

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

DEEPAVALI
Festival of Lights

Special Edition

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Articles and advertisements are invited for Deepavali Special edition of The Indian Panorama. Please email to editor@theindianpanorama.com & salujaindra@gmail.com

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UN Day celebrated with the theme "traditions of peace and non-violence"

East Meets West Concert with Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan, Bangash brothers and The Refugee Orchestra Project Enthrall

I.S. SALUJA

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): UN Day was celebrated at United Nations General Assembly Hall with a Concert, Oct 24. UN Day marks the anniversary of the coming into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. The day has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan, his sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, and the Refugee Orchestra Project, with Lidiya Yankovskaya, conductor and Artistic Director, enthralled the audience with a memorable musical performance. The theme of the Concert was "traditions of peace and non-violence".

contd on Page 2



The UN Day Concert for peace and non-violence. Seen in front, from L to R: Amaan Ali Bangash, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Bangash
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

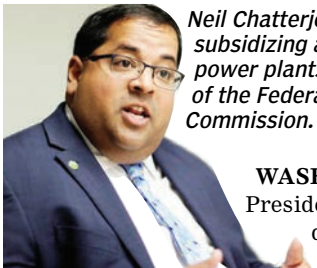
Bombs reach top U.S. porches: Trump calls for more civility in politics

Speaking at a Wednesday, October 24 night rally in Wisconsin, Mr. Trump vowed to catch the perpetrator and called on the media to "stop endless hostility".



WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has called on people to be more civil in politics, after a series of suspected explosives were sent to high-profile U.S. figures just days ahead of the mid-term polls. contd on Page 20

INDIAN-AMERICAN PICKED FOR US ENERGY AGENCY



Neil Chatterjee, an avid supporter of subsidizing ageing coal and nuclear power plants, has been named chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has designated Indian-American contd on Page 20

CIA director Gina Haspel briefs Trump on Khashoggi investigation

WASHINGTON (TIP): CIA Director Gina Haspel on Thursday briefed President Donald Trump on the investigations related to US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was brutally killed inside Saudi Arabia's Istanbul

contd on Page 20



CIA Director, Gina Haspel (left) returned from Turkey last night. In Turkey, she met with officials involved in the investigations of the murder of the Saudi journalist Khashoggi (right)

Details of offset partners will be known when procurement begins: Defense Minister Sitharaman



"Dassault and two or three companies are participating in the supply of Rafale. So each one of them will have an offset obligation to be fulfilled", Sitharaman said.

MUMBAI (TIP): Denying any cronyism in the Rafale fighter aircraft deal, Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Thursday, October 25, contd on Page 20

Richardson Residents 'Astonished' after Campaign Signs in Yard Burned

RICHARDSON, TEXAS (TIP): Some Richardson residents say they are astonished after someone burned two political campaign signs in their front yard after 11:00 p.m. Monday, October 22.

In all, the Richardson Fire Department says five different signs were torched in the Heights neighborhood, which is west of Central Expressway and south of Arapaho.

One of the homeowners whose signs were burned is Chris Terry who said she and her wife Michael Graffeo were surprised when a man rang their door bell Monday night to alert them.

Terry says she remembers thinking, "Steal the sign, but don't light it on fire when there's a possibility that other things could catch on fire. But you know, I think it's a reflection that we're so polarized."

Fire Chief Curtis Poovey said no one was hurt.

The signs that were lit on fire were for Beto O'Rourke, the



Johnson is writing a book about social media and rhetoric in politics.

"People need to realize that there are consequences wherever we burn signs, that it's not ok. We need to start having conversations."

She says those conversations should not include any yelling, but rather, be cordial.

(Source: CBSDFW.COM)

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NEW YORK- DALLAS

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We are looking for marketing persons for The Indian Panorama print editions and the web portal at a couple of locations which include Long Island, Queens, Manhattan and Buffalo in New York, Jersey City and Edison in New Jersey, Stamford in Connecticut, Atlanta in Georgia, Houston and Dallas in Texas, and Chicago in Illinois.

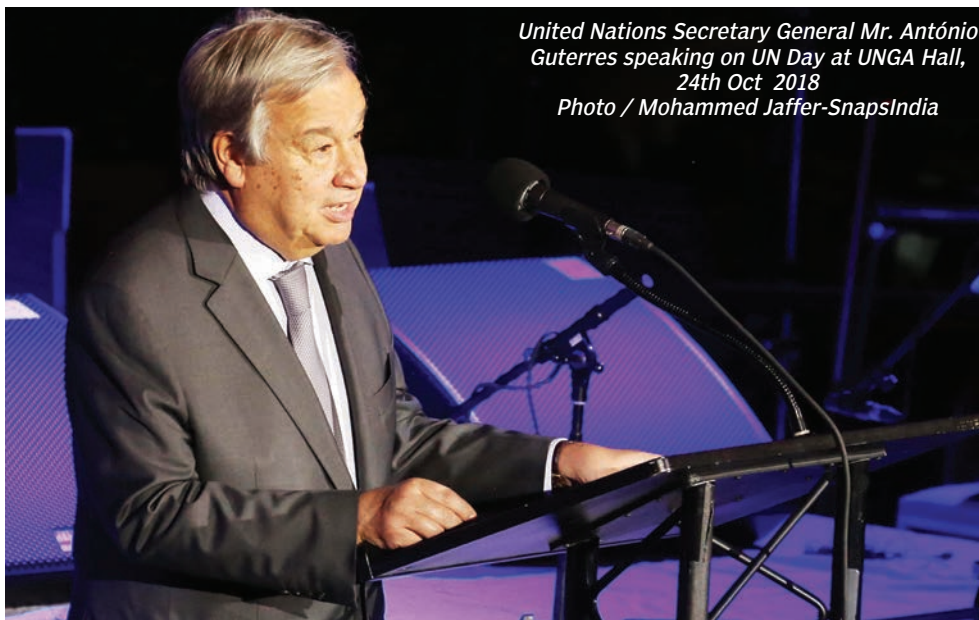
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UN Day celebrated with the theme "traditions of peace and non-violence"



United Nations Secretary General Mr. António Guterres speaking on UN Day at UNGA Hall, 24th Oct 2018
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

The program, meticulously crafted by Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, hosts to the UN Day Concert, could not have offered a better fare.

Much before the time for the program to begin, the UNGA Hall was packed. Under Secretary-General for Global Communications Ms. Alison Smale welcomed the gathering and made introductory remarks.

UNGA Secretary General Mr. Antonio

Guterres in his brief remarks wished all a happy UN day and spoke of aspirations and hopes of people across the world. He said there are discriminations, human rights violations, women's rights issues- and many more issues which need to be dealt with. He called upon the world to continue efforts to resolve the issues and urged people never to give up. "Don't give up".

He recalled his recent visit to India where, he said, "I had the opportunity to pay respects to world's greatest leader-Mahatma Gandhi".



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin speaking on the occasion
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

He referred to Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace and non-violence which he said, was the theme of UN Day celebrations this year.

The Secretary General thanked Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations for supporting the concert.

He extended a word of welcome to performers.

A video message of President of the United Nations General Assembly Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces was played. In her message, the UNGA President said it was a day of celebration. Recalling the great message of Mahatma Gandhi, she spoke of a need to prefer dialogue over conflict. She spoke of empowerment of people of the whole world. "Let us celebrate the Day with hope", she said.

She thanked the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) for supporting the celebration.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said, "Every year on Oct 24 we celebrate in this common hall the coming in to being of the United Nations". He said the UN Day concert is a celebration of common values of humanity. He spoke of the desire of the people of the world for liberty and equality. He then quoted Rabindra Nath Tagore.

"Where the mind is without fear and the head held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action;

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake."

Speaking about the Concert, Mr. Akbaruddin said, "Music uplifts. Music gives courage and hope. Music of India is indicative of our tradition".

The Ambassador described Ustad Amjad Ali Khan as a charismatic musician with a long musical heritage. He welcomed the performers who included, besides Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, his two sons, Amaan Ali Bangash, Ayaan Ali Bangash, and The Refugee Orchestra Project, conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya.

In his remarks, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan recalled the concert on October 2, 2018, to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, in New Delhi where he had performed, and said it was a pleasure and honor to be associated with the celebrations. He referred to the presence at the concert of President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, and of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Speaking about music, the maestro said, "music is universal and unifying".

As part of tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his sons played the favorite bhajans of Mahatma Gandhi, which included, Vaisnav Jan... and a Ram Dhun which was very dear to Gandhi.

Next came Samaagam-a confluence of the East and the West. It was a Sarod concerto. The Refugee Orchestra Project conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya and the Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan with his sons and the table player cast a magic spell. Their music sent the audience in to a trance. The 90-minute concert was an experience to be savored and treasured.



A Panoramic view of the performers at the concert, with Lidiya Yankovskaya (back to camera) conducting the Orchestra.

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



A view of the gathering
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

Indian American Entrepreneur Venkat Srinivasan creates \$100 million VC firm

BOSTON (TIP): Indian American entrepreneur Venkat Srinivasan has launched a \$100 million venture capital firm to promote startups working in the area of artificial intelligence.

The launch of Innospark Ventures comes more than a year after he sold RAGE Frameworks, which develops AI-based automation technology and software for data aggregation, analytics and task.

Innospark, based in Boston, will primarily invest in AI-driven startups and ventures that are focused in the areas of life sciences, business services, education and cybersecurity, and located around Boston, Cambridge and New England.

The firm plans to provide capital and support "at all stages of the innovation and entrepreneurship lifecycle" and will "take a patient and proactive approach to investing," according to a press release issued by the new company.

"The current wave of AI is still in its early innings, and we are likely to see new architectures emerge for AI which will address the challenges of transparency, context, causality and noisy data," said Srinivasan, who will serve as the Managing Director of the company. "The Innospark team believes this creates enormous opportunities for startups to play a role in shaping the ecosystem of tomorrow."

The release said, though a plethora of companies are exploring in artificial intelligence technology, not many firms are engaged in its application and product



development.

"We are thrilled by the opportunity to create a friendly and open local community for entrepreneurs navigating through the challenges of applying AI successfully," said Sophie Meralli, an associate at Innospark.

"The principals invest their own money and are fully aligned with each and every entrepreneur the fund invests in," the release said. "They believe that high-impact innovation can take several years, and their capital has no fixed time horizon."

Innospark is the culmination of Srinivasan's decades-long interest and expertise in artificial intelligence and computational algorithm.

In addition to RAGE, Srinivasan has founded and exited from a number of companies, including AI-based firms eCredit and Corporate Fundamentals. Another company he founded, EnglishHelper, uses artificial intelligence to address literacy challenges.

Srinivasan, who holds a bachelor's degree from Delhi University and a PhD from the University of Cincinnati's College of Business, is an academic-turned entrepreneur. He quit a tenured faculty position at the Northeastern University's Business School to become an entrepreneur.

In a June 2017 interview, Srinivasan told the American Bazaar that he didn't "find much difference in being a professor" and his "brand of entrepreneurship."

"My work is very innovation-centric; we are always innovating something radically new and different. And in that sense, it is similar to the research I loved doing when I was in the academe," he said.

Srinivasan, who holds several patents in the area of knowledge-based technology architectures, also talked about how he ended up creating his first company. "When I was a professor, I had the opportunity to be a consultant for a number of Fortune 500 firms like Apple and at some point, I decided that what my clients needed was an expert system [AI]," he said. "I proceeded to build it. That eventually led to my first company."

Srinivasan is a member of the Board of Directors and Trustees of the American India Foundation's Boston chapter.

Indian American Woman Awarded at White House for Combatting Human Trafficking



Minal Patel Davis has been honored with a Presidential award by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards combatting human trafficking in Houston.

HOUSTON, TX (TIP): Indian American Minal Patel Davis has been honored with a Presidential award by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards combatting human trafficking in Houston.

Davis, Special Advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, received the 'Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking' in the White House last week at a ceremony also attended by President Donald Trump.

"It was unbelievable," said Ms Davis after winning the award, the country's highest honor in the field.

"My parents came here from India. I was the first one in my family born in the United States, so to end up in the Mayor's office a few years ago, and then to now end up in the White House, it was unbelievable," she said.

Appointed in July 2015, Ms Davis has made a local impact on human trafficking in America's fourth largest city from a policy-level perspective and by helped in advancing systems change.

She is currently implementing Mayor Turner's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategic Plan, which is the first comprehensive municipal response to human trafficking by a US city.

Ms Davis has spoken at several local, national and international panels and presented Houston city's approach.

She is a past speaker at the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit and recently travelled to India and Canada at the request of the State Department to discuss municipal leadership in trafficking with the government officials. She did her MBA from the University of Connecticut and BA from New York University.

Indian Americans Named in Time Magazine's 'Health Care 50' List

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Americans have been named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in the US.

The three Indian Americans included in the list are Divya Nag, Dr Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande.

To put together the list, Time's team of health editors and reporters nominated people who made significant contributions to the state of healthcare in America this year.

The publication then evaluated their work on originality, impact and quality. The list was broken up into four separate categories, including public health, treatments, cost and technology.

The list included physicians, scientists, business and political leaders, whose work is transforming healthcare.

At not even 30, Divya Nag is leading Apple's special projects focusing on health. Ms Nag's team developed ResearchKit, an open-source app developer for doctors and researchers to share patient results and clinical data, and this fall it announced groundbreaking new tools for the Apple Watch: the Series 4 includes an emergency response system, in case the wearer falls and doesn't respond, and a medical-grade EKG heart-rate monitor.

A Harvard Medical School professor who came to the US as a refugee from Liberia, Raj Panjabi co-founded Last Mile Health to recruit and train community health workers in areas that lack local health services. Last Mile's efforts were crucial in fighting Ebola from 2014 to 2016, and now Mr Panjabi is building Community Health Academy, a mobile platform for training health care workers remotely through video and audio instruction

Atul Gawande was tapped to lead a new nonprofit health care venture that will cover the more than 1 million employees of Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JPMorgan Chase. Though few details are public, it's said to focus on transparent, low-cost corporate health care.

"The American health care system has been plagued for decades by major problems, from lack of access to uncontrolled costs to unacceptable rates of medical errors," the Time editors wrote in a report unveiling the list. And yet, real as those issues remain, the field has also given rise to extraordinary innovation," the editors added.



Divya Nag, Dr Raj Panjabi and Atul Gawande have been named in the Time magazine's 2018 list of the 50 most influential people whose work is transforming healthcare in the US

Indian-Origin Sikh Man Racially Targeted in Australia

MELBOURNE (TIP): Indian-origin Sikh man running for the city council in Australia has been racially targeted by a man in a truck shouting racial slurs at a life-sized cut-out made from one of his election placards, according to a media report.

Sunny Singh, a Port Augusta City Council nominee, said a social media video targeting his race is the first time he has experienced racism in the local community, media reported.

He was attacked in a video posted to a national trucking Facebook page. The video shows a man in a truck directing racial slurs at a life-sized cut-out made from one of Mr Singh's election placards, which is eventually run over by the truck, the report said. "I was a little upset and shocked because I'd never even seen this man before, never met him, I don't know why he did it," Mr Singh was quoted as saying by the report.

"I was amazed how welcoming the people of Port Augusta were when I came here. This is the first time this has happened here." He said the Port Augusta community had rallied behind him. "This morning I saw Facebook and I saw hundreds of messages and comments supporting me," Mr Singh said. South Australian Attorney-General Vicki Chapman has described the footage as "disturbing" and "on the face of it, racist conduct".

"We are a state that has a very proud history of democracy. Our government is completely behind maintaining that and the right for people to stand for public office. "I just want to say to other candidates in the local government elections, thank you for standing." Port Augusta mayor Sam Johnson said he was shocked by the violence and racism in the video. "Appalled, absolutely appalled, gutted, outrageous - in today's society, what would possess anyone to do that? Clearly a lot of effort was put into that," Mr Johnson said. Mr Johnson said the Indian community and the Sikh church contributed greatly to the Port Augusta community and economy.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news



Sunny Singh, a Port Augusta City Council nominee, said a social media video targeting his race is the first time he has experienced racism in the local community, media reported.

Trump may send US troops to Mexico border, but migrants undeterred

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump's administration may send up to 1,000 active-duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border, officials said on Thursday, as Trump hammered away at the issue of illegal immigration two weeks ahead of congressional elections. Trump's threat was sparked by the advance of a caravan of Central American migrants trekking through Mexico, headed toward the United States.

"I am bringing out the military for this National Emergency. They will be stopped!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

But the migrants appeared undeterred on Thursday night as several thousand of them bedded down more than 1,000 miles (1,610 km) from the US border, in the town of Pijijiapan in Mexico's southern Chiapas state, after hiking hours from their last stop.

"Whatever Trump may say, he's not going to hold us back," said Denis Omar Contreras, a caravan organizer from Honduras, who plans to help lead the group to northern Mexico. Many said the fear of returning to a violent homeland loomed larger than the president's threats.

"We've come fleeing our country. If we return to Honduras, the gangs will probably kill us," he said.

Trump and his fellow Republicans have sought to make the caravan and immigration into major issues before the Nov. 6 elections, in which Republicans are battling to keep control of Congress. Trump, who has maintained a hard line on immigration since taking office last year, is considering a plan to ban entry of migrants at the southern border and deny them asylum, according to media reports. The reports offered few details. A White House official said "a wide range of administrative, legal and legislative options" were being considered, but that no decisions had been made. The possibility of executive action to lock out any migrants in the caravan and the likely positioning of more soldiers at the U.S. border with Mexico could energize Trump supporters at the ballot box. Any ban would face likely legal challenges.

US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in an interview with Fox News Channel that her department had asked the Pentagon for help to bolster its capabilities as it polices the border, including asking for "some air support ... some logistics, planning, vehicle barriers, engineering." The DHS request could require deploying between 800 and 1,000 active-duty troops, two U.S. officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The U.S. military is prohibited from carrying out civilian law enforcement on American soil unless specifically authorized by Congress. There are currently 2,100 National Guardsmen along the border, but the DHS request could lead to the first large-scale deployment of active-duty U.S. military forces to support the border protection mission under Trump.

'GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY'

"To those in the Caravan, turnaround, we are not letting people into the United States illegally. Go back to your Country and if you want, apply for citizenship like millions of others are doing!" Trump tweeted on Thursday. "We feel like he's not human," said Carlos Fernandez, a 39-year-old bricklayer, speaking by phone from the Guatemala-Mexico border after traveling since last Friday from the crime-racked city of San Pedro Sula in Honduras. "If someone migrates to the United States, it's to work, and working is not a crime," he said. More than 1,000 people arrived in Guatemala on Monday, part of a second caravan, but have since divided into smaller groups to push on northward. (Reuters)

Donald Trump denies that China, Russia monitor his personal cellphone calls

According to US intelligence, China intends to use what it is learning from Trump's personal calls - for instance, what the president's thinking is, what arguments he is considering and who he is listening to - to its benefit in the current bilateral trade dispute.

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump on Thursday denied that China and Russia have tapped his personal cellphone, a report made public by The New York Times, which said that the president continues to use that device despite warnings from the intelligence services.

"The New York Times has a new Fake Story that now the Russians and Chinese (glad they finally added China) are listening to all of my calls on cellphones," said Trump on his official Twitter account.

"Except that I rarely use a cellphone, & when I do it's government authorized. I like Hard Lines. Just more made up Fake News!" the President added.

Trump made his Twitter comments after the New York daily on Wednesday published a story saying that Chinese and Russian spies were "routinely eavesdropping" on the phone calls he makes from his personal cellphone, Efe reported.

The New York Times, citing top government officials, said that despite warnings from US intelligence services, the president so far has refused to exchange his personal cellphone for more secure communications methods, although that has been strongly recommended to him.

According to US intelligence, China intends to use what it is learning from Trump's personal calls - for instance, what



the president's thinking is, what arguments he is considering and who he is listening to - to its benefit in the current bilateral trade dispute.

Among the people to whom Trump allegedly has spoken using that phone are the CEO of investment bank Blackstone Group, Stephen A. Schwarzman, and casino magnate Steve Wynn, who have ties to Beijing, according to the daily.

One of China's aims, according to these reports, is to influence Trump's environment

and contacts.

US intelligence agents say - according to The Times - that Trump takes electronic security very lightly and does not limit his communications to secure devices that he has access to as president.

According to these reports, the president has three personal cellphones, two of which have been altered by the National Security Agency to modify their functions, but the third is a completely normal cellphone with the standard vulnerabilities. (IANS)

13 seniors among 48 Google employees sacked over allegations of sexual harassment

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Google announced that it has fired 48 employees for sexual harassment during the past two years and sent them away without severance packages, hours after a news report that it had protected some male executives facing sexual misconduct allegations and offered them large sums to leave the company.

The surprise disclosure Thursday came in an email to Google employees from CEO Sundar Pichai. It was a direct response to a New York Times report that the company had dismissed the executive in charge of its Android software for sexual misconduct in 2014 and paid him handsomely to leave.

A spokesman for Andy Rubin, the former Android executive, said he left on his own accord and has never been informed of any accusations of sexual misconduct. Rubin acknowledges having consensual sexual relationships with Google employees that didn't report to him, adhering to the boundaries drawn by Google policy at that time, according to the spokesman, Sam Singer.

The Times story was based on unidentified

people and court documents, including some filed in an ongoing divorce between Rubin and his wife. The Times reported that Google also protected two other executives accused of sexual misconduct, ousting one with a severance package while retaining another.

In his email, Pichai said Google adopted tougher policies in 2015. Those rules require all of Google's vice presidents and senior vice presidents to disclose any relationship with an employee, even if they don't work in the same department or have any other potential conflict. Although Pichai didn't directly address the allegations against Rubin and other executives, he conceded the Times story "was difficult to read" and did not dispute it.

In an apparent attempt to assure employees that things had changed since Rubin's departure, Pichai said 13 of the 48 workers that Google had fired for violating the company's sexual harassment policies were either senior managers or executives. None of those 13 received severance packages, Pichai wrote.

"We are dead serious about making sure we

provide a safe and inclusive workplace," Pichai wrote.

Despite Pichai's reassurances, the revelations about sexual harassment are a setback for a 20-year-old company that adopted "Don't Be Evil" as its motto early in its existence and now embraces "do the right thing" as its creed under the umbrella of its holding company, Alphabet Inc.

The bombshells are also another troubling example of a Silicon Valley culture that for decades has relied heavily on male engineers, some of whom still behave like fraternity boys attending a keg party in college.

The phenomenon led to this year's release of "Brotopia: Breaking Up The Boys Club of Silicon Valley," a book by Emily Chang that delves into the stories of women who say they have been sexually harassed at tech companies and venture capital firms.

Allegations of sexual misconduct also have resulted in the resignations of venture capitalists and executives and triggered an ongoing overhaul at ride-hailing company, Uber. (AP)

'Continuing inequality': UN chief decries failure to bring women into peacemaking

Guterres noted that almost 90 countries signed up to speak on Thursday, "but there is a significant gap between what we say in this chamber, and what we do outside."

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday decried the failure to bring women into peacemaking, pointing to statistics showing that between 1990 and 2017, women constituted only 8 per cent of negotiators and 5 per cent of witnesses and signatories to major peace processes. He told the UN Security Council Thursday that at the heart of these statistics — which also include only 2 per cent of mediators in conflicts being female — is the continuing inequality between men and women.

Guterres said a recent study by the UN and World Bank provides convincing evidence linking gender equality and peace — and he urged all countries to invest in promoting the equality and empowerment of women, which he stressed is also critical to preventing and ending conflicts and building "peace and prosperity in the world for all."

Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, who heads the UN agency promoting equality for women, said: "Women cannot be excluded from the peace process simply because they do not go into battle."

According to a 2015 study of 156 peace agreements by the International Peace Institute, a New York think tank, "when women are included in peace processes, there is a 20 per cent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least



two years, and a 35 per cent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years."

But Mlambo Ngcuka said the indicators of women's involvement in peacemaking had all "stagnated or dropped" this year.

"Our continued tolerance for the limited recognition of women's expertise and lived experience is shameful," the executive director of UN Women said. Mlambo Ngcuka said only three of 11 peace agreements signed in 2017 had provisions on gender

equality, "continuing last year's worrisome downward trend." And only 25 per cent of the 1,500 agreements signed between 2000 and 2016 included the role of women in implementing peace accords, she said.

Looking at current hotspots, Mlambo Ngcuka said efforts to resume a dialogue in war-battered Yemen don't include women, except in advisory bodies. In Mali, women average "a dismal 3 per cent" on the multiple national committees set up to monitor and implement a 2015 peace agreement, she said.

In Central African Republic, "mediation efforts are focused on the presidency and the 14 armed groups, and exclude women altogether," Mlambo Ngcuka said, and in Afghanistan, "when it comes to actual talks with the Taliban, women's absence is noticeable." The council was meeting to discuss implementation of a landmark UN resolution on women, peace and security adopted in 2000 that calls for women to be included in decision-making positions at every level of peacemaking and peacebuilding.

Guterres noted that almost 90 countries signed up to speak on Thursday, "but there is a significant gap between what we say in this chamber, and what we do outside."

"Every year, we make laudable commitments — but they are not backed with the requisite financial and political support," he said. "We extol the positive influence of women peacebuilders, but provide little space for their participation. We rely heavily on women's organisations, but do not fund them adequately."

Guterres said he has formed a group to take emergency measures to increase the number of women in UN peace operations, stressing that it is "crippling" to the UN's credibility that women represent only 4 per cent of its military peacekeepers and 10 per cent of its international police. (AP)

No one wanted Donald Trump's portrait, so his own charity had to buy it

NEW YORK (TIP): When Donald Trump offered to pay \$10,000 from his personal charitable foundation for a six-foot oil portrait of himself, the future president only meant to "get the bidding started" during a 2014 auction at his Mar-a-Lago resort, his lawyer told a New York judge.

"No one else bid," attorney Alan Futerfas said in a packed Manhattan courtroom on Thursday, so "he's stuck with the painting."

Trump's lawyer offered the account as one of several reasons why New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood's lawsuit against the Donald J. Trump Foundation should be tossed out, arguing that the transactions at the center of the case have innocent explanations or were corrected by the charity.

For example, Futerfas said it was "troubling" that Underwood would focus on a payment that was made to benefit a charity that aids children and young adults with developmental disabilities. He also claims the suit is politically biased, part of an effort by Democrats to undermine Trump's presidency. But Underwood claims in the lawsuit that the nonprofit was little more than Trump's "piggy bank," and that legitimate donations were overshadowed by rampant violations of state charity law and the use of donated funds for business purposes. She's seeking to dissolve the charity and to ban the president from serving on a New York not-for-profit for 10 years. "It is beyond dispute that these were improper self-dealing transactions," Yael Fuchs, a lawyer for the attorney general, said at the hearing. New York State Supreme Court Justice Saliann Scarpulla ended the hearing without making a ruling, after largely shutting down Futerfas's assertions of political bias by Underwood.

"I don't want to get into that," Scarpulla said.

CAMPAIGN FINANCES: The case will instead hinge on Underwood's claims about campaign finance violations and the various transactions by the Trump Foundation, including the portrait acquisition. Underwood alleges that after Trump misused charity cash to buy the painting, he gained further benefit from the work when the Trump Organization hung it on the wall of Trump's hotel in Doral, Florida. "This was improper self-dealing, since foundation money was used to buy a painting to decorate a Trump business property," the attorney general said in a court filing. But Futerfas says the portrait only graced the hotel's walls because staff found it sitting in a storage room and didn't realize it belonged to the charity. Shortly after the election, amid media scrutiny, the hotel returned the painting to the charity and paid it \$185.82 plus interest as a fair rental value. Among the other violations cited was the foundation's involvement in a January 2016 Trump Campaign fundraiser in Iowa. The attorney general alleges the foundation illegally participated in a political campaign by allowing senior campaign staff to dictate how \$2.8 million raised at the event was spent, "all for the purpose of influencing the 2016 presidential election." (Bloomberg)



Supertyphoon Yutu slams into US islands in the Pacific destroying homes

NEW YORK (TIP): A devastating supertyphoon slammed into the Northern Mariana Islands starting late Wednesday, destroying more than 100 homes in what meteorologists said could be the strongest storm to have struck the United States this year.

The Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth in the Pacific Ocean, northeast of Guam, include Saipan, Tinian and Rota. They are home to more than 52,000 people, the vast majority of whom live in Saipan.

The eye of the storm, called Yutu, passed directly over Tinian around 2 a.m. local time Thursday — the islands are 14 hours ahead of the East Coast — with wind speeds reaching 180 mph or more, the equivalent of a Category 5 hurricane.

Edwin K. Propst, a representative in the commonwealth's legislature, said he spent a sleepless night at home with his family on Saipan as the worst of the typhoon passed over.

"Last night, it was like a freight train and a 747 were racing, and you're right in between them," he said in a phone interview Thursday.

As the storm ripped the shutters off his home and broke windows, he eventually retreated into a back room. But after sunrise, he ventured out to survey the damage.

"I visited several constituents who lost it all," he said. "Their homes, their valuables, their prized possessions."

Typhoon warnings were still in effect Thursday morning as reports of the overnight damage rolled in. About 100 homes had been destroyed in Tinian, Brandon Aydllett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said in a phone call from Guam. He added that in Saipan, there were reports of collapsed roofs, fallen power lines and decimated trees.

"I would say this is catastrophic damage," Aydllett said, adding that there had been many requests for emergency shelter and medical care but that he did not have concrete information on the number of casualties.

Melanie Castro, 29, said the power went out Wednesday afternoon in her neighbourhood near Micro Beach on the western side of Saipan. She stayed awake all night as the storm swept through.

"We couldn't sleep because of the noise outside," she said. "The wind was shouting. We were just hiding and praying."

On Thursday morning, she went to the restaurant where she works as a waitress. She saw extensive damage and flooding, and she does not know when the business will reopen. But at least the roof was mostly intact, she said — the roof of the restaurant next door was torn off.

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump declared an emergency in the Northern Mariana Islands and authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin disaster relief efforts.

Some FEMA workers had arrived in the commonwealth by Thursday morning, said Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, the commonwealth's delegate in the House of Representatives, in a series of posts on Twitter. He added that ports were closed, many flights were cancelled, several shelters were filling up, and some health care facilities had been damaged or were running on generator power. He urged residents to stay indoors if possible. (NYT)



Ajit Doval (right) and Rajyavardhan Rathore.

NEED STRONG GOVERNMENT FOR 10 YEARS, ENEMIES ARE WITHIN: AJIT DOVAL

NEW DELHI (TIP): India needs a strong and decisive government for the next ten years to achieve its political and strategic objectives, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said Thursday while warning of a threat to the nation from forces "more within than outside".

Delivering the annual Sardar Patel Memorial Lecture organised by All India Radio, Doval spoke about the dangers posed by "weak governments" and "unstable coalitions", and the need to take "hard decisions" that are "not necessarily populist".

During his nearly hour-long lecture at the National Media Centre, Doval also pointed to the power of information in today's age and warned that "false narratives" could lead to communal riots and social disharmony.

In his lecture titled 'Dream India: 2030, avoiding the pitfalls', Doval said: "There are plenty of forces more within than outside, who probably are bent upon eroding the will of the nation."

The former Intelligence Bureau Director, who took charge as NSA soon after the BJP-led NDA came to power in 2014, also said that "India will need a strong, stable and decisive government for the next ten years, let there be no doubt about it, to achieve our national, political, economic and strategic objectives".

Elaborating on the "pitfalls", Doval said that a "weakened democracy can tend to make the country a soft power". "And India cannot be a soft power for the next few years. It has to become a soft power, with the ingredients of a soft power, but also a hard power. Because it will be compelled to take hard decisions. And you have to make compromises when your political survival takes precedence over national interest," he said.

Three months on, defence review panel on deathbed

NEW DELHI (TIP): A high-powered committee constituted three months ago by the defence ministry to review capital programmes worth at least Rs 500 crore, in order to expedite critical military projects, is likely to be scrapped, according to four officials who are familiar with the development and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The government on July 23 issued orders for constituting an 11-member committee under former bureaucrat Vinay Sheel Oberoi to systematically review critical projects under execution by the defence ministry for their "timely completion in a cost-optimal manner."

The panel, which was supposed to submit its preliminary status report by August 31, and a follow-up report by October 30, has not even met once, said one of the officials cited above. Its term ends in February 2019.

"For all practical purposes, the panel is history now," said an official, although the committee members have been given no further instructions after the July 23 letter.

Hindustan Times accessed the letter by Rear Admiral Kapil Mohan Dhir of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), which is a single-point organisation for jointmanship in the ministry that integrates policy, doctrine, war fighting and military purchases.

"Timely completion of critical design and development, research and development, and other capital projects is a high-priority area for the ministry to achieve the desired operational preparedness and to effectively contribute to Make in India and Skill India programmes," reads the letter, adding that the raksha mantri (defence minister) has approved the constitution of a capital projects review committee with 11 members and two special invitees.

Source: HT

AIRCEL-MAXIS MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED files chargesheet against P Chidambaram

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a chargesheet against former Union minister P. Chidambaram in the Aircel-Maxis money laundering case on Thursday. In addition to Chidambaram, nine others have been accused in the chargesheet - S. Bhaskaraman (chartered accountant of Karti Chidambaram, V. Srinivasan (former CEO of Aircel), Augustus Ralph Marshall (associated with Maxis), Astro All Asia Networks Plc Malaysia, Aircel Televentures Ltd, Maxis Mobile Services Sdn Bhd, Bumi Armada Berhad, Bumi Armada Navigation Sdn Bhd.

The accused are being probed by both the CBI and ED for allegedly conspiring with a foreign firm, Global Communication and Services Holdings Limited, and clearing an illegal Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval. The now defunct FIPB allowed the finance minister to approve foreign investment deals up to only Rs 600 crore, beyond that additional approval needed to be sought by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The Aircel-Maxis deal was allegedly worth over Rs 3,500 crore. The ED had filed a chargesheet against Chidambaram's son Karti earlier this year. Karti Chidambaram had allegedly controlled two firms that had received a bribe of Rs 1.16 crore in connection with the Aircel-Maxis case.

According to the ED, the chargesheet is based on adequate material evidence in the form of email communications retrieved from the seized digital devices from Karti and his associates.

The material evidences reveal routing of proceeds of crime in the guise of bonafide business deals by the beneficiaries of illegal FIPB approval in the companies of Karti. The investigation has revealed the financial linkage of Karti Chidambaram and P Chidambaram with these companies, it said.

"Their are contradictory and evasive responses, in spite of that ED has collected

Why ED has filed charges against ex-minister

What is the case against the Chidambarams?

The father and son are being probed by ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for allegedly receiving kickbacks to ensure Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance for the Aircel-Maxis deal in 2006, when P. Chidambaram was the finance minister. ED said Aircel Televentures Ltd paid Karti Chidambaram-controlled Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt. Ltd (ASCPL) ₹26 lakh after the FIPB approval. The sum was received through S. Bhaskaraman, Karti's chartered accountant.

Does P. Chidambaram face arrest?

P. Chidambaram has been charged under PMLA. The Enforcement Directorate's charge sheet adds teeth to the agency's claims of having enough evidence against Chidambaram, before the case goes to trial next month. While the PMLA court is empowered to send the former Union minister to ED custody and eventually to judicial custody if the charges against him are proven, it has granted him interim protection from arrest till 1 November; the next date of hearing in the case. On Thursday, special judge O.P. Saini fixed 26 November for considering the charge sheet in the Aircel-Maxis money laundering case.

materials that is corroboratory statements recorded under Section 50 of the PMLA from various persons during the investigation to substantiate the



What action has ED taken against him so far?

In August, ED quizzed and recorded Chidambaram's statement for the fourth time, a month after he had been granted interim relief from arrest by Delhi's Patiala House court.

Can Chidambaram's assets be attached?

Yes. If the prosecution can prove the charges against Chidambaram, ED can move court to attach his assets. In September 2017, it had attached fixed deposits and bank accounts worth ₹1.16 crore held by Karti Chidambaram and ASCPL. In March, ED had attached a further ₹1.16 crore in fixed and movable assets held by Karti and his company. As per the Centre's foreign direct investment policy, Chidambaram, who was the finance minister in 2006, was empowered to approve proposals up to ₹600 crore only.

offence of money laundering," the ED said CBI Special Judge O.P. Saini fixed November 26 for consideration of the chargesheet.

India calls for UN sanctions against terrorists on sexual violence

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): India has asked the Security Council to impose sanctions against terrorists involved in sexual violence in armed conflicts after Secretary General Antonio Guterres had reported a huge increase in such brutalities.

"Sexual violence, abductions and human trafficking continue to be used as weapons of war in armed conflict by non-state actors and terrorist organisations," Paulomi Tripathi, First Secretary in the Indian Mission, told the Council on Thursday.

"The Sanctions Committees of the Security Council need to address the issue of proactively listing terrorist individuals and entities involved in sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts," she said while participating in a debate on Women, Peace and Security.

"International cooperation for prosecution of criminals engaged in



trans-boundary crimes is important to bring justice to the victims, majority of whom are women and girls," she added.

Earlier, Guterres told the Council: "The UN documented more than 800 cases of conflict-related sexual violence in 2017, a 56 per cent increase since 2016."

"Conflict continues to have a devastating effect on women and girls," he added.

Various UN reports have chronicled the systematic rape, kidnapping and enslavement of thousands of women

and girls by terrorist organisations like the Daesh or Islamic state in Syria, Boko Haram in Nigeria and Lord's Resistance Army in several countries in the eastern side of Africa.

While several Security Council committees have imposed sanctions on terrorists and terror groups, none have so far meted out sanctions specifically for crimes against women and girls.

Tripathi also spoke of the general toll that instability caused by terrorism and criminal networks imposed on women.

"Rapidly expanding trans-boundary criminal networks finance terror, arms supply, recruit and train of foreign fighters and destabilise whole regions which disproportionately affect women," she said.

"Largescale movements of refugees emanating from armed conflicts increase the vulnerability of women to discrimination and exploitation."

Source: IANS

Giani Harpreet Singh appointed acting Jathedar of Akal Takht

AMRITSAR (TIP): Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib Giani Harpreet Singh was October 22 appointed as Akal Takht acting Jathedar, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

In an executive meeting held here, the Shiromani Gurdwara Pharbandhak Committee (SGPC) also accepted the resignation of Giani Gurbachan Singh from the post of Jathedar Akal Takht. He had resigned Thursday citing health reasons.

After the meeting, SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal said the resignation of Giani Gurbachan Singh was accepted unanimously.

Longowal said Giani Harpreet Singh, who is currently Jathedar Takht Damdama Sahib has been appointed as acting Jathedar of Akal Takht Amritsar.

He said Giani Harpreet Singh had been given additional charge of Akal Takht.

Longowal said a regular Jathedar would be appointed in coming time as per Sikh customs.

Giani Gurbachan Singh had resigned on the night of October 18.

He had submitted his resignation to Longowal and executive members of the SGPC.

A release quoting Giani Gurbachan Singh after his resignation said, "Because of age-related health issues, it has become tough for him to serve this spiritual and pious seat"

Giani Gurbachan Singh had faced severe criticism for pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, in September 2015 in a blasphemy case. However, he had to evoke the pardon after facing backlash from Sikh

Pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda head was a blunder, says acting Akal Takht jathedar

CHANDIGARH (TIP): A day after Giani Harpreet Singh was appointed acting jathedar of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, he said that pardoning dera Sirsa chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh (in 2015) was a "big blunder".

In a conversation with HT over telephone, he said "the then Jathedar (Gurbachan Singh), realising the mistake, withdrew it within 10 days". He said that the pardon was 'gairvajab (unnecessary)'.

Takht Damdama Sahib jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh was given charge as acting jathedar of Akal Takht after Giani Gurbachan Singh offered stepped down, citing health issues. The outgoing jathedar suffered a backlash from the Panth for pardoning the dera Sirsa head. Giani Harpreet Singh, who is expected to take charge next week, accepted that the pardon had hurt the sentiments of Sikhs.

"It is going to be a big challenge to assuage the hurt feelings of Panth," he said.



On a series of sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib, he said the perpetrators will be punished. "Let me take charge, I hope almighty gives me the strength to deal with all the issues concerning the Panth," he added.

In an interview to a television channel, without naming his predecessor, Giani Harpreet Singh said the "credibility of the Akal Takht suffered due to a person and it will be restored by a person".

Source: HT

community. After the Justice Ranjit Singh Commission report on sacrilege incidents was tabled in Punjab Vidhan Sabha, this issue again gained limelight. The report had pointed towards alleged role of Badals (Parkash Singh Badal and Sukhbir Singh Badal)

in getting pardon for the Dera Sacha Sauda head.

Several Sikh outfits and senior Akali leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa had also demanded removal of Giani Gurbachan Singh from the post of Akal Takht Jathedar.

Source: PTI



SC GRANTS TWO WEEKS TO CVC TO CONCLUDE INQUIRY INTO CBI MESS

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the CBI, the CVC and the Centre on agency Director Alok Kumar Verma's plea challenging the government's decision to divest him of his duties and send him on leave.

The apex court directed that interim CBI chief M Nageswara Rao would not take any major policy decisions. Decisions taken by him since October 23 till date would not be implemented, it said. All decisions taken by Rao would be placed before the apex court in a sealed cover.

The top court said former Supreme Court judge AK Patnaik would oversee a Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) inquiry into the allegations and counter-allegations and the report had to be placed before it within two weeks.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi posted the next date of hearing as November 12.

The bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph, issued notices on the petition filed by NGO Common Cause, which has sought a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe against the CBI officers.

CBI's Special Director Rakesh Asthana has also been named as one of the respondents in the NGO's petition.

Verma and Asthana have levelled allegations of corruption against each other.

During the brief hearing on Friday, senior advocate FS Nariman advanced arguments on behalf of the CBI chief. He submitted that the CBI director was appointed with the approval of a selection panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

Nariman referred to the CVC and the Centre's orders divesting Verma of his duty. He also cited the Vineet Narain judgment to support Verma's pleas.

In the beginning, the apex court said the CVC inquiry on allegations and counter-allegations should be completed in 10 days under the supervision of this court.

The CVC submitted that the 10 days for inquiry was not sufficient time as it had to look into several documents. It said that for the time being, no monitoring by anyone else should be allowed.

The bench granted the CVC two weeks to conclude its probe.

Verma has also sought a stay on the Centre's order asking him to proceed on leave and giving the interim charge of his post to Rao, a 1986 batch Odisha-cadre IPS officer.

Source: PTI

MODI FIRST TO BE INVITED TO JAPAN PM'S RESIDENCE

NEW DELHI (TIP): As Prime Minister Modi heads to Japan on October 28 for the summit talks, his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will give a personal touch to his reception.

Modi will be the first leader invited to Abe's second home in Yamanashi province where the two will have lunch and dinner together on Sunday. The two will ride the bullet train back to Tokyo.

On October 29, Modi will address a diaspora function, engage with the India-Japan business leaders' forum and hold official delegation talks with Abe. Enhanced defence cooperation, common Indo-Pacific vision, including infrastructure, connectivity and geo-strategy, as well as regional security will be key issues.

"We presume that given the interest Japan has in issues related to the Korean peninsula and DPRK, this matter will be discussed. We will raise our concerns over terrorism and other trans-border crimes which are of importance to us," Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said.

16 collectors in 7 states can register Hindu, Sikhs, Buddhists from Pak, Afghan, B'desh as Indians

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has authorised 16 collectors in seven states in the country to register as Indian citizens the members of minority community from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

The Home Ministry in a notification said any person belonging to minority community -- Hindu, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries can avail the facility.

Those who were given the powers are collectors of Raipur (Chhattisgarh); Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Kutch (Gujarat); Bhopal and Indore (Madhya Pradesh); Nagpur, Mumbai, Pune and Thane (Maharashtra); Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Jaipur (Rajasthan); Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh); and West Delhi and South Delhi.

The powers for registration were given to the collectors under the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955), the notification said.

The central government notification came in the midst of the move to amend the six-decade-old Citizenship Act which seeks to grant Indian nationality to people from minority communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 even if they don't possess any proper document.

The bill is receiving vehement opposition in Assam and other northeastern states and a joint parliamentary committee is examining the draft bill.

The notification said that the secretary, the Department of Home, of the concerned state or the Union Territory, has been



Congress alleged the move was aimed at garnering votes in the upcoming assembly elections in five states.

given the same power in case the applicant is not a resident of the mentioned districts, subjects to certain conditions.

The conditions are also applicable to the 16 districts named.

The conditions include (a) the application for registration as citizen of India or grant of certificate of naturalisation as citizen of India under the said rules is made by the applicant online, (b) the verification of the application is done simultaneously by the collector or the secretary, as the case may be, at the district-level and the state-level and the application and the reports thereon shall be made accessible simultaneously to the central government on online portal.

Source: PTI



GUEST COMMENT

Killing Khashoggi: Saudi Arabia and its 'Mr. Everything' face the heat

The killing of dissident writer Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul is a tale of trans-national crime, intrigue and murder. The botched up cover-up has shaken the world. Even as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia tries to stem the flow of accusations from enveloping him, his inner circle, including his top aide Saud al-Qahtani, stands indicted. The brutal nature of the killing, as highlighted by a series of leaks topped by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's statement accusing the Saudi Government of "savage murder" and mutilation of Khashoggi, has triggered revulsion that has so far not allowed the matter to be swept under the carpet. Not because of lack of effort, but simply because of the horror of crime.

Western governments, including the US, have a long history of treating the House of Saud with kid gloves, given their geopolitical realities. The human rights record of the Arabian kingdom has been abysmal, with executions, whipping and other medieval punishments still being carried out. However, world powers, keenly looking at the bottom line, have ignored all this. Indeed, the Prince was billed as a reformer, but his intolerance to dissent was displayed in the crackdown on the women's rights movement and the arrest of many activists, including popular ones like Samar Badawi and Nassima al-Sadah. This triggered off the kingdom's spat with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, who criticized the arrests in August.

US President Donald Trump has vacillated in his response to the killing of a permanent resident of his country and columnist for Washington Post, but he seems to be hardening his stance. While some other nations have condemned the killing, many have maintained a diplomatic silence. The Saudi version of the killing, coming after a complete denial, has given credibility gap a new meaning. The death of the journalist can only have a meaning if it leads to reforms within the kingdom. This is a tall order, given the opaque nature of governance there.

(The Tribune, India)



By George Abraham

At the outset, one may wonder what Brett Kavanaugh's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court has anything to do with the recent rulings by India's Supreme Court allowing women between ages of 10 and 50 entry into the Sabarimala temple. It may not have a direct linkage concerning geography or jurisprudence. However, it speaks volumes on how the underlying principles involved in these dramas could evoke these spectacles of emotions of raw anger in countries that are separated by Oceans.

As we all have learned throughout the history, elections have its consequences, and President Trump has indeed followed through his pledge of appointing judges to the courts that he termed as 'strict constructionists.' The judicial philosophy of the conservatives in this country is that courts should not make laws but to uphold the constitution and laws of the land and interpret them. On the contrary, liberals and progressives love an activist court that creates laws especially in the social arena that may have a transformational impact on the society.

Mark Levin, a conservative author makes a good case for a strict constructionist in his book titled "Liberty and Tyranny". He has defended the importance of original intent when interpreting or adjudicating the constitution. Levin appeared to have made a genuine effort in illustrating the fine points in the ongoing debate between the strict constructionists and those who want the Constitution to be a "living, breathing evolving" document.

Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist 78, stated that judges have a duty to "guard the Constitution and rights of individuals," and above all, to be impartial. He was known to have argued that in cases where laws and statutes clash with the Constitution, it is the constitution that must prevail, and the Supreme Court has to side with the Constitution.

Liberals and many moderates sincerely believe that the Court's swing to the right might jeopardize decades of landmark gains on issues from abortion to affirmative action and same-sex marriage. To some legal experts, the addition of Justice Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court could have profound consequences on issues ranging from Women's reproductive health to LGBT rights.

In today's high-octane environment, it has become increasingly difficult to reconcile these differing points of view. However, to an independent observer, the Supreme Court relies greatly on precedent that is a principle or rule established in a previous legal case that becomes a basis or reasons for future decisions. Therefore, the Court may yet find it difficult in overturning many of those landmark decisions that have long become the laws of the land.

While the Kavanaugh Saga was unfolding in

AS I SEE IT

Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Supreme Court of India Sabarimala rulings

While the Kavanaugh Saga was unfolding in Washington, the Supreme Court of India has made some historic rulings that may have upended some traditional beliefs and customs. According to a new ruling led by the Chief Justice Dipak Misra, women of all ages will be allowed to enter India's Sabarimala Temple, one of Hinduism's holiest sites, overturning a centuries-old ban".



Image tweeted by @ANI

Washington, the Supreme Court of India has made some historic rulings that may have upended some traditional beliefs and customs. According to a new ruling led by the Chief Justice Dipak Misra, women of all ages will be allowed to enter India's Sabarimala Temple, one of Hinduism's holiest sites, overturning a centuries-old ban.

The five-member constitutional bench struck down the religious ban on women aged 10 to 50 from entering the temple, ruling it to be discriminatory and arguing that women should be able to pray at the place of their choice. "It is the constitutional morality that is supreme. Prohibition can't be regarded as an essential component of religion" said the Judge's ruling. Sabarimala temple is thought to be 800 years old and is considered spiritual home of Lord Ayyappa.

This issue is very complex and multi-layered, however, touches the very core of faith and tradition. That is the reason why this verdict has invoked so much anger and resentment pitting one community against another often inflaming the communal passion waiting to be exploited by the political parties and their narrow interests. For a democratic country that has Secularism written on its preamble of the constitution, India should accord autonomy to religious orders and religious groupings and prevent state interference. It is a matter of pure faith, and the State has a responsibility to stay neutral unless it violates the fundamental rights or causes injury to its citizenry.

If we carefully examine, a severe crisis was created when the Supreme Court took up this issue, and its subsequent ruling has indeed challenged an age-old tradition. Although it is embarrassing to argue about the merit of this tradition in these modern days, the purity of women in their menstrual years, it was a dormant issue for so long that people paid only scant attention. The question then is should the court give rulings on issues that have profound

social implications as well as a transformational impact on society?

In a democratic process, it is the people through their representatives in the Legislature who make laws mostly reflecting the will of the majority. That is often done with debating the merit of the legislation with utmost scrutiny from all opposing sides. If the country has followed such a course, we could have avoided this tragic turn of events unfolding before our eyes today. As much as we value the Supreme Court as a vanguard to protect our rights, it would have been prudent to leave these sensitive issues of faith and tradition to the legislatures rather than to the judiciary.

Many Indian Americans, who abhor several of the progressive decisions of India's Supreme Court in the last few weeks often overturning their beloved traditions, beliefs, and customs, may need to reconsider their stand on an activist court. They generally cheer on legislating from the bench in the U.S. by activist judges and have long enjoyed common ground with progressive forces opposing the appointment of Judges whose philosophy of judicial restraint that is similar to that of Justice Kavanaugh.

As the adage goes, 'we cannot have the cake and eat it too!' It is time to take a consistent stand in opposing legislating from the bench that often fails to take into account the sentiment of the local people whose tradition, faith and religious practices they hold dear to their heart and supporting the strict constructionist view of the constitution and laws of the land. We have long learned from history that it is judicious to have limited interventions in these matters by the courts given the inexorable relationship in India between religion and public life.

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)

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Indian Americans have the highest education and income. What is the secret of their success?



By Ven Parameswaran

According to the US Census, Indian Americans rank No.1 in education and income. The Jewish Americans were downgraded to the 2nd rank. The Anglo-Saxon whites had maintained the No.1 lead for centuries till the Jewish outperformed them. Perfect conclusions are more difficult to make in Social Science, unlike Physical Science. However, let me try and reason out why Indian Americans are No.1.

SPELLING B CONTEST: Until 1965, the U.S. allowed only 100 immigrants from India. With the elimination of national origin criterion and preference for the highly educated, Indians started immigrating. In 20 years, that is by 1985, US had 400,000 Indians. For the first time in 1985, Balu Natarajan won the Spelling B contest. For the past 12 years, Indian American has been the champion on a consecutive basis. Spelling B test is the test of one's memory power. The Indian youth under 13 are highly disciplined, ambitious and determined to succeed. Therefore, they studied hard and learnt how to spell most uncommon words. Strong family values and self-esteem make them most competitive. Their brain is like a computer that stores information, which they are able to recall any time.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT): The IIT undergraduates apply for admission to topnotch universities in the USA. All of them qualify and are accepted because of their superior credentials. These students and many others who have studied in U.S. high schools score 100% in SAT, CAT, GMAT, GRT, and other competitive tests for admission to undergraduate and graduate schools. The IIT is the most outstanding college of technology in the world. In India, for a class of 250 freshmen, 250,000 apply, signifying the stiffest competition in the world.

CBS 60 MINUTES ANCHOR LESLIE STAHL (see video on internet) travelled to India to interview IIT students and the faculty, to get first hand impression. She came to the conclusion that a degree from IIT is equal to combined degrees from Harvard+Princeton+MIT. When she made her broadcast, India and the IIT were proud that the intrinsic capabilities and capacities of IIT students were discovered. Nobody advertised IIT as CBS 60 Minutes did. The IIT, India and the overseas Indians are ever grateful to Leslie Stahl and the CBS. The method of instruction in IIT is rote learning. There is not much discussion in the class like in the US colleges. Rote learning and mastering the fundamentals are very important. Like the Spelling B students, the IIT engineers have the brain of a computer. The Wall Street firms used to say that if they receive a resume from any IIT graduate, they must hire immediately even without an interview. "Send the stretcher and get him/her over here" was the expression!

A.M.ROSENTHAL, EXECUTIVE

“If the present trend continues I could dare to predict that within the next decade Indians will head 100 corporations”, says the author.

EDITOR, N.Y.TIMES: Rosenthal started his career in India after a brief span at the U.N. At his request he was assigned to India as its Foreign Correspondent and Head of the NYT Bureau, New Delhi. He liked India and fell in love with the country. He liked

CBS 60 MINUTES ANCHOR LESLIE STAHL (see video on internet) travelled to India to interview IIT students and the faculty, to get first hand impression. She came to the conclusion that a degree from IIT is equal to combined degrees from Harvard+Princeton+MIT.

the food, dress and the multicultural character of India. I interviewed him in 1970 for an article in Transindia, a weekly published from N.Y.City. I asked him why Indian Americans are more successful in the USA than in India. Rosenthal said that Indians have high native intelligence and they are intrinsically very sharp and smart people. If you transfer them to the best environment in the world with unlimited opportunities for knowledge and research, that is the USA, they will be No.1.

25 CEO'S OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN FORTUNE 100 CORPORATIONS, INCLUDING MICROSOFT AND GOOGLE: There are more CEO's of Indian origin than any other nationality, including the Chinese. Many of them have degrees from the IIT and MBA from Harvard, Wharton, Stanford, Columbia, MIT. They are selected after exhaustive, intensive and most competitive search. The observations made by CBS Leslie Stahl and NYTimes A.M. Rosenthal seem to be convincing based on the sheer performance of Indian Americans.

Microsoft and Google rank amongst the top four corporations based on market capitalization. Outstanding vision and performance of Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Sundar Pichai of Google have resulted in doubling the value of their companies within a year of their appointment as CEO!

If the present trend continues I could dare to predict that within the next decade Indians will head 100 corporations.

ACADEMIA: The Deans of Business Schools of Harvard, Cornell, Chicago, Kellogg/Northwestern and others are of Indian origin. The Deans of Engineering at MIT, Harvard Undergraduate Arts and Science, NYU, and several others are of Indian origin. These top universities train tomorrow's leaders of the industry and finance.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: Politically also, Indian Americans shoot for the highest position. Nikki Haley, 46, was elected and re-elected Governor of South Carolina. Later, she was appointed Ambassador to the United Nations. She could very well be elected President of the

USA one day. Bobby Jindal was elected and re-elected Governor of Louisiana. He already ran for President of the USA in 2016. Kamala Harris is the U.S.Senator from California and she is most likely to run for President in 2020. Indian Americans have raised 26 million dollars to help 20 candidates running for the U.S.Congress in 2018 midterms. Congress already has 4 Indian Americans.

MUSIC AND MEDICINE: Zubin Mehta was the Conductor of N.Y.Philharmonic Opera. Parameswaran is the Conductor of Cleveland Orchestra. Dr.Krishnamoorthy served as Surgeon General of the U.S.A.

DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA: Columbia University, New York invited Dr.

New York Times Executive Editor Rosenthal said that Indians have high native intelligence, and they are intrinsically very sharp and smart people. If you transfer them to the best environment in the world with unlimited opportunities for knowledge and research, that is the USA, they will be No.1.

Radhakrishnan to deliver speech as a distinguished statesman. As a former diplomat for India at the U.N., I was helping Dr.Radhakrishnan. I remember vividly that Dr.Radhakrishnan prepared his speech. It was typed, and copies were made for the media with the caption: CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY. Dr.Radhakrishnan did not use any teleprompter. He spoke extempore. He spoke every word as he wrote his speech. There was not even a single word change. Everyone wondered how that was possible. Outstanding Indians have the brain of a computer.

Dr. Satyamoorthy of Chennai was a scholar in the U.K. He was selected to speak extempore on a subject that would be announced only in public in front of his audience. He was asked to speak on 'NOTHING'. He spoke for six hours extempore!

BILL GATES, FOUNDER OF MICROSOFT and JACK WELCH, FORMER CEO, G.E.: On his first visit to India, Bill Gates was highly impressed with the Indians he met and predicted that Indians will be the leaders of future technology. At that time, he never dreamt that Microsoft would be selecting Satya Nadella as its Chairman and CEO. Jack Welch was also high impressed with the intrinsic strengths of Indians. Both these outstanding leaders got to know Indians only after they visited India. Warren Buffet has selected Ajit Jain, who runs his Reassurance business, as a possible successor to him along with another person. Warren Buffet made this comment on Ajit



Ven Parameswaran interviewing A.M. Rosenthal, Executive Editor of the New York Times (left) in 1970

Jain, who has an IIT degree and MBA from Harvard: "Ajit insures risks that no one else has the desire or the capital to take on. His operation combines capacity, speed, decisiveness and most important, brains in a manner unique in the insurance business."

INDIA INVENTED ZERO AND MATHEMATICS. Albert Einstein said that we cannot have a computer without zero. It was also mentioned that Sanskrit is the ideal language for computer, internet, software!

HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION: One could say that most immigrants came to the USA without higher education. Many like Irish, Italian, Eastern Europeans, Jewish came with no education. They had to work hard physically to make both ends. First generation Indians beginning in 1965 came with Masters or higher degrees. It is said that the cream of the crop from India comes to the USA for higher studies.

Of late, discrimination against Indian students at Harvard University was in focus. Harvard University was challenged legally on their Admission policy of Asian students. Asian Americans have charged Harvard with discrimination because they are better than all others. The case is being contested in Boston Courts. Harvard Dean of Admissions is defending by characterizing the personality of Asians on a subjective basis. He is arguing that Asians do not have the suitable personality for leadership compared to the whites.

I can assert he is totally ignorant and wrong. Anyone can prove that Asian Americans, especially Indian Americans are leaders because of their personality. How else can one explain the outstanding success of Indian Americans in different fields? One cannot be a successful Governor or CEO without an agreeable personality. I am sure if the case ever goes to the Supreme Court, the judges will do justice to the Asian American students.

(The author is an MBA from Columbia Business School; Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (founded in 1988); and a Former President & CEO, First Asian Securities Corporation, New York. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)

Indian-Origin Man in UK Ordered to Forfeit Funds



Niles Sheth, a former bank employee who has been jailed was ordered on October 21 by the court to forfeit 62,000 pounds by a UK court for his role in a money laundering scam to help Romanian criminals by opening around 400 fake bank accounts

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin former bank employee who has been jailed was ordered on October 21 by the court to forfeit 62,000 pounds by a UK court for his role in a money laundering scam to help Romanian criminals by opening around 400 fake bank accounts.

Niles Sheth had pleaded guilty to his role in setting up around 400 fake accounts to help Romanian criminals to launder more than 16 million pounds (Rs. 153 crore approx) and sentenced to four

years behind bars in November last year.

The 54-year-old, serving his sentence for money laundering and possessing criminal property, was told by proceeds of crime hearing at the Old Bailey court in London this week to pay 62,000 pounds (Rs. 59.19 lakhs) within three months or serve an extra year in jail.

"Sheth abused his position of trust at the bank to knowingly open sham accounts for the network, providing a vital service which enabled them to launder GBP 16 million worth of stolen cash," said Mike Hulett, head of Operations at the National Crime Agency's (NCA) National Cyber Crime Unit.

The NCA found that Sheth, a personal banking manager at Barclays, was instrumental in the opening of a large number of "mule" accounts, using false ID and address documents. Its investigation revealed that mastermind Iurie Mereacre ran the money laundering service from his home in east London, along with his associates, Ryingota Gincota and brothers Iurie and Serghei Bivol.

Over a three-year period, the gang of five set up and controlled around 400 bank accounts in a conspiracy which involved receiving stolen funds into one account, then dispersing it in smaller amounts to a number of other accounts to try and confuse authorities. This process would be repeated several times to disguise the source of the money before it was transferred back to cyber criminals in Eastern Europe.

Prior to their arrests in November 2016, the gang was under surveillance by the NCA and was seen meeting with Sheth on numerous occasions at the bank and in public places including restaurants and car parks. When officers raided Sheth's home at the time, they found 16,000 pounds in cash, nine mobile phones and a handwritten guide to money laundering.

"These men deliberately and persistently set about transferring millions of pounds of stolen money out of the UK to eastern Europe," said Rose-Marie Franton, from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) International Justice and Organised Crime Division, during the time of their sentencing last year.

"The evidence we gathered showed how Niles Sheth abused his position as a bank employee for personal gain by facilitating the laundering the criminal proceeds of an organised crime group both within the UK and across borders," she said.

The court heard how Sheth started the scam after criminals tempted him with money that he stuffed behind cushions and under the kitchen sink at his home in Essex, near London.

He used his Barclays office to meet 38-year-old Mereacre, an illegal immigrant, and his associates, all of whom have since been jailed for a total of 28 years.

Barclays said it worked closely with the authorities during the investigation.

A spokesperson said: "Barclays will always support law enforcement in identifying criminal activity and bringing prosecutions."

NATO's biggest peacetime drill kicks off, angering Moscow

Russia, which shares a border with Norway, was briefed by NATO on the Trident Juncture 2018 drill and invited to monitor it, but Moscow is still angered by the exercise.

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (TIP):

NATO's biggest military manoeuvres since the Cold War kicked off Thursday in Norway in a hypothetical scenario that involves restoring the Scandinavian country's sovereignty after an attack by a "fictitious aggressor." Russia, which shares a border with Norway, was briefed by NATO on the Trident Juncture 2018 drill and invited to monitor it, but Moscow is still angered by the exercise. Russia's defense minister had warned that Moscow could be forced to respond to increased NATO activity close to its western border.

"NATO's military activities near our borders have reached the highest level since the Cold War times," Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Wednesday, noting that the war games will be "simulating offensive military action." The wargames bring together around 50,000 personnel from all 29 NATO allies, plus partners Finland and Sweden. Around 65 vessels, 150 aircraft and 10,000 vehicles will participate.

The drill scheduled to end Nov. 7 takes place in central and eastern Norway, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea. Its aim is to ensure that NATO forces are trained, able to operate together, and ready to respond to any threat from any direction, according to the 29-member alliance.

In a joint op-ed published Thursday in Dagens Nyheter, one of Sweden's largest newspapers, the Nordic defense and foreign ministers said they saw "no military threats against the Nordic countries today, but we live in an unpredictable and uncertain time."

"Russia has both shown the will and ability to use military force to achieve strategic goals," Sweden's Peter Hultqvist wrote together with Frank Bakke-Jensen of Norway, Denmark's Claus Hjort



Frederiksen, Jussi Niinisto of Finland and Iceland's foreign minister, Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson.

"Cyber-attacks and disinformation are actively used to create divisions between people in Europe as well as in the United States, which in turn challenges democratic institutions and our ability to reach common conclusions," they said.

Tensions in the region have grown between Baltic NATO members and Moscow, including reports of airspace violations by Russian military aircraft. Non-aligned Sweden and Finland have watched with increasing trepidation, stepping up their own military activity with cross-border exercises and drills with NATO countries. (AP)

China will never give up an inch of territory, defence minister says

BEIJING (TIP): China will never give up an inch of its territory, whether the self-ruled island of Taiwan it claims as its own, or in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, the country's defence minister said on Thursday. Beijing has been infuriated by recent US sanctions on its military, one of a growing number of flashpoints in ties with Washington that include a bitter trade war, Taiwan and China's increasingly muscular military posture in the South China Sea. Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe made the remarks at the opening of the Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, which China styles as its answer to the annual Shangri-La Dialogue security forum in the wealthy city-state of Singapore. China's military ties with the United States are important and sensitive, Wei said, adding that Taiwan was a "core" interest of China's and Beijing opposed displays of strength by "outside forces" in the South China Sea. (Reuters)

South Korean war on 'fake news' raises concern of censorship

SEOUL (TIP): While governments around the world ponder how to deal with the explosion of "fake news", South Korea has come out swinging, vowing to use its criminal laws to curb what officials have declared a threat to democracy.

The plans have drawn an outcry from civil liberty advocates, who see it as an attack on free expression. They question whether liberal President Moon Jae-in, who was elected last year following a popular uprising that helped bring down a corrupt government, is pivoting toward a path taken by his disgraced conservative predecessors who used their powers and a criminal charge of defamation to suppress critics.

Some experts say Moon's government is becoming increasingly sensitive about public opinion as it struggles with economic and social policies and desperately tries to keep optimism alive for its fragile diplomacy with North Korea.

Seoul's Unification Minister Cho

Myoung-gyon met with North Korea defector groups on Wednesday as he sought to calm criticism over his decision to block a North Korea-born reporter from covering last week's inter-Korean talks to avoid angering North Korean officials.

Presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom has snapped at conservative newspapers in recent briefings for supposedly exaggerating the rift between Washington and Seoul over North Korea policies.

The controversy erupted after Justice Minister Park Sang-ki last week ordered state prosecutors to aggressively chase down people spreading "false, manipulated information". He said prosecutors should be proactive in detecting fake stories and misinformation and, when needed, push ahead with criminal investigations even when no one files a complaint.

They can apply various laws, such as defamation that carries a penalty of up to seven years in prison. The Justice Ministry also plans to revise laws to make it easier to

removing suspect online content.

The National Police Agency said it is currently looking into 16 false stories that made rounds online. They include claims that Moon is showing signs of dementia; Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon paid tribute to North Korea founder Kim Il Sung during a recent visit to Vietnam; North Korea has demanded cash payment of 200 trillion won (\$176 billion) from the South as costs for engagement.

A frequent target is YouTube, which is overflowing with video channels run by right-wing conservatives who often make bizarre claims against a president they characterize as a North Korea sympathizer.

Park Kwang-on, a lawmaker from Moon's Democratic Party, lashed out at Google on Tuesday after it refused the party's demand to remove some 100 videos, including those describing rumors about Moon, from YouTube. Conservatives say the ruling party is pressuring a private company for political purposes. (AP)

Japan reporter freed from captivity in Syria returns home

Yasuda, wearing a black T-shirt, was escorted from his plane at Tokyo's airport by Japanese officials and ushered into a black van. He left without talking to a large group of reporters who had waited for his arrival.

TOKYO (TIP): A Japanese journalist returned to Tokyo on Thursday after being freed from more than three years of captivity in Syria. Jumpei Yasuda was released on Tuesday and taken to neighbouring Turkey.

Yasuda, wearing a black T-shirt, was escorted from his plane at Tokyo's airport by Japanese officials and ushered into a black van. He left without talking to a large group of reporters who had waited for his arrival.

On an earlier flight from the southern Turkish town of Antakya to Istanbul, Yasuda said he was happy to be going home after living in "hell" for more than three years, but was worried about how he will catch up with a changed world.

"I'm so happy to be free," he told Japan's NHK television on a flight from Antakya in southern Turkey to Istanbul.

"But I'm a bit worried about what will happen to me or what I should do from now on." Yasuda, 44, who was kidnapped in 2015 by al-Qaida's branch in Syria, said he felt as if he'd fallen behind the rest of the world and was uncertain how to catch up. He described his 40 months in captivity as "hell" both physically and mentally. He said he was kept in a tiny cell and tortured. There was a time when he was not allowed to bathe for eight months, he said.

"Day after day, I thought 'Oh I can't go home again,' and the thought took over my head and gradually made it difficult for me to control myself," he said.

Yasuda was kidnapped by a group



known at the time as Nusra Front. A war monitoring group said he was most recently held by a Syrian commander with the Turkistan Islamic Party, which mostly comprises Chinese jihadis in Syria. Yasuda said he believes he was moved several times during his captivity but stayed in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, where he sometimes heard distant firebombing.

"I was living in endless fear that I may never get out of it or could even be killed," Yasuda told another Japanese broadcaster, TBS. He said he gradually became pessimistic about his fate because his captors kept breaking their promises to release him. His release Tuesday came suddenly when his captors drove him to the border with Turkey and dropped him off and handed him over to Turkish

authorities, he said.

Japanese officials say Qatar and Turkey helped in the efforts for Yasuda's release, though their exact roles were not clear.

Yasuda, a respected journalist who began his career at a local newspaper, started reporting on the Middle East in the early 2000s and went to Afghanistan and Iraq.

He was taken hostage in Iraq in 2004 with three other Japanese, but was freed after Islamic clerics negotiated his release. He worked as a cook in Iraq for nearly a year as part of his research for a 2010 book about labourers in war zones. He also wrote articles about his 2004 captivity. But this time, his captors took away all his reporting equipment including his camera, depriving him of any tangible records. (AP)

Indian-Origin Man and 16 other Gang Members Jailed for Sex Abuse in UK

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin ringleader is one of the 16 men jailed for a combined period of over 200 years for being part of a grooming gang which sexually abused vulnerable young girls in the West Yorkshire region of England.

Amere Singh Dhaliwal, 35, was jailed for life with a minimum of 18 years behind bars, with other members of the gang jailed for between five and 18 years in jail at Leeds Crown Court.



Amere Singh Dhaliwal, 35, was jailed for life with a minimum of 18 years behind bars, with other members of the gang jailed for between five and 18 years in jail at Leeds Crown Court.

The court had been hearing the cases since the beginning of January and were told of the men's years of repeated serious sexual abuse of the girls, supplying them with drugs and alcohol and trafficking them across the West Yorkshire region for their sexual gratification.

The third trial in the case concluded on October 8, with reporting restrictions imposed on the entire case by the judge lifted only on Friday.

"The investigation into this case has been extremely complex and the investigative team have worked tirelessly for the past five years to ensure that no stone has been left unturned. We welcome the convictions and sentences which have been passed down throughout the year to these depraved individuals, who subjected vulnerable young children to unthinkable sexual and physical abuse," said Detective Chief Inspector Ian Mottershaw, from West Yorkshire Police, who led the investigation.

"I hope the outcomes of these trials will enable the victims to start the process of putting this trauma behind them and reassure any other potential victims that we will treat them with the utmost respect and sensitivity and take positive action against perpetrators," he said.

Jailing the men, who are all of South Asian origin including Pakistani-origin men, Judge Geoffrey Marson said: "The way you treated these girls defies understanding; this abuse was vile and wicked. As cases of sexual abuse with which the courts have to deal, this case comes top of the scale".

Ringleader Dhaliwal, a married father of two, had been charged with 21 counts of rape, assault by penetration, four counts of sexual assault, five counts of inciting sexual activity with a child, 13 counts of trafficking for sexual exploitation, three counts of making indecent images, one count of inciting child prostitution, two offences of administering a substance with intent to commit a sexual act and a racially aggravated assault.

As Dhaliwal was sentenced, the judge added, "The extent and gravity of your offending far exceeds anything which I have previously encountered. Children's lives have been ruined and families profoundly affected by seeing their children, over months and years, out of control, having been groomed by you and other members of your gang".

A further four men found guilty will be sentenced on November 1 at Leeds Crown Court and have been remanded in custody. All 20 men will also be handed down indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, put in place to prevent them from any unsupervised contact with female children under 18.

The convictions follow an "extensive and extremely complex and sensitive investigation" conducted by detectives in Kirklees district of West Yorkshire, spanning nearly five years, in order to bring a case in front of a judge.

In 2013, the first report was made to the police by a victim and since that point, police identified 15 victims and pieced together the investigation.

The location of the crimes was around Huddersfield and all suspects originate from that town. The offences committed occurred between 2004 and 2011 against girls aged between 11 and 17.

Topshop's Philip Green named in UK Parliament at centre of #MeToo scandal

LONDON (TIP): A British politician has used Parliament's free-speech guarantee to name a prominent businessman who is accused of sexual harassment and secured a court order barring the media from revealing his identity. Philip Green, owner of clothing retailer Topshop, was named in the House

of Lords on Thursday by Labour politician Peter Hain.

Green obtained a court injunction to stop the Daily Telegraph from running stories about employee allegations of sexual harassment and racial abuse.

The Court of Appeal made the order because the five alleged victims signed

non-disclosure agreements as part of settlement packages in which they received substantial payments. The injunction prevented the media from naming Green, but lawmakers' words in Parliament are immune from legal action under a measure known as parliamentary privilege. (AP)

18 dead as floods sweep away students, teachers near Dead Sea

JORDAN (TIP): Flash floods unleashed by heavy rains swept away middle school students and teachers visiting hot springs near the Dead Sea on Thursday, killing 18 and injuring 35 as the torrent carried some for several kilometers, a civil defense official said.

Thirteen people escaped without injuries, said Brig. Gen. Farid al-Sharaa, speaking after nightfall as large spotlights illuminated the flooded area. Some survived by clinging to rocks, he said.

A dramatic rescue operation involving

helicopters and divers continued into the night. Israel's military said it dispatched a search and rescue team at the request of Jordan's government.

Al-Sharaa said 37 middle school students, seven teachers and other visitors were at the hot springs near the Dead Sea on Thursday afternoon, some eating lunch, when they were taken by surprise by the flooding.

"It swept away the students for 4 to 5 kilometers," some as far as the Dead Sea, he said. The spokesman said the students were from a middle school.

The low-lying Dead Sea area, part of the Jordan Valley, is prone to flash flooding when rain water rushes down from adjacent hills. In April, 10 Israeli students were killed when they were surprised by a flash flood during a hiking trip near the Dead Sea.

Prime Minister Omar Razzaz rushed to the scene and later visited the wounded in a hospital.

As the death toll continued to rise, Jordan's King Abdullah II announced that he canceled a visit to Bahrain, which had been scheduled for Friday. (AP)



JANHVI KAPOOR ROPED IN FOR SHASHANK KHAITAN'S NEXT OPPOSITE VARUN?

Janhvi Kapoor stepped into the world of cinema with *Dhadak* opposite Ishaan Khatter and won everyone over with her innocence and charm. The film was produced by Dharma Productions and directed by Shashank Khaitan.

The film did well at the box-office and garnered a lot of appreciation for the newcomers. Post that, Janhvi was rumoured to have signed a few films but none of them were officially announced until *Takht*.

This will be her second film with Dharma Productions and her first under the direction of Karan Johar. But, now we hear that she has finally zeroed down on her third film as well. She will be seen opposite Varun Dhawan in the film and it will be a romantic thriller. Shashank Khaitan will be directing this film and Janhvi shares a close bond with him as he directed her in her first film. Well, that's a win-win situation, isn't it?

While *Takht* is expected to go on floors in August next year, this thriller will go on floors during the summer of 2019.

DEEPIKA, RANVEER SINGH TO HAVE TWO WEDDING CEREMONIES IN ITALY

One of the most anticipated weddings of the year is here. Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, who are all set to tie the knot in Italy in November 14 and 15, will have two wedding ceremonies, a *sangeet* and a party, says a new report.

According to a new report in *Mid Day*, Deepika and Ranveer will marry in the south Indian tradition as well as in the north Indian way. The four-day affair will be kickstarted by a *sangeet* function on November 13. This will be followed by a Kannadiga style wedding on November 14. On November 15, they will tie the knot again, this time in the North Indian way.

"Since Deepika is a South Indian and Ranveer is of Sindhi-Punjabi origin, the two families decided to follow customs practised by both communities. A South Indian wedding has been planned for November 14, complete with Kannadiga rituals. The next day will see the couple solemnise their relationship as per the customs of a North Indian wedding (*Anand Karaj*)."

The report goes on to say that since the wedding will strictly be a family affair, there will be hardly any representation from the industry. However, it will see four people from Bollywood in attendance. Given the fact that Deepika shares a deep bond with Shah Rukh Khan and Farah Khan (who launched her in the film *Om Shanti Om*), she is keen that they be present on the most important day of her life. The other two people, expected to join are Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Aditya Chopra (the latter launch Ranveer in his production, *Band Baaja Baraat*), whom they consider their mentors. This will be followed by an intimate party on November 15.

"The celebrations will be followed by an intimate party on November 15," the



report says. Arjun Kapoor too is expected to be present at the wedding.

Of course, the celebrations won't end there. On their return to Mumbai, they will throw a grand reception inviting all their industry friends. "The two will host a reception at Grand Hyatt on December 1. As their wedding is an intimate affair, the reception will be a grand one where they

will invite their Bollywood friends." A reception in Bengaluru is also on the cards.

It may be recalled that the couple will wed at the picturesque Villa del Balbianello at Lake Como. Deepika's trousseau will be designed by Sabyasachi Mukherjee while it is still unclear what flamboyant Ranveer will wear. *Source: HT*

Celina Jaitley returns after 7 years with film paying tribute to gay filmmaker rituparno ghosh

An upcoming venture that pays tribute to Rituparno Ghosh will mark Celina Jaitley's return to cinema after seven years. Ram Kamal Mukherjee's offering is particularly special for the actor, given that, like the openly-gay filmmaker, Jaitley too is an active proponent of the LGBTQ community.

"I am happy to be part of Ram Kamal's film, *A Tribute To Rituparno Ghosh: Season's Greetings*, because when he narrated the story to me in Dubai, I got goosebumps. Post marriage, and becoming a mother, I was looking for a subject that would excite me. Since I have been associated with the LGBTQIA movement since 18 years, I [am happy to] act in a film that deals with the issue," Jaitley tells mid-day.

Mukherjee reveals that while his film is a tribute to Ghosh, it will not be a biopic. "It's a tribute to his cinema sensibility. It honours

his body of work." Based on a mother-daughter relationship, the film pairs Jaitley with veteran actor Lillete Dubey, who plays the role of her mother. The Aritra Das and Shailendra Kumar production also star debutante actor Azhar Khan.

A short work trip to Egypt first introduced Jaitley to Mukherjee's work. "He made a short musical on moods and moments, and always had perfect ideas for lighting and compositions of frames. I will shoot in Kolkata for the first time, and I'm excited about it."

Jaitley's association with people who have distinct sexual preferences began early on. "My first boyfriend was gay. I was 16 when I realised that he has different sexual preference. He died of bulimia-induced stroke. My first makeup artist was a transgender, and treated me like a daughter. He died in a road mishap. That's when I decided that I would fight for their causes."





GAL GADOT'S WONDER WOMAN 1984 RELEASE DELAYED

Gal Gadot on Monday announced that Wonder Woman 1984 has been postponed by seven months. The superhero sequel, which was earlier slated to release on November 1, 2019, will now be released on June 5, 2020.

Gadot took to social media to reveal the news, writing, "Super excited to announce that, thanks to the changing landscape, we are able to put Wonder Woman back to its rightful home. June 5, 2020. Be there or be square!!"

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution, said, "We had tremendous success releasing the first Wonder Woman film during the summer so when we saw an opportunity to take advantage of the changing competitive landscape, we did. This move lands the film exactly where it belongs."

Wonder Woman was one of 2017's biggest success stories and received rave reviews from audiences and critics and became the highest-grossing live-action movie directed by a woman.

Source: ANI

BRITNEY SPEARS WRITES AN EMOTIONAL NOTE FOR FANS AS HER DEBUT SONG COMPLETES 20 YEARS

Britney Spears arrived on the pop music scene two decades ago with her breakout hit "Baby One More Time" and the singer is all the more grateful for the love.

The 36-year-old singer, who debuted with the chartbuster in 1998 and went on to become a teen pop idol, took to Twitter Tuesday to thank fans.

"It's hard to put into words what today means to me 20 years ago, the world heard my music for the very first time! So much has happened since then but what I really want to say is thank you to my amazing fans who have been there for me since day 1...

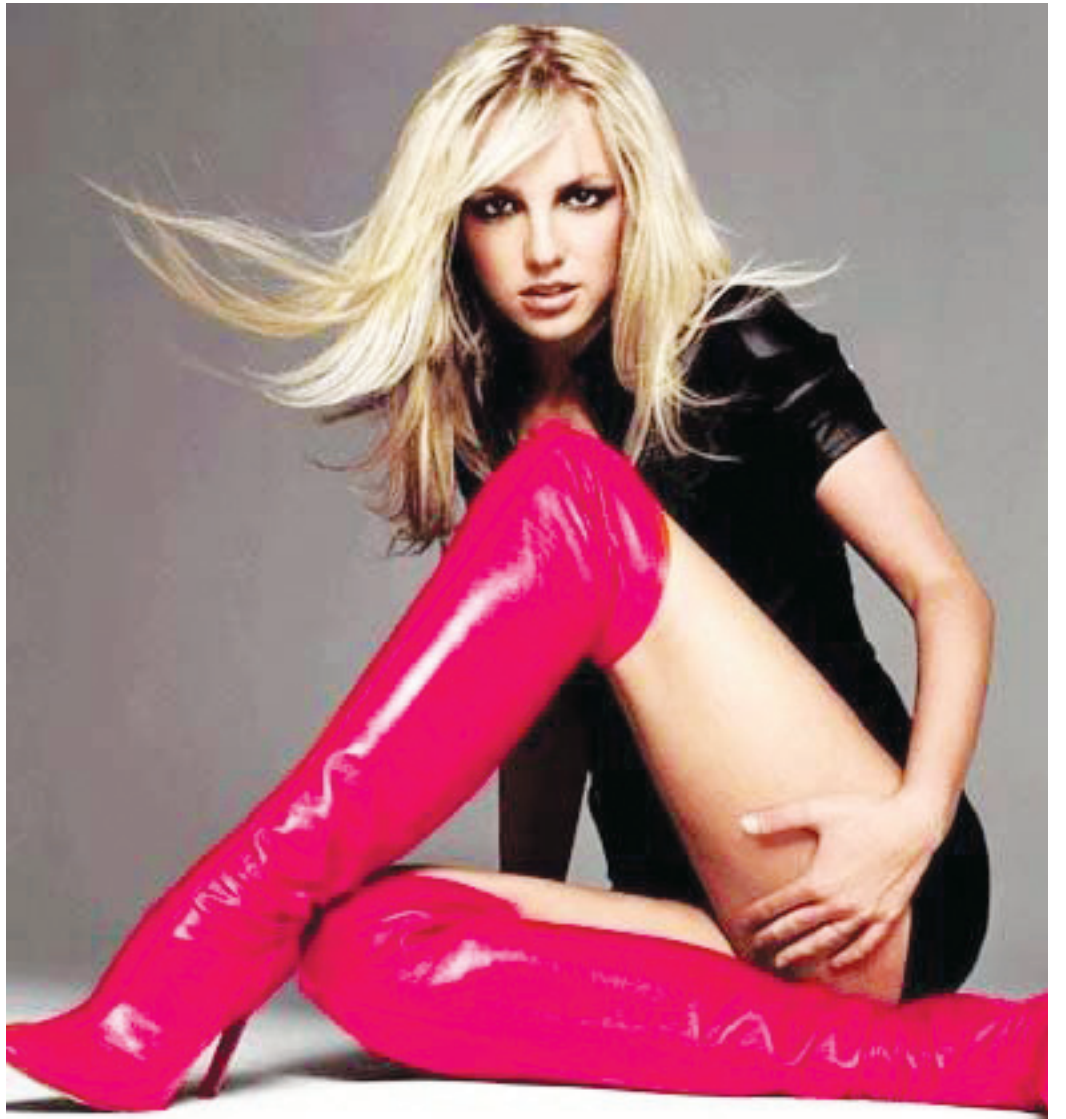
"Your support over the years has meant the absolute world to me! Love you all!" Britney said.

"... Baby one more time" debuted at No 1 on the US Billboard 200 and was certified two-times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America a month after its after.

The album, of the same name, topped the charts in 15 countries and sold over 10 million copies in a year. It became the biggest selling album ever by a teenage artist.

Britney is credited for reviving teen pop during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Source: PTI



Snow White sends the wrong message about consent, says Kristen Bell

Actress Kristen Bell says the story of Snow White sends the wrong message about consent to children because she is asleep when the prince kisses her. In an interview to Parenting magazine, the Frozen star spoke about her concerns after reading Snow White to her daughters Lincoln, five, and Delta, three, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"Every time we close Snow White, I look at my girls and ask, 'Don't you think it's weird that Snow White didn't ask the old witch why she needed to eat the apple? Or where she got that apple?'" she said. "I say, 'I would never take food from a stranger, would you?' And my kids are like, 'No!' And I'm like, 'Okay, I'm doing something right.'" she explained.

The actress also asks her daughters about

Kristen Bell said that she feels the story of Snow White sends wrong message to the kids.

the story line as she finds it offering the wrong view on consent. "Don't you think that it's weird that the prince kisses Snow White without her permission?" she asks her girls. "Because you cannot kiss someone if they're sleeping."

In the Disney classic, which was released in 1938, Snow White falls asleep after eating a poisoned apple from a witch who is jealous of her beauty. She remains in a deathless slumber for a year until a prince who fell in love with her previously comes and kisses her. She awakens and they live happily ever after in his castle.

Source: IANS



Nepal, China to step up defence cooperation

Kathmandu (TIP): As the armies of Nepal and China have increased their areas of cooperation in recent years, there are indications that the Nepal Army will receive a much bigger volume of financial assistance from the north now onwards.

China will provide 150 million yuan to the Nepal Army this year for disaster management, compared to 100 million yuan it gave last year. A defence ministry source told the Indian Express that a formal agreement between the two sides will be signed next week in Beijing in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Defence Ministry, Ishwar Pokhrel, who is attending an international conference in Beijing that began Thursday.

The armies of Nepal and China, during the past few years, have increased cooperation by, among other things, holding joint military exercises and conducting exchange programmes for training. (PTI)

Sri Lanka arrests top policeman over alleged president assassination plot

COLOMBO (TIP) - A top Sri Lankan police official was arrested on Thursday over a suspected plot to kill President Maithripala Sirisena, police a spokesman said.

The alleged plot briefly threatened to cause tension between Sri Lanka and India, after an Indian newspaper report that Sirisena had accused India's intelligence services of involvement - a claim New Delhi and Colombo have both denied.

"The Criminal Investigation Division of police today arrested Nalaka De Silva after five days of questioning him," police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said.

Gunasekara said Silva was accused of plotting to kill the president, several senior police officials and a former defense secretary. Magistrates ordered Silva, a deputy inspector general of police, be detained until Nov. 7. A police informant made the allegations against Silva in a news conference. Investigators are seeking access to deleted data from the informant's mobile phone with the help of Huawei after a court granted permission to request the company's help. Silva's lawyers were not immediately available for comment. (Reuters)

Pakistan To Send Their First Human To Space In 2022 With China's Help

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan would send a human to space for the first time in 2022 with China's help, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry announced today, ahead of Prime Minister Imran Khan's maiden visit to Beijing. Pakistan's first space mission has been planned for 2022 and the federal Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Khan approved the plan today, he was quoted as saying by news agency The News. An agreement between Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and a Chinese company has already been signed, the minister said. Earlier this year, Pakistan launched two indigenously built satellites into orbit, using a Chinese launch vehicle. Prime Minister Khan is embarking on his first visit to China on November 3 and will hold meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, news agency Geo News quoted the Foreign Office as saying. (NDTV)

Genocide against Rohingya muslims still on in Myanmar, govt silent

Marzuki Darusman, chair of the U.N. fact-finding mission on Myanmar, said thousands of Rohingya are still fleeing to Bangladesh

DHAKA (TIP): Genocide is still taking place against Rohingya Muslims remaining in Myanmar and the government is increasingly demonstrating it has no interest in establishing a fully functioning democracy, U.N. investigators said Wednesday.

Marzuki Darusman, chair of the U.N. fact-finding mission on Myanmar, said thousands of Rohingya are still fleeing to Bangladesh, and the estimated 250,000 to 400,000 who have stayed following last year's brutal military campaign in the Buddhist-majority country "continue to suffer the most severe" restrictions and repression.

"It is an ongoing genocide that is taking place at the moment," he told a news conference Wednesday.

Darusman said the requirements for genocide, except perhaps for killings, "continue to hold" for Rohingya still in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state. These include causing serious bodily harm, inflicting conditions designed to destroy the Rohingya, and imposing measures to prevent births, he said.

Myanmar's U.N. ambassador, Hau Do Suan, called the fact-finding mission "flawed, biased and politically motivated" and said the government "categorically rejects" its inference of "genocidal intent."

Yanghee Lee, the U.N. special investigator on human rights in Myanmar, said she and many others in the international community hoped the situation under Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi "would be vastly different from the past - but it is really not that much different from the past."

Lee added later that she thinks Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former political prisoner who now leads Myanmar's civilian government, "is in total denial" about accusations that the military in Buddhist-majority Myanmar raped, murdered and tortured Rohingya and burned their villages, sending over 700,000 fleeing to Bangladesh since August 2017.

"The government is increasingly demonstrating that it has no interest and capacity in establishing a fully functioning



democracy where all its people equally enjoy all their rights and freedoms," Lee said. "It is not upholding justice and rule of law" that Suu Kyi "repeatedly says is the standard to which all in Myanmar are held."

If this were the case, she said, fair laws would be applied impartially to all people, impunity would not rein, "and the law would not be wielded as a weapon of oppression."

Suu Kyi's government has rejected independent international investigations into the alleged abuses of Rohingya and has commissioned its own probe. The government has also rejected the report by the fact-finding mission, which said some top military leaders should be prosecuted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide against the Rohingya.

"The Myanmar government's hardened positions are by far the greatest obstacle," Darusman told reporters.

"Its continued denials, its attempts to shield itself under the cover of national sovereignty and its dismissal of 444 pages of details about the facts and circumstances of recent human rights violations that point to the most serious crimes under international law" strengthens the need for international action because "accountability cannot be expected from the

national processes," he said.

Darusman and Lee spoke ahead of a Security Council meeting that began with a vote on whether Darusman should be allowed to brief members.

He was given a green light with the minimum nine "yes" votes from the U.S., Britain, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru and Poland. China, which is Myanmar's neighbor and ally, Russia and Bolivia voted "no" and Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan abstained.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused supporters of the briefing of "torpedoing consensus" in the council and forcing council members "to engage in loud-speaker diplomacy."

He said the fact-finding mission didn't go to Rakhine state, called its report "too biased," and said the international community should help Myanmar and Bangladesh resolve the Rohingya refugee problem.

Chinese Ambassador Ma Zhaoxu later echoed Nebenzia, calling the report's conclusions "lopsided" and "not credible" and saying the international community should work on returning the refugees.

Lee stressed that their "repatriation is not possible now." (AP)

Pakistan Frees Taliban Leader After US Talks With Terrorists

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A top Taliban commander held in Pakistani detention for more than eight years has been freed, sources said Thursday, in an apparent move to aid tentative talks between the United States and the terrorist group. The release of Abdul Ghani Baradar - the former right-hand man of Taliban founder Mullah Omar, who died in 2013 - came less than two weeks after US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with the group's representatives in Qatar to discuss ending the Afghan conflict.

Baradar was among several senior Taliban leaders freed this week, after the Taliban demanded their release in direct talks with Khalilzad on October 12, a senior Taliban leader told news agency AFP on the condition

of anonymity. "We believe that they were released at the US's request," the leader said.

He said Baradar would likely stay in Pakistan and shuttle between the Taliban's Doha office, Kabul and Islamabad.

"It was important for confidence building and all three will participate in the next round of talks with the US in Qatar," he added.

Baradar was the most high-profile Afghan Taliban leader detained by Pakistan since the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

He was arrested in the southern port city of Karachi in 2010, reportedly in an operation that was described as a huge blow to the terrorist group, which ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001 when it was toppled by a US-led invasion. It was not clear what role, if any, he

would play in peace talks.

"Baradar was freed yesterday afternoon and he joined his family," Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told news agency AFP in a WhatsApp message.

A Pakistani intelligence official also said Baradar was "released a couple of days ago".

Baradar's release comes after the recent election of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has long advocated talks with the Taliban and other Islamist insurgents in the region to bring an end to years of fighting.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi earlier this month also pledged to support negotiations with the Taliban as the country lobbies the United States to restore military aid. (NDTV)

KERALA: A TROPICAL SYMPHONY

For many travellers, Kerala is South India's most serenely beautiful state. A slender coastal strip is shaped by its layered landscape: almost 600km of glorious Arabian Sea coast and beaches; a languid network of glistening backwaters; and the spice- and tea-covered hills of the Western Ghats. Just setting foot on this swath of soul-quenching, palm-shaded green will slow your subcontinental stride to a blissed-out amble. Kerala is a world away from the frenzy of elsewhere, as if India had passed through the Looking Glass and become an altogether more laid-back place.

Besides its famous backwaters, elegant houseboats, ayurvedic treatments and delicately spiced, taste-bud-tingling cuisine, Kerala is home to wild elephants, exotic birds and the odd tiger, while vibrant traditions such as Kathakali plays, temple festivals and snake-boat races frequently bring even the smallest villages to life. It's hard to deny Kerala's liberal use of the slogan 'God's Own Country'.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Entry to both parts of the sanctuary is only permitted as part of a two-hour jeep safari, which can be arranged at the sanctuary entrances. At the time of research the government was planning to introduce minibuses to supplement the jeeps. Trekking is no longer permitted in the sanctuary. Both Tholpetty and Muthanga close during April, but remain open during the monsoon.

Whether you go to Tholpetty or Muthanga essentially depends on whether you're staying in the north or south of Wayanad, as there's no difference in the chances of spotting wildlife. At both locations arrive at least an hour before the morning or afternoon openings to register and secure a vehicle, as there are a limited number of guides and jeeps permitted in the park at one time.

Pardesi Synagogue

Originally built in 1568, this synagogue was partially destroyed by the Portuguese in 1662, and rebuilt two years later when the Dutch took Kochi. It features an ornate gold pulpit and elaborate hand-painted, willow-pattern floor tiles from Canton, China, which were added in 1762. It's magnificently illuminated by Belgian chandeliers and coloured-glass lamps. The graceful clock tower was built in 1760. There's an upstairs balcony for women, who worshipped separately according to Orthodox rites.

Note that shorts, sleeveless tops, bags and cameras are not allowed inside.

Mattancherry Palace

Mattancherry Palace was a generous gift presented to the Raja of Kochi, Veera Kerala Varma (1537-61), as a gesture of goodwill by the Portuguese in 1555. The Dutch renovated the palace in 1663, hence its alternative name, the Dutch Palace. The star attractions here are the astonishingly preserved Hindu murals, depicting scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranic legends in intricate detail.

Museum of History & Heritage

In a lovely heritage building within the Kerala Tourism complex, this beautifully presented museum traces Kerala history and culture through superb static displays and interactive audiovisual presentations. Exhibits range from Iron Age implements to bronze and terracotta sculptures, murals, dhulichitra (floor paintings) and recreations of traditional Kerala homes.

Napier Museum

Housed in an 1880 wooden building designed by Robert Chisholm, a British architect whose Fair Isle-style version of the Kerala vernacular shows his enthusiasm for local craft, this museum has an eclectic display of bronzes, Buddhist sculptures, temple carts and ivory carvings. The carnivalesque interior is



stunning and worth a look in its own right.

Matha Amrithanandamayi Mission

The incongruously pink Matha Amrithanandamayi Mission is the famous ashram of one of India's few female gurus, Amrithanandamayi, also known as Amma (Mother) or 'The Hugging Mother' because of the darshan (audience) she offers, often hugging thousands of people in marathon all-night sessions. The ashram runs official tours at 4pm and 5pm daily – check the website or download the Amma app for details.

It's a huge complex, with about 3500 people living here permanently – monks, nuns, students and families, both Indian and foreign. It offers food, ayurvedic treatments, and a daily schedule of yoga, meditation and darshan. Amma travels around for much of the year, so you might be out of luck if in need of a cuddle (check her schedule online). A busy time of year at the ashram is around Amma's birthday on 27 September.

Visitors should dress conservatively and there is a strict code of behaviour. With prior arrangement – register online – you can stay at the ashram in a triple room for ₹250 per person, ₹500 for a single (including simple vegetarian meals).

Since the ashram is on the main canal between Kollam and Alleppey, many travellers break the ferry ride by getting off here, staying a day or two, then picking up another cruise. Alternatively, cross to the other side of the canal and grab a rickshaw 10km south to Karunagappally or 12km north to Kayankulam (around ₹200), from where you can catch onward buses or trains.

If you're not taking the cruise, catch a train to either Karunagappally or Kayankulam and take an autorickshaw to Vallickavu and cross the pedestrian bridge from there. If you intend to stay a while, you can book online for an ashram taxi – they pick up from as far away as Kochi or Trivandrum.

Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary

A serene 25-sq-km park in the foothills of the Western Ghats, cut through by two rivers and two streams, Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary is home to over 320 fluttering species – unusual in that they are mostly forest, rather than water birds – including Malabar grey hornbills, Ripley owls, jungle nightjars, grey drongos, darters and rarer species like the Sri Lankan frogmouth. There are kingfishers, flycatchers, warblers, sunbirds and tiny 4g flowerpeckers.

Boating on the river can be organised at the park office, while accommodation places offer guided birdwatching trips. Thattekkad is on the Ernakulam-Munnar road. Take a direct bus from either Ernakulam or Munnar to Kothamangalam, from where a Thattekkad bus travels the final 12km.

Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary

This reserve on the 5-hectare site of a former rubber plantation on Lake Vembanad is the haunt of a variety of domestic and migratory birds. October to February is the time for travelling birds like the garganey teal, osprey, marsh harrier and steppe eagle; May to July is the breeding season for local species such as the Indian shag, pond herons, egrets and darters.

INFIDELITY: 4 SIGNS THAT YOUR HUSBAND IS SEEING SOMEONE

Many women believe their husband would never even consider having an affair; let alone actually have one, but it's an unfortunate reality that strikes many unsuspecting wives. Recent statistics suggest that 20 percent of American men have cheated at least once, and those are just the ones who admit it in a survey.

Since it is a relatively common issue, some signs have been identified which may suggest someone is cheating — and you may have even noticed them already. Look out for these four signs that your husband might be seeing someone.

He Won't Let You See His Phone

Reluctance to hand over a phone, computer, or other mobile device is one of the biggest red flags, especially if it accompanies a sudden change in behavior. Refusal to do so is even worse. It immediately indicates that there is something to hide. While it's true some people are private by nature, only you can determine whether your husband's reluctance to share devices is out of character for him or not.

If it is, there is cause for suspicion. In this digital age, if your husband is having an affair, there is likely ample electronic evidence through texts, emails, and pictures. If he's guilty of such communication, he'll be hesitant to allow his devices in your hands for too long. Even if such evidence is deleted, he'll be wary of new messages popping up and blowing his cover.

Strange Behavior

Certain changes in behavior could be signs of an affair. If your husband is acting out of the ordinary, take notice. There is no typical behavior to expect from a cheating spouse. A husband who is cheating can display distant behavior, or he can be close and attached. If his behavior is out of character, it could be an indicator that something is going on.

Lashing out uncharacteristically over simple questions or discussions can be a



sign, or suddenly showering you with gifts could also be a sign. Guilt manifests differently in people, and both could be signs of guilt depending on your husband's typical behaviors.

He Suddenly Dresses Better

If your husband suddenly seems to pay a lot more attention to how he dresses or his personal hygiene, that should set off some alarms. If he hates shopping for clothes, yet suddenly takes an interest in his fashion sense, that could be a bad sign. Suddenly wearing cologne after never doing so could also suggest he's trying to impress someone with a more approachable appearance.

Emphasis on personal appearance is common in a new courtship. Dating people tend to spend more time presenting themselves as they try to make an impression and establish interest in someone. This focus commonly declines in a marriage, so if your husband suddenly prioritizes his appearance, it's a good idea to find out why he's doing so.

He Spends Money

Affairs can be costly, and not just if they're discovered. Men who have affairs often end up spending a lot on jewelry,

eating out, and other gifts that go along with a new flame. It may resemble what he once did for you during the early stages of your relationship. If you discover a series of unexplained purchases, it may be a sign he's doing this for someone else.

Not every cheating husband is brazen enough to use a joint checking account for such purchases, but it's worth consistent monitoring anyway. If the cheating has been going on long enough, it's likely he could slip up from his secrecy. Unexplained ATM withdrawals could be another sign, especially if they occur at strange locations. The expenses that accumulate around affairs often paid with cash, since it's harder to trace.

Next Steps

Take the first step and be aware of these signs your husband might be showing. Not all cheaters display these identifiable signs, so some uncertainty may remain. If you're questioning whether or not your husband is cheating and he isn't showing these signs, consider seeking the help of a licensed private investigator. A trained professional can act on your suspicion and give you the answer you need to move forward.

Source: *Woman's era*



Steps to Prevent Hair Damage

Keep Your Scalp Clean

"Dry shampoos are great for a second or third day, but they don't take the place of a shampoo," Blaisure says. "There's a whole microbiome of bacteria on the scalp that needs to be cleansed on a regular basis; otherwise you'll get build-up that could affect growth." When you do cleanse, which should be at least twice a week, depending on your hair texture, go for a mild yet strand-fortifying shampoo.

Be Gentle with Strands

"The more gentle you can be with your hair, the stronger it's going to be," Dr. Bank says. "Because you're not fully able to repair breakage once the hair has left the scalp, it's really about not adding insult to injury." In other words, be especially careful when your hair is wet and in a fragile state; for example, gently squeeze freshly washed hair rather than rub with your towel. And when blow-drying, be mindful not to pull or tug your strands too taut with your brush.

Switch Up Your Style

We all have a go-to do, but wearing your hair in the same style every day can actually harm the strands. "Parting the hair a certain way or wearing it in a ponytail with a rubber band repeatedly for too long can cause breakage," Blaisure says. Extensions and weaves are no exception. Stressing the same strands over and over weakens the hair follicle itself, which can even lead to hair loss over time. If that does happen, go au naturel for six months to give your hair a rest.

Use Conditioner Religiously

"Using conditioners will help strengthen and coat the hairs, reinforcing them from the outside against damage," Dr. Bank says. Invest in a deep-conditioning treatment that contains rice extract and protein, like Nexxus Keraphix Damage Healing Hair Reconstructing Treatment, which helps strengthen and repair the hair shaft. Aim to use it at least once a week, Blaisure says. On days when you don't use a regular conditioner, make sure to protect your ends with a lightweight oil-based serum or spray.

Protect It from Heat

If you regularly heat-style or spend a lot of time outdoors, it's crucial to arm your strands with thermal protection beforehand. Après shower, run a UVA- and UVB-protective primer through damp hair before reaching for the blow-dryer and distribute it evenly from mid-lengths through ends. If you plan to use a straightening or curling iron, spritz a multiuse protective spray.

Cut Off Damaged Ends

Since the ends are the oldest and therefore the most-worn part of your hair, getting them snipped regularly will help prevent the strands from fraying, Blaisure says. When you notice the ends beginning to split, it's time for a trim—usually every six weeks or so, depending on your hair length.

FOOD CORNER

COCONUT CHICKEN CURRY

Ingredients

- 8 Pepper corns (Kalimirchi)
- 6 Coriander Roots (Dhania)
- 3 cms thinly sliced Ginger (Adrak)
- 625 ml Coconut milk
- 2 thinly sliced Green chilli (Hari mirch)
- 1 Lime Peel
- 4 shredded Lime Leaves (Nimbu Ke Patte)
- 1 kg cut into 8 pieces Chicken
- 1 tbsp Fish Sauce
- 3 tbsp Lime Juice (Nimbu Ka Raas)
- 3 tbsp chopped Coriander (Dhania)
- To taste Salt (Namak)

Method

Beat peppercorns, coriander roots and ginger together.



Heat peppercorn mixture in a wok.

Stir in chillies, coconut milk, lime peel and leaves. Heat to simmering point. Mix the chicken pieces. Cook over medium heat till the chicken is tender and liquid is reduced, it will take about 40 to 45 minutes. Mix fish sauce, salt and lime juice. Garnished with coriander leaves. Serve hot.

OILS THAT PREVENT HEART ATTACK



Cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, are the world's number one killers, claiming 17.5 million lives a year globally.

According to the National Institute of Nutrition India, our diet should consist of 15-30 percent fats.

One must remember that not all oils are suitable for high-temperature Indian cooking. Using oils such as olive oil (especially extra-virgin) are not recommended for deep frying food items such as samosas and pakodas. The reason for this is that on overheating these oils lose their nutritional qualities and produce harmful by-products. Alternatively when used in salads as a dressing, the oil does wonders in helping protect the heart. Similarly, sunflower, coconut, mustard oil all have a good heat endurance and can be used for deep-frying. So the choice of oil must be customized for the food you are looking at cooking.

Different oils are suitable for different cooking conditions and people for instance: Sunflower oil though a good source of monounsaturated (MUFA) and polyunsaturated (PUFA) fatty acids is not recommended for diabetic patients since it may increase sugar levels. Canola, avocado, and almond oil are considered good for the heart because they contain healthy fats. However, combining different oils in one's diet is ideal.

A large section of people are unaware of is that most oils are not meant to be used for cooking at high temperatures. Over-heating oil causes oxidation that leads to the formation of carcinogens, an unhealthy compound. It also demolishes the good nutritional qualities of the oil. The best way to avoid this is to watch the color of the oil. The change in the color of the oil is

a crucial sign that indicates that it has started to degrade due to the heat.

For instance, extra virgin olive oil is not suitable for deep frying or cooking any food product. It should solely be used for dressing or making dips. Most are unaware about this fact and continue to use oils that seem healthier for normal high heat Indian cooking thereby causing more harm than good.

Another mistake that people often make is that they try and eliminate fats completely from their diet. An ideal diet should consist of 15-30 percent fats, and edible oils are one of the major contributors of dietary fats. Instead of eliminating oil completely from one's diet, smart oil choices must be made.

In addition to this, people must get out of the habit of reusing cooking oil. Reusing oil can create free radicals, which cause ailments in the long run. These free radicals can be carcinogenic i.e. can cause cancer and also atherosclerosis that can lead to an increase in bad cholesterol levels, blocking the arteries. If one must re-use oil, then they must make sure the leftover oil from cooking or frying is cooled down and then transferred into an airtight container through a strainer/cheesecloth. This will remove any food particles in the oil as they spoil the oil much sooner than expected. In addition to this, the color and thickness of the oil must be checked. If the oil is dark in color and is greasy/sticky than it must not be re-used.

People must also be aware that oil can get spoiled. If upon heating the oil is smoky much before than expected, the time has come to discard it it may have accumulated HNE which is a toxic substance that has been associated with a number of diseases including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, stroke, liver disease, etc.

A sample of a healthy diet to protect the heart?

Consuming certain foods can double your heart disease risks, and it is often tough to change one's eating habits. It is important to control your portion size, a small plate or bowl can help control the portions one consumes. Consuming larger portions of low-calorie and nutrient-rich foods like, fruits and vegetables and reducing the quantity of food items which are high in trans fat, sodium and sugar content can go a long way in protecting the heart. One must understand the difference between good fat and bad fat to minimize the risks of heart disease. A few heart friendly diet practices include:

- Eating more fruits and vegetables as they are low in calories and rich in dietary fibers
- Reducing the consumption of red meat is important for heart patients
- Opting for a sodium and sweet controlled diet since diabetes and hypertension both lead to coronary heart disease
- Low calorie and high nutrient food must be consumed to keep obesity under check. Obesity is again a major influencer in early incidence of heart disease
- People must limit the consumption of pre-packaged and canned food as they contain high levels of trans fats and salt content
- Whole grain products are regarded as a great source of fiber that plays a major role in regulating blood pressure and heart health. One can easily increase the amount of whole grains in their diet by making simple substitutions for refined grain products.



Smoking marijuana may increase stroke risk

If you are smoking marijuana then you are at an increased risk of developing cerebrovascular effects of cannabinoids or stroke, a new study has found.

The findings, presented at the World Stroke Congress in Montreal, showed a rise in stroke incidence among marijuana users from 2010-14 while overall stroke prevalence remained stable.

According to the researchers from the University of Toronto, there are over 80 million people currently living with the effects of stroke globally.

For the study, the team evaluated the use of the drug rivaroxaban versus acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) to prevent strokes in patients with an enlarged left atrium of the heart.

The study examined a total of 2.3 million hospitalisations among people who used marijuana recreationally among which 32,231 had a stroke including 19,452 with acute ischemic stroke - sudden loss of blood circulation to an area of the brain.

"We are seeing a very intriguing signal here, and it has biological plausibility, but it is going to require independent validation before making any changes to practice recommendations," said co-author David Gladstone, Associate Professor from the varsity.

The results showed that the rate of stroke of all types among marijuana users increased from 1.3 to 1.5%. In addition, the rate of ischemic stroke increased from 0.7 to 0.9%, the team said.

During the five-year period, the prevalence of stroke among all patients was stable, findings revealed, they added.

The researchers concluded that these growing trends of stroke among marijuana users "warrant further prospective studies to evaluate the marijuana-stroke association amidst legalisation of recreational use."

Source: IANS

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REUSABLE WOOD SPONGE CAN CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS

Scientists have developed reusable sponges made from wood that can soak up oil spills from water bodies.

Although oil and water don't mix, separating and recovering each component can be challenging.

The material, developed by researchers at the Chinese Academy of Forestry, selectively absorbs oil, and can be squeezed out and used again.

Over the years, scientists have developed numerous techniques to clean up oily water. However, many of these methods suffer from limitations, such as low efficiency, secondary pollution and high cost.

More recently, researchers have explored 3D porous materials, such as aerogels or sponges, based on various building blocks including synthetic polymers, silica or cellulose nanofibers.

However, these are often difficult to fabricate, lack mechanical robustness or are made from nonrenewable, nondegradable materials.

Xiaoqing Wang and colleagues from Chinese Academy of Forestry wanted to develop a sponge made from wood — a renewable resource — that would absorb oil and tolerate repeated squeezing without structural failure. *Source: PTI*

Facebook now allows users to add songs to photos, videos

Offering its over two billion monthly users new ways to express themselves, Facebook has introduced new music features, including an option to add a song to photos and videos they share to Facebook Stories.

"And, we're bringing it to News Feed, too!" Facebook said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that users would soon be able to add songs to their Profile as well.

Adding a song to a photo or video on Facebook works in the same way the feature functions on Instagram.

Just take a photo or video, tap on the sticker icon and select the music sticker. Once you find the song of your choice, you can pick the perfect part to share and add the sticker with the artist and song name.

Users can move the sticker around and add other stickers and effects to customise their story.

Facebook said it was also rolling out "Lip Sync Live", a feature Facebook introduced in June to let users lip sync to songs, to all profiles in many countries around the world.

"We are also opening up the feature to more artists and creators by expanding to Pages, giving them more ways to connect with their fans," said Facebook's Fred Beteille, Head of Product, Music and Rights, and Tamara Hrivnak, Head of Music Business Development and Partnerships. *Source: IANS*



SMALL FLYING ROBOTS CAN HAUL HEAVY LOADS

Scientists have developed small flying robots that can carry objects up to 40 times their weight, and even heave open closed doors, making them useful for search and rescue operations.

The micro air vehicles, called FlyCroTugs, can anchor themselves to various surfaces using adhesives inspired by the feet of geckos and insects.

With these attachment mechanisms, FlyCroTugs can pull objects up to 40 times their weight, like door handles in one scenario, or cameras and water bottles in a rescue situation.

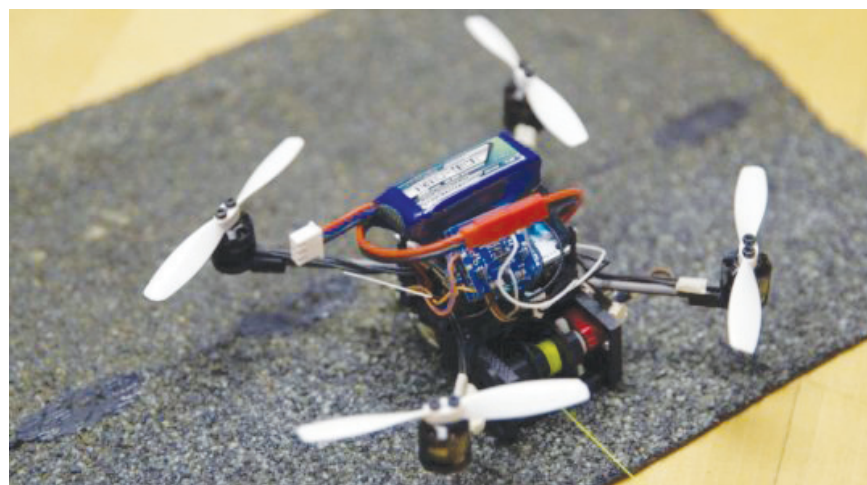
Similar vehicles can only lift objects about twice their own weight using aerodynamic forces, researchers said.

"Combining the aerodynamic forces of our aerial vehicle along with interaction forces that we generate with the attachment mechanisms resulted in something that was very mobile, very forceful and micro as well," said Matthew Estrada, a graduate student at Stanford University in the US.

The researchers say the FlyCroTugs' small size means they can navigate through snug spaces and fairly close to people, making them useful for search and rescue.

Holding tightly to surfaces as they tug, the tiny robots could potentially move pieces of debris or position a camera to evaluate a treacherous area.

Hoping to have an air vehicle that was fast, small and highly manoeuvrable but also able to move large loads, the researchers looked to wasps.



"Wasps can fly rapidly to a piece of food, and then if the thing's too heavy to take off with, they drag it along the ground. So this was sort of the beginning inspiration for the approach we took," said Mark Cutkosky, from Stanford University.

The researchers read studies on wasp prey capture and transport, which identify the ratio of flight-related muscle to total mass that determines whether a wasp flies with its prey or drags it.

They also followed the lead of the wasp in having different attachment options depending on where the FlyCroTugs land.

For smooth surfaces, the robots have gecko grippers, non-sticky adhesives that mimic a gecko's intricate toe structures and hold on by creating intermolecular forces between the adhesive and the surface. For rough surfaces, these robots

are equipped with 32 microspines, a series of fishhook-like metal spines that can individually latch onto small pits in a surface.

Each FlyCroTug has a winch with a cable and either microspines or gecko adhesive in order to tug. Beyond those fixed features they are otherwise highly modifiable.

The location of the grippers can vary depending on the surface where they will be landing, and the researchers can also add parts for ground-based movement, such as wheels.

The researchers can successfully open a door with two FlyCroTugs. They also had one fly atop a crumbling structure and haul up a camera to see inside.

Next, they hope to work on autonomous control and the logistics of flying several vehicles at once. *Source: PTI*

ISRO to send human in space by 2022

The ISRO will send human for the first time in space by 2022 while its ambitious project Chandrayan 2 will be completed in 2019 with landing of an indigenous spacecraft, the space agency's chairman Kailasavadivoo Sivan said.

Sivan, who is here to attend the convocation ceremony of DDU Gorakhpur University on Friday, told reporters, "We have set a deadline of sending human to space by the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022".

The Chandrayan 2 will be sent on the moon by January or February next year. Chandrayan 2 is designed to make soft landing on the moon and carry out extensive experiments on its surface. Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake three to six missions in the next six months, he said.

The ISRO is serving the nation in various fields including communication, navigation, space science etc and every single person of India is somehow linked with its services, he said.

"Under Digital India Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ISRO is all set to provide high data connectivity of 100 GBPS in rural and remote areas by placing four communication satellites in to space, of which one is already placed this year, while the rest three will be placed in



November, December and early next year," he said.

He said more than 75 per cent of the population of country lives in remote areas and it is advisable to space technology to provide services in various speeds. The ISRO chairman said although it was not possible for India's premier space agency to recruit all potential engineers passing out from Indian universities yet it was working on capacity building programmes to tap their potential through incubation and research centers.

"The ISRO is all set to give young engineers opportunity to serve the nation by opening six incubation centers, research centers and research chair in north, south, east, central and west India," he said.

While one incubation center is already opened in Agartala, rest will operationalise in Jalandhar, Bhubneshwar, Indore, Nagpur and Kochi. Similarly, research centers would come up in Guwahati, Jaipur, Krukshetra, Kanyakumari, Patna and Varansi, he said. *Source: PTI*

BMW recalls over one million cars over exhaust system fire risk

German high-end carmaker BMW said Tuesday it would recall more than one million additional diesel cars, citing a problem with the exhaust system that "in extreme cases can cause a fire".

"In some diesel vehicles, glycol cooling fluid can leak" from a faulty component called the exhaust gas recirculation cooler, which can combine with other substances in the system to create the fire risk, the group said.

BMW said it was contacting sellers who would in turn get in touch with owners of the affected vehicles to arrange a checkup.

"The exhaust recirculation module will be checked and if there is a fault the parts will be exchanged," the group said.

BMW had in August announced a recall for Europe and some Asian countries of over 480,000 vehicles affected by the same problem, and issued an apology in South Korea after around 30 cars caught fire there this year.



It said Tuesday it had checked more diesel models and identified a "minimal risk" of fire in some of them.

The latest recall brings the total number of cars affected to some 1.6

million around the world.

Shares in BMW shed 1.4% to trade at 73.38 euros in Frankfurt by 11.45 am, against a DAX index of blue-chip German shares down 2.1%. *Source: AFP*

India's 4Tune Factory gets UN award for women in business

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Kerala-based 4Tunes Factory has been given a special recognition award by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for enabling women and girls to develop skills.

Chandra Vadhana, the CEO of the company, received the 'Empretec Women in Business: Special Recognition Social Award' on Thursday in Geneva at the World Investment Forum.

The award was presented by Alok Kumar, the founder of SRK Consulting Group.

According to UNCTAD, the award



judges said 4Tunes Factory "worked towards activating and enabling women and girls by developing their skills".

It said the Empretec awards are given

to women-owned businesses that have benefited from the business from UNCTAD's Empretec entrepreneurship programme.

It seeks to develop entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with the aim of promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The 4Tunes Factory, which is based in Kakkannad, near Ernakulam, says it designs and implements "innovative concepts in the areas of human talent maximisation involving technological solutions". *Source: IANS*

Gold hits over 6-year high of Rs 32,625 on festive buzz, global cues

NEW DELHI (TIP): Gold prices rose by another Rs 125 to trade at over six-year high of Rs 32,625 per 10 gram Thursday, buoyed by pick-up in festive and wedding season demand by local jewellers amid firm global trends and weakening rupee.

Silver, however, remained weak and fell by Rs 130 to Rs 39,600 per kg due to slackened demand from industrial units.

Bullion traders said sentiments also got a boost on firming trend in overseas where gold traded at over three-month high as the dollar eased and equities slumped. Besides, weakness in the local currency also added to investor sentiments.

Globally, gold was trading at \$ 1,234.20 an ounce in Singapore Thursday.

Besides, a pick-up in buying by local jewellers to meet seasonal demand at domestic spot markets and diversion of funds from falling equity markets also supported the uptrend, they said.

In the national capital gold of 99.99 and 99.5 per cent purity rallied by Rs 125 each to Rs 32,625 and Rs 32,475 per 10 gram, respectively. This is the highest



level since November 29, 2012 when the precious metal had closed at Rs 32,940 per ten gram.

This is the third straight session of gain for the yellow metal which has gained Rs 405 since October 23.

Sovereign gold, however, traded steady at Rs 24,800 per piece of eight

gram.

On the other hand, silver ready extended its weakness by prices falling by another Rs 130 to Rs 39,600 per kg. Silver coins, however, remained unaltered at Rs 76,000 for buying and Rs 77,000 for selling of 100 pieces. *Source: PTI*



KRAFT HEINZ TO SELL PART OF INDIA BUSINESS FOR ABOUT \$630 MILLION

Kraft Heinz Co will sell part of its Indian business, including brands such as malt-based drink Complan and energy drink Glucon-D, for 45.95 billion (\$627.18 million), at a time when Indian consumers are demanding healthier, sugar-free alternatives.

Indian pharmaceutical and consumer products company Zydus Wellness Ltd and its parent Cadila Healthcare Ltd will jointly buy the assets to expand their portfolio to also include brands such as talcum powder Nycil and clarified butter, Sampriti Ghee, the companies said in a statement on Wednesday.

Complan, along with GlaxoSmithKline's health drinks brands Horlicks, was very popular until about a decade ago, when consumers used these products for supplemental nutrition along with milk. Their popularity has since waned, with sales growth slipping, as consumers grew wary of the sugar content in these products and the health claims made by these brands.

"The sale of this niche business fits into our overall global growth strategy and our focus on investing in and growing brands within our core categories," Kraft Heinz Chief Executive Bernardo Hees said in a statement. Glaxo's Horlicks is also up for sale and sources told Reuters last month that Nestle, Unilever, and Coca-Cola are among the bidders for the business that could fetch more than \$4 billion. *Source: Reuters*

Asian shares mostly lower despite US markets rally

TOKYO (TIP): Asian shares have turned lower after early gains, despite the overnight jump on Wall Street. Worries over corporate earnings, trade and the outlook for growth weighed on sentiment.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 1.1 per cent to 21,026.97 on Friday, while South Korea's Kospi plunged 2.6 per cent to 2,010.46. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gave up 0.4 per cent to 5,640.60.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 1.5 per cent to 24,609.81 and the Shanghai Composite shed 0.5 per cent to 2,589.65.

Shares rose in Indonesia but fell in Taiwan and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

The rally wiped out a large part of the market's plunge from the day before. The S&P 500 index jumped 1.9 per cent to 2,705.57.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.6 per cent to 24,984.55 and the Nasdaq surged 3 per cent to 7,318.34 after its biggest drop in seven years.

Investors are worried that rising interest rates and disputes with trading partners could hurt economic growth and corporate profits.

They get more insight into how the American economy is doing later in the day when the US government reports on economic growth during the third quarter.

"Despite the relief stemming from gains on Wall Street, the leads are mixed for Asia into Friday," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

"One notable trend that would add to the pressure for Asia markets on Friday morning had also been the strengthening greenback."

Benchmark US crude fell 66 cents to USD 66.67 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

It gained 51 cents to USD 67.82 on Thursday. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, dipped 53 cents to USD 76.37. *Source: AP*

contd from Page 1

Bombs reach top U.S. porches: Trump calls for more civility in politics

None of the packages exploded. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched a hunt for their sender, the BBC reported.

Mr. Trump was speaking after parcels were sent to top Democrats, including former President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, besides New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, and media offices of CNN and the San Diego Union - Tribune, who are all prominent targets of right-wing criticism.

"Those engaged in political arena must stop treating political opponents as being morally defective," he said. "No one should carelessly compare political opponents to historic villains, which is done often," he added.

Speaking at a Wednesday night rally in Wisconsin, Mr. Trump vowed to catch the perpetrator and called on the media to "stop endless hostility". Critics called his latest remarks hypocritical, as he often uses vicious language against his opponents and the press.

However, he made no specific reference to the intended recipients of the packages, the BBC reported

Earlier CNN worldwide President Jeff Zucker criticized Mr. Trump and the White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders for not understanding that "words matter". "There is a total and complete lack of understanding at the White House about the seriousness of their continued attacks on the media," Mr. Zucker said.

Suspected bombs were sent to locations in New York, the Washington DC area and Florida, authorities said on Wednesday. All the apparent targets were regularly criticized by conservatives -- especially by President Trump.

U.S. authorities are investigating this as a connected series, officials said.

Sources told CNN that a suspicious package intended for California Democratic Maxine Waters was intercepted at a congressional mail screening facility in Maryland; New York Governor Mr. Andrew Cuomo received what he said was a device at his Manhattan office; and the San Diego Union-Tribune evacuated its building after "suspicious looking packages" were spotted outside.

CNN's New York bureau in the Time Warner Center was evacuated after a package containing a bomb, addressed to former CIA Director John Brennan, was discovered, city and local law enforcement officials said.

Later Wednesday night, two law enforcement sources told CNN that law enforcement officials were trying to track down a package addressed to former Vice President Joe Biden considered suspicious because of similarities to other packages.

The package was misaddressed and returned to sender.

The developments, which unfolded rapidly and continued steadily into the afternoon, touched off fear and confusion and immediately invited questions about the motives of those

responsible.

Some Democrats have accused the president of inciting violence with his past rhetoric, while some of his supporters have said they believe the packages are part of a Democratic plot to win votes in the mid-term elections.

There is no evidence for this and the police have not released any information about any suspects. The attempted attacks come just under two weeks before the mid-terms, with U.S. politics highly polarized. (Source: IANS)

Indian-American picked for US energy agency

Neil Chatterjee as chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), charged with overseeing America's power grid and deciding on multibillion-dollar energy projects. Chatterjee, who is FERC Commissioner, would replace Kevin McIntyre. This is for the second time that Chatterjee has been designated as FERC chairman. He served briefly in 2017.

(Source: PTI)

CIA director Gina Haspel briefs Trump on Khashoggi investigation

Consulate, the White House said.

"The President received a briefing from director Haspel this morning following her return from Turkey. She briefed the president on their findings and her discussions," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said.

The White House did not provide any other details of the meeting. Ms. Haspel returned from Turkey last night. In Turkey, she met with officials involved in the investigations of the murder of the Saudi journalist Khashoggi. Turkish officials say they have audio of the proof of the murder.

In a news report, The Washington Post said that Ms. Haspel listened to the audio tape.

A person familiar with the audio said it was "compelling" and could put more pressure on the U.S. to hold the kingdom accountable for the death of Khashoggi, the daily reported. Khashoggi was a contributing columnist for The Washington Post.

"This puts the ball firmly in Washington's court," Bruce Riedel, a former CIA official and scholar at the Brookings Institution, told The Washington Post.

"Not only will there be more pressure now from the media, but Congress will say, 'Gina, we would love to have you come visit and you can tell us exactly what you heard'," he told the daily.

Ms. Haspel's briefing to Mr. Trump comes amidst latest change in Saudi stance in which it acknowledges that Khashoggi was murdered by its officials in a "premeditated" operation.

Meanwhile, Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, alleged that the Saudis are

still engaged in cover up.

"In the face of mounting evidence, the Saudis now admit Khashoggi's torture and murder was premeditated. But they are still engaged in a cover up," Mr. Reed said.

"The Saudi Crown Prince must direct those responsible to produce Khashoggi's body immediately so that an autopsy may be conducted, and his family can have a proper burial. If the Crown Prince is unable or unwilling to do so, then it will become clear that he is complicit in the cover up," he said.

Mr. Reed alleged that Mr. Trump's feeble response to the brutal torture, murder, and apparent dismemberment of a journalist who was legally living in the United States shows a stunning lack of leadership.

"The Saudis ever-changing story underscores the need for an independent and credible international investigation of what happened to Mr. Khashoggi," he said.

"If President Trump abdicates his responsibility to hold the Saudis accountable then Congress must go it alone. Congress must follow the facts and act in a responsible, bipartisan manner to hold the killers, and those who ordered the killing, accountable," Reed said.

Senator Bernie Sanders said the brutal murder of Khashoggi demands that the US make clear that its support for Saudi Arabia is not unconditional. (Source: PTI)

Details of offset partners will be known when procurement begins: Defense Minister Sitharaman

that details about offset partners will be known only when the procurement begins.

"...Dassault and two or three companies are participating in the supply of Rafale. So each one of them will have an offset obligation to be fulfilled," she said at the 'India Summit: Status of the nation', organized by the Economist magazine.

Asked about the controversy surrounding Dassault Aviation's choice of Anil Ambani's Reliance Defense as an offset partner, Sitharaman said each company involved in the supply will have its offset partners in India.

"Now for Dassault alone to come back to me to say that their offset is getting fulfilled completely, through one, two, three or any number of companies with whom they either go with investments or go for a buying of a product or buying of a service, (it) is left to Dassault to come to me to claim it.

"Till such time they claim each and every one of them, I will not know whether they are with one, or ten or with hundred (Indian offset partners)," the minister said.

"The offset partners' details will be known when they approach me with bills detailing what kind of service is being received, whether it is in the form of equipment or investment," she said.

While the Congress has alleged irregularities in the Rafale deal and accused the government of favoring Ambani's firm, the government as well as Anil Ambani have vehemently denied the opposition party's allegations.

Sitharaman noted that the commencement of the delivery of Rafale jets has not begun.

"They still have time to come back to me to say look, my offset is getting fulfilled through these routes. They will have to submit transaction details of who got the money, for what purpose. Till all that is done, I cannot even claim how many people they (Dassault) are going with," the minister added.

She said the previous UPA government had floated a global tender for procurement of Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA).

"They never bought it (the aircraft) but always claim that they bought it at one particular amount," she said, rebutting the Congress allegation that the price of the aircraft shot up in the deal signed by the NDA government.

"The emergency number (of planes) which UPA required was 18 but with more time passing, the emergency number what we wanted was 36, which is equal to two squadrons," the defense minister said.

She said the UPA government went for an open tender, but the present government opted for an inter-governmental tender.

"For the 18 and for the rest they (UPA government) went for a tender. What we have done is that we have gone for inter-governmental tender for first 36 emergency number, while rest of the procurement will be through strategic partnership," Sitharaman said.

She added that there will be an overseas manufacturer along with an Indian partner for manufacturing of rest of the planes.

"So, the processes have been simplified, (made) much transparent now. That is why there is so much information available in the public domain. There is no scandal or crony (capitalism) any way," the defense minister insisted. (Source: PTI)

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KARWA CHAETH

Karwa Chauth is one of India's most celebrated festivals of the Hindu community. The festival celebrates the pious bond that is shared between husband and wife. On this day wives keep fast for the whole day for showing their devotion towards their husband. And, they break the fast only after seeing the Moon in night by drinking water from their husband's hand.

Origin and Significance

The fast of Karwa Chauth is of particular importance to all Hindu married women in India. They believe that the festival ensures prosperity, longevity and well-being of their husbands. The origin of this festival was based on a very sweet and noble idea. Though this idea has lost its true sense as today the whole outlook of this festival has changed. In the ancient time, girls used to get married at a very early stage, and had to go and live with their in-laws in other villages. After marriage, if she faces any problem with her in-laws or her husband, she would have no one to talk to or seek support from. There used to be no telephones, buses and trains long ago. Her own parents and relatives would be quite far and unreachable. Thus the custom started that, at the time of marriage, when bride would reach her in-laws, she would befriend another woman there who would be her friend or sister for life. It would be like god-friends or god-sisters. Their friendship would be sanctified through a small Hindu ceremony right during the marriage.

Once the bride and this woman had become god-friends or god-sisters, they would remain so all their lives and recognize the relation as such. They would also treat each other like real sisters.

Later in life, if she faces any difficulty related to her husband or in-laws, she would be able to confidently talk or seek help from each other. Thus, Karwa Chauth was started to as a festival to celebrate this relationship between the once-brides and their god-friends (god-sisters). Fasting and praying for husband came later and is secondary. It was probably added, along with other mythical tales, to enhance the festival.

The husband would always be associated with this festival, because the day of starting this holy friendship between two god-sisters was essentially the day of bride's marriage to him. Thus, praying and fasting for him by his wife during a celebration of her relationship with the god-friend would be quite logical.

Hence, the festival of Karwa Chauth was to renew and celebrate the relationship between god-friends (god-sisters). It had a tremendous social and cultural significance when world was not having the way to communicate and move around easily.

Karwa Chauth Celebrations

The day of Karwa Chauth is celebrated mostly amongst the entire North Indian community settled either in India and other parts of the world. The most important aspect of this day is that a dawn to dusk fast is undertaken by the North Indian ladies and seeing the moon they finally break the fast. The Karwa Chauth fast is unique perhaps because nowhere in the world does a wife go without food or water just to pray for the longevity and well-being of her husband. In modern day, with all the trappings of commercialization attached, Karwa Chauth, the big fasting day has turned into a full-fledged event. The event is growing bigger with each passing day. Karwa Chauth celebrations promise to grow bigger with each passing year. The Halwais, the Mehendi and Churiwallis have traditionally been busy on this auspicious day. But joining the bandwagon in recent times are the beauty parlour owners, the event managers and the restaurant owners.

Karwa Chauth special eateries are gearing up for now. Cashing in on the popularity of 'eating out' most restaurants have special menus for this special day. No wonder almost



every happening-eating joint around town is offering plenty of attractive options to choose from. Various clubs organize special events on this festive day with various stalls, bumper Tambola and even a dance competition. With so much feasting and fun added to it, fasting had never been so good before.

First Karwa Chauth

Karwa Chauth is of great importance for married Hindu women but the festival is seen as a big occasion for women undertaking their first Karwa Chauth fast after marriage. A newly married woman is given utmost importance by relatives and immediate family members when she observes her first fast for the long life of her husband. She is showered with blessings of blissful married life and loads of Karwa Chauth gifts especially by her mother-in-law.

First Sargi

Mother-in-law prepares an elaborate Sargi (the pre-dawn Karwa Chauth meal) when her daughter-in-law observes her first fast. She wakes up much early to prepare a sumptuous and lavish meal inclusive of sweets and other delicacies for daughter-in-law. Saasu-ma

blesses her bahu with an ashirvaad of 'Sada Suhagan Raho' which means, 'may you always enjoy a blissful married life' when the latter touches her feet with reverence. She also presents her daughter-in-law with gifts, which may be a piece of jewelry or a heavy saree on the first Karwa Chauth.

First Baya

Baya is a gift given to a daughter's mother-in-law on the occasion of Karwa Chauth. It usually consists of salted mathris, dry-fruits and some gifts. This Baya is a little more special when the daughter is observing her first Karwa Chauth. Mothers of newly wed daughters bring gifts for all her family members. Some utensils are also included in the baya which are to be distributed amongst women who join the newly-wed on her first Karwa Chauth Puja.

Elaborate Puja Preparations

Elaborate preparations are made for the customary evening Karwa Chauth Puja in a family where a newly wed daughter-in-law observes her first Karwa-Chauth. Married female relatives are invited to participate in the puja. The newly married woman often wears her bridal lehanga or a heavy saree and adorns herself with lot of jewelry and make up. After the puja ceremony she seeks blessings for happy married life from all elder women. The newly wed woman distributes mathris or utensils amongst the ladies that were a part of baya.

Social Significance

The festival of Karwa Chauth was emerged as a day to celebrate the season of autumn and enjoy the company of friends and relatives. But later on, many mythological legends were added to give it a religious touch. This festival is glorified and widely solemnized by the Hindus and Sikh of north-western India. As the name signifies, Karva meaning a clay pot and chauth corresponding to the fourth, this festival is commemorated on the the fourth day after the Full Moon in Kartik month of Hindu calendar. A few days before Karwa Chauth, married women buy new karvas, the spherical clay pots and paint them on the outside with beautiful designs. Inside the pot, they put bangles and ribbons, home-made candy and sweets, make-up items and small clothes e.g. handkerchief. The women then visit each other on the day of Karwa Chauth or immediately afterward, and exchange these karvas. Season-wise, soon after the harvest, it is an excellent time to enjoy festivities, meet one another and exchange gifts. During the time of Karwa Chauth, parents send gifts to married daughters and their children.

Usually, falling in the month of October, Karwachauth is celebrated midst harvesting of summer crops. Apart from the fast, kept by married woman for the long life of their husbands, people like to remember and meet their relatives and friends, and exchange gifts with them. Thus, Karwa Chauth is very much a social and seasonal festival as it is a religious affair.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

Virat Kohli fastest to 10,000 ODI runs, beats Tendulkar's record

VISAKHAPATNAM (TIP): Virat Kohli on Wednesday became the fastest to score 10,000 runs in One-day Internationals, rewriting, fittingly enough, the iconic Sachin Tendulkar's record and compounding the cricket community's conundrum to find the right superlatives for his phenomenal batting.

'King' Kohli comfortably bettered the record set by the man who was to Indian cricket for over two decades what the 29-year-old has been for the past few years.

Tendulkar took 259 innings to get there, while Kohli has so far batted in 205 innings. Fortune, too, was on Kohli's side as West Indies skipper Jason Holder dropped his Indian counterpart on 44.

Seventeen summers ago, Tendulkar had ventured into what was then an uncharted territory, during a match against Australia. On Wednesday, Kohli became the 13th batsman to reach the milestone.

Not long ago, while the cricket world struggled to look for words to aptly describe Kohli's phenomenal batting, his coach Ravi Shastri thought it would be wise to visit the bookstore, buy the latest edition of the Oxford dictionary and look for the adjectives that befit the captain and his superhuman feats.

"If I were you, I would visit the bookstore and pick up the Oxford dictionary," Shastri had said after a Kohli century guided India to victory over South Africa in February.

Some years ago, Tendulkar, after scoring his 100th international century, said he would love to see an Indian—someone like Kohli or Rohit Sharma—



break his records.

At a venue set amidst picturesque hills, Kohli reached the mark when he played Ashley Nurse for a single in the 37th over of the second ODI against the West Indies.

Having an enviable record at the Dr YSR ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium with scores of 118, 117, 99 and 65, Kohli began his latest innings with a boundary through the off-side.

Entering the game 81 short of 10,000, with this achievement the run machine added another feather to his illustrious cap. Kohli has been in sublime form across formats this year and has scored over 900 runs in ODIs alone. He is currently the world's No.1 batsman in both the Test and one-day formats.

Kohli's journey has been awe-inspiring, from his first-class debut, winning the U-19 World Cup, captaining the Indian team, to rewriting batting

records at will.

With his unbeatable performances, Kohli has won several accolades including the Arjuna award, ICC World Cricketer of the year and multiple BCCI international Cricketer of the Year awards. "It's an incredible achievement by Virat to complete 10,000 runs ODI before he is even 30 years old. It's only expected that Virat will reach many more batting milestones in future," BCCI acting president CK Khanna said.

In the first match against the Caribbean side, Kohli notched up his 36th ODI hundred as he stroked his way to a breezy 140, helping the home team take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Besides Tendulkar and Kohli, Sourav Ganguly, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rahul Dravid are the other Indian cricketers to cross 10,000 runs in the format. *Source: PTI*

KEDAR JADHAV LEFT STUNNED AFTER EXCLUSION FROM ODI SQUAD

NEW DELHI (TIP):

All-rounder Kedar Jadhav's non-selection for the first two ODIs against West Indies was due to a hamstring injury he suffered in the Asia Cup final against Bangladesh last month. However, he was called up at the last moment to play a Deodhar Trophy game for India A against India C in New Delhi on Thursday -- the day the team was announced for



the last three ODIs against Jason Holder's side.

Jadhav was surprised when told by journalists that he wasn't in the 15-member squad, which was named while the Deodhar match was still on. The 33-year-old, who has played 46 ODIs, hinted that he may talk to the selectors to find out why he has been excluded.

"Rehabilitation was good. Everything's fine as of now. I cleared all the fitness tests; I was cleared match fit, which is why I was playing here," said Jadhav, who scored 41 off 25 balls and returned 0/41 off five overs bowling spin.

He added: "I didn't know (he was not selected). Obviously, I have to see why they have not picked me."

It hasn't been a great year for Jadhav. After guiding Chennai Super Kings to a thrilling win in the opening game of IPL 2018, he was sidelined due to a hamstring injury. Jadhav missed the ODIs and T20Is in Ireland and England before making a return in the Asia Cup.

While he didn't get to bat much as the top-order comprising Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Ambati Rayudu scored most of the runs, Jadhav took six wickets in as many games and scored the winning runs in the final. Forced off the field due to a hamstring problem while batting, he returned and finish the job.

"When you are in good form and get injured, it does hurt. Because when you make a comeback, it's about starting from zero. It takes a lot of hard work. But I know it's all about staying optimistic and doing your best.

"I will be gearing up for the first game (Ranji Trophy). Let's see how things go from there." *Source: HT*

Bhuvi, Bumrah back for last 3 ODIs against Windies

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's frontline pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah will be back in action during the remaining three ODIs against the West Indies after a workload management break for four weeks.

It is learnt that the selection committee will name the squad for the six T20s against West Indies and Australia (three home and three away) in Pune on Friday.

It will be interesting to see if India captain Virat Kohli, whose workload management has been paramount for the selectors, will play the T20 Internationals against the West Indies.

Kohli will be playing the full ODI series after having played two Test matches as per the 15-member squad announced by the BCCI on Thursday.

However, not many surprises are expected in the T20 set-up from the squads that played in the shortest format against Ireland and England earlier this year.

Senior pacer Mohammed Shami has been dropped from the squad after giving away 81 and 59 runs in the two games.

Umesh Yadav, however, managed to retain his place in the squad after giving away 64 and 78 runs in the first two ODIs.

The national selection committee had rested Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah after India's Asia Cup triumph and they didn't feature in the two-Test series against the



Caribbean side.

But India's first-choice pacers will be back

in action at a time when the reserve pacers went for 320 plus in both the games on placid

tracks.

Both Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah possess more variations in white ball cricket compared to Shami and Umesh. They are expected to pose more challenge for the Caribbean batsmen despite batting-friendly tracks and dew being a factor.

The selectors didn't pick Kedar Jadhav, who made a comeback in the ongoing Deodhar Trophy scoring 41 off 25 balls and bowling a few overs of off-breaks.

It is expected that Jadhav will have to play a few more games before being selected for the limited overs.

There was speculation about Prithvi Shaw's selection in the ODI squad but the young batting sensation has sustained a hand injury during the Deodhar Trophy and didn't take part in India A's match against India C on Thursday.

The last three ODIs against the West Indies will be played on October 27, 29 and November 1.

The Indian squad for 3rd, 4th and 5th ODI against the West Indies: Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey. *Source: PTI*



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 4, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says the period begins with your plate full and overflowing. There are domestic issues to be sorted out. Some of you may be going through a separation and the courts eat into your time, money and peace of mind. Children can also be quite a handful. There are expenses and medical emergencies. Elders need special care. There will be a lot of chipping, chopping, pruning, adjustments, readjustments, fine-tuning, tweaking and so on. There are several possibilities before you.

Taurus:

There is more stability now and you see the writing on the wall very clearly. Your road map is well defined. You roll up your sleeves and hit the shop floor. You chart out your priorities one by one and address them without undue emotion. A lot of time has been wasted in frivolities and you want to make up for lost time, like the Rajdhani Express. Ganesha leads you to new discoveries of the self. As you surmount the challenges a new you begins to blossom.

Gemini:

You are racing ahead like Nikki Lauda, the great race car driver. Nothing fazes you. All opposition crumbles before you. Like Napoleon you marshal your generals effectively. You are cannier than Rommel, the Desert Fox. There are expenses and ego drives. Passions reach a high too. But you are unfazed as you go about the task of setting your house in order and conquering new territory with the zeal of Genghis Khan.

Cancer:

There is achievement and success. You win kudos and applause. You adapt and change as per the situation. Darwin - who said the species that adapt is the species that survives - will be cheering from the grave. Ganesha also applauds. There is rapid business expansion. Those in job get promotions, and freelancers latch on to blue-chip accounts. There are no specifics here as I do not have your personal chart and these are mere generalizations. You are overly fastidious and this helps.

Leo:

You are in the hopeless coils of amour. Nothing makes sense to you any more as you detect the fragrance of your beloved in every molecule of the stratosphere. I have been there, and I know the feeling. You feel you have met your soul mate, even your 'sole' mate as you plan to journey with the person. I won't go into genders here, as society has opened up every possible way, and you know what I mean.

Virgo:

Quite often, the tendencies of one period slip into another. Sometimes, the tendencies can run through whole period at a stretch. I make generalizations based on hunches and my vast experience in astrology. Since everyone is different these predictions will touch or even torch a chord somewhere. 'True sacrifice consists in sharing your wealth, strength and qualities, which are derived from society, with everyone,' said Lord Sai Baba.

Libra:

This could well be a time of stability. You get down to hard work. Your sights are clear. Nothing can faze you. Doctors, scientists, researchers and those delving into great detail in their persuasions do exceedingly well. Nothing misses your hawk eye. You are the eagle in Animal Planet circling the blue yonder that has sighted a rabbit several miles below on the grasslands. You swoop down for the kill with authority, swiftness and precision.

Scorpio:

The stable phase continues. There are domestic responsibilities that usurp your time. You don't mind at all. In fact, you enjoy it. You spend time with children and grandchildren, if any, and partake of the simple joys of domesticity. You may take the family for a holiday and visit amusement parks and museums. The sounds and sights of innocent children basking in the glow of existence fill your heart with joy. You also attend to everyday household chores with a song on your lips.

Sagittarius:

'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream,' said C.S.Lewis. There is fire in your belly. This can be a very favorable period for seniors. In fact, this phase I won't be surprised if senior citizens upped the ante. You could find new love and possibly new work avenues. You are possessed with tremendous intellectual and mental energy. You are also blessed with stamina and determination. Your ambitious are aroused.

Capricorn:

'The secret of getting ahead is getting started,' said Mark Twain. There could be international travel and your work could be highly appreciated. There could be marriages, engagements and festivities in the family, including an addition to it. Those who are creatively inclined do exceptionally well. You win kudos and accolades. New love stirs your heart and you somersault into the bottomless pits of amour without a life jacket.

Aquarius:

There is a lot of movement in your life. There are mood swings and hallucinations. You reach out to people and places using all modern gadgetry. Children could be a cause of concern. You may also have grapple with some old health issue that resurfaces with venom. You normally like to be on stable ground but every conceivable breakup stares you in the face. You remain aloof and distant. The clouds will pass. Till then Ganesha carries you.

Pisces:

You want 'me' time to sort out issues. You may also go searching for a guru and take recourse to tantra, mantra and yantra. You may check into a nature-cure resort and look to heal yourself. Your body and soul are troubled. You need to bounce back, all rejuvenated and refreshed. Money flows through your fingers. Quite like with every other sign, you also have opposites. There are other variables too that impact a person's life. We are all a bundle of contradictions.



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