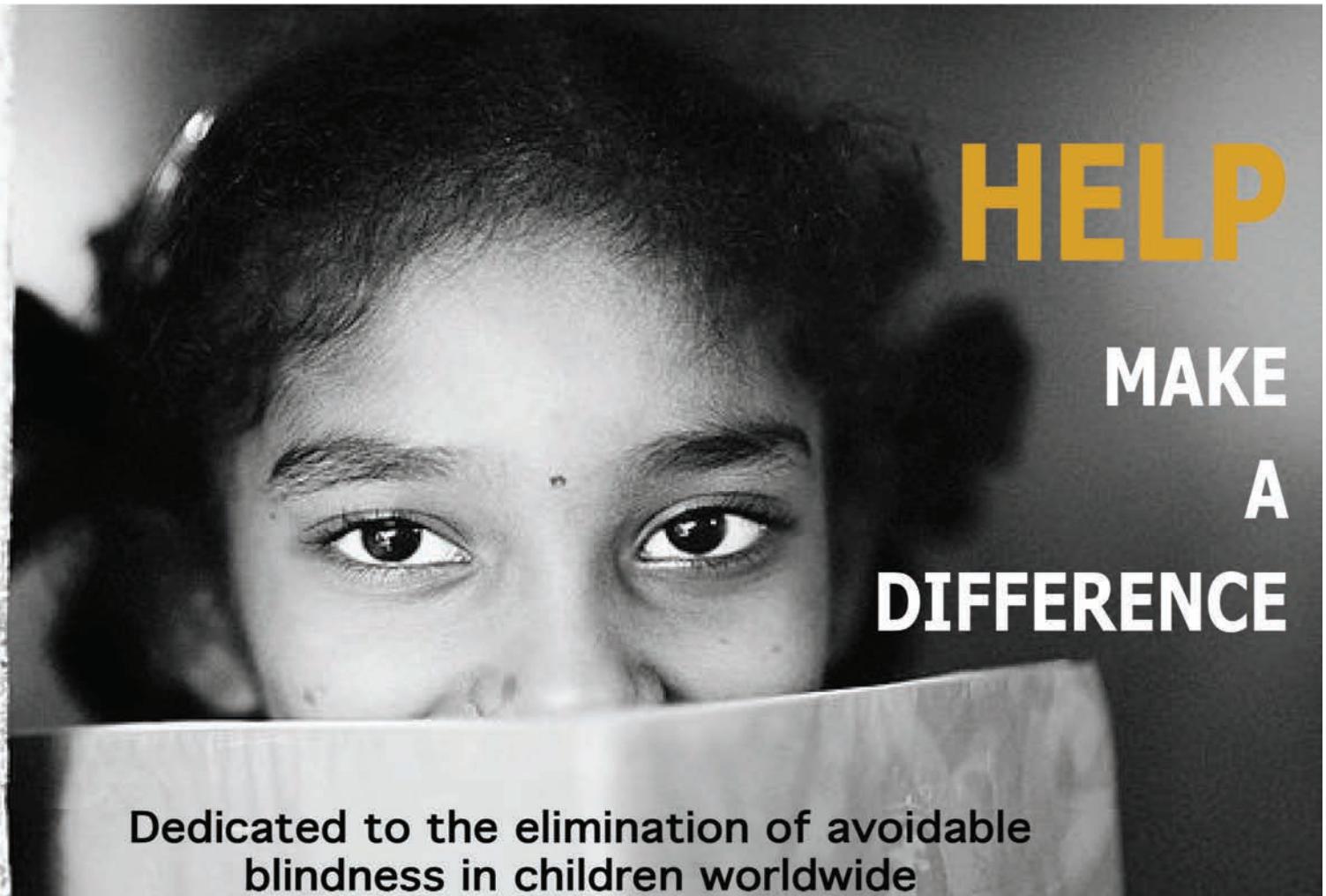
Striegel plead guilty in 2010 for attempting to entice a 14-year-old female into a sexual relationship via the internet. He served six months in jail. The former *Melrose Place* actor has previously appeared in Black's 2013 film *Iron Man 3* and his 2016 comedy *The Nice Guys*.

Black told The Los Angeles Times: "I personally chose to help a friend. I can understand others might disapprove, as his conviction was on a sensitive charge and not to be taken lightly."

Munn, however, told the LA Times that she refuses to "accept Shane's apology," because it "wasn't given to me personally... A real apology has to be done privately -- not just read publicly and I read it with the rest of the world."



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Aung San Suu Kyi says handling of Rohingya Muslims could have been better

HANOI, MAYAMAR (TIP): In the face of global condemnation, Myanmar's leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on Thursday said that the handling of Rohingya Muslims, 700,000 of whom have fled to Bangladesh amid a brutal military campaign, could have been better, but still defended security forces from charges of civilian atrocities.

Myanmar's army is accused of mass rape, killings and setting fire to thousands of homes in the aftermath of an August 2017 attack by Rohingya militants on security outposts.

A report issued two weeks ago by a specially appointed UN human rights team recommended prosecuting senior Myanmar commanders for genocide and other crimes.

"There are of course ways in which with hindsight I think the situation could have been handled better," Suu Kyi said, responding to questions during a one-on-one discussion at the World Economic Forum's regional meeting in Hanoi.

She still defended Myanmar security forces, saying that all groups in western Rakhine state had to be protected. "We have to be fair to all sides," Suu Kyi said. "The rule of law must apply to everyone. We cannot choose and pick."

Suu Kyi said the situation was complicated by the myriad ethnic minorities in the area, some of which are at risk of disappearing entirely and which include not just the Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists.

Although the violence in Rakhine state has eased, Myanmar has to deal with its aftermath, especially the repatriation of the Muslim Rohingya who fled and the underlying causes of tension that makes them targets of discrimination and repression in overwhelmingly Buddhist Myanmar.

Suu Kyi said that Myanmar is prepared to take those who fled back, but their return has been complicated by the fact that two governments are involved. Aid workers say conditions for a safe and orderly return of the refugees have not been met.

Suu Kyi also rejected criticism over the show-trial conviction last week of two Reuters news agency reporters who helped expose extrajudicial killings of 10 Rohingya men and boys. The reporters were both sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on charges of possessing state secrets. US Vice President Mike Pence is among those who have condemned the verdicts and called for the journalists' release.

"The case has been held in open court," Suu Kyi said. "If anyone feels there has been a miscarriage of justice I would like them to point it out."

"They were not jailed because they were journalists. They were jailed because ... the court has decided they have broken the Official Secrets Act," she said. Suu Kyi noted that the two can appeal their sentences. The lawyers for the journalists have said they will do whatever they can to get their clients freed. The two men testified that they had been framed by the police. The case has drawn worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under Suu Kyi's civilian government, which took power in 2016.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said that Suu Kyi was mistaken in saying the case was handled in accordance with the "rule of law." "She fails to understand that real 'rule of law' means respect for evidence presented in court, actions brought based on clearly defined and proportionate laws, and independence of the judiciary from influence by the government or security forces," he said in a statement. (PTI)

ISI is Pakistan's 'first line of defence' says Pakistani PM

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has described the ISI as "our first line of defence" as he visited for the first time the headquarters of the powerful spy agency.

Khan, along with senior Cabinet ministers, were briefed on Wednesday in detail on the various strategic intelligence and national security matters by the senior officials of the Inter-Services Intelligence, an official statement said.

"The Prime Minister lauded contributions of the ISI towards national security especially in the ongoing counter terrorism effort. The Prime Minister said that the ISI is our first line of defence and stands out as best intelligence agency of the world," the statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military said.

Khan, who was sworn-in as the 22nd Prime Minister on August 18, has already visited the General Headquarters of Pakistan Army twice – first to get an in-depth briefing on the internal security and geo-strategic situation and then to attend the Defence and Martyrs Day



ceremony on September 6.

Khan has been accused by his critics of being the security establishment's man.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party has accused him of reaching the Prime Minister House through the support of the powerful security establishment.

Khan told ISI officials that his

government and the people of Pakistan firmly stood behind the armed forces and intelligence agencies and acknowledged the "unprecedented achievements" of these institutions, the statement said.

Earlier, Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI Director General Lt Gen. Naveed Mukhtar received Khan on his arrival. (PTI)

Pakistan is Responsible for the Corpses in Afghanistan

KABUL (TIP): Mina, a widow, and her five children spotted corpses on the ground as she fled Ghazni. The street was covered with the bodies of civilians and policemen; more than 200 Afghans had been killed. It was August 10 and the Taliban had just stormed into the city of Ghazni, which they would control for nearly five days.

While American forces were assisting the Afghan government in retaking Ghazni, the Taliban staged deadly assaults in Faryab and Baghlan.

These attacks are not a coincidence.

Despite the billions of dollars that Washington has expended on its longest war, the Taliban has been getting stronger.

In an attempt to turn the tide, Washington has been holding face-to-face talks with the Taliban for the first time. These discussions are intended to induce the Taliban into suspending its insurgency and entering peace talks with the Afghan government by addressing the Taliban's demand: the withdrawal of international forces.

However, the Taliban was fighting the Afghan government long before the United States entered the scene in 2001. Nearly seven years prior, in 1994, the Taliban began its insurgency in Kandahar, and it's continued unabated for nearly a quarter century.

The Taliban frequently changes its narrative, justifying its insurgency according to Afghanistan's political climate. During the 1990s, it rationalized insurgency by labeling the Mujahideen, the ruling elite, as corrupt. Now it justifies the war by portraying the assistance of the international community as a foreign occupation.

These changing narratives are a convenient tactic employed by the Taliban to conceal its real motive: advancing the interests of neighboring Pakistan in Afghanistan.

Not only is the Taliban an asset of Pakistan, but Pakistan is the Taliban's administrative authority.

During the Taliban's reign, Peter Tomsen, former United States Special Envoy to Afghanistan, noted that Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), "played the major role in military matters, from organizing offenses to equipping the forces that were fighting, and even putting out public statements. ... There was a colonel in Herat and there was a major in Kandahar—they were coaching Mullah Omar and other Taliban, who were for the most part semiliterate, on how to administer their areas and how to proceed militarily."

This continues to be the case today, and by all accounts, the American foreign policy and military establishment is well aware of it. President Trump has publicly accused Pakistan of "lies and deceit" and a \$300 million aid package to the country was canceled just last week. Pakistan has countered by saying they are being made the scapegoat for American failures in Afghanistan. (PTI)

Sri Lanka to ban Hindu animal sacrifice

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's government has agreed to ban the ritual sacrifice of animals and birds at Hindu temples on the island.

A government spokesman told the BBC the move was proposed by the Hindu Religious Affairs ministry, and said most moderate Hindu groups support it.

Some Hindus sacrifice goats, buffalo calves and chickens at temples as an offering to their deities.

But the practice has attracted years of protests in Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka, where critics call it inhumane.

Animals sacrificed at Hindu and Muslim religious festivals are often left to bleed to death, which angers animal rights activists and some Buddhist groups. Many practicing Hindus choose not to sacrifice animals - but those who do have argued that the ban would impinge on their religious freedoms. They say such sacrifices are an ancient part of their faith that must be allowed to continue. It appears the law would not cover animal sacrifice by Muslims, who are the third-biggest religious group in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has experienced deadly religious violence in recent years, including anti-Muslim riots that killed three people in March. Nearly 450 Muslim-owned homes and shops were damaged. (BBC)

AIRLINE REMOVES NUTS AFTER SRI LANKA PRESIDENT'S RAGE

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's national airline said on Sept 13 it has stopped serving cashews after the country's president flew into a rage over nuts served to him on a flight to Colombo. "Returning from Kathmandu, I was served some cashews on board a Sri Lankan flight, but it was so bad even a dog wouldn't eat it," Maithripala Sirisena said on Monday. "I want to know who authorised the purchase of these nuts," the president told a meeting of farmers.

An airline spokesman said it has responded by clearing its stock of cashews, only served in business class, and would change its Dubai-based supplier. (PTI)

Evacuations underway as huge typhoon nears Philippines

MANILA (TIP): Philippine authorities were evacuating thousands of people from the path of the most powerful typhoon this year, closing schools, readying bulldozers for landslides and placing rescuers and troops on full alert in the country's north.

More than 4 million people live in areas at most risk from the storm, which the Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii categorized as a super typhoon with powerful winds and gusts equivalent to a category 5 Atlantic hurricane.

Typhoon Mangkhut is on course to hit northeastern Cagayan province early Saturday. It was tracked on Friday about 400 kilometers away in the Pacific with sustained winds of 205 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 255 kph, Philippine forecasters said.

With a massive raincloud band 900 kilometers wide, combined with seasonal monsoon rains, the typhoon could bring heavy to intense rains that could set off landslides and flash floods, the forecasters said.

Storm warnings have been raised in 25 provinces across the main northern island of Luzon, restricting sea and air travel.

Office of Civil Defense chief Ricardo Jalad told an emergency meeting led by President Rodrigo Duterte that about 4.2 million people in Cagayan, nearby Isabela province and outlying regions are vulnerable to the most destructive effects near the typhoon's 125-kilometer-wide eye. Nearly 48,000 houses in those high-risk areas are made of light materials and vulnerable to Mangkhut's ferocious winds.

Across the north on Thursday, residents covered glass windows with wooden boards, strengthened houses with rope and braces and moved fishing boats to safety.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba said by



telephone that evacuations of residents from risky coastal villages and island municipalities north of the rice-and corn-producing province of 1.2 million people have started and school classes at all levels have been cancelled.

A change in the typhoon's track prompted authorities to rapidly reassess where to redeploy emergency teams and supplies, Mamba said. Duterte asked Cabinet officials from the north to help oversee disaster-response work if needed, and told reporters it was too early to consider seeking foreign aid. "It would depend on the severity of the crisis," Duterte said. "If it flattens everything, maybe we need to have some help." The typhoon is approaching at the start of the rice and corn harvesting season in Cagayan, a major agricultural producer, and farmers were scrambling to save what they could of their crops, Mamba said.

The threat to agriculture comes as the Philippines tries to cope with rice shortages. Officials said other northern provinces

started evacuating residents Thursday from high-risk areas, including in northern mountain provinces prone to landslides.

Duterte canceled his appearance at a missile test firing aboard a navy ship off northern Bataan province due to the approaching typhoon. On Guam, where Mangkhut already passed, residents dealt with flooded streets, downed trees and widespread power outages. Government agencies were conducting damage assessments and clearing roads, according to the Pacific Daily News.

About 80 percent of the US territory was without power but it was restored by Thursday morning. Mangkhut, a Thai word for the mangosteen fruit, is the 15th storm this year to batter the Philippines, which is hit by about 20 a year and is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Typhoon Haiyan left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and displaced over 5 million in the central Philippines in 2013. (AP)

Russia: Pussy Riot activist hospitalised due to medicine poisoning

MOSCOW (TIP): Doctors say a hospitalized member of protest group Pussy Riot may have been poisoned by an overdose of medication. Independent news website Meduza reported Thursday that Pyotr Verzilov's doctors told his relatives that he either overdosed on medicine or was given too much medicine. The report did not specify the substance.

Fellow Pussy Riot member Veronika Nikulshina told The Associated Press that the report was accurate but wouldn't comment further. Friends insisted that Verzilov hadn't been taking medications or using drugs. Verzilov has been hospitalized in Moscow since Tuesday.

Verzilov and other activists served 15-day jail sentences for disrupting July's World Cup final to protest excessive Russian police powers. Speaking to The AP last week, Verzilov said, "Public protest in Russia is the only way to actually change anything." (AP)

Yemen war a 'living hell' for children- UNICEF

SANA (TIP): In the malnutrition ward of a hospital in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, doctors weigh toddlers with protruding rib cages and skeletal limbs.

Twenty children, most under the age of two, being treated at the ward in Sab'een Hospital are among hundreds of thousands of children suffering from severe malnutrition in the impoverished country that has been ravaged by a more than three years of war.

"The conflict has made Yemen a living hell for its children," Meritxell Relano, UNICEF Representative in Yemen, told Reuters.

She said more than 11 million children, or about 80 percent of the country's population under the age of 18, were facing the threat of food shortages, disease, displacement and acute lack of access to basic social services.

"An estimated 1.8 million children are malnourished in the country. Nearly 400,000 of them are severely acute malnourished and they are fighting for their lives every day." A coalition of Sunni Muslim Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, intervened in Yemen's war in 2015 against the Iranian-aligned Houthis after they drove the internationally recognised government out of the capital Sanaa.

The war has unleashed the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis in the nation of 28 million, where 8.4 million people are believed to be on the verge of starvation and 22 million people are dependent on aid.

The coalition has imposed stringent measures on imports into Yemen to prevent the Houthis from smuggling weapons but the checks have slowed the flow of commercial goods and vital aid into the country. Saudi Arabia and the UAE say they are providing funds and supplies to support aid efforts in Yemen. The Houthis blame the coalition for choking off imports into the country. (Reuters)

UK will pay 'substantially' less to EU in event of no Brexit deal, says Dominic Raab

LONDON (TIP): Britain will pay 'substantially' less to the European Union than the roughly 39 billion pounds withdrawal bill agreed with the bloc if there is no final agreement, Brexit minister Dominic Raab said on Thursday.

"I'm not going to put a number on it but what I would say is that it would be substantially below the financial settlement in the withdrawal agreement," he said when asked about how much Britain would pay in a BBC interview.

Raab said it may take time to work out how much Britain would need to pay if London and Brussels failed to reach agreement on Britain's exit from the EU. Asked whether he expected the EU to shift its attitude on Northern Ireland, where the future of the border with the Republic of Ireland has become a key sticking point, Raab said:

"I think there has to be a shift across the board in the EU's approach and they're going to have to meet us halfway." (AP)

Indian-Origin Man Killed by Underage for Refusing to Sell Cigarette Paper to Him



Vijay Kumar Patel who refused to sell cigarette paper to a 16-year-old, was murdered by the underage

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin shopkeeper, who refused to sell cigarette paper to a 16-year-old, was murdered by the teenager. The teen has been sentenced to four years of imprisonment.

The shopkeeper, Vijaykumar Patel sustained a fatal head injury in the unprovoked attack by the boy, whose name has not been revealed for legal reasons, outside a mini-market in Mill Hill, north London, in January. The 49-year-old had refused to sell the tobacco related item to the boy and his two friends who came into his shop on January 6 because they were under 18 years of age.

Sentencing the teenager at a hearing on Sep 7, Justice Stuart-Smith described the boy as a "time bomb", who had been out of on bail at the time of the attack.

"The record, the facts of this case, the contents of the PSR (pre-sentence report) with the analysis of very high risk of causing significant harm. I do not find the PSR surprising at all," the judge noted.

He sentenced the boy to four years' detention and a further three years on license, or under monitoring.

A trial at the Old Bailey court in London was told the boy, who had five alcoholic drinks at a party on the evening of the attack, became aggressive and shouted abuse before hurling himself at Patel outside the shop. The attack was captured on CCTV and it was possible to see the moment Mr Patel was hit.

Mr Patel was rushed to St Mary's Hospital in central London but died the following day from the injury to the back of his head. The teenager had claimed self-defense but was found guilty of manslaughter at the end of the trial in July.

"The CCTV shows he was simply standing with his hands in his pockets doing nothing," the judge told the boy during the sentencing hearing this week.

"What happened next was that you deliberately moved to the left and launched yourself at Mr Patel, taking him off his feet and to the ground. He was completely defenseless and did not move. You struck him," he said.

The court was informed that the Patel family was in India and therefore no victim impact statement was presented.

Another shop worker had chased the boys away with a billboard sign and a broom following the incident. The boys were then seen laughing and joking as they fled the scene.

The court was told the boy suffered from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and low intelligence and had previous convictions for weapons offences and kicking and punching a teacher at his school.

His lawyer Philippa McAtasney said the boy was "not beyond hope and help" and had been seriously affected by the stabbing of a youth worker friend who had confronted a drug dealer. The teenager himself had written a letter to trial judge expressing his remorse over the killing of Mr Patel.

WHEN YOU MARRY YOUR BEST FRIEND

Make it your goal to create a marriage that feels like safest place on Earth.

The concept of marriage puts the fear of God in all of us. There are hundreds of things that go through your mind, "What will your life partner think of your likes?" "Will they like you for who you are?"

"Will there be a happy ending at the end of it all?" But these concerns disappear when the person you marry is the person you've known and loved for the most part of your life, your best friend. Here are reasons why marriage is bliss when you marry your best friend:

You already love your best friend

Love is the first factor when it comes to marriage. You love them from your heart and soul if they're your best friend! The real question comes when you start to think about if you're "in love" with them. There is a difference.

Sometimes you can be in love with your best friend without even realizing it. It might just leave you shocked when you realize it someday. If you realize this sooner rather than later, you should marry your best friend.

You trust them with your life

Trust is the other important factor for any relationship, but especially in a marriage, which is considered a lifetime bond. You have to really trust your partner with everything—including your life. If you know you can continue to trust them this way, you should marry them.

They bring out different sides of you

A best friend has the ability to bring out the best in you. A person can feel the change when with best friend. They can bring about the good, the bad, the happy, the sad, and even your weirdest side. You need to marry someone who can do this in order to have a happy marriage. You



can see difference in you.

You can talk to them about anything without feeling judged

You can easily discuss your issues or any problem whether big or small. They will always listen to you, no matter what you have to share, with the same amount of attention every time and no suspect of being ignored no matter what it is, you should marry them.

That's a quality you want to have in a

future spouse due to them being your go-to person for the rest of your life.

You know each other better than anyone else

A best friend is someone who knows all your strengths and flaws. They are always there to support you morally. They are a constant part through your thick and thins and know you more than anyone else and without any second thought, marry them.

FOOD CORNER

PEA HUMMUS



Ingredients

200g cooked peas, 1 garlic clove, crushed, 1 tbsp tahini, squeeze of lemon, 1 tbsp cooked cannellini beans, from a can, 2 tbsp olive oil

Method

- Blitz all the ingredients together using a hand blender or food processor. Add 1-2 tbsp water, then blitz again.
- Transfer a portion to a pot and add to a lunchbox with pitta bread strips and veg sticks.
- Keep the rest chilled for up to 3 days.

PUMPKIN RISOTTO

Ingredients

1 small pumpkin or butternut squash after peeling and scraping out the seeds, you need about 400g/14oz, 1 tbsp olive oil, plus a drizzle for the pumpkin, 2 garlic cloves, 8 spring onions, 25g butter, 200g risotto rice, 2 tsp ground cumin, hot vegetable stock, plus extra splash if needed, 50g grated parmesan, small handful coriander

Method

- Chop up the pumpkin. Put it on a baking tray, drizzle over some oil, then roast for 30 mins.
- Put the garlic in a sandwich bag, then bash lightly with a rolling pin until it's crushed.
- Cut up the spring onions. Heat 1 tbsp oil with the butter in your pan over a medium heat.
- Add the spring onions and garlic.
- Once the onions are soft but not getting brown, add the rice and cumin. Stir well to coat in the buttery mix for about 1 min. Now add half a cup of the stock, and stir.
- Carry on adding and stirring in a large splash of stock at a time, until you have used up all the stock.
- Once the rice is soft enough to eat, gently stir in the grated cheese, chopped coriander and roasted pumpkin.



EASY WAYS TO EXFOLIATE YOUR SKIN

Exfoliation is a necessary habit we need to keep in our every-other-day skincare routine. Exfoliations helps in removing the dead skin and cells from our face that form a layer on our face. It removes the dead skin and cell, making way for the moisturizing to work properly and seem down our pores to nourish our skin properly.

In short, a regular exfoliating habit helps in increasing blood flow that in turn achieves a healthy and glowing fresh skin.

BAKING SODA

Baking soda does performs various wonders in our life. From cooking to cleaning, it a part of almost every day-to-day activity. It not only helps in cooking and cleaning, it used as an agent in various science experiment. Adding on to its various uses, it is a splendid exfoliator!

Ingredients

- Baking soda, Facial cleanser, Water

Directions

- Mix baking soda with your facial cleanser to make it an exfoliating cleanser.
- Gently rub it onto your skin and leave it on for 5 to 10 minutes before rinsing off.

SUGARY SCRUB

Granulated sugar is another wonderful natural exfoliator. By simply mixing it with honey, which contains powerful antioxidant and antimicrobial properties, and a little lemon for clarifying purposes, and you have a wonderfully nourishing and effective face scrub, which results in a healthy-beautiful skin.

Ingredients

- 1/2 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon raw sugar
- Fresh lemon juice

Directions

- Combine the honey and sugar and a squeeze of fresh lemon juice.
- Mix the ingredients well.

COFFEE COVER

Coffee is yet another fantastic natural exfoliator. It contains caffeic acid that has anti-inflammatory effects and can boost collagen production. Similarly, coffee stimulates our body in the morning, it can serve just as well as a skin stimulant too.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon ground coffee
- 1 tablespoon water or olive oil

Directions

- To make the scrub, combine the coffee and water or olive oil.
- If you use olive oil, you can skip applying a moisturizer afterward, as olive oil will leave your skin super-moisturized.

BINGE DRINKING AFFECTS MALE AND FEMALE BRAINS DIFFERENTLY

While binge drinking affects the health of both males and females, the effect of gene expression in an area of the brain linked to addiction was found to be different, finds a new study. Repeated binge drinking was found to significantly alter molecular pathways in the nucleus accumbens — a region of the brain linked to addiction.

But, in females, the genes linked to hormone signalling and immune function are altered, whereas in males genes related to nerve signalling are affected. The study has significant implications for the treatment of alcohol use disorder as they emphasise the importance of tailoring effective therapies towards male and female patients, said researchers led by Deborah Finn, Professor at Oregon Health and Science University.

Repeated binge drinking can be a risk factor for the development of alcohol dependence. For the study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Genetics*, the team analysed gene expression in nucleus accumbens. "We examined the effect of repeated binge drinking on the expression of 384 genes previously identified as important in addiction and mood disorders," Finn said.

Of a total of 106 genes regulated by binge drinking, only 14 were regulated in both males and females, representing common targets to binge drinking. Interestingly, only 4 of these 14 genes were regulated in the same direction and the top 30 genes regulated by binge drinking in each sex differed markedly.

"We have shown that pharmacologically manipulating a



pathway in both sexes that only was affected by binge drinking in males did not decrease binge drinking in females; binge drinking was only decreased in males," Finn explained.

She noted that a consideration of sex is critical in the development of potential pharmacological therapies for the treatment of alcohol use disorder.

Source: IANS

BRAIN CELLS CAN HELP PEOPLE FEEL BRAVE, DEAL WITH ANXIETY

Ever wondered why some people comfortably walk between skyscrapers on a high-wire while others freeze at the mere thought of climbing off escalators in a shopping mall? It could be the presence of a certain type of cells in the brain's hippocampus, a study has found.

The findings showed that neurons known as OLM cells in the hippocampus play a significant role in risk-taking behaviour and anxiety. The discovery of these neurons and their role in anxiety and risk-taking may open a path for the development of highly efficient anxiolytics and antidepressants without common side-effects, such as apathy, the researchers said. The OLM cells, when stimulated, produce a brain rhythm that is present when animals feel safe in a threatening environment (for example, when they are hiding from a predator but aware of the predator's proximity). OLM cells were the "gatekeepers" of memories in the hippocampus and these cells were very sensitive to nicotine. "This finding may explain why people binge-smoke when they are anxious," said Richardson Leao, from

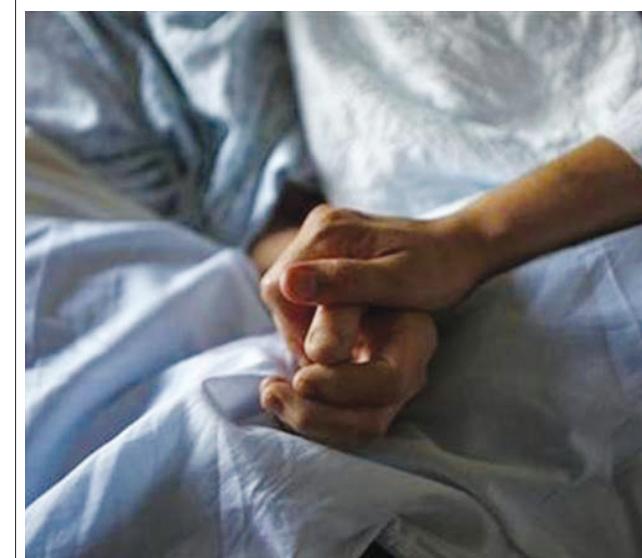


the Brain Institute of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte in Brazil. Manipulation of OLM cells can control anxiety and risk-taking behaviours, the researchers said, in the paper published in the journal *Nature Communications*. While adaptive (or normal) anxiety is essential for survival because it protects us from harm,

but excess levels can be dysfunctional and severely interfere with daily life.

Thus, to act in a single brain region and in a very specific group of cells to control anxiety may be a major breakthrough in treating anxiety and associated disorders like depression, the researchers noted.

Source: IANS



MORE THAN 18 MN NEW CANCER CASES EXPECTED THIS YEAR: UN STUDY

More than 18 million new cases of cancer are expected this year and it is estimated that 9.6 million people will die from various forms of the disease in 2018, the UN's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said.

According to IARC, a specialised cancer agency of the World Health Organisation, the disease is a growing global health threat. One in five men and one in six women worldwide develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in eight men and one in 11 women die from it, IARC's Global Cancer Observatory said on Wednesday in its first report since 2012.

"These new figures highlight that much remains to be done to address the alarming rise in the cancer burden globally and that prevention has a key role to play," IARC Director Christopher Wild said.

"Efficient prevention and early detection policies must be implemented urgently to complement treatments in order to control this devastating disease across the world," Wild added.

In India, the number of new cancer cases in 2018 among male and female and in all ages stood at 1,157,294. Of this, 587,249 were women diagnosed with cancer.

The risk of developing cancer before the age of 75 years was 9.81 per cent for males and 9.42 per cent for females. The number of cancer deaths in the country stood at 784,821. The risk of dying from cancer before the age of 75 years was 7.34 per cent for males and 6.28 per cent for females. The top five most frequent cancers for both male and female in India are breast, lip and oral cavity, cervix and uteri, lung, stomach.

The report said that globally the increasing cancer burden is due to several factors, including population growth and ageing as well as the changing prevalence of certain causes of cancer linked to social and economic development. This is particularly true in rapidly growing economies, where a shift is observed from cancers related to poverty and infections to cancers associated with lifestyles more typical of industrialized countries, it said.

Effective prevention efforts may explain the observed decrease in incidence rates for some cancers, such as lung cancer and cervical cancer. However, the new data show that most countries are still faced with an increase in the absolute number of cases being diagnosed and requiring treatment and care.

Source: PTI

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MYSTERIOUS 'LUNAR SWIRLS' POINT TO MOON'S VOLCANIC, MAGNETIC PAST

The mysterious lunar swirls, one of the solar system's most beautiful optical anomalies, may be a relic of the Moon's ancient volcanic activity and an internally generated magnetic field, scientists say.

Lunar swirls resemble bright, snaky clouds painted on the Moon's dark surface. The most famous, called Reiner Gamma, is about 40 miles long and popular with backyard astronomers.

Most lunar swirls share their locations with powerful, localised magnetic fields. The bright-and-dark patterns may result when those magnetic fields deflect particles from the solar wind and cause some parts of the lunar surface to weather more slowly.

"But the cause of those magnetic fields, and thus of the swirls themselves, had long been a mystery," said Sonia Tikoo, an assistant professor in Rutgers University in the US.

"To solve it, we had to find out what kind of geological feature could produce these magnetic fields—and why their magnetism is so powerful," said Tikoo, coauthor of the study published in the 'Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets'.

Working with what is known about the intricate geometry of lunar swirls, and the strengths of the magnetic fields associated with them, the researchers developed mathematical models for the geological

magnets". They found that each swirl must stand above a magnetic object that is narrow and buried close to the moon's surface.

The picture is consistent with lava tubes, long, narrow structures formed by flowing lava during volcanic eruptions; or with lava dikes, vertical sheets of magma injected into the lunar crust.

Past experiments have found that many Moon rocks become highly magnetic when heated more than 600 degrees Celsius in an oxygen-free environment.

That is because certain minerals break down at high temperatures and release metallic iron. If there happens to be a strong enough magnetic field nearby, the newly formed iron will become magnetised along the direction of that field.

This does not normally happen on Earth, where free-floating oxygen binds with the iron. It would not happen today on the Moon, where there is no global magnetic field to magnetise the iron.

Source: PTI

NASA's Kepler probe restarts science operations

NASA's planet hunting Kepler space telescope—which has led to the discovery of over 2,300 planets so far—was roused from sleep mode and has restarted its scientific operations.

The US space agency has been closely monitoring the probe since it is expected to run out of fuel soon.

The spacecraft went into sleep mode after successfully downloading data from its 18th observation campaign.

"After being roused from sleep mode the spacecraft's configuration has been modified due to unusual behaviour exhibited by one of the thrusters," NASA said in a statement.

"Preliminary indications are that the telescope's pointing performance may be somewhat degraded," it said.

In 2013, Kepler's primary mission ended when a second reaction wheel broke, rendering it unable to hold its gaze steady at the original field of view.

The spacecraft was given a new lease on life by using the pressure of sunlight to maintain its pointing, like a kayak steering into the current.

ELON MUSK'S BORING COMPANY USES XBOX CONTROLLER TO OPERATE ITS MACHINE

Elon Musk's The Boring Company has found a rather innovative way to control one of its complex machines — Xbox gaming controller. The company on Sunday posted a short clip on Twitter showing how easily the machine was being controlled through the gaming joystick.

In case you didn't know, The Boring Company is Elon Musk's new pet project to create low-cost tunnels to fix the problem of traffic congestion. The company is already working on a fast-lane tunnel between New York and Washington DC. Musk says the tunnel will help people commute between the two cities in less than 30 minutes.

"To solve the problem of soul-destroying traffic, roads must go 3D, which means either flying cars or tunnels. Unlike flying cars, tunnels are weatherproof, out of sight and won't fall on your head. A large network of



tunnels many levels deep would fix congestion in any city, no matter how large it grew (just keep adding levels). The key to making this work is increasing tunneling speed and dropping costs by a factor of 10 or more — this is the goal of The Boring

Company," explains the company on its website.

That said, The Boring Company is no stranger in introducing unconventional products. Earlier this year, it launched a flamethrower priced at \$500. It also sold The Boring Company hats.

Microsoft 'warning': Don't install Chrome, Firefox on Windows 10

Microsoft is reportedly warning Windows 10 users not to install Chrome or Firefox. The company recently announced the new iteration of Windows 10 will arrive duly under the name "Windows 10 October 2018 update" in October. While Microsoft is in the 'final stages' of testing the next major Windows 10 update, testers at TechDows seem to have spotted a new feature that prompts user to try Microsoft Edge instead of the third-party browsers.



According to a Windows Central report, the feature dubbed as "app suggestions" is on by default and pop up a window warning users not to install a third-party browser like Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox. Many users cited on Twitter that this prompt shows up while downloading Chrome or Firefox installer on the latest 'Insider' release Windows 10.

Soon, a plane could fly through Venus's atmosphere

A US aerospace company is planning to build an inflatable propeller plane that could fly through Venus's atmosphere in 2021.

The ambitious project would see the plane cruise through the sulfurous skies of Venus for years, sampling the acidic alien atmosphere directly and observe the venusian surface from 50 kilometres up.



However, the plane faces a battle to get USD 1 billion in funding from NASA in order to get off the ground.

Called the Venus Atmospheric Maneuverable Platform (VAMP), the concept for the vehicle is currently being drawn up by the company Northrop Grumman. VAMP would have a wingspan of 55 metres with an estimated top speed of 220km/h.

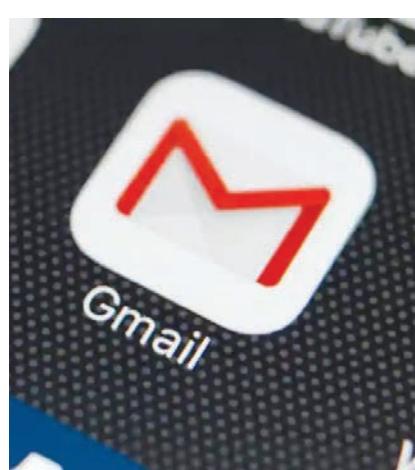
Google to discontinue 'Inbox by Gmail' from March 2019

Google is set to shut down its alternate mailing app "Inbox" in March 2019, giving users time to shift to the traditional Gmail by then, the company has said in a blog post.

Launched in 2014, "Inbox" was introduced as an innovative new email app that lived alongside Gmail and served as an experimental platform for Google to try newer mailing features that could be incorporated in Gmail later.

However, it could not gather enough user base and updates to justify its existence.

"We want to take a more focussed approach to help us bring the best email experience to everyone. As a result, we're planning to focus solely on Gmail



and say goodbye to 'Inbox' at the end of March 2019," Matthew Izatt, Product

Manager at Gmail, wrote in a blog post late on Wednesday.

"Inbox" came with provisions for snoozing emails to later, trying latest artificial intelligence (AI)-powered experiences like Smart Reply, Nudges, high-priority notifications along with gesture and bundling features to manage the messages.

"We know change is hard, so we've created a transition guide to help you switch from Inbox to the new Gmail with ease," Izatt added.

Earlier in 2018, a revamped version of Gmail was introduced with newer features like "Smart Compose" that helps users draft emails faster and several other features were picked up from "Inbox."

Companies shift production overseas to avoid US tariffs

BEIJING (TIP): A growing number of Chinese companies are adopting a crafty way to evade US President Donald Trump's tariffs: remove the "Made in China" label by shifting production to countries such as Vietnam, Serbia and Mexico.

The world's two largest economies have been locked in a months-long trade fight after Trump imposed 25% customs duties on \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods this summer, triggering a swift tit-for-tat response from Beijing.

Chinese factories making everything from bikes to tyres, plastics and textiles are moving assembly lines abroad to skirt higher customs taxes on their exports to the United States and elsewhere, according to public filings.

H1 Corp, a Shenzhen-listed bike parts maker, made clear to investors last month that tariffs were in mind when it decided to move production to Vietnam.

The factory will "reduce and evade" the impact of tariffs, management wrote, noting Trump hit e-bikes in August, with new border taxes planned for bicycles and their parts.

Trump warned last week those tariffs -- targeting \$200 billion in Chinese imports -- could come "very soon".

"It's inevitable that the new duties will lead companies to review their supply chains globally -- overnight they will become 25 percent less competitive than they were," said Christopher Rogers, a supply chain expert at trade data firm Panjiva.

Supply chains have already begun relocating out of China in recent years as its rising labour and environmental protection costs have made the country less attractive.

Tariffs are adding fuel to the fire, experts and companies say.

"China-US trade frictions are accelerating the trend of the global value chain changing shape," said Cui Fan, research director at the China Society of WTO Studies, a think tank affiliated with the commerce ministry.

"The shifting abroad of labour-intensive assembly could bring



A man stands near a poster depicting a mural of US President Donald Trump, on display outside a restaurant in Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong province.

unemployment problems and this needs to be closely watched," Cui said, adding the shift would not help the US's overall trade deficit.

Chinese firms race abroad

The growing list of foreign firms moving supply chains away from China -- toy company Hasbro, camera maker Olympus, shoe brands Deckers and Steve Madden, among many others -- already has Beijing worried.

Less discussed are the Chinese factories doing the same.

Zhejiang Hailide New Material ships much of its industrial yarns, tyre cord fabric, and printing materials from its plant in eastern Zhejiang province to the US and other countries.

Trump's first wave of tariffs on \$50 billion in goods this summer hit some of its exports; the next round of \$200 billion looks like it will hit several more.

"Currently all of our company's production is in China. To better evade the risks of anti-dumping cases and tariff hikes, our company has after

lengthy investigation decided to set up a factory in Vietnam," executives told investors last month.

"We hope to speed up its construction, and hope in the future it can handle production for the American market," a company vice president said of the \$155 million investment that will ramp up production by 50%.

Other moves abroad spurred on by tariff risks include a garment maker going to Myanmar, a mattress company opening a plant in Thailand and an electronic motor producer acquiring a Mexico-based factory, according to public filings from the firms.

Linglong Tyre is relying mostly on low cost credit to build a \$994 million plant in Serbia.

The entire tyre industry faces a "grim trade friction situation", Linglong told investors last month, citing "one after another" anti-dumping cases against China. "Building a factory abroad allows 'indirect growth,' by evading international trade barriers."

Source: AFP

Alibaba set to partner with Russia's Mail.ru for \$2 billion venture

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. is setting up a \$2 billion joint venture with billionaire Alisher Usmanov's internet services firm Mail.ru Group Ltd. to strengthen the Chinese company's foothold in Russian e-commerce.

Asia's most valuable company signed an accord Tuesday with Mail.ru to merge their online marketplaces in the nation of more than 140 million people. The deal is backed by the Kremlin through the Russian Direct Investment Fund and the local investors will collectively control the new business. Mail.ru's global depository receipts traded in London jumped as much as 12 percent.

The combined company will be better able to compete with local rivals



Wildberries and Yandex. Alibaba's Russian unit AliExpress mostly sells goods imported from China and hasn't had to worry about competition from Amazon.com Inc. because the US behemoth has little presence in the country.

"A big part of what we've been able to develop so far in Russia has been our cross-border business," Alibaba

president Mike Evans told reporters. "But the future, which will require the presence of our partners at this table, will involve building a much bigger local business." Alibaba will fold its Russian operations including AliExpress and Tmall into the venture, while Usmanov's MegaFon PJSC will sell its 10 percent stake in Mail.ru -- worth roughly \$486 million at Monday's close -- to Alibaba in return for 24 percent of the business. That deal values the new outfit at roughly \$2 billion.

Mail.ru will bring its mobile marketplace for Chinese goods, Pandao, into the new company, which will also get direct access to users of two popular Russian social networks owned by Mail.ru.

Source: Bloomberg

TO RECOVER RS 1,320 CR, PNB PUTS 21 NPA A/CS ON BLOCK



NEW DELHI (TIP): Punjab National Bank has put nearly two dozen non-performing accounts (NPAs) on sale to recover over Rs 1,320 crore.

The bank's Stressed Assets Targeted Resolution Action (ASTRA) Division, which is handling the sale of stressed assets to recover dues, has put on sale a total of 21 accounts which cumulatively owe PNB Rs 1,320.19 crore.

"We intend to place these accounts for sale to ARCs/NBFCS/other banks/FIs etc, on terms and conditions stipulated in the bank's policy, in line with the regulatory guidelines," PNB said in a notification.

The accounts include Moser Baer Solar, which has an outstanding of Rs 233.06 crore, Divine Alloys & Power Co Ltd Rs 200.87 crore, Divine Vidyut Rs 132.66 crore, Chincholi Sugar & Bio Industries Rs 114.42 crore, Arshiya Northern FTWZ Ltd Rs 96.70 crore, Birla Surya Rs 73.58 crore, Shri Saikrupa Sugar & Allied Industries Rs 63.35 crore and Raja Forgings & Gears Ltd Rs 59.73 crore.

Source: PTI



Rupee drop: India mulls tapping its citizens overseas

India expressed concern about the rupee's decline for the first time and said it's considering a plan to tap its citizens overseas, according to a government official.

The local currency Asia's worst performing major so far this year, which plunged as much as 1.3 percent to a record low Monday, pared losses after the comments. The relief may be temporary given concerns about a widening current account and trade gap on the back of elevated prices of oil, India's biggest import item.

The finance ministry and the Reserve Bank of India are in touch and the central bank is intervening in the currency market when needed, the government official told reporters in New Delhi on Monday, asking not to be identified citing rules. The RBI has been selling dollars, albeit in a restrained manner, leading to a drop in India's foreign exchange reserves to \$400 billion from a record high of \$426 billion in mid-April.

The official said India's reserves position was comfortable and authorities could take measures such as tapping overseas Indians and other moves to plug the current account gap. In 2013, the central bank lured inflows of about \$34 billion through discounted foreign-currency swaps, helping lift the rupee from a record low.

Patanjali enters dairy business

NEW DELHI (TIP): Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved Thursday announced its foray into the dairy segment by launching milk and milk-based products, including curd and cheese, targeting sales worth Rs 1,000 crore from the segment.

Besides, Patanjali had also ventured into frozen vegetable segment and has introduced products such as sweet corn, pea and potato fingers. "We are aiming to have a business of Rs 1,000 crore next fiscal. This fiscal, we would have a business of Rs 500 crore," said Baba Ramdev while addressing a conference. The Haridwar-based firm has established a network of around 56,000 retailers.

We are targeting 10 lakh litre of daily sales, Ramdev added.

Besides regular milk, Patanjali would also introduce milk and allied products in tetra packs, he added.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE SEPTEMBER 17 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says a lot depends on biorhythms and other influences too. Astrology never compels. Plus, remember, this is a general reading and I do not have your personal chart. This can be a period of contrasting emotions. You look for salvation. Old wounds open their hoods. You go looking for a guru and take recourse to yantra, tantra and mantra. You take time out from work and family and may do something completely different from the norm.

Taurus:

'Fiction gives us a second chance that life denies us,' said Paul Theroux, the novelist. Your mind is in a million places all at once. You are simply unable to be precise. You cannot put pen down to paper. You are all thought and no action. You cannot walk the talk. This is a phase of deep anguish as you are unable to activate your thoughts. It is an impotent period. There are expenses and many domestic challenges.

Gemini:

The leak in the boat is finally fixed. You are back on terra firma. The winter sun is scorching the bones and you realize that time is flying. You have to get cracking before it is too late. You get back to the business of making a living. It's a tough choice but there is no room any more for indulgences. Those in jobs work double shifts and freelancers spread their net wide. You have to make both ends meet and prepare a nest egg too.

Cancer:

You are all pumped up and raring to go. In the mood you are in, you can perform miracles. Nothing is beyond you. You reach for the stars and may even touch them on tiptoe. There are awards and rewards, applause and kudos. You are the toast of your peer group. This is a fantastic time for creative folk and those in the visual arts. If you are also looking to cleanse your soul, you will succeed. You are in the quest for the holy grail. Ganesha urges you on.

Leo:

Jung, the great analyst, said, 'Show me a sane man and I will cure him.' You are living out your inherent contradictions in splendor. You wear them on your sleeve and could be easily the most misunderstood person on the planet now. Your emotions are bubbling over like a volcano erupting. At home, the health of elders will be a cause of concern. Those in committed relationships take bond to new heights.

Virgo:

There is powerful intensity propelling you. Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev, today's popular mystic says, 'There is security in repetitive life patterns, but there are no possibilities, no growth.' You realize the import of his words. You want to change the status quo, you want to challenge everything that has been said and said again down the ages. You want to flirt with danger, even kiss a cobra on its hood like they do in Thailand, or eat broken glass, or walk over the Niagara Falls on a tripwire.

Libra:

'An ant on the move does more than a dozing ox,' said Lao-tzu. You find new ways to tackle the issues on your plate. There is success, and money too. You win applause. You also spend time with social work and may help with the less fortunate. You lend a shoulder and an ear where necessary. You are the toast of your neighborhood as you espouse causes common to all. You excel in group discussions, contractual negotiations and conferences.

Scorpio:

You live and love large. You make money by the bushels and spend it too. You play the field and are caught in the deep coils of amour. Nothing makes sense to you anymore but the sweet fragrance, however fleeting, of your beloved. This is a great period for those in realty and the stock market. There could be an addition to the family, possibly an adoption. At the very least, you may bring an exotic pet home. Ganesha smiles.

Sagittarius:

You scale new heights. There are expenses, ego drives, passions, altercations and misunderstandings. You stand your ground on flimsy issues and take even the most trivial arguments to heart. This doesn't fetch you brownie points and you will have to examine your core to see what has disrupted it so much that you flinch and retort at the slightest perceived disagreement. You play the field. Youngsters will be tough to rein in.

Capricorn:

You are with your buddies, be it the boy gang or the girl gang or the mixed gang. It is party time and you are not one to miss out on the fun. You could be travelling too, and letting your hair down on the Riviera or some other exotic locale. You are also in line for a windfall, possibly an inheritance. Bob Marley said, 'I have no education. I have inspiration. If I was educated, I would be a damn fool.' You are inspired to take the moment to dizzy heights. Ganesha joins you.

Aquarius:

You are in a philanthropic bent of mind. You want to serve others and there are no full stops in your yearning to do so. You want to give back to society and the stars support you in all your endeavors. You have the endearing softness and sentimentality in your sign now and there is new love, fellowship and selfless giving. I shall end with a quote from J. Krishnamurti: 'It is only when the mind is completely quiet, free of conflict - it is only then that the mind can go very far into the realms that are beyond time, thought and feeling.' Ganesha wrings his hands in thrall.

Pisces:

'A scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not deemed to be a scholar,' said Lao-tzu. You want to be a person of renown, a person of letters, someone society can respect for his / her knowledge and erudition. You need to traverse the razor's edge, you need to get out of your comfort zone and get scarred. It is only after you emerge from the plain of struggle - like a caterpillar that becomes a butterfly - that you can delight in the prowess of true empirical knowledge.

Sri Krishna was a teacher from the very beginning of his life. Even before he entered into the physical world he acted as a teacher. Before he entered into his mother's womb, he came to his father who had been imprisoned by the king and said, "I am now going to enter into the physical world. As soon as I am born, you will take me out of this prison-cell and take me to Nanda" (one of his relatives). His father saw Sri Krishna vividly before he came into the world of manifestation, and to everybody's surprise, all of a sudden all the doors and gates of the prison were wide open, and his father took him to Nanda's place. Here he started his teaching.

Before he came into the world, a similar incident occurred to the mother of the Lord Buddha. Also Christianity practically says the same, that Jesus entered into his mother's womb consciously.

To come back to Sri Krishna, while he was just a child he opened his mouth and showed his mother the whole universe. He was teaching his mother that the universe is nowhere else but inside him.

Then, when he was eleven years old, one day he observed that his parents and his relatives and neighbours were all performing ceremonies in honour of the Lord Indra, Indra the rain God, King of the Gods. Sri Krishna said, "Why are you worshipping Indra? It is better to worship this hill. Why don't you worship this Giri Govardhan? Our cattle are being fed by this hill, and everyone is being helped in one way or another by this hill. We should worship the hill and not Indra. Indra is not helping us in any way. If you want to know the truth, then you worship this hill." They listened to him on that occasion. They worshipped not Indra but the hill, and Indra became furious. He inundated the whole place with water. There was a constant downpour which lasted seven days. But Sri Krishna was not to accept defeat. With one of his fingers he lifted the whole hill, and the hill served the purpose of an umbrella. The entire vicinity was under the protection of the hill, and it is still there. It is said that Sri Krishna held it for seven days and then Lord Indra felt that it was useless. Sri Krishna protected his whole race and all his relatives. Then Lord Indra accepted his defeat.

Krishna was a cowherd and he had many, many friends. He was a very great flutist. The boys and girls, especially the girls, used to come to listen to his music. But the love he had for them was always of the purest. He had many so-called girlfriends. We immediately associate this term with the wrong emotion, but in Sri Krishna's case, his relationship was absolutely pure. Among these girls, there was one called Radha. Radha finally became his consort and his shakti, and it was she who understood fully who Sri Krishna was. There Sri Krishna was expressing his Divine Love to human beings. It was delight that he wanted to express, pure delight, to this physical world. But criticism was existent in those days too. People started criticising Sri Krishna openly because of his fondness for Radha. Radha became very close to him. One day, Radha, in a sulking mood, said to him, "Look, you are so pure and so divine and I come here to listen to your music and you tell me eternal, divine truths. How is it that people create such gossip, especially my girlfriends? Just because you give special attention to me they criticise us." Sri Krishna gave her a broad smile and said, "All right." So one day Sri Krishna invited all his girlfriends and told them, "Today I wish to have a special game. I know all of you are pure and all of you are chaste. Most of you have husbands." Then Sri Krishna took a sieve and a bucket of water. He told them each to pour the water into the sieve, and if the water did not leak through, it meant that that particular girl was pure and chaste. They started, one by one, to pour water, and of course with the first one the water leaked through. They all were laughing

KRISHNA, THE ETERNAL MYSTERY



and saying that she was not chaste or pure, and she buried her head in the fold of her arm. Then the next girl came and the same thing happened, and on and on with each girl.

Radha was observing the scene. Sri Krishna said to her, "Radha, why are you silent, why don't you try?" She said, "They are always criticising me, and if I try I will probably join them in their failure." Sri Krishna said, "Why don't you come and try, it is a game after all." So she came and poured the water, bucket after bucket, but the sieve did not leak. They were all astonished and Sri Krishna said, "Look here, now you can see who is chaste, who is pure. Now I am teaching you the eternal truth. I am the Lord of the Universe. Radha comes to Me for spiritual help and Eternal Truth, and My love for her and all of you is spiritual and divine. Some of you have husbands, but your minds still roam elsewhere. You care for other men and you give much attention to name, fame and duties. But in Radha's case, I am always in her mind. Radha is a married woman, Radha has her own husband, but no matter where she goes and with whom she speaks, her mind is always on Me. I am the Lord of the Universe, and whoever thinks of Me is the purest on earth. Those who think of other things are not pure."

When he grew up in the society very often he wished to give most illuminating counsel. Everybody came to him for guidance and he was their chief counsellor. When the Pandavas became his most intimate friends, he used to advise them all the time in their difficulties; in all their sorrows and joys Sri Krishna was there to advise them. Then he came to the battlefield to help Arjuna. We already know from the Gita how he advised Arjuna to fight, and he taught Arjuna all about the inner life, the spiritual life, inner perfection and outer perfection, realisation and revelation. Sri Krishna said, "Whenever there is decline of righteousness, and unrighteousness is in the ascendent, then I

body Myself forth to protect the virtuous and put an end to evil-doers; to establish Dharma, I am born from age to age." This is one of the most important verses in the Gita.

Krishna, the widow and her cow

Sometimes when we are in utter difficulty, the Grace of God acts in a very peculiar way. We feel that God becomes more cruel when we are in difficulties and sufferings. Let me illustrate this to you with a story. Sri Krishna and Arjuna once were guests of a widow. The widow had no children, nobody. She was all alone. But she had a cow. This cow was her only means of support. She used to sell milk, and by selling milk she used to maintain her life. She was a great devotee of Sri Krishna. When Sri Krishna and Arjuna went to visit her in disguise, incognito, she was so happy to see these two divine guests. She fed them with whatever she had in her house.

Sri Krishna was extremely pleased with her surrendering attitude and her devotion. On their way back, Arjuna said to Krishna, "You were so pleased with her. Why didn't you

grant her a boon? Why didn't you tell her that she would be prosperous soon, now that you are pleased with her?"

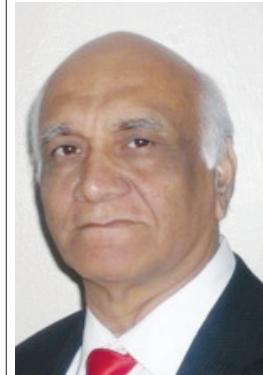
"I have already granted her the boon that her cow must die tomorrow."

"What? Her only means of support? She has only the cow, and nothing else. Without the cow how can she live on earth?"

Krishna answered, "You don't understand me. She always thinks of the cow. The cow has to be fed, has to be milked, has to be bathed and so forth. I want her only to think of me, and when the cow is gone, she will think of me all the time, twenty-four hours."

Then soon the time will be right for me to take her away from this world, and after a few years I will give her a better and more fulfilling incarnation. When she has nobody on earth, not even the cow, she will try and spend all her time, day and night, in devoting herself to me. Otherwise, this way she will linger on earth and constantly think of the cow and not of me." So Sri Krishna's ways are inscrutable.

Source: Sri Chinmoy



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contd from Page 1

Hurricane Florence Pounds...

Though the storm, once a Category 4, was downgraded Thursday night to a Category 1 from a Category 2, the danger is very real. Parts of North Carolina may see as much as 40 inches of rain and storm surges could be as high as 13 feet.

"Flooding and the storm surge -- those are the two main things that kill people, and this storm is not letting up," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said Thursday.

The storm will churn very slowly Friday and Saturday, extending the damaging winds and huge amounts of rain that will hit the same areas of North and South Carolina for 24 hours. High winds and floodwaters could knock power out for several days, if not longer, officials said. Almost 160,000 customers already were without power in North Carolina Thursday evening -- and that number is likely to rise.

For those in an evacuation area, "there is still time to get out," Cooper said Thursday. "Don't risk your life riding out a monster storm."

"You're potentially risking the life of a first responder who would try to come and help you, and we don't need that," he added. "I know it's difficult to move, and I know that you are leaving things behind that you don't want to leave behind, but no possession is worth your life."

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster added: "Time is running out. Now is the time to go because that window of opportunity is closing on you very quickly."

"We have no aspiration of..."



India's Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, keynote speaker for the concluding session, renewed Swami Vivekananda's message and elaborated on some of the essential elements of Hinduism. Also seen in the picture is India's Ambassador to the United States Navtej Sarna.

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

Against the backdrop of a life like statue of Swami Vivekananda, RSS Chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, at the inaugural event, addressed the congress on the core theme drawn from the Mahabharat, "Think collectively, Act Valiantly."

He highlighted the need for Hindus to work together and said "We have stopped our descent and are contemplating how to ascend. Our universal values, now called Hindu values, lead to the welfare of the individual, the society, nature and the environment. It is the duty of Hindus to remind the world, the universal values from time to time."

Stressing the need for unity, Bhagwat said if a lion is alone, wild dogs can invade and destroy the lion. We must not forget that."

"We want to make the world better. We have no aspiration of dominance. Our influence is not a result of conquest or colonization," he noted.

Chair SP Kothari, said he and many speakers attending the conference received calls and petitions from organizations and individuals to withdraw from the Congress on the ground WHC or some of its organizers are "socially and religiously divisive." "I urge them to listen to my talk and reflect on whether it is tainted with hate. I have chosen to disregard those petitions as originating from a lack of complete understanding of the World Hindu Congress."

Coordinator Dr. Abhaya Asthana stated that WHC is not an event, it is a community movement. It seeks to encourage Hindus around the world to ascend to the highest levels of excellence. This Congress was important so we "may graduate from individual success to collective success."

Award winning actor Anupam Kher said "Hinduism is a way of life and one becomes a Hindu by living like one. Tolerance was the centerpiece of Vivekananda's message. My roots are steeped in Hinduism... As a Hindu, it pains me deeply to see how ignorance and half knowledge are trying to destroy one of the oldest, world's most peaceful religion."

Vice Chair, Raju Reddy, urged Hindus worldwide to become more visible as positive change makers in their respective countries they call home, wherever they may be today. He added, Hindus as a community should become economically more prosperous and be viewed as an economic powerhouse. Our immense soft power of Hindu teachings, Vedic knowledge and thought will be limited in its acceptance and reach

without the accompanying economic power.

India's Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, keynote speaker for the concluding session, renewed Swami Vivekananda's message and elaborated on some of the essential elements of Hinduism namely the breadth of its vision in treating the world as one family, tolerance and acceptance of plurality, and unity in diversity. True nationalism is in the preservation of India's invaluable heritage, he said.

Swami Poornatmananda of Bharat Seva Ashram, Chinmaya Mission Spiritual Head Swami Swaroopananda, Swami Paramatmananda, secretary general of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, Satguru Dalip Singh of Namdari, Madhu Pandit Dasa, chairperson of Akshaya Patra Foundation, ISKCON, Bangalore were some of the spiritual leaders who spoke at the event. Messages by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Holiness the Dalai Lama and Art of Living Guru Sri Sri Ravi Shanker, BAPS Spiritual Guru Mahant Swami Maharaj were played via video.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, (D-IL) said "Some of my friends and constituents were very concerned about my presence here today...I decided I had to be here because I wanted to reaffirm the highest and only form of Hinduism that I've ever known and been taught...namely one that welcomes all people, embraces all people, accepts all people regardless of their faith including all my constituents."

(Also Read 'U.S. Congressman Krishnamoorthi Challenged for World Hindu Congress Appearance' on Page 13)

Lt. Governor of Illinois Evelyn Sanguinetti, Congressman Bill Foster, Congressman Bruce Fraser were also present. Other eminent dignitaries who spoke were Vice-president of the Republic of Suriname Ashwin Adhin, entrepreneur and Grammy nominated artist Chandrika Tandon, renowned classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, author Amish Tripathi of the Shiva Trilogy and Mohandas Pai chairperson of Board of Manipal Global.

Four organizations were recognized for their outstanding contributions to spreading Hindu philosophy. BAPS was honored for their architecturally beautiful temples, Chinmaya Mission for explaining the essence of the Gita, Geeta Press, Gorakhpur for making sacred Hindu literature accessible, and ISKCON for spreading the message of Gita.

Seven conferences and three plenary sessions over the course of three days highlighted issues facing Hindus. The Political Conference suggested the need for a permanent secretariat in the US or UK for the cause of Hindu rights around the globe, asserting a strong political voice especially in countries like the Caribbean, Fiji and the African countries, and developing young political leaders.

Other parallel sessions were on youth, media, economy, women, education, and Hindu organizations.

To create awareness about atrocities committed against Hindus around the world, speak out against biased portrayals of Hindus, freeing temples from government control, making writing contemporary and relevant to the present generation, finding new ways to open trade, skill development, an Angel Investor group for women entrepreneurs and a global Hindu Women Business directory, a strategy for developing scholarship in religious studies were some of the recommendations of the conferences.

Prominent Houstonian, Col. Raj Bhalla said "Being a Sikh, 87 years old, I always had a personal belief that Sikhs are part of Hindus. The World Hindu Congress further enlightened me and strengthened my conviction. My earnest desire is, in India, Sanskrit should be taught to children at a very young age so they learn about Vedic, Spiritual and Scientific knowledge that Hindus gave to the world 5000 years ago - a rightful matter of pride."

The third World Hindu Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from Nov. 4 to 6, 2022. The theme will be "Victory of dharma, not adharma."

Indian Origin Assailants of Akali...

in connection with assault on Akali Dal leader Manjit Singh GK in a Yuba City Sikh Temple on August 25.

Manjit Singh GK was attacked amid chants of 'Khalistan Zindabad' by pro-Khalistan supporters in Yuba City in Northern California on August 25 where he had gone to pay obeisance to the Sikh Guru Granth Sahib.

Releasing a statement immediately after the incident, Manjit Singh GK said, "I had come to Yuba city Gurudwara with other devotees. We had come here to pay our obeisance. Around 20-25 men entered the Gurudwara premises and attacked me. Considering the situation and respecting the sanctity of the Gurudwara I told my supporter to not react to such elements. Despite the brutality with which they have attacked me, I am absolutely fine". Earlier in August, Manjit Singh GK was attacked by a group of Khalistan supporters. The first incident took place in New York where he and his family members were attacked. Minutes after the incident,

Manjit Singh posted the video of the incident which took place when he had come out of a TV studio after participating in a debate.

"A group of people attacked me and my relatives in New York. This will not scare me away from my path to serve the community. I have fought, and I will fight till my last breath. Such cowardly incidents do not scare me," Manjit Singh tweeted.

Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal has alleged that the men who were behind the attacks have links with Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI. She also added that these attackers enjoy the support of senior Congress leader and the accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, Jagdish Tytler.

"Heads of 'Sikhs for Justice' who are direct beneficiaries of ISI, and who work on their orders and are supported by those who are in direct touch with the likes of Jagdish Tytler, and Jasbir Singh and his son Gagandeep Singh, were seen attacking him (Manjit Singh GK). Jasbir Singh is the same person who has spent three months in jail for trying to intimidate an eyewitness against Jagdish Tytler in the 1984 massacre", she said.

Inferno in Boston after...

from some 50 departments raced for hours from one blaze to another and utility crews rushed to shut off gas and electricity in the area to prevent further ignitions.

Police drove up and down streets with bull horns telling residents to vacate their homes immediately.

Fire investigators suspected "over-pressurization of a gas main" belonging to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts led to the series of explosions and fires, Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield told a news conference.

Columbia Gas, a unit of the utility giant NiSource Inc (NI.N), announced earlier on Thursday that it would be upgrading gas lines in neighborhoods across the state, including the area where the explosions occurred. However, it was not immediately known whether any work was being done in those communities at the time.

"Columbia Gas is investigating what happened on its system today," NiSource spokesman Ken Stammen said.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) said it was sending a team to support the state's emergency response efforts.

The former head of the agency, Brigham McCown, called the series of gas explosions "unprecedented, at least in recent memory."

"I can't think of a series of natural gas-related incidents like this," McCown, who led PHMSA under President George W. Bush, told Reuters by telephone. "We have had similar issues on a much smaller scale."

He said the National Transportation Safety Board was also sending a team headed by its chairman, Robert Sumwalt, to investigate the disaster.

Live TV images showed firefighters battling blazes in the former mill towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, about 25 miles (40 km) north of the Massachusetts capital.

The streets were darkened after nightfall with power cut off to the area as a precaution.

Lawrence General Hospital said on its Facebook page it treated 13 people for injuries ranging from smoke inhalation to blast trauma. One of those patients, who was in critical condition, was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Officials told Reuters that patient later died.

At least three people, including one firefighter, were hurt in Andover, the town said in a statement, but it was unclear whether any of those individuals were among the patients treated in Lawrence, some of whom were later released.

"This has been an overwhelming event," Mansfield told reporters, saying that fire companies responding to blazes were putting one house fire out only to discover another house on fire as they finished their work. "This event is not over tonight. This event will probably go on."

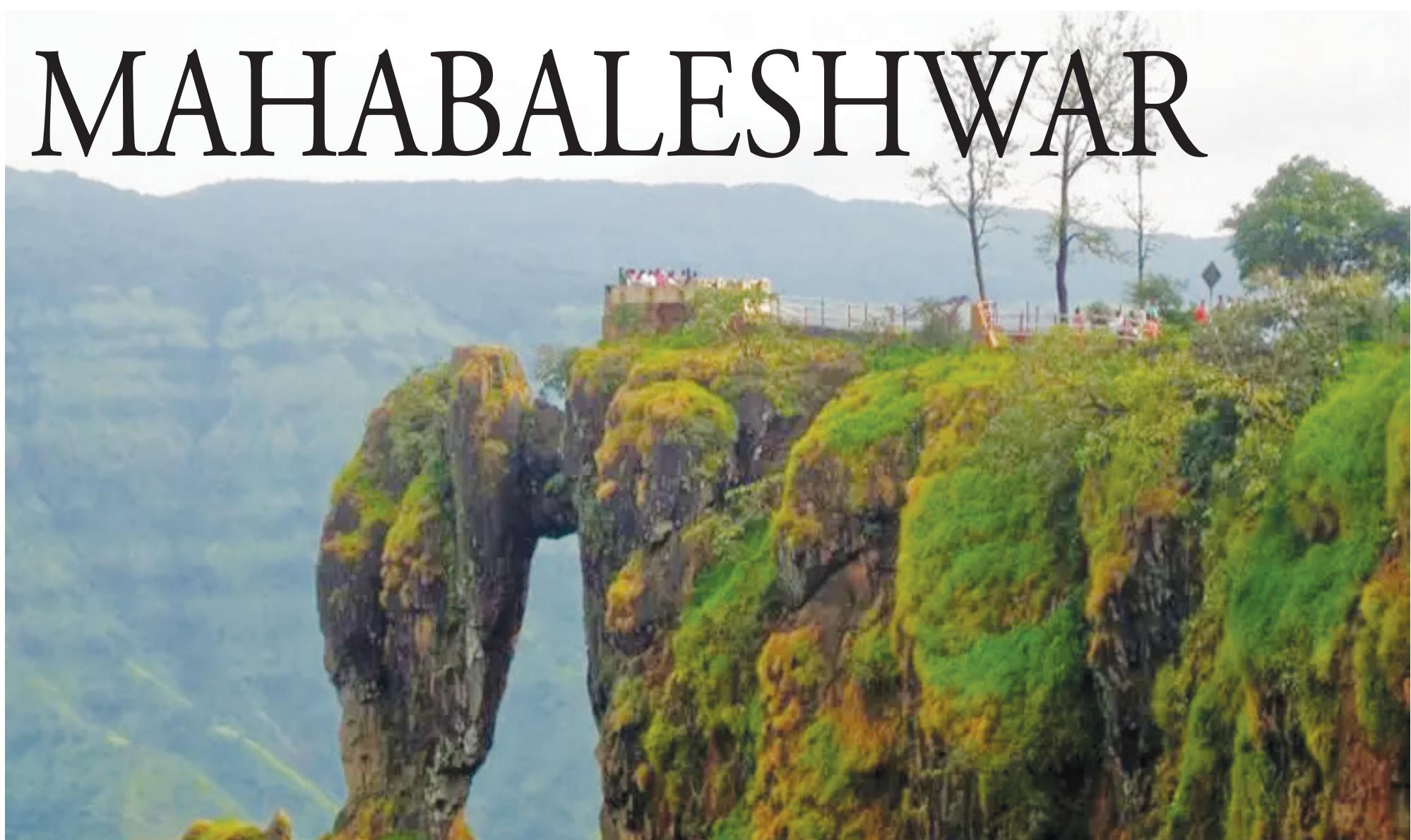
State police urged residents served by Columbia Gas to evacuate their homes. Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera said residents in the southern part of the city had been asked to leave their homes whether or not they were Columbia Gas customers, due to planned power cuts.

Nirupama Rao to join Columbia...

in the Indian foreign service, she was the nation's first female ambassador to China. Since retiring from the diplomatic corps in 2013, Rao has served as a fellow or visiting scholar at Brown University, the New School, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. "SIPA is fortunate to welcome Ambassador Nirupama Rao as our Ball Professor," said Dean Merit E. Janow.

**Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news**

MAHABALESHWAR



Mahabaleshwar, a beautiful hill station, situated in the Western Ghats Range of Maharashtra, is the evergreen forest that calls out to those who love nature. This used to be the capital of Bombay Province during the British regime, is a beautiful plateau surrounded by hills and also the origin point of River Krishna. It is a perfect place for the nature lovers as well as the honeymoon couple along with an ideal destination for youngsters and budget travellers as well.

VENNA LAKE

Surrounded by tall trees and greenery, the Venna Lake in Mahabaleshwar is one of the most popular tourist attractions in town. Paddle your way across the lake and enjoy the sight of lush greenery enveloping the waters.. Along the banks of the lake are different street food stalls where you can grab a bite. Watching the sun set into the waters while sitting on a boat is the best way to spend your evening here.

Every hill station has its own lake and Mahabaleshwar is not an exception. Be it for boating and picnics or just to explore the beauty of the lake, this is one of the must see places in Mahabaleshwar. The waters of the Lingamala Waterfalls located close by overflows into the lake. You can plan a half a day trip to the waterfalls and feel its force during the monsoons.

Translating to mean 'God of Great Power' in Sanskrit, Mahabaleshwar is a favourite hill destination with Maharashtrians. Once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj, it offers visitors a perfect blend of modernity with old-world charm. Aside from being abound with natural beauty, there's lots you can do here to keep entertained.

All parts of the hill station are accessible by car, so getting around is no problem, and if you're feeling adventurous, just climb onto a horse and get going. Make your way to Malcolm Peth, the bazaar at the heart of Mahabaleshwar, which has a good mix of

hotels, shops and restaurants. Visit Mount Malcolm which was built in 1829 and once served as the Governor's residence, Moraji Castle which was home to Mahatma Gandhi back in 1945, and wind down at the Mahabaleshwar Club in the evening over drinks. During the day you can take the short drive up to Venna Lake and go boating or fishing, and proceed a little further down to Panchgani, and walk through the strawberry fields.

MAPRO GARDENS

For a sight (and taste!) of juicy, positively divine berries visit Mapro Gardens, situated en route to Panchgani. Not only are various jams and preserves manufactured and sold here, but you can also treat yourself to fresh salads and juices. The Gardens also host the annual Strawberry Festival where you can get your hands on some farm-fresh strawberries.

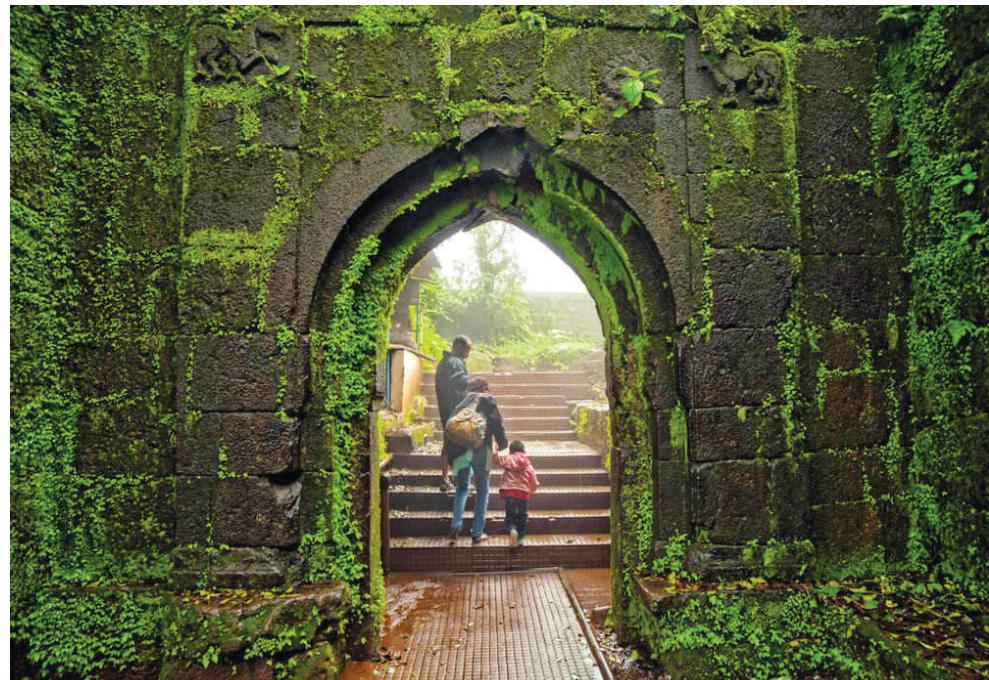
CAMEL AND HORSE RIDING

Traversing through lesser known trails is best when you're perched up on a horse or camel. If you're one for literally taking the reins of your adventure, then this should definitely be on your list. Most hotels provide guests easy access to horse rides. Camels and horses are in abundance at Echo Point in Mahabaleshwar and can be booked for short or long rides.

CONNAUGHT PEAK

Initially known as Mount Olympia, this peak was renamed the Connaught Peak, after the Duke of Connaught visited this spot and literally fell in love with its beauty. The second highest peak in Mahabaleshwar, it offers trekkers great views and thrilling adventures.

So strap on your bags and get ready to walk through the valleys of Mahabaleshwar. The Pratapgad Fort, Venna Lake and the Krishna Valley are clearly visible from here, and will steal your breath away with their distant magnificence.



FORMER INDIA HOCKEY CAPTAIN SARDAR SINGH CALLS IT A DAY

Former India hockey captain Sardar Singh on Wednesday announced his retirement from the sport, saying he had played enough in the last 12 years and now it's time for the youngsters to take over.

Sardar decided to quit after a disappointing Asian Games campaign where India failed to defend its title and returned with a bronze medal.

Sardar was on Wednesday dropped from the 25-member core group for the upcoming national camp, which will begin from September 16 in Bhubaneswar.

With age and speed not on his side any more, Sardar's performance in the Games came under the scanner.

"I took the decision after consultation with my family in Chandigarh, Hockey India and my friends. I think it's the right time to think about life beyond hockey," he added.

Interestingly, during the Asian Games in Jakarta, Sardar said he still has hockey left in him and desires to play one last Olympics in 2020 Tokyo.

However, he had a change of heart amid speculation that he was forced to retire after his name was dropped from the 25-strong core group of national campers announced by the Hockey India Wednesday.

Asked about the dropping from the camp, Sardar evaded the question and said he would formally announce his retirement during a press conference in the national capital on 14 September.

Sardar made his senior debut for India against Pakistan in 2006 and since then he has been a vital cog in the Indian team's midfield.

The 32-year-old made over 350 international appearances for India and captained the national team for eight long years from 2008 to 2016 before handing the responsibility to PR Sreejesh.

Sardar was also the youngest player to captain the Indian team when he led the



side at the 2008 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. He received the Arjuna award in 2012 and Padma Shri in 2015.

Sardar has represented India in two Olympics. Sardar will leave behind a rich legacy in the sport. A fighter to the core, he came back strongly after being dropped from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games squad. He worked hard on his fitness to roar back into the national team for the Champions Trophy, where India won a silver medal.

With age, he slowed down a bit but Sardar still is considered as one of the fittest players in the Indian team.

"Fitness is not the reason behind my

decision. I am fit enough to play hockey for some more years. But there is always a time for everything and I feel it's time for me to move on in life," he said.

Sardar said he has conveyed his decision to chief coach Harendra Singh, adding he will continue to play hockey in the domestic circuit.

Hailing from Sirsa in Haryana, Sardar's career was not devoid of controversy either.

Sardar was accused of rape by an Indian-origin British woman, a charge which he vehemently denied and was also given a clean chit by the special investigation team of Ludhiana Police.

CWG gold medallist Sanjita Chanu's B sample tests positive

NEW DELHI (TIP): Commonwealth Games gold medallist lifter Sanjita Chanu's 'B' sample has also tested positive, putting paid to her hopes of fighting her case based on an 'administrative lapse' the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) made in naming her exact sample no. in their communication.

In a letter to the Indian Weightlifting Federation and Sanjita Chanu, IWF legal counsel Eva Nyirfa on Tuesday informed them of the 'B' sample also returning positive.

"You are required to inform us latest until 18 September whether the Athlete wishes to request a hearing before the IWF Hearing Panel," Nyirfa wrote.

While Sanjita has agreed to appear for hearing to 'prove her innocence,' she has also requested IWF to provide the complete laboratory documentation package of her Sample B analysis. IWF said it has forwarded the request to the laboratory.

The Manipur lifter, who failed an out-of-competition dope test for anabolic steroid (testosterone) in November 2017 prior to World Championship in Las Vegas in USA, was provisionally suspended and is now staring at a four year suspension if prove guilty during hearing.

Her A sample positive report came only on May 15, after she had participated in the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast and won a gold medal in women's 53kg category.

Since the disclosure, Sanjita has claimed innocence. Her claims gained ground when it came to light that the international body in its communication to the Indian national federation on May 15 referred to two different sample numbers (sample no. 1599000 and sample no. 1599176) while informing about Chanu's doping offence. IWF mentioned sample code number 1599000 as the one collected on November 17 last year at Las Vegas while sample code 1599176 was mentioned in the results section.

Sanjita wrote to IWF, seeking a probe into the issue. She also sent a letter to the PMO and the sports ministry to look into her case, which was then directed to NADA.

The IWF replying to the clarification sought by NADA admitted to the 'administrative mistake' but also stressed that Chanu's sample had tested positive. *Source: HT*



Shastri wants warm-up games before Australia series

NEW DELHI (TIP): Their decision of not playing enough warm-up games ahead of the England tour questioned, India's head coach Ravi Shastri now says they have requested the BCCI to arrange for a couple of practice matches before the Australia tour kicks off later this year.

Ahead of the five-Test series, which it lost 1-4 to England, India played just one warm-up game. Even the lone four-day practice match against county side Essex was reduced to three days amid high drama over the condition of the pitch and the outfield, both of which apparently left the visitors unhappy.

On Thursday, Shastri said he was not averse to the idea of playing practice games.

"Absolutely not. Why would we be? You can only see the results (in the England Tests). Every time after the second Test we have improved. You can still get better. But why can't we be in that position in the first Test match?", he was quoted as saying by 'ESPNcricinfo'.

Shastri, though, was doubtful if practice games for the tour Down Under could be arranged due to a crammed schedule.



"If you have two or three games against weaker sides we don't mind because it is a game. But when you have a schedule as tight as this and when you have a memorandum of understanding that has already been formulated, with a choc-a-block calendar, there is very little you can do. Now, we have requested for a couple of games in Australia before the Test series. But is there space (to play those matches)? That is the question," he wondered.

India captain Virat Kohli had defended their decision of not playing enough warm-up games, saying such matches weren't always useful as oppositions were often of poor quality and pitches not similar to the ones prepared for the Test matches.

India's Australia tour will start with a three-match T20I series, beginning November 21.

"Ideally we would want two three- or four-day games before a Test series. But do you have the time? For example, we have a T20 series in Australia preceding the Test series. There is a 10-day gap before the first Test. These are things that have been approved earlier. It is not in our control." *Source: PTI*



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