

Democrats overwhelmingly back Nancy Pelosi as next House Speaker despite challenge to her leadership



Nancy Pelosi speaks to reporters on November 28

WASHINGTON (TIP): Nancy Pelosi won support from a majority of Democrats on Wednesday, November 28, to be House speaker, marking an important milestone in her quest to lead the House when her party takes majority control of the chamber in January.

The Democratic caucus vote in favor of Pelosi, who served as the first woman speaker from 2007 to 2011, brings her a step closer to the gavel that many expect her to regain. But becoming Madame Speaker might not be easy. *contd on Page 32*

PM Modi Reaches Argentina for G20 Summit, to Hold 2 Key Trilateral Meets

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in two important trilateral meetings with world leaders in Buenos Aires, the Argentina capital, during which they would discuss major global challenges and developments.

Prime Minister Modi, who reached Buenos Aires to attend the G-20 summit, will participate in the first-ever trilateral meeting between Japan, America and India and the 2nd Russia, India China (RIC) trilateral, which is taking place after an interval of 12 years, on Friday. US President Donald Trump will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and then the two leaders will meet jointly with Prime Minister Modi. *contd on Page 32*



PM Narendra Modi arrives in Argentina for G 20 Summit. Met UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud (Twitter pic)

The INDIAN PANORAMA

New Year Special Edition

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Pakistan PM Imran Khan performs Ground breaking Ceremony of Kartarpur Corridor; says ready for talks with PM Modi

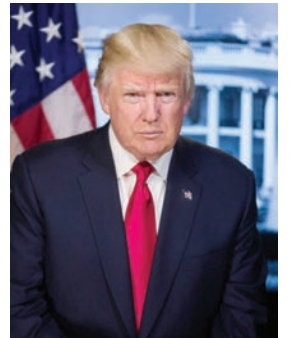
KARTARPUR/ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan performed the groundbreaking ceremony for Kartarpur Corridor, November 28. India's Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu also joined in the ceremonial groundbreaking. Pakistan Prime Minister said he was ready to hold talks with his Indian counterpart *contd on Page 32*



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, India's Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu during the ground-breaking ceremony for Kartarpur corridor in Kartarpur on November 28, 2018. Photo / Courtesy PTI

'Individual 1': Trump emerges as a central subject of Mueller probe: Washington Post

WASHINGTON (TIP): A Washington Post November 29 late afternoon report by Carol D. Leonnig and Josh Dawsey claims that Trump has emerged as a central subject of Mueller probe. "In two major developments this week, President Trump has been labeled in the parlance of criminal investigations as a major subject of interest, complete with an opaque legal code name: "Individual 1", the report says. The report which is the most updated account of the *contd on Page 32*



President Trump (Official portrait)

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NY City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer honors three at Diwali celebration



Pandit Tillack Seerattan of Shri Devi Mandir conducted Diwali prayers and led the Diya lighting.



Prarthana Gurung, Campaigns and Communications Manager accepted the award for Adhikar.

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer hosted a well attended Diwali celebration at the David Dinkins Municipal Building in Manhattan, November 26. At the event Stringer honored Judge Ushir Pandit-Durant, who has been elected to the New York Supreme Court recently and two community service organizations, Adhikar and Jahajee Sisters.

The event began with greetings by Dr. Neeta Jain, District Leader, Assembly District NY-25, Part B, who spoke about the significance of Diwali. She thanked the comptroller for

hosting Diwali and recognizing the community.

Pandit Tillack Seerattan of Shri Devi Mandir conducted Diwali prayers and led the Diya lighting.

Hon. Stringer welcomed the gathering with Diwali greetings. He noted the importance of Diwali, which celebrates the victory of goodness over evil and light over darkness. He also pointed out his good relations with the South Asian community and wished them success and prosperity in the New Year.

Attorney Shekar Krishnan, director of



Deepti Mathur of Manhattan Andaaz, all-female Bollywood/Fusion Dance Company, gave a performance of Classical Indian dance.

legal Advocacy and strategic partnerships at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation, introduced Comptroller Stringer.

Comptroller Stringer presented the awards. Prarthana Gurung, Campaigns and Communications Manager accepted the award for Adhikar.

Simone Jhingoor and ShivanaJorawar, co-chairs of steering committee received the award for Jahajee Sisters.

The event ended with a performance by Deepti Mathur of Manhattan Andaaz, all-female Bollywood/Fusion Dance Company.

Judge Ushir Pandit-Durant emigrated to the US when she was ten. In 2015, she was elected to the Civil Court in Queens County, making her the first South Asian woman elected to the bench in New York State. As a Civil Court Judge, she was assigned to the Criminal Term where she presided over a criminal court in Manhattan and then in Queens. Earlier this month, she was elected to New York Supreme Court.

Judge Pandit-Durant is a founding member and the first President of the South Asian & Indo Caribbean Bar Association of Queens County (SAICBA-Q), whose mission is to cultivate diversity in the field of law, offer professional development and mentorship, and increase access to legal services.

Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Pandit-Durant was an assistant district attorney in the Queens County District Attorney's Office for over 25 years, working in various bureaus including criminal court, special victims bureau, supreme court, and most recently, the appeals bureau. As an ADA in the Appeals Bureau, she appeared in all of the courts of New York State, as well as the Eastern District and the Second Circuit.

Judge Pandit-Durant received her undergraduate degree from Saint John's University and her J.D. degree from New York Law School.

Adhikaar, meaning 'rights' in Nepali, is the only women-led community center and workers center in Queens mobilizing the Nepali-speaking community to promote human rights and social justice for all. Since 2005, Adhikaar has assisted thousands of Nepali-speaking immigrants and families, trained and developed hundreds of leaders, and successfully changed policies and created new laws at the local, state and national level. The organization provides services for and organizes domestic workers, nail salon workers, gas station workers, and other low-income workers, and also works in coalitions to create political change on a broad spectrum of issues that impact workers, immigrants, women and people of color.

Adhikaar currently has four program areas: workers' rights, immigration rights, access to affordable healthcare and language justice. The organization has celebrated many successes including the passage of the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights in 2010 and Nail Salon Workers' Bill of Rights in 2015. They have successfully recovered \$327,947 through wage theft cases and are at the forefront of the fight for a permanent legislative solution for all Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders.

Founded in 2007, Jahajee Sisters is an Indo-Caribbean organization committed to creating a safe and equitable society for women, girls and gender nonconforming people. They foster solidarity and empowerment through dialogue, healing, the arts, leadership development and grassroots organizing.

Jahajee Sisters is the only movement-



Hon. Stringer welcomed the gathering with Diwali greetings



Simone Jhingoor and ShivanaJorawar, co-chairs of steering committee received the award for Jahajee Sisters.



Stringer honored Judge Ushir Pandit-Durant, who has been elected to the New York Supreme Court recently

building organization centering the leadership and voices of Indo-Caribbean survivors of gender-based violence. The organization began after two young Indo-Caribbean women were killed, both victims of gender-based violence. Alarmed by the silence of their community leaders, the organization's founders became the leaders that were needed.

Jahajee Sisters has developed bold and courageous leaders, built a strong membership base, and forged lasting partnerships for gender justice. Their programs support survivors to heal, cultivate personal power, and be agents of change. By addressing the root causes of gender-based violence and building new feminist values, practices, and institutions, they are ushering in a brighter future for Indo-Caribbean women, girls and gender nonconforming people.

100th anniversary of HAIFA Day & 10th Anniversary of terrorist attacks in Mumbai Commemorated



Traditional Lamp lighting by Consul General of India Sandeep Chakravorty, Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel, Mr. Seth Siegel, and Mr. Jagdish Sewhani, President of AIPAC



Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty addresses the gathering

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Consulate General of India, New York in collaboration with Consulate General of Israel and The American India Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) held a memorial service on Monday, November 26, 2018 to pay homage to Indian, American & Israeli victims of the barbaric Mumbai terror attacks.

Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York led the memorial service in the presence of Indians, Americans and other nationalities who had also come to pay homage to the victims.

Given the solemnity of the occasion, the gathering stood for a minute of silence in honor of the victims of HAIFA Day and those who were lost in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Mr. Issac Blech then sang national anthems of U.S.A., Israel and



Observing a minute of silence in honor of the victims of HAIFA Day and those who were lost in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai

India.

Speaking on the occasion, the speakers of

the evening - Mr. Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel, Mr. Seth Siegel, bestselling author

and Mr. Jagdish Sewhani, President of AIPAC were all united in their message that the world stands in solidarity & friendship with India to mourn & fight Terrorism together and condemned the impunity available to the masterminds in Pakistan & called for justice.

Consul General Chakravorty highlighted the significance of HAIFA battle in the history of India - Israel relations and remembered the tragic 26/11 terror attacks on Mumbai. He also read out the recent statement made by Government of India and Mr. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State, in which Mr. Pompeo called upon all countries, particularly Pakistan, to uphold their UN Security Council obligations to implement sanctions against the terrorists responsible for this atrocity, including Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and its affiliates.

Time for all good Indians to step up: Swami Agnivesh

QUEENS, NEW YORK (TIP) The situation in India is deteriorating in every sphere. It is time for all those who love India and its democracy to join hands and hearts to protect it, according to Swami Agnivesh, a Vedic scholar and social reformer.

'We cannot afford to rest on our past laurels. The challenges are right now here, and therefore let us ask each one of us how are we going to feel challenged to face these new situations,' he asked at a media interaction in New York City recently.

Here are excerpts from his statement to media.

'When you talk about Indian politics and the Indian situation, I'm really very, very apprehensive about the developments taking place today in India. Ever since Narendra Modiji took over as prime minister of India, or even when he was campaigning, he was asked repeatedly by the media whether he was ready to apologize for the carnage which took place in 2002 in Gujarat where innocent men, women and children were brutally done to death after that Godhra incident.

'In a very contemptuous way he said, 'Well, if you are driving a car, and a puppy comes under our wheel, we feel a little sad about it.' It was sheer contempt he was showing. Instead of really apologizing he added salt to the wounds.



Swami Agnivesh addresses a press conference. . From left, Surat Padda, George Joseph, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja , Swami Agnivesh, Sunita Viswanath, Beldev Grewal and George Abraham

'After he became prime minister, he has been targeting Muslims and Sikhs and Dalits and Adivasis, and other poor people. They looked on him expecting him to uplift the poor farmers, laborers, or even small traders and businesspeople. But he has disappointed each of these sections. Today when there are hardly 6-7 months left for his term, he is getting desperate. In his desperation, he is trying to bring up all those issues which are communally potent, like the Ram temple issue, or of Sabarimala, where women are being denied their equal right to go inside and worship as per the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court.

'Amit Shah, Modi and the government people are opposing the Supreme Court judgment and thereby opposing the Indian constitution they swear by.

'What happened to the economic development? Though they boast of India being the fastest-emerging economy in the world, promises of development all stand shattered. I work among the poorest of the poor, particularly in the unorganized sectors, which is 500-million strong - 93 percent of all our labor force, which constitutes Dalits, Muslims, Sikhs, lower caste people, and also Adivasis. Women constitute nearly half of them. They are being denied even the

minimum wage. In India for a whole day of hard labor of 12 or even more hours of work, there is no real good minimum wage. Not a living wage, not a fair wage.

'I have been fighting for the cause of liberation of the bonded labor. Whoever is being denied a minimum wage would be considered bonded labor, which means a modern day slave.

'Nearly 100 million children of school going age, are working full-time or part-time, and are being denied their basic fundamental right to a childhood.

CONTD ON PAGE 6

Indian-origin accountant along with 5 others jailed for visa scam in UK

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin accountant along with five other fraudsters, who ran a fake Bangladeshi visa scam and falsely claimed nearly 13 million pounds in tax repayments have been sentenced to a total of 31 years in jail by a UK court.

Jalpa Trivedi, 41, was found guilty for facilitating the accounting side of the fraud and was jailed for three years.

London-based Bangladeshi origin law student Abul Kalam Muhammad Rezaul Karim was the ringleader in the organized crime group.

The 42-year-old man set up 79 bogus companies and created fake documentation used by Bangladeshi nationals in fraudulent visa applications, Southwark Crown Court in London was told during a trial that ended last week.

The fraudsters also used the companies to fraudulently reclaim tax repayments from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) over a six-year period, with 1,72,000 pounds being paid out and potentially could have amounted to as much as 13-million pounds if the fraud had not been undetected.

An investigation into their wrongdoing was the "longest ever undertaken" by the UK's Immigration Enforcement's Criminal and Financial Investigation (CFI) team.

Judge Martin Griffith said: "The purpose was to fool the Home Office into granting visas and it worked. Eighteen people were granted visas based on false figures. Of those, three were allowed to become naturalized British citizens, and two given indefinite leave to remain."

All five fraudsters were found guilty of conspiracy to defraud by making false applications under the Tier-1 visa category between December 31, 2008 and February 27, 2013.

Karim was sentenced to ten-and-a-half years, his brother-in-law Enamul Karim, 34, was sentenced to nine years and four months and Kazi Borkot Ullah, 39, was sentenced to five years and 10 months behind bars.

All three were absent in court after absconding in July and arrest warrants have been issued for their arrest.

Ullah's lawyer told the court he had "no idea where he is, in this country, Bangladesh or anywhere else".

Mohammed Tamij Uddin, 47, was jailed for two years and six months respectively.

Prosecutor Julian Christopher told the court their offending was on an "industrial scale".

As part of the immigration scam, the five defendants charged some clients on temporary visas wanting to remain in the UK a minimum of 700 pounds in cash for their fraudulent immigration services.

The fraud was uncovered in 2011 when the UK Home Office identified a suspicious pattern in a series of points-based applications for Tier 1 general and entrepreneur visas.

Both routes had a significant financial requirement, with applicants earning points based either on previous earnings or by demonstrating they had access to a minimum of 50,000 pounds to invest in UK business.

The gang claimed their clients were employees as part of their tax and immigration fraud - creating fake pay slips and providing false information on hundreds of applications to ensure eligibility for a Tier 1 visa.

They transferred money into clients' bank accounts to make them appear well-paid employees. The money was paid back to the fraudsters the following month and, between 2008 and 2013, millions were laundered through the bank accounts as a result.

Indian-origin woman jailed for drunken behavior on flight to UK

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin woman has been jailed for six months in the UK for drunken behavior on a flight which caused a passenger to have a seizure.

Kiran Jagdev, an executive assistant based in the city of Leicester, had attempted to blame the crew of Jet2 airline for supplying her with alcohol during her flight from Tenerife in Spain back to the UK in January this year. Judge Philip Head "rejected" her excuse and decided to impose what he described as a "deterrent sentence" during a hearing at Leicester Crown Court this week.

The court was told that during a bumpy landing, the 41-year-old had started screaming, "we are all going to die", causing further distress to passengers.

"The effect you had on other passengers must have been dreadful," the judge said.

"As the pilot was unable to put the craft down on the approach, that triggered a further foul-mouthed tirade where you shouted, 'we're all going to die' for about 10 minutes," he said.

According to the prosecutors, Jagdev had consumed between six and eight beers even



Kiran Jagdev has been jailed for six months in the UK for drunken behavior on a flight which caused a passenger to have a seizure

before boarding the four-hour flight to East Midlands Airport. She then proceeded to drink a further four to six glasses of wine on the plane, using her own supply from her handbag when the crew refused her more

drinks.

"She continued to ask cabin crew for a drink and they continued to refuse her, and she was issued with an Air Navigation Order," Prosecutor Joey Kwong told the court.

After she was moved for kicking seats, causing a passenger to have a seizure, an off-duty police officer on the same flight offered to sit next to her to assist cabin crew but she began making "vulgar" comments to him.

She was arrested by police on landing and proceeded to direct abusive remarks at airport immigration authorities. The air rage incident came days after Jagdev, was convicted of assault in Tenerife and handed down a suspended sentence, which involves a deferred jail term reliant on good behavior.

"There isn't any excuse. We can't put the blame on anyone other than herself and she accepts that," her defense lawyer, Harbinder Lally, told the court.

The judge concluded: "You are the author of your own and other people's misfortune.

"This demands a deterrent sentence so people who travel by air and get drunk will know there are consequences."

Indian American Community gives a warm reception to India's New Consul General



Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni is the new Consul General at Indian Consulate in Atlanta

Service in 1995.

Prior to her appointment as Consul General, Consulate General of India, Atlanta, she served as Regional Passport Officer, Mumbai, Maharashtra (2014-2018), Consul General in CGI Cape Town-South Africa (2012-2014), Deputy Head of Mission in Muscat, Oman (2008-2012).

Dr. Kulkarni's previous overseas assignments were First Secretary in High Commission of India, London (2005-2008), where she successfully worked as a nodal officer for preventing discrimination for Indian Medical Graduates after the implementation of new UK Immigration rules; First Secretary in the High Commission of India, Port Louis, Mauritius (2001-2003); and as a Third Secretary (Language Trainee) in Embassy of India, Spain (1997-1998).

At Headquarters, Dr. Kulkarni worked as an Additional Private Secretary to the External Affairs Minister and later deputed as Regional Passport Officer, Pune, Maharashtra (1998-2001) and as Under Secretary looking after Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia, Switzerland, Liechtenstein & Holy See, Malta, Portugal, Ireland and Spain (2003-2005).

Dr. Kulkarni is married to Mr. Vijay Jayant Kulkarni who is a Merchant Mariner by profession and has two daughters.

Her interests include study of developmental issues, swimming, and tennis.

ATLANTA (TIP):

Around 70 Indian American organizations came together to extend a hearty welcome to the new Consul General at the Indian Consulate in Atlanta.

Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni is a career diplomat who holds M.B.B.S. (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) degree from the prestigious Government Medical College, Nagpur in India. She joined the Indian Foreign

Indian fugitives abroad : 28 fugitive economic offenders are living outside India, according to External Affairs Ministry



The Trio of Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya and Lalit Modi

NEW YORK (TIP): The Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate are pursuing legal actions to bring back 28 Indians, including six women, who have been charged for financial irregularities and criminal offences, and are believed to be living abroad since 2015.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh submitted the names of such persons to Lok Sabha on July 25, 2018. Replying to a question posed by Prof. K.V. Thomas, Mr. Singh said: "efforts are being made for securing the presence of these accused in the country by way of issuance of LOC (Look out circular), RCN (Red Corner Notice) and Extradition requests."

While the CBI is pursuing the cases pertaining to 23 fugitives, the ED is handling 13 cases. Eight persons - Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choksi, Nirav Modi, Jatin Mehta, Ashish Jobanputra, Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara, Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara, and Diptiben Chetankumar Sandesara - figure in both lists.

To a similar question posed in the Rajya Sabha on March 23, 2018, Mr. Singh said 23 fugitives are yet to be extradited since 2014. As of March 2018, India has signed extradition treaties with 48 countries including the USA, UAE, France, Germany, the U.K, and Hong Kong. In addition, extradition arrangements have been signed with Croatia, Italy, and Sweden.

List of fugitive economic offenders living abroad.

Pushpesh Baid, Ashish Jobanputra, Vijay Mallya, Sunny Kalra, Sanjay Kalra, Sudhir Kumar Kalra, Aarti Kalra, Varsha Kalra, Jatin Mehta, Umesh Parekh, Kamlesh Parekh, Nilesh Parekh, Eklavya Garg, Vinay Mittal, Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara, Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara, Diptiben Chetan Kumar Sandesara, Nirav Modi, Neeshal Modi, Mehul Choksi, Sabya Seth, Rajiv Goyal, Alka Goyal, Lalit Modi, Ritesh Jain, Hitesh Narendrabhai Patel, Mayuriben Patel, Priti Ashish Jobanputra.

(SOURCE: THE HINDU)



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Teen girl shot in the hip as she crosses Bronx street

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A gunman shot a 15-year-old girl in the hip as she crossed a Bronx street Tuesday, November 27 night, police sources said.

Police believe the victim was an innocent bystander when the gunman let loose a spray of bullets from in front of a pharmacy on E. 174th St., near the Bronx River Houses, sources said.

The girl and a friend were crossing at a three-way intersection near Manor Ave., E. 173rd St. and E. 174th St. when one of the bullets hit her in the left hip at about 8:30 p.m., sources said.

"It appears she was the unintended target," one police source said. "It appears she was an innocent bystander."

The gunman ran south onto Ward Ave., police sources said.

Medics took the victim to Jacobi Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

"There were four shots. I turned around and saw the girl on the ground crying. She was like, 'I'm hit!'" said one witness, who wouldn't give his name. "She was with her friend. I tried to help them but I was so traumatized I didn't know what to do."

The witness pointed to a bloody shirt on the ground and said, "See that shirt? That was the shirt off her back."

Early Wednesday, cops release surveillance photos of two people they are seeking in connection to the shooting and asked the public's help identifying them.

New York City Police Department is asking the public's assistance identifying and locating the two individuals depicted in the surveillance photos in connection to the assault.

New York City Police Department is asking the public's assistance identifying and locating the two individuals depicted in the surveillance photos in connection to the assault. (DCPI)

Gas explosion blows out windows of Upper West Side gym; building was already evacuated

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): An electrical fire and gas leak led to a blast that shattered the windows of an Upper West Side gym Sunday night, FDNY officials said. Firefighters had already cleared out the Equinox gym building on Broadway near W. 92nd St. when an explosion blew out the windows on the first floor at about 6:20 p.m., an FDNY spokesman said.

Firefighters first showed up at about 3:45 p.m., after getting a report of an electrical fire in the basement. First responders found elevated carbon monoxide and natural levels, and evacuated five businesses in four nearby buildings, the spokesman said.

In all, firefighters evacuated 90 people - 50 from the gym, 15 from a neighboring SoulCycle, 10 from a Petco store, two from a bakery and 15 residents of the upstairs apartments, the spokesman said.

The blast came as firefighters were setting up a safety zone to keep people away from the area. "People saw the front door to the gym fly open and

the windows were all shattered. There was an orange flash, but then it was gone," said a doorman who works across the street. "I came out and it seemed smoky everywhere," the doorman said. "There was debris in the air, it was all dusty. But then it cleared out quickly, so no one knew what happened."

"The fire came out in front of the building and blew out all the windows in the Equinox building. No one was injured due to us recognizing the potential and evacuating all the people from the buildings," said FDNY Asst. Chief John Hodgens.

The FDNY is checking on the animals still inside the Petco, but as of late Sunday, all of them were believed to be safe, Hodgens said. A malfunctioning underground transformer below the sidewalk sent carbon monoxide into the building Hodgens said. "Any spark caused by something as little as a telephone ringing or a light switch being turned on can trigger an explosion," he said.

Time for all good Indians to step up: Swami Agnivesh

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"The bottom half of our total population is being deprived of their human dignity, human rights, and whatever is being trumpeted as development.

'Only the rich are getting richer: the Ambanis and Adanis and some other crony capitalists. And they are giving a false idea of development through the GDP, gross domestic product, which does not give you the real picture. In fact the Indian economy is in for a very bad future.

"They unleash violence against their critics. Human rights activists are put in jail on trumped-up charges. They have been charged with sedition.

'Even I, who has been an upholder of the Vedas and the Upanishads, have been dubbed as an urban Naxal. I will not be surprised if I am also put in some prison.

'Sadhana, a coalition of progressive Hindus, who invited me, has been at the forefront of a campaign against the shortsighted parochial Hindutva, which has done so much harm to the great tradition of Hinduism, which has been universal [and] authentic, a heritage which we all have inherited.

'We who are opposing the violent, hate-mongering ideas of Modi and RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] are under threat. We will be either called anti-national, anti-Hindu or charged with sedition.

"This is the hour of reckoning. We should all be ready to stand up and be ready to be counted. Unless we do that, we will not be a true Hindu or a true Muslim or a true Sikh or a true Christian. In the US and in India we should join hands and say no to the Modi regime... Many Hindus I met feel so very ashamed and embarrassed when they are asked questions about the Hindutva elements playing havoc in India, with the power in their hands at the Center and in as many as 20 states in India. And they [the members of the ruling group] have no scruples left. They are going in for power in a brazen way, in a very dictatorial way.

"They have amassed huge wealth buying up media channels, buying up newspapers, and just dictating everything. It's like an undeclared emergency in our country. We fought against Indira Gandhi's Emergency and I was in Ambala Central Jail for 13 months. But now we find an undeclared emergency in the country and fear has been generated in the minorities. There is no real religious freedom left,

Wake up Kerala, you are in danger'

I thought the recent floods were the worst disaster that could befall Kerala. Now the state is facing a worse peril. While the floods devastated the material landscape of Kerala, the RSS-BJP combine is out to devastate its social and spiritual landscape. This is far more sinister. The natural disaster united and energized Keralites. The present unnatural disaster improvised to boost BJP's electoral fortunes is threatening to pollute the soul and tear apart the social fabric of Kerala.

This is the time for all Keralites to think clearly, refusing to be misled by deceptive propaganda. Surely, no Keralite worth his salt can believe that the state government is an enemy of a religion just because it implements an order of the Supreme Court. The government is under a constitutional imperative to do so, as Modi's own government has clearly stated in this instance. The BJP and the RSS were clearly in favor of women's entry into the Sabarimala Temple. They have taken an opportunistic U-turn, because they have their eyes only on making electoral gains by communally polarizing the people. They know no other way to power and profit.

This is not the time to count petty gains or mind caste equations. An unprecedented danger stares the state in the face. If not handled wisely, this could inflict un-healing wounds on the psyche of the state. Clearly the RSS-BJP strategy is erected on a presumption of the gullibility of Keralites in respect of religion. Now is the time to prove that the people are wiser than the politicians take them to be.

Taking advantage of the Sabarimala issue, the Sangh Parivar has mounted a frontal challenge to the rule of law, to secular democracy, to the authority of the courts and the Constitution of India. It has smuggled divisive politics into the sanctuary of people's faith. They want to 'capture' Kerala, even if the state is destroyed in the process.

I urge my sisters and brothers in Kerala to ask themselves if they should be misled and their trust abused by an unscrupulous political formation, which sells gods, hijacks temples and corrupts popular religiosity as the bullet train to the citadel of power.

Kerala has a unique history and heritage of socio-religious reform. Kerala navodhanam was the vital moral and spiritual energy that powered the state to peace, prosperity and progress. The Sangh Parivar knows that Kerala is the strongest bastion against communal and caste-driven politics. They believe that the only way an inroad into the state can be made is by using religion as a Trojan horse, smuggling their agenda pretending it to be something other than what it really is.

What happens to Kerala has ramifications far beyond the state. Kerala is as much a symbol as it is a state. It is a symbol of hope and sanity, of reason and common sense, of the enlightenment and empowerment of the common man. This very hope breeds hopelessness in Sangh Parivar. But it is a hope, an inner strength, that Keralites cannot afford to squander. I urge each and every Keralite to stand as a fortress of sense and sanity against this cynical and calculated assault on the very soul of 'God's own country.'

particularly for the minorities. A particular brand of Hindutva is being foisted upon us. People are being told that this is our nationalism. They are equating their brand of narrow Hindutva with nationalism - Hindu nationalism, Hindu rashtra. This is unacceptable.

I am sure that in the days to come, the poor of India, the farmers, the laborers, small businesspeople and right-thinking people will rise to rebuff Modi regime. By May 2019 there is going to be a real upsurge at the election, a people's revolt, a peaceful revolt against the

Modi government. I'm sure his government will be thrown out.

But for those who will come in their place, we should not take for granted that the people who have voted them into power will let them have their own way. No. They will have to be sincere to the Indian constitution, to all the promises made, and bring about an egalitarian society without any play for communal forces or casteist forces or capitalist forces. India does not need this neo-liberal policy in the name of globalization.

So my journalist friends here, my social

activists and human rights activists here in the US, I call upon you to join hands with us who are fighting a running battle on a daily basis in India. Please contribute with all your might. Let not the Hindu American Foundation get away giving a false picture - some of them, I don't mean each one of them. But they are giving a false picture of India, of prosperity, the well-being of everybody etc.

I met some Congressmen and informed them about the true picture in India. They were surprised. They were being just taken for a ride by some of the spokespersons of the Hindu American Foundation. They were being given all the rosy pictures. And now that they have got access to some authentic voices, I am sure they will listen. The State Department has given us a very serious hearing and they want to invite me again very soon. There is great scope here in the United States. If you raise your voice it will be heard back in India, in all corners of India.

Your newspaper articles and your other media voices will be heard loud and clear. That will empower our people, those voiceless people, disadvantaged communities. They are waiting for your solidarity. So please be clear. Unless and until we bring about radical transformation in the lives of the poorest of the poor in the world and in India there is no future for humanity.

Vasudaiva Kutumbakam should be our battle cry. And we tell everybody - Indians, Hindus, everybody - look, whoever subscribes to Vasudaiva Kutumbakam will be considered to be truly spiritual and true upholder of the ethical, moral and spiritual values of the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians. This is high time ... that we feel challenged and we stand up, ready to be counted.

I have spent 50 long years since 1968 when I was initiated in Haryana Gurukul Jhajjar. That was March 25, 1968 and now it is 2018. All of these 50 years I have devoted for the struggle for the poorest of the poor, the most marginalized, and the voiceless. And when I look back, I feel it is the grace of God that gave me the strength when I was put in prison 11 times and [survived] six attempts on my life. If I have survived that's simply because of grace of God. I want to continue this struggle. I am 80 years old now and whatever few years I have left of my life I am dedicating it to the service of humanity and the highest ideals of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam.

Trump heads to G20 Summit in Argentina amid new conflicts with China, Russia's standoff with Ukraine

BUENOS AIRES (TIP): US President Donald Trump is headed for Argentina for a G20 summit, keen to do battle with China on trade, and sharpening his rhetoric over Ukraine against Russia.

The weekend summit is confronted with increasingly dire warnings, by the International Monetary Fund among others, of the potential harm faced by the world economy from Trump's trade wars.

G20 leaders, whose countries account for four-fifths of the world's economic output, first met in November 2008 to forge a united front against the global financial crisis.

A decade on, that unity has vanished as the "America First" Trump shreds the consensus underpinning international trade and other G20 countries such as Brazil, Italy and Mexico turn to populist leaders.

Trump has already rattled global markets by enacting tariffs on the bulk of Chinese imports and is threatening to go further in January.

He will press Chinese President Xi Jinping to avert the stepped-up tariffs by throwing open China's markets to US competition and protecting foreign companies' intellectual property.

On Wednesday, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer slammed Beijing for failing to offer "meaningful reform" on aggressive trade policies, and threatened tariffs on Chinese autos.

But how far can Xi go in overhauling the model that has powered China to second place in the world economic rankings? He did vow on Wednesday that China would boost protection of intellectual property. But foreign firms in China complain that such promises are all too routine and ring hollow. At best, analysts say, there will be a temporary truce at the G20 to give both Trump and Xi something to crow about.

French President Emmanuel Macron warned against the risk of "a tete-a-tete between China and the US and of a destructive trade war for all" ahead of the summit, in an interview with Argentine daily La Nacion. "If we do not show concrete progress, our international meetings become useless and even counterproductive," he said.

Taking the world stage at the G-20 is a welcome relief for Macron, who has faced



President Donald Trump's visit to Argentina for G20 Summit is taking place at a time when Trump is a little shaky on home political front, having lost the House to Democrats

mass protests at home over rising fuel taxes that are the biggest challenge yet to his presidency. But his party dominates parliament and neither faces re-election until 2022. Other European leaders at the summit are facing domestic struggles of their own. Britain's Theresa May is fighting for political survival as she tries to pull her country out of the European Union. Germany's Angela Merkel is preparing to leave politics after announcing last month she would give up leadership of her party, a post she has held since 2000. Italy's Giuseppe Conte heads a populist coalition that is clashing with the EU and suffers internal divisions.

Meanwhile the US, Canada and Mexico are expected on Friday to sign a revamped version of the North American trade pact NAFTA, which Trump excoriated when running for president. If that negotiation has averted one trade war, others are brewing with Trump threatening to impose tariffs on foreign car imports, targeting Europe and Japan. (Source: Agencies)

Beijing hopes for positive results

China is hoping for "positive results" in resolving a trade dispute with the United States at a G20 summit, the commerce

ministry said, ahead of a closely watched meeting of Chinese and US leaders

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to hold trade discussions on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Buenos Aires on Saturday

The ministry's spokesman, Gao Feng, said economic teams from both nations were in contact to implement a "consensus" reached by Trump and Xi during a phone call this month

Trump calls off scheduled meeting with Putin

US President Donald Trump on Thursday cancelled a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin scheduled for this week's G20 summit in Argentina, citing the current Ukraine crisis

Based on the fact that the ships and sailors have not been returned to Ukraine from Russia, I have decided it would be best for all parties concerned to cancel my previously scheduled meeting in Argentina with President Putin, Trump tweeted after departing for the summit

Trump's tweet was a sudden turnaround. Earlier, he had told reporters he would probably meet with Putin and said it was "a very good time to have the meeting"

Special counsel protection Bill stalls in US Senate, Flake starts protest

WASHINGTON (TIP): Legislation to protect the special counsel's office probe into possible Russian election interference stalled in the US Senate on Wednesday, November 28, spurring Republican Senator Jeff Flake to make good on his threat of opposing judicial nominations until the bill moves forward.



Republican Senator Jeff Flake made good on his threat of opposing judicial nominations until the Special counsel protection Bill moves forward

Fellow Republican Vice President Mike Pence was called in as president of the Senate to break a tie vote on advancing Thomas Farr's nomination as a US district judge in North Carolina, after Flake voted "no."

Flake is a strong advocate for the protection bill, known as the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, which would make it harder for President Donald Trump to undermine the investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The measure has already been approved at the committee level with support from both parties.

Trump has called Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe, which is also looking into possible collusion between Moscow and Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, a witch hunt. Russia denies interfering in the 2016 election and Trump has denied any collusion occurred.

Speaking to reporters earlier on Wednesday, Flake, who is retiring soon, said he believed the bill could pass but that he had been told "somebody will block it."

"So my commitment to not vote for judges before the committee or on the floor until we get this done stands," Flake said.

Shortly afterward, Republican Senator Mike Lee took to the floor to block the bill, saying it went against the US

Constitution and gave the special counsel's office too much power, "creating a de facto fourth branch of government." Flake in turn put the Farr nomination in jeopardy, creating a tie with his vote.

Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, canceled a meeting of the panel set for Thursday. A brief statement by the committee did not give a reason for the cancellation.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell had said on Tuesday he would "probably" block a renewed effort to bring the special counsel protection bill to a vote, calling it "a solution in search of a problem."

With Republicans holding a slim majority in the Senate, Trump's nominees should win approval without much resistance.

Farr already faced a tough time, however, with moderate and liberal progressive groups objecting to his positions on civil rights. As a lawyer for North Carolina in 2014 he defended the state's voter registration law, which civil rights groups said intentionally suppressed minority votes.

(Source: Agencies)

U.S. Senate vote rebukes Trump's pro-Saudi policies

Lawmakers seek an end to administration's support for the Saudi war in Yemen

WASHINGTON (TIP): In a blow to the Trump administration, the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly (63-37) to move forward a bipartisan resolution ending U.S. support to the Saudi Arabia-led war in Yemen.

The resolution, which essentially directs President Donald Trump to remove U.S. troops from Yemen, will be discussed on the full Senate floor next week before being put to vote.

The move came after a closed-door Senate hearing on the U.S. role in Yemen, which included briefings by the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on the alleged role of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

"We have a problem here. We understand that Saudi Arabia is an ally, of sorts, and a semi-important country. We also have a Crown Prince that's out of control," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (Republican) said.

While it has sanctioned 17 Saudi agents it believes were involved in Khashoggi's murder, the Trump administration has been at odds with the CIA's reported finding that Prince Mohammed ordered the killing. The President and other administration officials have said the Agency's assessment was inconclusive.

Khashoggi was killed and his body dismembered during a visit to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, according to Turkish



Yemen's ongoing conflict has left tens of thousands dead and millions of others in dire need of humanitarian aid

investigators. The murder has sparked global outrage.

ARMS SALES : Mr. Trump has also repeatedly indicated that Saudi Arabia's arms purchases from the U.S. and it being an ally in West Asia are factors that weigh heavily on his decision not to censure the Crown Prince or isolate Saudi Arabia, a sentiment echoed by Secretaries Pompeo and Mattis.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news



GUEST COMMENT

Imran Khan's overtures: Can Kartarpur corridor be a harbinger for improved ties?

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan would have set the pigeons aflutter at South Block by his offer for talks with PM Modi. More crucial for India's stance of "terror and talks cannot go together", Imran conceded that it was not in Pakistan's interests to allow the use of its territory for terror activities in other countries. "The mindset of the people has changed," he tried to convince skeptical Indian journalists. The ball is now in India's court after it treated Pakistan's earlier quest to utilize the Kartarpur corridor with suspicion as it sought a reset by glossing over past terror strikes in India that were incubated on its soil. Imran Khan's call for amity and détente sounds more sincere with a reference to India's bugbear - cross-border terrorism.

But there were adverse signals both from the presence of separatists at the ceremony and the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) announcing plans for a pro-Khalistan convention in Pakistan. Such provocations, even if of figurative importance, feed into the apprehensions of the Indian security establishment, rendering them reluctant partners in a peace initiative. While Imran has tried hard to cast Pakistan in global eyes as a harbinger of peace, his admission about terror launch pads in Pakistan goes only a small distance to address the angst of substantial political constituency here that perceives Pakistan as an exporter of terror.

The unanimity among all the major players in Pakistan on improving ties with India, as Imran claims, should be reflected in bringing to book the masterminds of the Mumbai, Uri and Pathankot attacks, the actual cause for the strain. The Sikh community's happiness over the development of the corridor cannot escape the overarching political context. The ease of passage of pilgrims to the shrine will always be an adjunct of the state of play in bilateral ties. Imran is playing for the long haul as is apparent from his readiness to wait for reciprocation till the general elections here are over. Besides bringing spiritual solace and fulfilment to lakhs of Sikhs, the corridor can well be a new path to peace.

(Tribune, India)

Having Messed Up Economy, Team Modi Wants RBI Bail-Out

AS I SEE IT



By Aunindyo Chakravarty

When Viral Acharya, RBI's outspoken Deputy Governor, batted for RBI's independence, he made one PR mistake that only a technocrat would: he warned that governments that do not respect central bank independence "incur the wrath of financial markets". This made the RBI's critics ask the question - is our central bank working for the people of India - especially the 6.7 crore small businesses which employ over 11 crore people - or just the affluent 2% who invest in the markets? Why is the RBI, which is loath to accept government control, so unquestioning when it comes to accepting the dictates of international finance?

Such questions have great political resonance, especially at a time when India's micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) are finding it very tough to get loans. No wonder, RBI's biggest critic, S Gurumurthy - the political appointee on its board - has publicly blamed the regulator's tough prudential norms for the slowdown in MSME credit.

RBI's own data shows that bank lending to MSME sector has dropped from 4.2% of GDP in 2013-14 to just 2.8% of GDP in 2017-18. Small businesses have had to turn to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for funds. Since the IL&FS crisis, even that has dried out, because NBFCs themselves aren't being able to raise funds.

In an election year, this can be disastrous for the BJP, which has been steadfastly supported by small entrepreneurs. In many cases, they form the backbone of the party's local units. The Modi government needs to quickly address their problems.

After November 19 marathon 9-hour board meet, the RBI has capitulated on that key political issue - recasting loans to small businesses. Loans given to MSMEs up to 25 crores can now be restructured which means MSMEs will find it easier to get loans again. But why do small businesses need their loans to be restructured? GDP data tells us that India is the fastest-growing economy in the world. Shouldn't such high-growth have made it easy for entrepreneurs to earn high profits and pay back their loans on time? Clearly, whatever our headline growth numbers might be saying, things aren't good on the ground.

What caused this? Most observers agree it was because of the twin blows of demonetization and GST. The Modi regime's claims that millions of small businesses have got substantial Mudra loans has also been questioned by pundits and critics. The government, of course, has denied this. But

"India's central bank has often been made the scapegoat when the economy has slowed down. Successive governments have wanted the RBI to stimulate the economy through easy money policies. We all know what easy credit flows during the UPA years did to India's government banks. Now, it seems, the Modi government also wants to take this easy route.", says the author.

its de-facto chief economist, S Gurumurthy - an ardent defender of demonetization - admitted in a recent speech that "(it is the MSME sector which was hit by both demonetization as well as GST. It is this sector which has been robbed of credit."

has about 9.6 lakh crores in reserves. Raghuram Rajan, former RBI chief, had claimed this level is necessary for the central bank to manage money supply, balance India's foreign currency needs and ring-fence itself in case of an economic crisis.

Arvind Subramanian, the former Chief Economic Advisor, however, repeatedly argued that RBI's reserves are far higher than that of other countries. If the RBI were to bring down its reserves as a percentage of its balance sheet to a number closer to the global mean, it would be able to give back 3.5-4 lakh crores to its sole share-holder - the government of India. That would be a one-time windfall, equal to about 15% of the total expenditure estimated in the budget for 2018-19. It is 55-65% of the fiscal deficit. It can fund this year's MGNREGA 7-8 time over. It can fund 11-12 National Health Missions and 20 Swachh Bharat Missions. It can generously recapitalize India's banks, without them having to raise funds from the markets.

But the trouble is that most of RBI's reserves are actually accounting entries caused by the revaluation of its foreign currency assets and gold reserves. As the rupee value of foreign currency assets and gold has gone up, the RBI has had to add to its foreign currency reserves to deal with another 2008-type global financial crisis. The RBI's actual usable reserves - its contingency reserves - are just 2.3 lakh crore, an amount that has grown just 5% in the past five years. Therefore, the RBI has very little to give to the government without creating a potentially unstable situation for itself.

India's central bank has often been made the scapegoat when the economy has slowed down. Successive governments have wanted the RBI to stimulate the economy through easy money policies. We all know what easy credit flows during the UPA years did to India's government banks. Now, it seems, the Modi government also wants to take this easy route.

(The author was Senior Managing Editor of NDTV's Hindi and Business news channels. He now anchors Simple Samachar on NDTV India.)



Having engendered the crisis, the government now wants the RBI to solve it. Its great resolve to clean India's NPA-ridden banking system has been put on the backburner now that elections are just a few months away. Admittedly, MSMEs account for less than 8% of the 10.3 lakh crores of NPAs, but as of June 2018, over 15% of loans given to MSMEs by public sector banks had gone bad. Easing norms could lead to a new MSME-driven NPA crisis.

The Modi government knows giving relief to small businesses will not be enough - it has to boost public spending to improve farm incomes, write off farmer loans and generate rural jobs. That will be tough, given its fiscal deficit target. And that is why the government is eyeing RBI's reserves. India's central bank

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Ten years after the Mumbai attack

Vigilance is important against new variants of terror, remaining ahead of the curve is even more vital



By M.K. Narayanan



Notwithstanding increased vigil and streamlining of the counter-terrorism apparatus, the ground reality is that newer methodologies, newer concepts more daringly executed, and more deeply laid plans of terrorist groups have made the world a less safe place. The actual number of terror attacks may have declined in recent years, but this does not mean that the situation is better than what existed a decade ago. Terrorism remains a major threat, and with modern refinements, new terrorist methodologies and terrorism mutating into a global franchise, the threat potential has become greater.



Ten years ago on November 26, Pakistan carried out one of the most heinous of terror attacks perpetrated anywhere in the world. The 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, named after the date in 2008 when the attack took place, is in some respects comparable to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in the U.S. Comparisons with the Madrid train bombings in 2004 and the London bombings in 2005 are, however, misplaced.

India, and Mumbai city, are no strangers to terror. In 1993, over 250 people were killed in Mumbai in a series of coordinated bomb explosions attributed to Dawood Ibrahim, reportedly as reprisal for the demolition of the Babri Masjid. In July 2006, bomb explosions in a number of suburban trains in Mumbai killed over 200 people and injured several more. The most audacious terror attack till the 26/11 Mumbai terror incident was the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001 by the Pakistan-based terror outfits, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Terrorism is hardly a post-modern phenomenon. Several of the terror attacks in the 21st century, however, reflect a paradigmatic change in the tactics of asymmetric warfare, and the practice of violence. Today's attacks carried out in different corners of the world by al-Qaeda and its affiliates, the Islamic State, al-Shabaab, and similar terror outfits, are very different from those witnessed in the previous century. The tactics employed may vary, but the objective is common, viz. achieving mass casualties and widespread destruction.

The 26/11 Mumbai terror attack was one of a kind, and not a mere variant of previous instances of terrorist violence. It was the rarest of rare cases, where one state's resources, viz. Pakistan's, were employed to carry out a series of terror attacks in a major Indian city. It was a case of 'war by other means', in which the authorities in Pakistan, the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, the Pakistani armed forces, were involved. It is difficult to recall any recorded instance in modern times where a state and its various agencies were directly involved in carrying out a terror attack of this nature. As is now known, the Mumbai terror attack was not based on a sudden impulse or whim. Several years of planning and preparation had preceded the attack, even as the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, was talking peace with then Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh.

The degree of involvement of the Pakistani deep state in the planning and preparation of the attack is evident from many aspects that have come to light subsequently. Seldom has any terrorist group then, or for that matter even now, used such highly sophisticated, state-of-the-art communications, including Voice over Internet Protocol. Planning for the attack involved the use of a third country address. Handlers in Pakistan were given unfettered freedom to provide instructions to the terrorists during the entire four-day siege. The choice of the sea route aimed at deception and avoiding detection, was again dictated by official agencies.

The involvement of the Pakistani Special Forces in preparing the 10-member fidayeen group was confirmed by one of the conspirators, Abu Hamza, arrested subsequent to the 26/11 terror attack. The training regimen dictated by the Pakistani Special Forces involved psychological indoctrination by highlighting atrocities on Muslims in India and other parts of the globe, including Chechnya and Palestine; basic and advanced combat training; commando training; training in weapons and explosives;



The attacks, one of the worst in the history of India, saw Indian political parties come together in a rare gesture, with the entire country and indeed the world shocked at the audacity of a handful of young men who kept the world's largest democracy hostage for more than 72 hours. In the wake of the terror attack, several steps were initiated to streamline the security set-up.

(File photo of Hotel Taj in Mumbai)

training in swimming and sailing - all under the watchful eyes of Pakistani instructors from the Special Forces. An even more unusual feature of the Mumbai attacks was the involvement of two U.S./Canadian nationals of Pakistani origin, David Headley (who at the time was a LeT operative) and Tahawwur Hussain Rana. The 10 attackers came via the sea from Karachi in a small boat, hijacked an Indian fishing trawler en route, and reached Colaba in a rubber dinghy on November 26 evening.

Horror over four days

The targets were carefully chosen after having been reconnoitered previously by Headley for maximum impact, viz. the Taj and Oberoi Hotels, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Jewish center at Nariman House, and the Leopold Cafe, since these places were frequented by Europeans, Indians and Jews. The Mumbai terror attack went on for nearly four days, from the evening of November 26 to the morning of November 29. Seldom has a terrorist incident lasted this length of time, since the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972.

From an Indian standpoint, it was perhaps for the first time that an operation of this nature involved Rapid Action Force personnel, Marine Commandos (MARCOS), the National Security Guard (NSG) and the Mumbai Police.

It was inevitable that there should be a great deal of recrimination in the wake of terror attack. The principal charge was that the security establishment had failed to anticipate an attack of this nature and was not adequately prepared to deal with the situation. In retrospect, it has to be recognized that the Mumbai terror attack was an unprecedented exercise in violence, involving not merely a well-trained terrorist group, but also backed by the resources of a state, viz. Pakistan. Till then, the Pakistani state was only known to harbor terrorist groups like the LeT and the JeM, and use terror as an instrumentality to create problems for India.

Secrecy was the very essence of this operation. Plans were limited to a mere handful of persons. In the LeT hierarchy, apart from Hafiz Sayeed, only a few like Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, its chief military commander, Sajid Mir and Zarar Shah, its communications chief, were privy to the operational plans. U.S. intelligence is said to have penetrated Zarar

Shah's computer, and possibly had far more details of the operation than were actually shared with Indian intelligence.

Streamlining security

In the wake of the terror attack, several steps were initiated to streamline the security set-up. Coastal security was given high priority, and it is with the Navy/Coast Guard/marine police. A specialized agency to deal with terrorist offences, the National Investigation Agency, was set up and has been functioning from January 2009. The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been constituted to create an appropriate database of security related information. Four new operational hubs for the NSG have been created to ensure rapid response to terror attacks. The Multi Agency Centre, which functions under the Intelligence Bureau, was further strengthened and its activities expanded. The Navy constituted a Joint Operations Centre to keep vigil over India's extended coastline.

Notwithstanding increased vigil and streamlining of the counter-terrorism apparatus, the ground reality is that newer methodologies, newer concepts more daringly executed, and more deeply laid plans of terrorist groups have made the world a less safe place. The actual number of terror attacks may have declined in recent years, but this does not mean that the situation is better than what existed a decade ago. Terrorism remains a major threat, and with modern refinements, new terrorist methodologies and terrorism mutating into a global franchise, the threat potential has become greater.

One new variant is the concept of 'enabled terror' or 'remote controlled terror', viz. violence conceived and guided by a controller thousands of miles away. Today the 'lone wolf' is, more often than not, part of a remote-controlled initiative, with a controller choosing the target, the nature of the attack and even the weaponry to be used. Internet-enabled terrorism and resort to remote plotting is thus the new threat. Operating behind a wall of anonymity, random terror is likely to become the new terror imperative. There are no ready-made answers to this new threat. Vigilance is important, but remaining ahead of the curve is even more vital.

(The author is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal)

Lankan Navy sinks Tamil Nadu fishermen's boat, arrests four

Rameswaram (TIP): The Sri Lankan Navy allegedly sunk a boat belonging to fishermen hailing from Rameswaram, while they were fishing near Katchateevu and arrested four of them, the police said on Nov 29.

The naval personnel chased the fishermen away and allegedly rammed their vessel into the fishermen's late Wednesday night and took four of them away to the island nation, they said.

The personnel damaged the fishing nets and took away the GPS equipment, police added. (PTI)

Attack on UK security group compound in Kabul, 10 dead

Kabul (TIP): At least 10 people were killed and 19 were wounded in an attack on a compound of the British security group G4S in the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday, a health ministry spokesman said. An interior ministry official said an unknown number of gunmen had entered the compound after a car bomb exploded near the facility and were battling security forces.

The explosion came only hours after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani told a UN-sponsored conference in Geneva of plans to seek a peace agreement with the Taliban.

As efforts to open peace talks with the Taliban have picked up following the appointment of US special peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, there has been no slackening in the violence which kills thousands of people in Afghanistan every year.

Three US service members were killed close to the central city of Ghazni on Tuesday and at least 30 Afghan civilians were killed in a US air strike overnight, officials and local residents said. (Reuters)

At Site of Rohingya Massacre, Burmese Villagers Wary of Press

INN DIN, RAKHINE STATE, MYANMAR (TIP): Kyaw Soe Moe, the head man of Inn Din village in northern Rakhine state best known as the site of a massacre of 10 Muslim men and boys by their Buddhist neighbors and the Burmese military, isn't much inclined to speak with the press.

That "incident" is all the press wants to discuss Kyaw Soe Moe implied, who refers to Rohingya as "Kalar", which is a usual way of describing all Muslims by most Myanmar people. "I was not even here. I arrived here only after the incident. I became the village head something like 10 months ago, so I did not have any knowledge [of it]."

"Recently, a media group came down here, and they asked me about that incident. But when I asked them, 'Did you know about the death of U Maung Nein (who was one of the villagers allegedly killed by Muslims and it was kind of the spark which led to the killing of 10 Muslims)? Do you know Hindu villagers were killed?' Those media groups did not even know about those incidents. Even if they didn't know about the death of U Maung Nein, they should know about the killing of Hindus." Four Reuters reporters revealed details of the September 2, 2017 attack earlier this year. Tied together, the Rohingya, members of the Muslim minority, watched their neighbors dig a grave before eight were shot by Myanmar troops, according to the Reuters report. (VOANEWS)

Sri Lanka parliament set to cut ministers' salaries, travel expenses

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's parliament on November 30 was set to pass a motion cutting ministers' salaries and travel expenses, but it was unclear how the move would impact the disputed government of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa whose ministers boycotted the vote.

The South Asian island has been locked in political gridlock for over a month since President Maithripala Sirisena replaced former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe with Rajapaksa, who was then twice sacked by parliament but has refused to resign.

Foreign countries have yet to recognise the new government.

Rajapaksa loyalists boycotted a vote on Thursday to cut the Prime Minister's budget, which passed 123 to none in the 225-member parliament, arguing the motion was invalid due to ongoing legal reviews of the president's actions.

"Secretaries to any and all ministries have no authority to approve any payment...for the salaries...of Ministers, State Ministers, Deputy Ministers and their personal staff and are also prohibited from defraying expenses incurred in foreign travel, internal air travel including use of helicopters," an order paper detailing a motion for Friday's session read.

"Any person taking any action in violation of this resolution will be dealt with according



to law."

Friday's session began at 0500 GMT and discussion of the motion was under way.

But one senior civil servant from a government ministry, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said it was unclear how the motion would have practical impact because there were questions over whether due process had been followed.

In a repeat of Thursday's actions, Rajapaksa loyalists said they would not attend

the vote, declaring it illegal and calling into question the impartiality of the speaker.

"The motion today presented is illegal and we have mentioned it to the speaker too. We will not attend such illegal motions," Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, a minister in Rajapaksa's disputed government, told reporters before the proceedings started.

Rajapaksa presided over a government victory over Tamil rebels in 2009, ending a bloody 26-year civil war. (AP)

China Sends Stern Message to Pakistan With Map Depicting PoK as Part of India For First Time

NEW DELHI / ISLAMABAD / BEIJING (TIP): : China's state-run CGTN Television excluded Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) from Pakistan's map for the first time ever while it reported on last Friday's terror attack on its consulate in Karachi.

As it is highly unlikely that a state-run television would ever defy Beijing, sources said that it was a move by China to signal to Pakistan its strong displeasure to Pakistan for its failure to protect its citizens.

It is not known if this was a deliberate move by China, but according to the Times of India, the CGTN uses fixed templates for maps and production staff are not allowed to tinker with them. So the decision to use a different map to report on the consulate attack must have come from higher authorities.

Beijing often uses state-run media as test balloons to consider reactions before



considering policy changes in the domestic and international spheres, and excluding PoK from Pakistan was another such move to gauge Pakistani response. Islamabad has not yet reacted to the broadcast.

The timing of the move also assumes significance as it comes just two weeks ahead of the joint drill to be conducted by India and

China's militaries on December 10. Observers, however, warned that this one-off deviation from the norm should not be seen as a change in China's official policy, the TOI said.

Excluding PoK from Pakistan on the map could also have implications for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), against which New Delhi has often voiced strong reservations as it passes through PoK and violates India's sovereignty.

The CPEC is the most important connectivity link under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China had invested heavily in infrastructure projects in PoK.

Officially released maps in China have never before shown PoK as part of India. Maps are a sensitive issue in China and hence books or magazines showing maps that differ from Beijing's official view are often blocked.

(Times of India)

Track-laying begins on new rail route to Tibet

GONGGAR COUNTY (TIP): Work on the new rail line to Tibet - one of the most difficult in the world to build because of the altitude and terrain - is proceeding as engineers and laborers brave the cold and race against time.

Track-laying has already started on the Yarlung Zangbo River bridge on the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway in Tibet's Gonggar County. Workers and engineers with the state-owned China Railway Construction Corp are braving the cold and racing against time to finish all the work on the section before the snow and the Himalayan cold currents make their job

impossible. The new rail artery on top of the existing Qinghai-Tibet Railway will link Lhasa to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province some three kilometers lower in altitude in a basin east of the Tibetan Plateau.

Beijing has earmarked the new project, as well as future lines to connect Lhasa with Kunming and Ürümqi, the capitals of Yunnan province and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region respectively, in a bid to open up an economic backwater and cement its control of the region with better connectivity.

A fully electrified heavy rail link, the Sichuan-Tibet Railway will have to cut through the swamps, rugged gorges and

mountains that lie between the two cities, with an elevation difference of more than 3,000 meters. Purpose-built trains with pressurized pure oxygen outlets throughout the passenger compartments will ply the route to the alpine region at a speed of 100 km/h. Chinese engineers face many challenges, ranging from permafrost and sandstorms to mountain forests, but they can draw on their experience from building the impressive 2,000-kilometer Qinghai-Tibet railway, which was opened in 2006. Because of its elevation and difficult terrain, Tibet was the last provincial-level region to gain a rail system. (Asia Times)

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Former Trump lawyer Cohen pleads guilty to lying to Congress



Michael Cohen, former personal lawyer to President Donald Trump (File Photo)

NEW YORK (TIP): President Donald Trump's longtime personal lawyer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty on Thursday, November 29, to making false statements to the Congress regarding a Trump Organization real estate project in Moscow, putting fresh pressure on the President. Mr. Cohen entered the guilty plea in federal court in Manhattan to one count of making false statements to the Congress in an investigation by lawmakers into whether Mr. Trump's campaign worked with Russia to sway the election.

Mr. Cohen said in court that in 2017, he submitted a written statement to the Congress saying all efforts relating to the real estate project in Moscow had ceased by January 2016. Mr. Cohen said that in fact these efforts continued until June 2016.

Mr. Cohen also said that in the statement to Congress, he claimed to have had limited contact with Mr. Trump concerning the project, when in fact it had been "more extensive." Mr. Cohen also said he falsely told the Congress he never took any steps toward travelling to Russia, when in fact he had discussed travelling there, although he never did. In August, Mr. Cohen pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations, tax evasion and bank fraud in a case brought by federal prosecutors in New York.

Thursday's guilty plea may signal Mr. Cohen is hoping for a lighter sentence on the charges in exchange for continuing to cooperate with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. "I made these misstatements to be consistent with individual 1's political messaging and out of loyalty to individual 1," Mr. Cohen said in court. He previously identified individual one as Mr. Trump.

Mr. Mueller, who took over the Russia investigation from the FBI in May 2017, has brought criminal charges against a series of former Trump aides and associates, including his former campaign chairman and former national security adviser, as well as Russian individuals and entities.

Mr. Cohen has previously said he was Mr. Trump's "fixer" and would "take a bullet" for the President. His plea may turn up the heat on Mr. Trump, who has provided written answers to questions posed in the investigation. Mr. Trump has sought to distance himself from Mr. Cohen despite their long association. Mr. Cohen testified in August that Mr. Trump had directed him to commit a crime by arranging payments to silence two women who alleged before the 2016 election that they had affairs with Mr. Trump. Adult-film star Stormy Daniels was given \$130,000 and former Playboy model Karen McDougal was paid \$150,000.

Mr. Cohen pleaded guilty in August to eight criminal charges including tax evasion, bank fraud and campaign finance violations.

Mr. Trump in October said that Mr. Cohen's testimony was "totally false" and he minimized Mr. Cohen's role working for him, describing him as "a PR person who did small legal work." Mr. Cohen left the courthouse without speaking to reporters. (Agencies)

Trump cancels meeting with Putin due to Ukraine crisis

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump on Thursday, November 29, suddenly cancelled a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin scheduled for this week's G 20 industrialized nations summit in Argentina, citing the current Ukraine crisis.

"Based on the fact that the ships and sailors have not been returned to Ukraine from Russia, I have decided it would be best for all parties concerned to cancel my previously scheduled meeting in Argentina with President Vladimir Putin. I look forward to a meaningful Summit again as soon as this situation is resolved!" Trump tweeted after departing for the G20 summit.

Trump's tweet was a sudden turnaround. Roughly an hour earlier, he had told reporters he would probably meet with Putin at the summit and said it was "a very good time to have the meeting."

But Trump had also said he would get a final report during the flight to Argentina on the tension in the region after Russia seized Ukrainian vessels near Crimea on Sunday.

Differences over Ukraine, as well as Moscow's role in the civil war in Syria, have been an irritant in US-Russian relations for



President Trump and President Vladimir Putin

File photo

years. The administration of former President Barack Obama imposed sanctions on Russia for its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. That in part brought ties between Washington and Moscow to their lowest point since the end of the Cold War.

Since then, the United States has investigated Russia's possible interference in the 2016 presidential election that Trump won. Russia has denied meddling and Trump has repeatedly said there was no collusion. (Agencies)

Saudi Arabia, US take significant step toward closing \$15 billion deal for Lockheed Martin's THAAD missile defense system

WASHINGTON (TIP): Saudi Arabia will buy Lockheed Martin's \$15 billion missile defense system, a US Department of State spokesman said on Wednesday, November 28, after aggressive lobbying by the administration to close the deal that included a personal call between President Donald Trump and Saudi King Salman, according to a Reuters report.

The State Department said the Saudis and US officials signed the letters of offer and acceptance documents on Monday, November 26, formalizing terms for Saudi's purchase of 44 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) launchers, missiles and related equipment.

In recent weeks the Trump administration and the US defense industry worked to save the few actual deals in the much-touted \$110 billion arms package for Saudi Arabia amid rising concerns about the role of the kingdom's leadership in the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi critic.

The THAAD deal had been under discussion since December 2016 and is now completed, the spokesperson said.

Trump and King Salman discussed in a late September phone call the THAAD missile defense system deal, a Saudi official told Reuters in October. The official said at that time that the deal could well be closed by the

end of the year.

The State Department spokesman said the deal, first reported by CNBC, supports the "long-term security of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region in the face of the growing ballistic missile threat from the Iranian regime and Iran-backed extremist groups."

Defying the White House, the Senate voted on Wednesday to advance a resolution to end US military support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen's civil war, setting the stage for a possible final vote on the measure within days.

Congressional approval for the THAAD missile defense system sale was given in 2017. (Agencies)

TRIBUTE

Manmohan Singh Luthra, Who Built Nanak Drive in the Heart of America, Passed Away at Age 82

BY HARBANS LAL, PH.D.,
D. LIT (HONS)

In 1979, Dr. Manmohan Singh Luthra, a gold medalist of Medical College Patiala, bought land and successfully struggled with city authorities for permission to develop Nanak Drive in the State of Pennsylvania, USA. It was the first residential street named after Guru Nanak in the United States. He and his family felt blessed to live there and invite American home buyers to choose Nanak Drive for their home address.

Manmohan Singh Luthra was born on September 8, 1936 in the village of Mandi Bahauldin, Pakistan. He was the firstborn child of Sardar Gopal Singh Luthra and Sardarni Lakshmi Kaur Luthra.

Manmohan was especially devoted to the causes of the Sikh community. He became the founding trustees of the Tri State Sikh Cultural Society towards building the Sikh Gurdwara of Pittsburgh.

From 1977-1984, Manmohan helped

towards the successful holding of the Sikh Youth Camps at Racoon Creek State Park. He and Sardar Sohan Singh Chaudhary procured the campsite and stood by the Camp organizers for particular needs, that included the medical resources. These were the first Sikh Youth Camps in North America.

As a community physician, Dr. Luthra was honored by Citizen's General Hospital for 22 years of devoted service. At Citizen's General and Allegheny Valley Hospital he founded the department for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy and served as the hospital's representative to the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Manmohan worked with many elderly patients and would often make for house calls, a service rarely seen in America.

In 1987 Dr. Luthra was honored by the State Senate of Pennsylvania USA for his service as a physician, administrator, and volunteer.

Manmohan was a leader in the Rotary

Club of New Kensington and Rotary International from 1974 until 2005. He served as the district chairman of Rotary's "Concern for the Aging" committee. As District Governor for Rotary International (1990-1991), he promoted the Paul Harris Fellowship scholarship programs by soliciting donations and becoming a major donor himself. Being a physician, he was devoted to Rotary International's polio eradication program and worked with Rotary clubs in India to promote polio vaccination. In 2005, in the aftermath of Katrina, he volunteered with other Rotarians and Habitat for Humanity to build houses in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Manmohan understood what his Sikh faith required of its adherents i.e., public service of humanitarian causes. He served the United Way of Western Westmoreland County as its Chairman. He served on the board of the University of Pennsylvania, New Kensington campus, and as the director of the New Kensington YMCA.

At Fall Governing Body Meet in Dallas, TX, Leaders Commit to Strengthen AAPI

DALLAS, TX (TIP): Nearly a hundred AAPI leaders, including current Executive Committee Members, Members of the Board of Trustees, past AAPI Presidents, leaders of AAPI local Chapters and Regions came together at the Embassy Suites of Hilton in Dallas, TX on November 16th to take stock of AAPI and plan and recommit themselves for a stronger and more unified and forward looking organization that is more responsive to the needs of the Indian American physicians and the large population of people they are committed to serve in the United States and back home in India.

The overall themes of the day were on the need and ways to enhance AAPI membership; strengthening national and local AAPI Chapters and Regions; providing a unified voice in the national and state Capitals to make AAPI's voice heard and recognized; and building a stronger, vibrant, transparent and unified AAPI.

Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of AAPI, provided a brief report of his 4 months long Presidency of the largest ethnic medical organization in the US, and offered a vision for a stronger and greater AAPI. In his presidential address, Dr. Parikh stressed on: Open Communication between all bodies of AAPI and its members, through his weekly newsletter; Transparency in all aspects including finances; stronger membership drive, inviting and urging many more Physicians of Indian origin to join the group; A unified and stronger AAPI that represents all backgrounds, all areas and regions, providing representation to all groups of the large body that AAPI stands for; bridging the Generation Gap, and providing opportunity to new generation of AAPI leaders to lead the many initiatives; and for AAPI to maintain its status as a not for profit, while actively engaged in its role to be a unified voice on Capitol Hill and in the state legislatures.

Dr. Parikh pointed to a great start under his leadership with a well-coordinated Executive Committee members and having worked to purge the AAPI membership list to be accurate, and working to create a solid financial foundation for the organization through an establishment of AAPI Endowment Fund that is ever growing and sound.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, President-Elect of AAPI, who has served as the chairman AAPI Bylaws Revision Committee, consisting of 14 members,



AAPI BOT and Past Presidents

said, his team has worked tirelessly to make the laws more relevant to the changing and growing needs of AAPI. He presented to the Body the new Bylaws of AAPI, which was unanimously adopted by the Governing Body. He stated that the same spirit of the original laws of AAPI have been maintained, while efforts have been made to strengthen bylaws in order to make AAPI stronger. Dr. Reddy, who will assume charge as the President of AAPI at the upcoming Convention in July invited members to join the Antarctica Cruise he and his team are planning for AAPI members in January 2020.

Dr. Vinod Shah, Chairman of the AAPI's Legislative Committee, provided an update on the upcoming Legislative Day in April. "We will work with the Congress and Senate Leaders on the Hill to make our voices heard on the corridors of power," he said, while urging AAPI members to attend at the event.

Dr. Jagan Ailani, a past president and philanthropist addressed the delegates about the need to collaborate with the Tata Trust Foundation to address the financial and healthcare needs of the cancer patients in India and to work with the Tata Group to provide Pure Drinking Water to rural India. He urged AAPI to collaborate with Tata Foundation for Making Sustainable Difference in the lives of the people of India.

Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Chairman of the AAPI GHS in Mumbai 2018 provided a description of the many unique events that are part of the Global Healthcare Summit in Mumbai, India from December 28th to 30th. The focus of the

Summit will be an India-centric approach, with special events on: Research contest, CPR Training to first responders and teachers; CMEs; Entertainment; and Pre-Post GHS Tours to Goa, Kerala, and other exotic places in India, he said.

Conceived and developed by Mr. Anwar Feroz Siddiqi and building on the successful experiences of the past twelve years of CEO forum at the AAPI Global Health Summits, The 8th HealthCare CEO forum is proposed to be Jointly Chaired by Managing Director, Niti Ayog, DGHS and Secretary Health and invited Healthcare Leaders, Health Attache US Embassy Delhi, US FDA Country Head, India, Chief Executive Officers from Hospitals, Teaching Institutions, Pharmaceutical Industry, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Health Insurance and NGO's. Leaders from Indian Pharmaceutical Companies will discuss ways to ensure that lower cost and effective medicines with the highest quality continue to make India the world leader in this field. The forum will have a special discussion on successful implementation of "AYUSHMAN BHARAT" - is a brainchild of the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, whose vision is to provide quality healthcare to India's billion people - a project that is being watched intently across the Globe for emulation.

Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Vice-President, gave an update on his initiatives on enhancing the membership drive and to make known about the member benefits to the members of the 46 Chapters of AAPI across the nation. He

urged each Chapter to help enroll a minimum of 20 new members.

In her address, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, notified the AAPI delegates on the progress on CPR Guidelines for India. She urged AAPI to take a lead role in establishing and the implementation of this much needed cause. As Secretary of AAPI, she appealed to AAPI leaders to help towards the realization of the Million Dollar Endowment Fund for AAPI.

Dr. Anjana Samadder was inducted as the Treasurer of AAPI, and she shared with the AAPI leaders of her vision for a vibrant and financially sound AAPI. Dr. Hemant Dhingra, Entertainment Chair of AAPI provided a detailed description of the planned 9 City Tour by popular Bollywood star, Neha Kakkar, which is a way to raise funds for AAPI and its many local Chapters. The event will have its finale with Sonu Nigam joining the 60-member live artists in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Prachi Dua, President, MSRF and Dr. Praveen Arla, President, YPS, shared with the members about their efforts to enhance membership among Young Physicians using social media, and about the planned National Volunteers Day.

Dr. Narendra Kumar, past President of AAPI, served as the Speaker of the Governing Body meeting in Dallas. It was to the credit of the organizers that the meeting had several past Presidents and current and past BOT members and Chairs.

Coordinated and organized by Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Secretary of national AAPI and Dr. Anjana Samadder, Treasurer of national AAPI, Dr. Udaya Shivangi, past Chairwoman of AAPI's Women's Forum, the annual meeting was well attended, giving an opportunity for AAPI leaders to take stock of past year and plan to work effectively for the greater good of its members and for the well-being of the larger society.

The day-long event concluded with Dr. Naresh Parikh addressing the TIPS annual Gala and fund raiser for Breast Cancer awareness. The national AAPI delegates were special guests at the gala by one of the most active and largest Chapters of AAPI.

For more information on AAPI and its programs and initiatives, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

(Based on Press Release issued by Ajay Ghosh)

Malla Reddy Bokka Elected Unanimously as President-Elect of Indian Association of Greater Chicago

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The Annual Board Meeting of Indian Association of Greater Chicago was held on November 9, 2018, at which Malla Reddy Bokka and the new board under the guidance of KK Reddy from Advisory Board were unanimously elected.

"I am honored to be elected as President-Elect of Indian Association of Greater Chicago unanimously by the Board of Directors. It is a great privilege to serve Indian community and my mission to preserve and maintain the heritage of all American Indians in Chicago and its suburbs; to promote literary, cultural, educational, religious, social and economic activities of the Indian community" said Malla Reddy Bokka, President-Elect & Founder, IAGC

The event was presided over by Founding Members Malla Reddy, Manoj Singam - Setti and Harindar Reddy Puliyala. IAGC President Malla Reddy will spearhead the team for the two year term (2018 thru 2020) with the help of Vice President Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan, Executive Chairman Harindar Reddy Puliyala, Business Development Director



Nilesh Topiwala, Advisory Board Chairman Hina Trivedi and the entire board which include Secretary Nawaz, Treasurer Sandeep,

Joint Secretary Prasanth, Joint Treasurer Rajesh, Cultural Secretary Mahesh Voora, and Directors Naveen Ankem, Murali,

Hemant, Anshul, Srinivas and Narendra.

The President Malla Reddy plans to take the organization to new heights with events planned for celebrating New Year Celebration, India Independence Day, Ganesh Utsav, Holi, Diwali, Pongal and Batukamma. This term IAGC will also host Winter Coat Drive, Food Drive, Toys of Kids, Will & Trust, and Conducting yoga camp etc.

IAGC board approved to form IAGC - Youth Wing

IAGC Youth wing is a subsidiary allied front of IAGC this is formed in order to rally support for IAGC from members and potential members of a younger age, as well as to focus on subjects and issues more widely relevant among IAGC youth. IAGC Youth Wing plans to take on projects like Job Fair, Cricket Tournament, Indoor Game competition and Youth Leadership Development Skill Camps etc.

(Photograph and press release by Asian Media USA)

FOR BETTER TIES WITH INDIA, PAKISTAN NEEDS TO BE A SECULAR STATE: ARMY CHIEF

PUNE (TIP): Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said in Pune on Friday that Pakistan needs to be a secular state to have better ties with India, reports ANI.

"Pakistan has made its state an Islamic State. If they have to stay together with India, then they have to develop as a secular state. If they're willing to become secular like us, then they seem to have an opportunity." Rawat said at a function to review the passing out parade of 135th course of the National Defence Academy in Pune.

The observation comes amid Pakistan expressing an inclination for greater engagement, most of which came in the wake of the two nations deciding to build a corridor for Sikh pilgrims from India to visit the Kartarpur shrine in Pakistan.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan acknowledged on Thursday it was not in the country's interest to allow its soil to be used for terrorism and said he was prepared to talk to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at "any time".



EX-SECRETARY HC GUPTA HELD GUILTY OF CORRUPTION IN COAL SCAM CASE

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Delhi court on Friday held coal ex-secretary HC Gupta guilty of corruption and criminal conspiracy in a coal scam case relating to allotment of coal blocks in West Bengal.

Besides Gupta, Special CBI Judge Bharat Parashar also convicted private firm Vikash Metals and Power Limited, one serving and one retired public servant—ex-joint secretary in Ministry of Coal (MoC) KS Kropcha and the then director (CA-I) in MoC, KC Samria—in the case. The court also convicted the firm's managing director Vikash Patni and its authorised signatory Anand Mallick in the case.

The case pertains to the alleged irregularities in allocation of Moira and Madhujore (North and South) coal blocks in West Bengal to VMPL. In September 2012, the CBI had registered an FIR in the case.

All five convicted persons were taken in custody by the court which fixed December 3 for arguments on the quantum of punishment. The convicts may get a maximum seven-year jail term.

Source: PTI



Many photos taken, don't know who is Chawla or Cheema among them: Sidhu

ROW OVER PIC WITH 'KHALISTANI SEPARATIST'

AMRITSAR (TIP): Punjab minister Navjot Singh Sidhu Thursday played down his appearance in a photograph with a "pro-Khalistan" leader in Pakistan even as the opposition Akali Dal asked if India remained his priority.

He came under a sharp attack from Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal after a picture from the groundbreaking ceremony in Pakistan for the Kartarpur corridor showed him with "separatist" Gopal Singh Chawla.

Chawla, who is the general secretary of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) and is known to speak for "Khalistan", had shared the purported picture on his Facebook page.

Sidhu returned home Thursday after attending the groundbreaking ceremony for a visa-free corridor which will allow Sikh pilgrims access from Gurdaspur's Dera Baba Nanak to the shrine in Kartarpur, where Guru Nanak Dev spent his final years.

The minister said he had posed with several people and it was difficult to distinguish them.

"They showered so much love there. Every day ten thousands pictures were clicked, and among them who was Chawla or Cheema I do not know," he told reporters in Attari on his return.

Sidhu had received flak for attending the ceremony in his "personal" capacity, even after being advised against it by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

He said the hopes of 12 crore followers of Guru Nanak Dev had turned into reality with the "historic decision" by India and Pakistan to build the corridor.

"The thaw has begun and the ice is melting," he said at the press briefing, where he appeared with Saurabh Madan, the organiser of a Dussehra event in Amritsar where about 60 people were mowed down by a train last month.

"I returned after connecting hearts in the two Punjabs," Sidhu said.



Former Indian cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu has thanked his friend Prime Minister Imran Khan from the entire Sikh Community over Kartarpur corridor.

Gopal Singh Chawla was also seen shaking hands with Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the Kartarpur ceremony.

"There was a link between Gopal Chawla and a terrorist attack that took place in Amritsar which is his (Sidhu's) constituency," SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said Thursday, referring to the grenade blast at Nirankari Bhavan which killed three people earlier this month.

"If he shakes hands with him or does something with him, then Sidhu has to answer in order to make clear whether the country or something else is his priority," he added.

Badal said Sidhu should know that Pakistan is involved in sending drugs to Punjab. "It is General Bajwa who is behind killing our youth with whom he shakes hands," he said, Badal said, apparently referring to an earlier row over the Pakistan army chief hugging the Punjab politician.

Taking a swipe at Congress president, the SAD chief said Rahul Gandhi has a "very good opportunity" to expand his

party in Pakistan by making Sidhu the head of its unit in Pakistan's Punjab.

However, Congress MLA Raj Kumar Verka defended Sidhu.

"I feel Sukhbir Badal, the Badal family and the BJP are suffering from Sidhu phobia. I think they chant Sidhu's name more than Baba Nanak Dev's," he said.

Verka said Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee chief Gobind Singh Longowal too had clicked a picture with Chawla at the same event, despite knowing his antecedents.

"Sidhu does not even know about Chawla," Verka claimed.

Verka asked whether Badal would now seek Longowal's resignation as SGPC chief.

Meanwhile, former Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee chief Paramjit Singh Sarna, who also attended the Kartarpur event, claimed that Sidhu had avoided Chawla several times.

"But he managed to get a picture clicked with him," Sarna said in Attari.

Source: PTI

Arun Jaitley, P Chidambaram spar over GDP revision

MUMBAI (TIP): Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday sprang to the defence of revised data showing economic growth under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had outpaced the rate of expansion during the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime after his predecessor P Chidambaram slammed the new numbers as "a joke, bad joke and worse than a bad joke."

Meanwhile, Chidambaram's challenge to NITI Aayog's vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar to debate the amended data, which was released at a press conference on Wednesday by the federal policy think tank and the Central Statistics Office, was accepted by the latter.

"Data based on facts and on the best global practices is rejected by the (Congress) Party because it takes away the last of its surviving arguments (that) "my GDP growth was higher than yours," Jaitley wrote in a Facebook blog titled 'When The Data Speaks.'

Jaitley noted that Chidambaram had in 2015 welcomed changes effected in the way growth in gross domestic product, or the value of economic output, is calculated.

For the last two years of the Congress-led UPA regime, in



2012-13, and 2013-14, growth was revised upwards, from 4.7% to an eventual 5.5% and from 5% to 6.4%, respectively.

Chidambaram said then that the new data establishes the fact that UPA had succeeded in reviving the economy before it bowed out of power in 2014.

Data released on Wednesday, almost four years after India

moved to a new way of calculating GDP, showed the compound annual growth rate in GDP at market prices (2011-12 series) under the Narendra Modi government was 7.3% between 2014-15 and 2017-18, higher than the 6.7% and 6.4% in the two terms of the UPA under Manmohan Singh. "Obviously, when the new (GDP) series is in place, it has to be used as a basis for backward revision. So what was revised from the year 2011-12 onwards is now being revised from 2004-05.

Consequently, the same basis which improved the growth estimate in the last two years of the UPA Government somewhat downgraded it in the earlier years. Those who took after the new series in 2015 now consider the new series to be a "hatchet job" and a "bad joke". What humours some when data shows an upward trend depresses them if it moves in the reverse direction," Jaitley wrote. He defended the CSO, saying it had always functioned objectively and maintained an arms-length distance from the finance ministry. "No one in India has ever imputed motives to the CSO. The sooner the Congress Party realises that its policy paralysis pushed India into the Fragile 5, the better it will be for the Party and its leadership."

HC upholds conviction of 70 in 1984 riots case

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday upheld the conviction of 70 of the 89 persons awarded a five-year jail term by a trial court for rioting, burning houses and violating curfew in East Delhi's Trilokpuri area during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Sixteen of the remaining 19 persons died during pendency of appeals against the trial court's August 27, 1996, verdict. The appeals of the remaining three were dismissed after they absconded. Justice RK Gauba asked the convicts to surrender forthwith to serve their remaining prison terms.

The court noted that the anti-Sikh riots were a "dark chapter" in the history of independent India. "The police force and the civil administration did not take timely or effective action to prevent the riotous conditions from spiralling out of hand. The criminal law process began but hesitatingly and belatedly.

"The fact that these cases have continued to linger on in courts at the stage of trial or appeals is itself an indicator of the reality that the response of the law has been tardy, ineffective and highly unsatisfactory."

In its 79-page verdict, the court said



the police did not promptly register the crimes and collect evidence and the other agencies, including the prosecution and the trial court, "failed to rise to the occasion".

Justice Gauba noted that 95 bodies were recovered after the rioting, 22 of which remained unidentified and it was likely that no prosecution was initiated against anyone in respect of these deaths. "This court directs the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, to have the material and evidence re-examined

for further action... The large-scale rioting, mob violence, arson, plunder, genocide and looting has been duly proved and established... the judgment of the trial court must be upheld."

Dismissing the appeals of the convicts and cancelling their bail bonds, the court noted that after each communal riot, there were allegations of political influences being the root cause and therefore, there could be a need to "inject" a "sense of neutrality" in the investigative and prosecution process.

ISRO LAUNCHES PSLV-C43 WITH COUNTRY'S HYSIS, 30 FOREIGN SATELLITES

SRIHARIKOTA (TIP): Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) lifted off successfully from Sriharikota on Thursday with the country's Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (Hysis) -- an earth observation satellite -- and 30 other foreign satellites.

The PSLV-CA (Core Alone) version (without its usual strap-on motors), standing 44.4 metres tall and weighing about 230 tonne, took off at 9.58 a.m. from the first launch pad in Sriharikota, spewing thick orange flame.



The PSLV rocket -- a four stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages/engines -- had the 380 kg Hysis and 30 others together weighing 261.5 kg as its luggage.

According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the entire mission will be completed in about 112 minutes after the rocket's lift off.

Sixteen minutes into the flight, the rocket's fourth stage/engine will be switched off.

Just over 17 minutes into the flight, the PSLV rocket will place the Hysis satellite with a mission life span of five years in 636 km polar sun synchronous orbit.

After that the rocket will be brought to a lower altitude of 503 km from 642 km.

The primary goal of Hysis is to study the earth's surface in visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. It will also be used for strategic purposes.

The co-passengers of Hysis include one micro and 29 nano satellites from eight different countries. All these satellites will be placed in a 504 km orbit.

While 23 satellites are from the US, the rest are from Australia, Canada, Columbia, Finland, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Spain.

These satellites have been commercially contracted for launch through Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of ISRO. *Source: IANS*

VHP to hold pledge-taking programs across country for construction of Ram Temple

LUCKNOW (TIP): Keen to maintain the momentum built during the recent Dharam Sabha in Ayodhya, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) now plans to hold programmes across the country during which people would take oath to build a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The week-long programme is likely to begin on Gita Jayanti on December 18 and will continue for a week.

"In days to come, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad would be holding pledge-taking programmes at various places in the country. The pledge will be taken for construction of a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya. This will begin on Gita Jayanti and will continue for almost a week. Apart from this we are holding Dharam Sabhas on a smaller scale in various parts of the country," Secretary (organisation) of VHP's Awadh praant (region) Bholendra told PTI on Thursday.

He said till December 18, smaller-scale Dharam Sabhas would be held at the district level.

VHP spokesperson in Ayodhya, Sharad Sharma, said, "A similar programme is scheduled to be held in Delhi on December 9 in which over 5 lakh people are likely to turn up. Then on January 31 and February 1, we are going to organise a Dharam Sansad in Prayagraj in which more than 5,000 seers from across the country are likely to participate. Seers from southern states and north-eastern states have been specifically invited." The Dharam Sansad will deliberate on various issues, including the Ram Temple, cow and the Ganga. "Social harmony will be another issue on which detailed discussions will be held," Sharma said.

"Through the Dharam Sabha, we were able to send a message that the Hindu society wants a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya," Sharma said, adding that roadmap for the next course of action would be finalised during 2019 Kumbh in Prayagraj.

Mocking his Italian lineage, BJP coins new 'gotra' for Congress chief Rahul Gandhi

LUCKNOW (TIP): The BJP coined a new 'gotra' for Congress president Rahul Gandhi, mocking his Italian lineage through his mother and party leader Sonia Gandhi.

UP Bharatiya Janata Party chief Mahendra Nath Pandey called it "gotra Itlus". This is the latest remark in the row over Gandhi's gotra.

A priest at Pushkar lake in Rajasthan recently said Gandhi gave out his gotra during a ritual as "Dattatreya", who are Kashmiri Brahmins.

Some BJP leaders challenged the "claim", reminding that Gandhi's paternal grandfather was a Parsi, not a Hindu with a 'gotra'. Pandey said that Gandhi has "no gotra", going by the traditional male lineage.

"And if we take his gotra going by his mother, it should be gotra Itlus," he said.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi's gotra has taken centre stage in the political discourse amid assembly elections in five states.

It all started when Rahul Gandhi went to pray at the famous Pushkar temple in Rajasthan during his campaigning on Monday. The priest who performed the rituals, said, "Rahul Gandhi said that his gotra is Dattatreya. Dattatreya are Kauls and Kauls are Kashmiri Brahmins."

Soon after this revelation, BJP leaders and supporters began to take potshots at the Congress president questioning his gotra.

Union minister Giriraj Singh tweeted a clipping from the Bollywood film 'Jolly LLB', where a Muslim faking as a Brahmin priest is caught lying when asked about his gotra. Thousands of people shared and reacted to this tweet.



Several BJP supporters targeted Rahul Gandhi to ask, "How can Rahul Gandhi be from the Dattatreya gotra when his grandfather was not a Hindu? In Hindu tradition, one inherits his gotra from his father."

What is gotra?

According to renowned historian AL Basham, the word gotra originates from cow-shed and first appeared in Atharva Veda. In his book 'The Wonder That Was India', Basham wrote, "All Brahmins were believed to have descended from one of the rishis, or legendary seers, after whom the gotras were named." According to Basham, marriages within the same gotra are forbidden because people from same gotra are considered to have descended from same ancestors.

According to Sociologist Chandan Kumar Sharma, of Tezpur Central University, the gotra system is traditionally "Brahminical and follows patriarchal system". "So one gets his gotra from his father and not mother."

How Nehrus got there surname and what is their gotra?

The ancestors of Pandit Moti Lal

Nehru were Kaul Brahmins and residents of Kashmir. Kaul Brahmins in Kashmir have Dattatreya gotra. It was in 1716 that his ancestor Pt Raj Kaul shifted to Delhi and lived in a house near a canal (nahar in Kashmiri). People started calling them Nehru - those who live by the nahar (canal). Later on they dropped Kaul and started using Nehru as the surname.

What was the religion of Rahul Gandhi's grandfather, Feroze Gandhi?

Feroze Jehangir Ghandy, husband of Indira Gandhi and grandfather of Rahul Gandhi was born on September 12, 1912, in a Parsi family in Tehmulji Nariman hospital in Mumbai. As per the biography written by Swedish journalist Bertil Falk, 'Feroze - The Forgotten Gandhi', his father was Jehangir Faredoon Ghandy, a marine engineer from Bharuch, Gujarat. He was a religious man from the Parsi community. Feroze's mother was Rattimai Commissariat from Surat, Gujarat. Feroze was her last and fifth child. When he was just few months old, his aunt, Rattimai's sister Shirin Commissariat adopted her. Shirin, who was a doctor and lived in Allahabad, did not marry but brought up Feroze like her son.

According to historian Ramchandra Guha's account in his book 'India After Gandhi', Feroze changed the spelling of his surname from Ghandy to Gandhi after joining the Independence movement as he was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. However, many people believe that he was somehow related to Mahatma Gandhi, which is not true.

2018 DOC NYC

By Mabel Pais

WHAT IS DOC NYC?

Documentary storytelling is flourishing like never before - encompassing reportage, memoir, history, humor and more. DOC NYC celebrates this cultural phenomenon and encourages its new directions.

MISSION STATEMENT

Among its missions, DOC NYC aims to: **CURATE:** guide audiences toward inspiring work.

CROSS FERTILIZE: gather practitioners of many fields - filmmakers, writers, photographers and other storytellers to inspire each other.

CROSS GENERATIONS: use the festival's partnership with School of Visual Arts as a means for younger and older voices to communicate.

CULTIVATE NEW AUDIENCES: attract newcomers with the excitement of a festival atmosphere.

EXPAND DISTRIBUTION: help documentary storytellers make the most of emerging technologies such as video downloads, podcasts and electronic readers.

CREATE SOCIAL SPACE: bring people together in theaters, lounges, and discussion spaces in Greenwich Village and Chelsea.

MAKE THE MOST OF NYC: foster fresh connections between residents and expose visitors to the opportunities that happen only in New York.

"One of the city's grandest film events!" - The Wall Street Journal

"We're delighted to connect these films with the diverse and influential audience that comes together only in New York." Basil Tsiokos, DOC NYC Director of Programming

2018 DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, ran its ninth edition, November 8-15 at the IFC Center in Greenwich Village and Chelsea's SVA Theatre and Cinepolis Chelsea.

The 2018 festival showcased 135 feature-length documentaries among over 300 films and events overall. Included were 42 world premieres and 17 U.S. or North American premieres, with more than 500 doc makers and special guests in person to present their films or participate on panels and master classes.

In addition to premiering feature-length and short documentaries, the festival's highlights also included DOC NYC PRO - a series of in-depth panels and master classes - and the Visionaries Tribute awards ceremony that honors major figures in the field of nonfiction film.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events included Closing Night Film, the world premiere of HBO's *Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists*, about the beloved New York City journalists Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill, directed by Jonathan Alter, John Block and Steve McCarthy; and the festival's Centerpiece presentation, the world premiere of *Original Cast Album: Co-op*, an episode in the upcoming season of IFC's Documentary Now! series inspired by D.A. Pennebaker's *Original Cast Album: Company*, followed by a conversation with creators Seth Meyers and Rhys Thomas, director Alex Buono, writer and star John Mulaney, and star Renee Elise Goldsberry (Hamilton). The NYC premiere of John Chester's *Telluride* and Toronto hit *The Biggest Little Farm* was the Opening Night film.

OPENING NIGHT

THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM
Dir: John Chester (NYC PREMIERE)

For over eight years, John and Molly Chester struggle to work with nature to establish a biodynamic farm, like a modern-day Little House on the Prairie.

CLOSING NIGHT

BRESLIN AND HAMILL: DEADLINE ARTISTS

Dirs: Jonathan Alter, John Block and Steve McCarthy (WORLD PREMIERE)

Legendary newspaper columnists Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill are profiled in this essential look at journalism in New York City.

CENTERPIECE

Documentary Now! Presents ORIGINAL CAST ALBUM: CO-OP

Dir: Alex Buono (WORLD PREMIERE)

IFC's comedy series *Documentary Now!*, which pays homage to nonfiction classics, presents an episode inspired by D.A. Pennebaker's *Original Cast Album: Company*.

AWARDS

DOC NYC presented six awards and two honorable mentions in 2018. Three juries selected films from the *Viewfinders*, *Metropolis*, and *Shorts* programs to recognize outstanding achievements in form and content. Six filmmaking teams pitched their projects to panels of industry professionals,



A scene from *Documentary Now!* (Centerpiece)



A scene from *Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists* (Closing Night)

Photos / Courtesy DOC NYC 2018/Carlos Sanfer, Flickr

who selected the top pitch to win Pitch Perfect and the *IF/THEN* Northeast Competition. Festival-goers also voted for an Audience Award.

Winners of the 2018 Grand Jury Prize in the *Viewfinders* and *Metropolis* competitions received a deliverables package provided by *Technicolor-PostWorks* New York, a comprehensive post facility offering data and film workflows, multi-format conform, color grading, sound mixing, and digital cinema.

They also received a one-week theatrical, awards-qualifying run at the IFC Center in 2018.

The winner of the audience award received a screening as part of the IFC Center's *Stranger Than Fiction* screening series in 2018.

The 2018 winning Short film qualified for consideration in the Documentary Short Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run (provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules).

The winner of the 2018 *Pitch Perfect Award* received an edit suite at Wheelhouse Creative for eight weeks.

The winner of the *IF/THEN Northeast American Pitch Competition* received up to \$20,000 in completion funding, free post-production services (provided by Sim NY), and the opportunity to participate in Tribeca Film Institute's *IF/Then* Shorts distribution initiative.

DOC NYC COMPETITION WINNERS

VIEWFINDERS COMPETITION: Films in this section are chosen for their distinct directorial vision.

Winner: *A Little Wisdom*, directed by Yuqi Kang.

METROPOLIS COMPETITION: Films in this section exemplify the diverse range of stories in New York City.

Winner: *Barbara Rubin & the Exploding NY Underground*, directed by Chuck Smith.

AUDIENCE AWARD: Features in the *Viewfinders* and *Metropolis* sections were also eligible for this award, chosen by audience balloting at the main screening of each film.

Winner: *Out of Omaha*, directed by Clay Tweel.

SHORTS COMPETITION: All short films playing at the festival were eligible for this jury prize.

Winner: *In The Absence*, directed by Seung-Jun Yi.

PITCH PERFECT COMPETITION: Recognizes the best pitch given during DOC NYC PRO's Pitch Perfect Day, based on the pitch itself, as well as the viability of the project, and is determined by industry professionals taking part in the daylong pitch event.

Winner: *Civil War (Or, Who Do We Think We Are)*, directed by Rachel Boynton.

IF/Then Shorts Northeast American Pitch Award: Introduced in the 2018 festival, in partnership with Tribeca Film Institute, the *IF/Then* Shorts Pitch at DOC NYC invited six filmmaking teams to pitch their short documentary projects focusing on stories of the American Northeast.

Winner: *Mizuko (Water Child)*, directed by Kira Dane and Katelyn Rebelo.

DOC NYC is produced by the IFC Center. For more information on this year's Festival and past events visit www.docnyc.net

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

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KATRINA, SALMAN GEAR UP FOR DELHI SCHEDULE OF BHARAT

Bollywood diva Katrina Kaif and Salman Khan are all geared up for the Delhi schedule of Ali Abbas Zafar directorial Bharat. The actor wrapped up the Abu Dhabi shoot of the movie in October. Raising temperatures, the 35-year-old shared a photo on her Instagram handle, striking a pose with her hair-stylist as she got decked up to shoot for the film in Delhi.

She wrote, "Delhi 4, Bharat." The Bollywood diva looked absolutely stunning with soft curls and subtle make-up. Salman Khan's pictures from the sets of the film in Delhi were shared by his stylist Ashley Rebello. She captioned one of the pictures, "Oho this @atulreellife has put up the pic before me #photo by me. #bharat_thefilm, love this lookwith the reel life production sweat shirt."

Bharat' is director Ali Zafar's third collaboration with Salman Khan, after the 2016 film 'Sultan' and 2017's 'Tiger Zinda Hai'.

In the film, Bollywood's Bhaijaan will be seen sporting five different looks spanning over 60 years, including a crucial part which will showcase the actor in his late 20s, looking much leaner and younger.

Katrina Kaif was roped into the movies after Priyanka Chopra decided to walk out of the film. The film also stars Tabu and Disha Patani in pivotal roles and is slated to hit the big screens on June 5, 2019. *Source: ANI*

ANUSHKA, VIRAT PLAN AUSTRALIA VACATION FOR FIRST WEDDING ANNIV

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli are about to reach a special milestone in their relationship. The actor and cricketer celebrate their first wedding anniversary on December 11, and in the latest romantic gesture from the much talked-about couple, the two are planning to escape to Australia for their special day. While Virat will be in playing in Australia in December, Anushka will take time out from promoting her upcoming film, Zero, as she wants to spend quality time with her husband and is going out of her way to make their first wedding anniversary special.

A DNA report quotes a friend of the couple as saying, "Anushka had planned this trip months ago and the Zero team was aware that she would be taking a few days off in December to celebrate this special moment. The Indian cricket team will play against Australia and Anushka will join hubby Virat for some days. She will fly back post the celebrations. Their hectic work schedules can only permit them this time of togetherness."

The friend added, "Shah Rukh Khan has planned an extensive promotional campaign with Anushka and she has given till the end of November to finish all the activities. Their story is the film's plot driver, so plans have been made accordingly by the superstar. After the Sui Dhaaga: Made In India star returns, she will dive headlong into the hectic promotions of Zero for the entire month."

Virat and Anushka tied the knot in an intimate wedding following traditional Hindu customs in Italy. Given that almost no one had a clue about the secret nuptials held in the picturesque region of Tuscany, it is safe to say that this one was amongst the most well-planned celebrity weddings of



recent times.

Anushka and Virat are never shy about their love for each other on social media, giving us plenty of opportunities to fawn over their relationship. In fact, the anniversary vacation, won't be the couple's first romantic getaway together. Anushka and Virat treated themselves to a fun-filled vacation in July, when the actor joined her husband for Team India's tour of England, where the two decided to let loose in

London by enjoying lots of food and outings with their friends and posted a flurry of photos on social media. The snapshots offer fans some inside looks at Anushka and Virat's vacation and it looked like a total blast.

Anushka is currently busy with the promotions for Zero, where she will be seen sharing screen space with her Jab Tak Hai Jaan co-stars, Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif.

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas wedding: Two ceremonies on December 2

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are set to tie the knot twice on December 2, just like her friends Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh who tied the knot in Konkani and Sikh wedding ceremonies in Italy. The grand wedding celebrations at Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur will begin on November 29 and will culminate on December 2, post which the couple will also throw a lavish reception in Delhi for their family members. According to a report in DNA, the mehendi and sangeet ceremony will be held on November 29 at the Umaid Bhawan and will be a fun affair. Earlier it was reported that while Nick will perform a medley of his songs, Priyanka will be performing a few of her hit dance numbers. The report also suggests that the couple will also recreate their first date at the event.

The pre-wedding ceremonies will continue with a haldi ceremony on November 30. A cocktail party has also been organised for the two families, relatives and friends before the big day. The report suggests that the lovebirds will take their wedding vows in a Christian ceremony which will then be followed by a Hindu ceremony in the later part of the day. The couple who have reportedly chosen colour coordinated wedding ensembles will change their attire for the Hindu wedding.

A source has claimed that the family will fly from Mumbai to Jodhpur in a chartered flight

from where they will reach the Umaid Bhawan Palace in a chopper. The newlyweds will leave Jodhpur in a chopper on December 3 and the families will also fly to Delhi the same day. As per the report, a grand reception will be held at the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi the next day. The couple and their families will then return to Mumbai where a grand reception is expected to take place for the film fraternity in the second week of December.

Priyanka, who recently took out time amid her wedding preparations for a live-athon at Facebook's Mumbai office on Tuesday, November 27, will take off to Sikkim on December 6 along with her mother Madhu Chopra. The two will attend the press conference of their regional production Pahuna. The guests for the bit fat Indian wedding have already arrived in India to witness it. Nick's brother Joe Jonas along with fiancé and Game of Thrones star Sophie Turner had landed in India on Monday and partied hard with the couple in Mumbai.





RACHEL MCADAMS OPENS UP ABOUT WELCOMING FIRST BABY

Actor Rachel McAdams has opened up about her pregnancy, which she had earlier kept as a secret. The 40-year-old, in an interview with *The Sunday Times*, confirmed that she welcomed a baby boy with boyfriend Jamie Linden in April.

'It's the greatest thing that's ever happened to me, hands down,' the Oscar nominee revealed, as reported by *People* magazine. '[People say] your life is not your own anymore, but I had 39 years of me, I was sick of me, I was so happy to put the focus on some other person.'

McAdams, who was 39 when she gave birth seven months ago, said she didn't want to have children before 'it was the right time,' and that she is happy she 'waited a long time' to embrace motherhood.

'The Notebook' star further said her new role as a mother has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of her life. 'I'm having more fun being a mum than I've ever had,' the 'Doctor Strange' actor explained. 'Everything about it is interesting and exciting and inspiring to me. Even the tough days ' there's something delightful about them.'

KATHERINE HEIGL THRILLED TO BE 40

Actress Katherine Heigl says she is thrilled about turning 40. Heigl celebrated her 40th birthday on November 24 and commemorated the occasion with an introspective social media post.

The actress shared photographs from her birthday soiree. Standing in front of huge silvery balloons of the number 40, she grinned as she posed in a sweater and jeans, reports *dailymail.co.uk*. "Well... I am officially 40 years old.

I know you are going to think I'm full of it but the truth is... I'm pretty damn thrilled to be 40," she began her post. A candlelit room provided a festive backdrop for the former *Grey's Anatomy* star's bash. "For one thing, as my mother always says 'Getting older is better than the alternative'.

Too true mother, too true," she wrote. "For another thing, 40 feels to me like a certain kind of freedom. Freedom from all the self doubt, insecurities, self loathing, uncertainties and anxieties of my 20s and 30s." Heigl further said on Instagram: "Not to say I don't still have those moments but I just feel like 40 makes me older and wiser. Steadier in my convictions.

More certain of my strengths. More forgiving of my faults. "I've spent the last five years of my 30s doing the work to evolve my mind and spirit. To move my heart towards a more profound and loving expression of my best self. I've read, studied, explored and practiced ways to expand my understanding of myself and the world around me. "I've clarified my deepest desires and found that all I really crave is well being. For myself and those I love."

Source: IANS



KRISTEN STEWART TO STAR IN SAME-SEX COUPLE COMEDY FILM?

Kristen Stewart is in talks to join the cast of same-sex couple comedy 'Happiest Season'. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, scripted by Mary Holland, the TriStar Pictures' film will be directed by Clea DuVall. Temple Hill Entertainment's Marty Bowen, Isaac Klausner, and Jaclyn Huntling will be handling the production.

Stewart's past credits include *Twilight*, *Personal Shopper*, *Clouds of Sils Maria*, *Still Alice*, *American Ultra*, *Equals*, and *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*.

The 28-year-old has a couple of other exciting projects lined up, including the upcoming 'Charlie's Angels' reboot, where Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Balinska will portray the three Angels working for the mysterious Charlie, and Benedict Andrews directorial 'Against All Enemies'.



Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner spend Thanksgiving with kids

Former star couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner are moving forward as committed parents, says a source. The actors have children Violet, 12, Seraphina, 9, and Samuel, 6.

"Jen and Ben continue to work together to make their parenting as seamless as possible," the source told *people.com*.

"They really like to do things as a family, be it outings, church, cooking or watching movies. They have both had some ups and downs this year and they seem to be in a good place," the source added.

Affleck and Garner, who first announced their split in June 2015, spent Thanksgiving last week with their children.

"Jen, Ben and the kids were in Montana for Thanksgiving," a source said.





A segment of audience

Jashn-e-Rekhta in North America: Sanjiv Saraf announces at the 44th Annual Mushaira of the Aligarh Alumni Association, Washington DC

BY ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.

Urdu is a language that binds people of the Subcontinent encompassing all religions and culture", said Sanjiv Saraf addressing the 44th Annual Mushaira organized by the Aligarh Alumni Association (AAA), Washington DC on 11th November 2018 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Mr. Saraf, who is the founder of Rekhta.org, was the Chief Guest at the Washington AAA's annual event that attracts hundreds of Urdu lovers from the Metro Washington area and neighboring states every year. The Association honored him with an award for his innovative approach and dedication to

servicing Urdu language and literature through Rekhta.org that has digitized copies of more than 30,000 books of Urdu writers and poets on its website. The Rekhta organization holds a 3-days annual Jashn-e-Rekhta in Delhi that brings 30-40,000 people of all ages to the program. Saraf, who learned Urdu because of his passion for the language, was very hopeful about the future of the language as the majority of the audiences coming to his Jashn-e-Rekhta are young between the ages of 18-25 years and they represent all sections of the society. Addressing the audience at the Mushaira, he said that the Rekhta Foundation was working out the details of holding similar programs in the various parts of the world,

including the United States.

The Aligarh Alumni Association, Washington DC started the tradition of holding Mushaira more than four decades ago and it is the oldest South-Asian cultural event in Washington. Starting with a humble beginning, it has achieved an international reputation. Almost all renowned and stalwart poets from the Subcontinent have participated in this annual event. Every year 5-6 poets from India, Pakistan, and other countries are invited for their participation. The time constraints allow only a few local poets from USA and Canada to recite their poetry, and a big number of established poets such as Professor Satyapal Anand, come to the

mushaira as host-poets to listen to the overseas guest poets. This year's invited poets were Dr. Salman Akhtar, Mr. Khushbir Singh Shaad, Dr. Sabiha Saba, Dr. Nikhat Iftikhar, Mr. Rehman Faris, Ms. Qania Ada Mr. Saud Usmani, Mr. HashmatSohail, Bina Goindi, Dr. RaziRaziuddin, and Dr. A. Abdullah.

Welcoming the audience, Association's President Dr. Rafat Husain briefly apprised the gathering about the activities of the Association. He mentioned that the Association had been in the forefront of organizing high-quality literary and cultural activities for the last 40+ years. His speech was followed by a rendition of Aligarh University Tarana, Yeh Mera Chaman Hai,



Poets on stage: Dr. Salman Akhtar, Dr. Nikhat Iftikhar, Dr. A. Abdullah, Mr. Rahman Faris, Mr. Saud Usmani, and Mr. Khushbir Singh Shaad (Faris reciting)

COND FROM PAGE 20

which written by a well-known Aligarian, MajazLakhnawi. More than 400 Urdu lovers that included diverse sections of the Indo-Pak community came to this event.

In recognition of his innovative approach and dedication to popularizing Urdu, the Association gave an award to Mr. Sanjiv Saraf. The Association also recognizes people with a Life-long Service Award for their dedicated services to the Association. This year's award went to Dr. Aftab Ansari.

A number of dignitaries, including Mr. Imran Arshad, Counsellor (CA), Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC, presidents and members of the literary and academic associations such as The University of Karachi Alumni Association, The Association of Indian Muslims in America, Halqa-e-Arba-e-Zauq, the Hyderabad Association of Washington Metropolitan Area, The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Metro-Washington, The Hindi Association, and The Center for Pluralism in Washington, DC. In his congratulatory note, Mr. Tariq Husain a senior executive of the World Bank, appreciated the masterful organization and conduct of the Mushaira. Mr. Saud Zafar, a regular patron of the Mushaira for over 30 years expressing his view said that the event was very good and well organized. All the poets presented exceptionally well poetry, especially Mr. Salman Akhtar, Rehman Faris, and NikhatIftikahr were very impressive. Dr. Navin C. Shah, a noted oncologist and community leader was ecstatic listening to the wonderful poetry and the excellent organization of the event.

The mushaira was presided over by Mr. Khushbir Singh Shaad and skillfully moderated by Dr. A. Abdullah, whose golden touch has been a key factor in making the ambiance and effect of these mushairas memorable. "Forty plus years of untiring efforts by our Association and support of the community this Mushaira the embodiment of common heritage of all Urdu lovers in this area. It has become a reference for the introduction of Washington in the Urdu world. Preservation of the prestige of this Mushaira is the responsibility of everyone," he added.

This year, the organizers made a new beginning by organizing the event in the early afternoon of Sunday, instead of the usual evenings. This was appreciated especially by the seasoned Mushaira-lovers who have been religiously coming to it for decades.

Glimpses of the poetry recited at the Mushaira.

Salman Akhtar, who has heritage of Urdu poetry for several generation and an internationally-acknowledged poet in his own right and a practicing psychiatrist, impressed the audience with his poetry.

DoosroN ki baton kuchh to sachraha ho gaa



Nuzaira Azam interviewing Mr. Sanjiv Saraf



Khushbir Singh Shaad being interviewed for Panjabi TV

Koe to sitam akhir hum ne bhikiya ho gaa.

Sirf shikwoN se kahani nahiN poori ho gi

Apne har zulm ki ginti bhi zaroori ho gi

Voh ek ghar ki jahaN umr kaTni thi hameiN

Lagi hai umr vahi ek ghar banana meiN

Kuchh saleeqe bunyadi dosti meiN kaafi haiN

Char paanch log zindagi meiN kaafi haiN

Nikhat Iftikhar's scintillating poetry echoed the sentiments of the current #MeToo movement when she challenged the mindsets of powerful men who look at women primarily from a sensual angle and who think that they have the God-given right to make decisions about women in most situations.

Hairat to yeh hai kijis se maiN kuchh mangti nahiN

Who kah raha hai aur koe dur talash kar

Rah-e-vafa meiN hosh-o-khirad eik azaab hai

Sar baar-e-dosh koe paththar talash kar

QANIA ADA:

Mujhe zindagi samajh lo tumheIN muft mil gae hoon

BaDe imtihan diye haiN main chita meiN jalmari hoon

Bringing in another viewpoint about trials and tribulation of life, Rahman Farris expressed them in his poetry.

Ishq TooTa to istikhara kiya

Aur phir ishq hi dobara kiya

MaiN to mahfil se uThne wala tha

Phir kisi aankhne ishaar akiya

Jab khizan aye to patte na samar bachta hai

Khali jholi liyae veeran shajar bachta hai

Standard satirical and hilarious poetry is very difficult to write and HashmatSohail has mastered this art.

Paise jo mile faqeer koek dam jo is qadar

To bola voha asman ki janib sir uTha kar

Tu bhi hai khoob ae razzaq-e-do jahaN
Deta pate kahaN ke ha aur rahta hai kahaN
Mard ke jism meiN haiN laakh rageiN hahi
jazboN ka taana baana hai
Aur sirf biwi hi janti hai yeh kaunsi rag ko kab
dabana hai

RaziRaziuddin is an academic research scientist by profession and has a passion for poetry.

Shaher junoon meiN jane kitne majnuN aashiq
aye gaye

Jaan ki baazi dene vale daar par par hum hi
paye gaye

BEENA GOINDI

MiTTi ka ek zarra tha sakit paDa hua

Teri nazar ne us ko sitara bana duya

Bahut tabdiliyan hoti hain insanoN ki basti
meiN

Parinda koe dekha hai jo apna ghar badahta
hai

SAUD USMANI

Yeh dukh pahle kabhi jheyta nahiN tha

Akela tha magar tanha nahiN tha

Hava se meri gahri dosti thi

MeiN jab tak shaakh se Toota nahiN tha

Nazim-e-Mushaira A. Abdullah, who is statistician by training, but the passion for Urdu literature turned him into a poet and his poetry reflects observations of his surroundings. A portion of his recent nazm, Tea Bag, is as follows:

InsaanoN ki asli rangat, unki aadat aur unke
kirdaar ki

Khushboo se hum vaaqif tab hote haiN

Jab voh vaqt ke khaulte paani meiN aa jaeN

Sadr-e-Mushaira Khushbir Singh Shaad, who mastered his poetry in Lucknow, eloquently expressed his views on self-respect that is far more basic for survival even in very difficult times than positions of power.

Vaqt ke rahte koe madava kar sakta tha

Zakhm abhi nasoor tha, bhar sakta tha

Phir se vahi khamoshi hai neend ki

DeevaroN se kitni baateiN kar sakta tha

Ab andheroN meiN khaufzada baiThe haiN

Kiya khud hi chiraghoN ko bujha baiThe haiN

Bus yahi soch ke taskeen si ho jaati hai

Aur kuchh log bhi duniya se khafa baiThe haiN

Samandar yeh teri khamoshiyan kuchh aur kahti
haiN

Magar ssahil pe TooTi kashtiyen kuchh aur kahti
haiN

Hamari aankhoN ne manzar kuchh aur dekha tha

Magar akhbaar ki yeh surkhiyan kuchh aur kahti
haiN

Hum ahl-e-shaher ki khwahishki mil jul ke raheN

Lekina meer-e-shaer ki dilchapiaN kuchh aur
kahti haiN



Poets and volunteers Photos / Courtesy Dr. Rafat Husain and Mr. Afzal Usmani

The Concept of Khimaa and the Lives of the Gurus



By Harbans Lal,
PhD., D.Litt. (Hons)



Ek Ong Kaar Kaur
Khalsa Michaud

The teachings of the Sikh Gurus can often be misunderstood. When we get hurt, anger and pain are the emotions that inform us we are hurt. These feelings act as messengers, carrying vital information. Ignoring these emotions has the effect of blocking our ability to respond to the situation. This inability to feel our feelings and react to the information in an advantageous way causes us to live our lives in a state of emotional immobility.

But the Sikh Gurus offer us a method to feel the emotions and process them within a spiritual framework where the emotions can move and be transformed. We can acknowledge uncomfortable emotions within ourselves, such as anger, shame or grief, and then shift our consciousness to a vaster perspective. From that broader framework, the emotions release and resolve into peace. This creates emotional health and maturity.

Anger, grief, pain - these emotions surface naturally when we experience some kind of injury or trauma. Does Sarbat Da Bhalaa mean to not have those feelings? Do we pretend they don't exist or stuff them away to maintain appearances?

The teachings of the Sikh Gurus provide a sophisticated system to acknowledge and process our emotions within a spiritual framework that leads to emotional freedom and maturity. This framework does not deny the heavy emotions. Rather, it encourages us to find a place within ourselves where these challenging feelings can move through us. We discover the capacity to let go of animosity. To maintain compassion for ourselves and for others. And in the most egregious of circumstances, to experience Nirbhao, Nirvair - a state of divinely consciousness beyond both fear and vengeance.

This capacity to stay compassionately engaged even with those who have done harm to us is called, in Gurmukhi, Khimaa????.

Khimaa ਖਿਮਾ sometimes gets translated as forgiveness. But when we look to the roots of what forgiveness means; and we look at the spiritual framework the Sikh Gurus taught - khimaa ਖਿਮਾ is quite unique and the English term "forgiveness" does not quite do it justice. It is worth exploring what this difference looks like.

Before discussing khimaa ਖਿਮਾ, first let us reference the teaching that it is possible to view both friend and enemy as equivalent to one another. What does that mean?

Guru Arjan Dev ji describes the formula in the following shabad:

ਭੈਰਉਮਹਲਾ ੫॥
BhairouMehalaa 5 ॥
Bhairao, Fifth Mehl:
ਪ੍ਰਥਮਛੋਡੀਪਰਾਈਨਿੰਦਾ॥



PrathhamaShhoddeeParaaeeNindhaa ॥
First, I gave up slandering others.

ਉਤਰਿ ਗਈ ਸਭ ਮਨ ਕੀ ਚਿੰਦਾ॥
Outhar Gee Sabh Man Kee Chindhaa ॥
All the anxiety of my mind was dispelled.

ਲੋਭਮੋਹਸਭਕੀਨੋਦੁਰਿ॥
LobhMohuSabhKeenoDhoor ॥
Greed and attachment were banished

entirely.
ਪਰਮ ਬੈਸਨੋ ਪੁਭ ਪੇਖਿ ਹਜੂਰਿ॥੧॥
Param BaisanoPrabhPaekhHajoor ॥1॥
I see God ever-present, close at hand; I have become a great devotee. ॥1॥

ਐਸੇ ਤਿਆਗੀ ਵਿਰਲਾ ਕੋਇ॥
AisoThiaageeViralaaKoe ॥
Such a renunciate is very rare.
ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਜਪੈ ਜਨੁ ਸੋਇ॥੧॥ਰਹਾਉ॥
Har Har Naam Japai Jan Soe ॥1॥ Rehaao ॥

Such a humble servant chants the Name of the Divine, Har, Har. ॥1॥Pause and Reflect ॥
ਅਹੰਬੁਧਿਕਾਛੋਡਿਆਸੋਗੁ॥
AhanbudhhKaaShhoddiaa Sang ॥
I have forsaken my egotistical intellect.
ਕਾਮਕ੍ਰੋਧਕਾਉਤਰਿਆਰੇਗੁ॥
KaamKrodhhKaaOuthariaa Rang ॥
The hue of sensual desire and anger has vanished.

ਨਾਮਯਾਏਹਰਿਗਰਿਹਰੇ॥
Naam Dhhaiaaee Har HarHarae ॥
I meditate on the Naam, the Name of the Divine, Har, Har.
ਸਾਯਜਨਾਕੈਸੰਗਿਨਿਸਤਰੇ॥੨॥
SaadhJanaa Kai Sang Nisatharae ॥2॥
In the Company of the Holy, I am emancipated. ॥2॥

ਬੈਰੀਮੀਤਹੋਏਸੋਮਾਨ॥
BaireeMeethHoeaeSanmaan ॥
Enemy and friends have become the same to me.

ਸਰਬਮਹਿਪੂਰਨਭਗਵਾਨ॥
SarabMehiPooanBhagavaan ॥
The Perfect Divine is permeating all.
ਪ੍ਰਭ ਕੀ ਆਗਿ ਆ ਮਾਨਿ ਸੁਖੁ ਪਾਇਆ॥
Prabh Kee AagaaMaanSukhPaaeiaa ॥
Accepting the Will of the Divine, I have found peace.

ਗੁਰਿਪੁਰੈਹਰਿਨਾਮੁਦ੍ਰਿੜਾਇਆ॥੩॥
Gur Poorai Har Naam Dhrirraeiaa ॥3॥
The Perfect Guru has implanted the Name of the Divine within me. ॥3॥

ਕਰਿਕਿਰਪਾਜਿਸੁਰਾਖੈਆਪਿ॥
Kar KirapaaJisRaakhaiAap ॥
That person, whom the Divine, in His Mercy, saves

ਸੋਈਭਗਤੁਜਪੈਨਾਮਜਾਪ॥
SoeeBhagathJapai Naam Jaap ॥
That devotee recites and goes deeper into the Naam.

ਮਨਿ ਪ੍ਰਗਾਸੁ ਗੁਰ ਤੇ ਮਤਿ ਲਈ॥

Man Pragaas Gur Thae Math Lee ॥
That person who obtains understanding through the Guru's vision, his/her mind becomes illumined.

ਕਰੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਤਾਕੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਪਈ॥੪॥੨੭॥੪੦॥
KahuNaanakThaa Kee Pooree Pee ॥4॥27॥40॥

- says Nanak, that person is totally fulfilled. ॥4॥27॥40॥

This Shabad, hymn, is so very rich. Yet the one facet that struck us the deepest is the first line about slandering others. The Guru instructs that when we stop slandering others, the mind leaves behind anxiety, greed and attachment. It is fascinating to us to learn that peace begins with our own decision to stop speaking or thinking negatively about other people. That by not slandering them, the anxiety in our minds disappears.

Accepting what is given. Not speaking pointlessly with ill will. The wealth of Khimaa develops and with it we can burn away our anger and anxiety. Here - Khimaa is translated as "tolerance." But the context of it implies a compassionate, surrendered tolerance that creates a sense of forgiveness, and a willingness to engage others with a fully open heart.

When we experience trauma, fear or pain, the instinct to lash out, to blame someone, shame someone, rage against someone, speak negatively about someone is a very normal way of life. Yet in this Shabad, the Guru suggests that speaking negatively about others keeps the mind in a state of dis-ease. And that making a choice to not think or say anything negative brings the mind to ease.

When we curb our predisposition to speak negatively, it gives the ability for our sight to soften and widen. To "see the Perfect One permeating all." If we choose to not speak

Goodwill to all. It is a noble sentiment. But is it realistic to have goodwill towards every single person, especially in the face of social illnesses such as racism, sexual violence, religious hatred or physical persecution?

Hatred. Anger. Urge to Revenge. Despair. Pain. All of these emotions surface when something deeply traumatic is done to us or to those with whom we share a connection. Yet the Sikh Ardaas (prayer) is always for Sarbat Da Bhalaa. Goodwill to all people.

negatively, and we choose to see the Divine in every heart - then it follows quite naturally what the Guru says. That "enemy and friends have become the same to me."

In other words, it does not matter whether a person is an enemy or a friend. My mind responds with the same emotional equanimity to both.

Accessing this state of consciousness is a tall order, no doubt. How can we cultivate the habit of not speaking negatively about others? Rather than just biting our tongue, how do we genuinely come to the state of not having anything negative to say?

I think this Shabad by Guru Naanak Dev ji gives us a clue. It illustrates the point by quoting an event detailed in the ancient Hindu history.

ਪ੍ਰਭਾਤੀ ਮਹਲਾ ੧ ਦਖਣੀ॥ SGGS, p. 1344
PrabhaatheeMehalaa 1 Dhakhane ॥
Prabhaatee, First Mehl, Dakhnee:
ਗੋਤਮਪੁਤ੍ਰਾਅਹਿਲਾਅਇਸਤ੍ਰੀਤਿਸੁਦੇਖਿਦਿਲੁਭਾਇਆ॥
Gotham ThapaaAhiliaaEisathree This
DhaekhEindhraLubhaeiaa ॥
Ahalya was the wife of Gautam, the seer. Seeing her, Indra was enticed.

ਸਹਸਰੀਰਚਿਹਨਭਗਰੂਏਤਾਮਨਿਪਛੋਤਾਇਆ॥੧॥
SehasSareerChihanBhagHooeaeThaa Man
Pashhothaaeiaa ॥1॥
When he received a thousand marks of disgrace on his body, then he felt regret in his mind. ॥1॥

ਕੋਈਜਾਣਿਨੁਭੂਲੈਭਾਈ॥
KoeJaan N BhoelaiBhaaee ॥
O Siblings of Destiny, rarely anyone knowingly makes mistakes.

ਸੋ ਭੂਲੈ ਜਿਸੁਆਪਿਭੁ ਲਾਏ ਬੁਝੈ ਜਿਸੈ ਬੁਝਾਈ॥੧॥ਰਹਾਉ॥
So Bhoelai Jis Aap Bhulaaeae Boojhai
Jisai Bujhaaee ॥1॥ Rehaao ॥

He alone is mistaken, whom the Divine Herself makes so. He alone understands, whom the Divine causes to understand. ॥1॥Pause and Reflect ॥

ਤਿਨਿਹਰੀਚੰਦਿਪਿਥਮੀਪਤਿਰਾਜੇਕਾਗਦਿਕੀਮਨਪਾਈ॥
Thin HareeChandhPrithhamee Path
RaajaiKaagadhKeem N Paaee ॥

Harichand, the king, and ruler of his land did not appreciate the value of his pre-ordained destiny.

ਅਉਗਣੁਜਾਣੈਤਪੁਨਕਰੋਕਿਉਕਿਉਨੇਖਾਸਿਥਿਕਾਈ॥੨॥
AouganJaanaai Th Punnkarae Kio
KioNaekhaasBikaee ॥2॥

If he had known that it was a mistake, he would not have made such a show of giving in charity, and he would not have been sold in the market. ॥2॥

ਕਰਉ ਅਢਾਈ ਧਰਤੀ ਮਾਗੀ ਬਾਵਨ ਰੂਪਿ ਬਹਾਨੈ॥
Karo Adtaae Dhharathee Maangee
Baavan Roop Behaanai ॥

The Divine took the form of a dwarf and asked for some land.

ਕਿਉ ਪਇਆ ਲਿਜਾਇ ਕਿ ਉਛਲੀ ਐਜੇਬ ਲਿਰੂਪੁ ਪਛਾਨੈ॥੩॥
Kio PaeiaalJae Kio Shhaleeai Jae Bal
RoopPashhaanai ॥3॥

If Bal the king had recognized Him, he would not have been deceived and sent to the underworld. ॥3॥

ਰਾਜਾਜਨਮੇਜਾਦੇਮਤੀਬਰਜਿਥਿਆਸਿਪੜਾਇਆ॥
RaajaaJanamaejaadhaeMathanaeeBarajBi
aasParrhaeiaa ॥

In China, your car could be talking to the government

SHANGHAI (TIP): When Shan Junhua bought his white Tesla Model X, he knew it was a fast, beautiful car. What he didn't know is that Tesla constantly sends information about the precise location of his car to the Chinese government.

Tesla is not alone. China has called upon all electric vehicle manufacturers in China to make the same kind of reports — potentially adding to the rich kit of surveillance tools available to the Chinese government as President Xi Jinping steps up the use of technology to track Chinese citizens.

"I didn't know this," said Shan. "Tesla could have it, but why do they transmit it to the government? Because this is about privacy."

More than 200 manufacturers, including Tesla, Volkswagen, BMW, Daimler, Ford, General Motors, Nissan, Mitsubishi and U.S.-listed electric vehicle start-up NIO, transmit position information and dozens of other data points to government-backed monitoring centers, The Associated Press has found. Generally, it happens without car owners' knowledge.

The automakers say they are merely complying with local laws, which apply only to alternative energy vehicles. Chinese officials say the data is used for analytics to improve public safety, facilitate industrial development and infrastructure planning,



and to prevent fraud in subsidy programs.

But other countries that are major markets for electronic vehicles — the United States, Japan, across Europe — do not collect this kind of real-time data.

And critics say the information collected in China is beyond what is needed to meet the country's stated goals. It could be used not only to undermine foreign carmakers' competitive position, but also for surveillance — particularly in China, where there are few protections on personal privacy. Under the

leadership of Xi Jinping, China has unleashed a war on dissent, marshalling big data and artificial intelligence to create a more perfect kind of policing, capable of predicting and eliminating perceived threats to the stability of the ruling Communist Party.

There is also concern about the precedent these rules set for sharing data from next-generation connected cars, which may soon transmit even more personal information. (AP)

Another Canadian diplomat falls mysteriously ill in Cuba

CUBA (TIP): Canada says it is considering all options regarding its embassy in Cuba after another diplomat was found to have fallen mysteriously ill. A senior Canadian government official said Thursday that the latest diplomat affected first reported symptoms in the early part of the summer. Testing then confirmed it. Canadian has confirmed 13 cases of mysterious health problems since early 2017. Twenty-five American embassy workers in Cuba have also been affected, suffering a range of symptoms and diagnoses including mild traumatic brain injury, also known as concussion.

The official said in briefing for journalists on Thursday that senior officials will visit next Cuba week and consider all options to ensure staff are protected.

Canada ordered the families of diplomatic staff in Cuba to return home last April. (AP)

Brazil backs out of hosting 2019 climate change meeting

Rio De Janeiro (TIP): Brazil this week pulled out of hosting next year's United Nations global summit meeting on climate change, the latest signal that Latin America's largest nation no longer aspires to be an influential player in efforts to mitigate the effects of a warming planet.

The decision leaves the UN scrambling to find a new venue for the conference, which was scheduled to take place next November. It comes about a month before the inauguration of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, who has vowed to empower commercial ventures in the Amazon and other Brazilian biomes while weakening enforcement of environmental laws.

Bolsonaro's incoming foreign minister, Ernesto Araújo, a career diplomat, has called the movement to reduce global warming a plot by "Marxists" to stifle the economic growth of capitalist democracies while lifting China.

Brazil in 2009 set ambitious goals to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and took drastic steps to rein in deforestation in the Amazon. Those initiatives were met with international acclaim and positioned Brazil as one of the most consequential and engaged nations in the effort to reduce climate change. (NYT)

Russia to deploy new missiles to Crimea as Ukraine tensions rise

MOSCOW'S (TIP): Russia said on Nov 28 it would send more of its advanced S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to Crimea and a Reuters reporter saw a Russian warship deploying nearby as tensions with Ukraine rose over Moscow's seizure of Ukrainian navy ships. Russia has steadily poured new military hardware into Crimea since it annexed it from Ukraine in 2014, turning it into what Kremlin-backed media have called a fortress. Moscow's announcement about new missiles follows its seizure of three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crews on Sunday over what it said was their illegal entry into Russian waters, something Ukraine denies. (Reuters)

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko: Putin wants my whole country

BERLIN (TIP) : Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko accused Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of seeking to annex his entire country and called in interviews with German media for Chancellor Angela Merkel to come to Kiev's aid in the crisis. Russia seized three Ukrainian navy ships and their crews on Sunday near the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014, over what it said was their illegal entry into Russian waters — a charge Ukraine strongly refutes.

In interviews with Germany's Bild newspaper and the Funke newspaper group on Thursday, Poroshenko rejected Russia's charge that the vessels' entry into the Azov Sea — a body of water shared by Ukraine and Russia on which the Ukrainian ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk sit — was a provocation.

"Don't believe Putin's lies," he told Bild, Germany's biggest-selling paper, comparing Russia's protestations of innocence in the affair to Moscow's 2014 denial that it had soldiers in Crimea even as they moved to annex it.

"Putin wants the old Russian empire back," he said. "Crimea, Donbass, the whole country. As Russian Tsar, as he sees himself, his empire can't function without Ukraine. He sees us as his colony."

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Mariupol and Berdyansk sit — was a provocation.

"Don't believe Putin's lies," he told Bild, Germany's biggest-selling paper, comparing Russia's protestations of innocence in the affair to Moscow's 2014 denial that it had soldiers in Crimea even as they moved to annex it.

"Putin wants the old Russian empire back," he said. "Crimea, Donbass, the whole country. As Russian Tsar, as he sees himself, his empire can't function without Ukraine. He sees us as his colony."

"We need a strong, resolute and clear reaction to Russia's aggressive behaviour," he told Funke. "That also means stopping the

Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project."

Germany regards the pipeline, which is being built by Russian state-owned energy company Gazprom, as a private investment. But Merkel recently acknowledged its "political dimensions" and said Ukraine must continue to be a conduit for Russian gas sold to western Europe.

German officials said on Wednesday that their position on the pipeline remained unchanged and that talk of tighter sanctions against Moscow, demanded by the United States and many European politicians, was "premature".

Poroshenko also called for the stationing of NATO vessels in the Sea of Azov. (Reuters)

KISS FREQUENTLY, LIMIT TECHNOLOGY: FALL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN



If you're feeling distant from your partner, you may think that putting on a sexy dress is the best way to get his or her attention. And that may work — but there are many other ways to bring back the passion from the early days of your relationship. If you just don't feel the same level of intimacy or excitement with your partner that you once did, here are some steps you can take to feel closer to your partner -- increase your physical attraction, as well as, your emotional bond:

Sleep closer together

Sleeping skin-to-skin, whether spooning or even just touching toes, can have relationship benefits. In fact, a 2014 study presented at the Edinburgh International Science Festival found that couples who slept the closest to each other reported having more relationship satisfaction.

Kiss frequently

Locking lips can play an important role in the quality of a long-term relationship, according to a 2013 study from Oxford University. In fact, researchers found that frequent kissing was even more important to relationship satisfaction than frequent sex.

Limit technology

If you haven't put your relationship on a technology diet -- cut out phones and television at mealtimes and in the bedroom -- yet, it is time to do it. Nothing is killing communication faster right now than men and women starting at their mobile phones, while their partner is trying to talk to them at the dinner table. In a 2014 Brigham Young University study of heterosexual women, 70% felt that smartphones and other devices were interfering with their love lives.

Take a vacation

If work and family obligations have

forced you and your partner to put your love life on the back burner, schedule some time off from your regular responsibilities. Getting away may help you focus on each other, but even a staycation or a long weekend at home -- if you treat it right -- can be enough to refresh your bond, suggests a 2013 study commissioned by the US Travel Association.

Go on double dates

You don't need to spend all of your couple time one-on-one. In fact, inviting friends along once in a while can help you and your partner reaffirm your love for each other. In a 2014 Wayne State University study, people who went on double dates with other couples they were close with said they felt more affection and romantic feelings toward their partners. It turns out that watching your other half interact with friends can help you remember what you love about him or her. *Source: HT*

FOOD CORNER

BRINJAL RICE

Ingredients

Basmati Rice -1 cup
Brinjal- 3, long, purple variety
Tomatoes-3 (big juicy ones)
Onion- 1, thinly sliced
Green chilli -1, slit
Ginger -1 inch, finely chopped
Turmeric powder -1/4 tsp
Salt - as required

To be roasted and ground

Coriander seeds - 1 tbsp
Chana dal - 1 tbsp
Urad dal - 2 tsp
Red chillies - 3
Black peppercorns -1/4 tsp
Coconut - 1 tbsp

For the seasoning

Oil - 1 1/2 tbsp
Mustard -1/2 tsp
Urad dal -1/2 tsp
Asafoetida -1/4 tsp
Curry leaves -a few

Method

- Soak basmati rice in water for 20 minutes.
- Drain the water and cook the rice adding 2 cups of boiling water.
- Cut brinjal into cubes or lengthwise.
- Heat a teaspoon of oil and fry coriander seeds, chana dal, urad dal and pepper.
- After it turns slightly brown, add the coconut and fry.
- Powder it and keep aside.
- Heat a tbsp of oil, add the ingredients mentioned under seasoning.
- Add the sliced onion and saute.
- Add brinjal, green chilli, finely-chopped ginger and turmeric powder.
- Cook on low flame sprinkling water and stirring occasionally.
- Add the ground masala and required salt.
- When the brinjal is slightly cooked, add finely-chopped tomatoes and cook well until brinjal become soft.
- Add the cooked rice and mix well.
- Garnish with coriander leaves and serve hot with raita and papad.



Men go crazy with food to charm ladies

All men please take note! If you want to lose weight, check whether you are binging on food, especially when dining with a woman as you try to impress upon her! According to an interesting research, how much you eat may have more to do with the gender of your dining companions than your appetite.

The researchers from Cornell University found that men will eat significantly more food in the company of women than they will with other men.

"The findings suggest that men tend to overeat to show off. You can also see this tendency in eating competitions which almost always have mostly male participants," explained lead author Kevin Kniffin. To reach this conclusion, researchers observed 105 adults lunching

at an Italian buffet over the course of two weeks.

They recorded the number of pizza slices and how many bowls of salad each diner ate. The gender of each diner's eating partner or partners was also noted. Men who dined with at least one woman ate 93 percent more pizza and 86 percent more salad than men who dined with only other men.

The quantity that women ate didn't differ when eating with other women or with men. When they ate with men, many women indicated feeling that they overate and were rushed through their meal.

The study was conducted by Kniffin, Ozge Sigirci, former visiting scholar at the Cornell University Food and Brand Lab and Brian Wansink, professor and director of the Food and Brand Lab.



ORANGE JUICE, LEAFY GREENS MAY LOWER MEMORY LOSS RISK IN MEN

According to a recent study, eating leafy greens, red vegetable, berry fruits and drinking orange juice may be linked with a lower risk of memory loss in men over time.

The study was published in the *Journal of Neurology*. It looked at 27,842 men with an average age of 51 who were all health professionals. Participants filled out questionnaires about how many servings of fruits, vegetables and other foods they had each day at the beginning of the study and then every four years for 20 years.

"One of the most important factors in this study is that we were able to research and track such a large group of men over a 20-year period of time, allowing for very telling results. Our studies provide further evidence dietary choices can be important to maintain your brain health," said study author Changzheng Yuan, ScD, of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston.

Participants also took subjective tests of their thinking and memory skills at least four years before the end of the study, when they were an average age of 73. The test is designed to detect changes that people can notice in how well they are remembering things before those changes would be detected by objective cognitive tests. Changes in memory reported by the participants would be considered precursors to mild cognitive impairment. The questions included: "Do you have more trouble than usual remembering a short list of items, such as a shopping list?" and "Do you have more trouble than usual following a group conversation or a plot in a TV program due to your memory?"

The participants were divided into



five groups based on their fruit and vegetable consumption. For vegetables, the highest group ate about six servings per day, compared to about two servings for the lowest group. For fruits, the top group ate about three servings per day, compared to half a serving for the bottom group.

The men who consumed the most vegetables were 34% less likely to develop poor thinking skills than the men who consumed the least amount of vegetables. A total of 6.6% of men in the top group developed poor cognitive function, compared to 7.9% of men in the bottom group. The men who drank orange juice every day were 47% less likely to develop poor thinking skills than the men who drank less than one serving per month. A total of 6.9% of

men who drank orange juice every day developed poor cognitive function, compared to 8.4% of men who drank orange juice less than once a month.

The men who ate the most fruit each day were less likely to develop poor thinking skills, but that association was weakened after researchers adjusted for other dietary factors that could affect the results, such as consumption of vegetables, fruit juice, refined grains, legumes and dairy products.

The researchers also found that people who ate larger amounts of fruits and vegetables 20 years earlier were less likely to develop thinking and memory problems, whether or not they kept eating larger amounts of fruits and vegetables about six years before the memory test. *Source: ANI*

Global warming increasing death, disease risk

Climate change is putting an increasing proportion of the global population at risk of heat-related death and diseases, and causing significant loss of work hours in vulnerable areas like India, sub-Saharan Africa, and South America, according to a study published in *The Lancet* journal.

The rising vulnerability to the heat-related risks of climate change is mirrored by increased exposure to higher temperatures.

Despite a mean global temperature increase of 0.3 degrees Celsius between 1986 and 2017, the average temperature increase people were exposed was more than double this (0.8 degrees Celsius).

With the pace of climate change outweighing the urgency of the response, the report provides cause for concern.

However, researchers also note promising trends in key areas for health, including the phase-out of coal, the deployment of healthier, cleaner modes of transport, and health system adaptation.

Present day changes in heat waves and labour capacity provide early warning of the compounded and overwhelming impact on public health that is expected if temperatures continue to rise," said Hilary Graham from The University of York in UK.

"Trends in the impacts of climate change, exposures and vulnerabilities show unacceptably high risk for health now and in the future," said Graham.

"The lack of progress in reducing emissions and building adaptive capacity threatens lives and health systems and must be addressed to avoid disruption to core public health infrastructure and overwhelming health services," she said.

"Despite delays, some sectors are embarking on a low-carbon transition, which is a promising sign. It is clear that the nature and scale of the response to climate change will be the determining factor in shaping the health of nations for centuries to come," said Graham.

The annual report tracks 41 indicators across five areas: climate change impacts, exposures, and vulnerability; adaptation, planning, and resilience for health; mitigation actions and health co-benefits; finance and economics; and public and political engagement.

The indicators include weather-related disasters, food security, clean fuel use, meat consumption, air pollution and the number of scientific research articles about climate and health. As a result of increasing temperatures caused by climate change, vulnerable populations (adults over 65 years old, people living in cities, and people with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases) are exposed to heat stress, increasing their risk of cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease. *Source: PTI*



WOMEN WHO UNDERGO SURGICAL MENOPAUSE LIKELY TO HAVE INSOMNIA, SAYS STUDY

While insomnia is one of the most common symptoms of menopause, undergoing surgical menopause is likely to worsen the sleep disorder, warns a new study. Surgical menopause is often accompanied by more psychological and physical difficulties and nearly 20% of post-menopausal women reported sleep disturbances. Research has linked insomnia to high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, diabetes and other ailments.

"Early surgical menopause is known to be associated with more severe menopause symptoms," said JoAnn Pinkerton from the University of Virginia in the US, adding, "That is why it is important to assess sleep quality in women after surgery that leads to menopause, because insomnia and disrupted sleep can cause fatigue, mood changes and lower quality of life."

For the study, published in the journal *Menopause*, the team examined more than 500 post-menopausal women. The findings showed that women in the



surgical menopause group reported facing extreme sleep troubles, especially for sleep duration and habitual sleep efficiency compared with women in the natural menopause group.

In addition, women who underwent surgical menopause were found to be

more than twice as likely to have insomnia. The increased severity of menopause symptoms such as hot flashes and night sweats can disrupt sleep in a woman's life when sleep problems are already an issue. *Source: IANS*

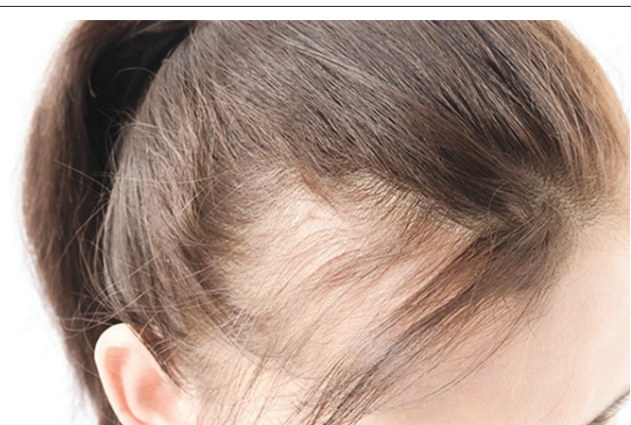
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SCIENTISTS REGROW HAIR ON WOUNDED SKIN

Researchers have regrown hair strands on damaged skin by stirring crosstalk among skin cells that form the roots of hair.

The findings by researchers at the New York University (NYU) School of Medicine in the US better explain why hair does not normally grow on wounded skin.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, may help in the search for better drugs to restore hair growth.

It examined the effect of distinct signalling pathways in damaged skin of laboratory mice.

Experiments focused on cells called fibroblasts that secrete collagen, the structural protein most responsible for maintaining the shape and strength of skin and hair.

Researchers activated the sonic hedgehog signalling pathway used by cells to communicate with each other.

The pathway is known to be very active during the early stages of human growth in the womb, when hair follicles are formed, but is otherwise stalled in wounded skin in healthy adults.

Researchers said this possibly explains why hair follicles fail to grow in skin replaced after injury or surgery.

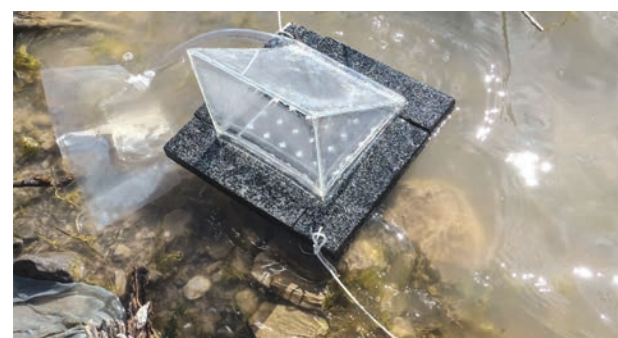
"Our results show that stimulating fibroblasts through the sonic hedgehog pathway can trigger hair growth not previously seen in wound healing," said Mayumi Ito, an associate professor at NYU.

Regrowing hair on damaged skin is an unmet need in medicine, Ito said, because of the disfigurement suffered by thousands from trauma, burns, and other injuries.

However, her more immediate goal, she said, is to signal mature skin to revert back to its embryonic state so that it can grow new hair follicles, not just on wounded skin, but also on people who have gone bald from ageing.

Ito said scientists have until now assumed that, as part of the healing process, scarring and collagen buildup in damaged skin were behind its inability to regrow hair.

Source: PTI



NEW METHOD USES SUNLIGHT TO PURIFY WATER

Scientists have developed a simple process that can remove persistent pollutants in water using mere sunlight under the most basic conditions.

The researchers from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) in Germany rely on electrons moving freely in water, called hydrated electrons, to degrade dissolved pollutants.

"These electrons are extremely reactive and can be used for a plethora of reactions. They break down even the most recalcitrant pollutants," said Martin Goez, a professor at MLU. For this to work, however, the electrons have to be released from the molecular compounds in which they are usually tightly bound. Until now, generating those electrons has required complex and expensive high-power lasers.

Researchers introduced a new approach which only required a green light-emitting diode as the sole energy source. Vitamin C and traces of a metal complex as the catalyst were used to bring about the desired reaction.

CHINESE RESEARCHER CLAIMS FIRST GENE-EDITED BABIES

A Chinese researcher claims that he helped make the world's first genetically edited babies — twin girls born this month whose DNA he said he altered with a powerful new tool capable of rewriting the very blueprint of life.

If true, it would be a profound leap of science and ethics.

A U.S. scientist said he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in the United States because the DNA changes can pass to future generations and it risks harming other genes.

Many mainstream scientists think it's too unsafe to try, and some denounced the Chinese report as human experimentation.

The researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far. He said his goal was not to cure or prevent an inherited disease, but to try to bestow a trait that few people naturally have — an ability to resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

He said the parents involved declined to



He Jiankui

be identified or interviewed, and he would not say where they live or where the work was done.

There is no independent confirmation of He's claim, and it has not been published in a journal, where it would be vetted by other experts. He revealed it Monday in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing that is set to begin Tuesday, and earlier in exclusive interviews with *The Associated Press*.

"I feel a strong responsibility that it's not just to make a first, but also make it an example," He told the AP. "Society will decide what to do next" in terms of

allowing or forbidding such science.

Some scientists were astounded to hear of the claim and strongly condemned it.

It's "unconscionable ... an experiment on human beings that is not morally or ethically defensible," said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a University of Pennsylvania gene editing expert and editor of a genetics journal.

"This is far too premature," said Dr. Eric Topol, who heads the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California. "We're dealing with the operating instructions of a human being. It's a big deal."

However, one famed geneticist, Harvard University's George Church, defended attempting gene editing for HIV, which he called "a major and growing public health threat."

"I think this is justifiable," Church said of that goal.

In recent years scientists have discovered a relatively easy way to edit genes, the strands of DNA that govern the body. The tool, called CRISPR-cas9, makes it possible to operate on DNA to supply a needed gene or disable one that's causing problems.

Source: AP

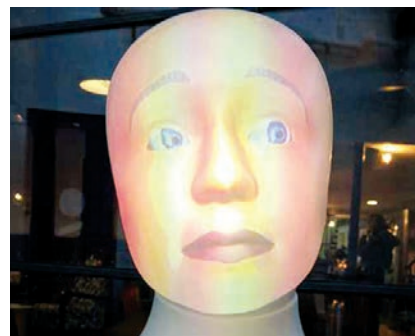
Robot With 'Human-Like Face' Smiles, Encourages People To Interact

Furhat tilts his or her head, smiles, exudes empathy and warmth, and encourages us to open up.

The robot, a three-dimensional bust with a projection of a human-like face, aims to build on our new-found ease talking to voice assistants like Siri and Alexa, by persuading us to interact with it as if it were a person, picking up on our cues to strike up a rapport.

Yet precisely because it isn't human, and is therefore free from bias, the robot can spur people to engage more honestly, its creator says, making it useful in situations such as screening for health risks where people often lie.

"We've seen research that shows that in certain situations people are more comfortable opening up and talking about difficult issues with a robot than



with a human," said Samer Al Moubayed, chief executive of Furhat Robotics.

That's because a robot's personality can mirror the personality of the person interacting with it and because people don't feel judged, he added.

The robot has been used in Frankfurt airport as a multi-lingual concierge, helping travellers find their way, but also for customer services training - simulating irate shoppers for example.

Science and technology firm Merck and Furhat Robotics on Wednesday unveiled a robot in Stockholm which will ask people about their health and lifestyle and screen them for risk of diabetes, alcoholism and hypothyroidism. If necessary, the robot will advise them to go for a blood test or to a doctor.

"Every robot needs a different personality depending on the job it's going to do," said Moubayed.

Furhat can be male or female, old or young, wisecracking or serious.

Source: Reuters

Gaana revamps app with AI-based features, voice search, and more

Gaana has revamped its music streaming app for Android and iOS users. The new features will be available through the latest software update of Gaana.

The updated app comes with AI and machine learning-based features to offer personalised content to users. Gaana has also revamped the interface of the app, and added voice search.

Smarter search

Gaana has made it easier for users to search songs on the app. It will now show suggestions of songs based on the user's listening history. Gaana has updated the app with machine-learning based search feature.

Personalised playlists

With the new update, Gaana app will now show 'Made for you Mixes and



Playlists'. Here, users will be able to browse through playlists made with songs based on their listening preference. The app will also curate songs for playlists from different genres.

New content

In addition to curating playlists, Gaana app will also show fresh content

every day. Using machine learning and AI, the app will show songs based on what the user has listened to and not.

Voice search

Gaana has added voice search to its app with the latest update. Users can simply tap on the voice search option to start using the feature. Gaana lets users voice search using keywords like the name of the song, singer, movie, lyrics, moods and occasions.

Refreshed UI

Gaana has revamped the user interface (UI) of the app with more focus on imagery. The new UI is said to be more user-friendly with an improved player experience. Gaana has also added lyrics in the music player which can be viewed in full-screen mode.

Microsoft surpasses Apple to become world's most valuable company

Microsoft Corp. surpassed Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable publicly traded company. All it took was a \$300 billion rout.

After briefly claiming the top spot on Monday, Microsoft shares rose 0.6 percent Tuesday, pushing the company's market value to \$328.1 billion at the close. That exceeded by more than \$1 billion the value of Apple, which has tumbled this month on concern about iPhone unit sales.

The last time Microsoft's market capitalization was bigger than Apple was in 2010, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

A recent stock market swoon has taken a toll on nearly all technology companies. But investors have punished consumer-focused companies like Apple and Amazon.com Inc. more than firms that mostly cater to businesses, like Microsoft. It's down 6.3 percent since the start of October, while Apple has lost 23 percent.

Starting more than a decade ago, Microsoft fell behind Apple as computing shifted from desktop machines to mobile devices like iPhones, making Microsoft's PC dominance less relevant.

Attempts to regain its footing by acquiring Nokia's handset business and



releasing its own phones led to expensive writedowns. This was particularly galling for the Redmond, Washington-based company because it once kept Apple afloat with a cash infusion in the 1990s.

The rise of cloud computing changed Microsoft's fortunes about five years ago. Under Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella, the company invested heavily in data centers and other infrastructure to run applications and store data for corporate customers.

And instead of trying to tie Office work productivity software to its

Windows operating system, Microsoft offered it as a subscription service over the internet and on other companies' devices -- including Apple's. It also stopped making smartphone hardware, while boosting the quality of its tablet and PC designs. Microsoft is now second behind Amazon Web Services in the cloud. That's insulated Microsoft's stock from worries about declining consumer spending on devices and increased regulation of digital advertising businesses like Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google.

Source: Bloomberg



INDIA EYES BIGGER SHARE IN GLOBAL TRADE AMID US-CHINA TENSIONS

India will focus on boosting its exports to the US and other global markets as Chinese shipments become unattractive amid a trade war between the world's biggest economies, the country's trade minister said.

New Delhi is focusing on a handful of items including automotive parts, chemicals, electrical equipment, among others, after the US and China slapped reciprocal duties on each other's goods, minister Suresh Prabhu said in an interview. India's share in global merchandise exports is at 1.7% compared to China's 12.8%.

"The ongoing trade tensions between the US and China may have positive impact," Prabhu said in a written reply to questions. "The long term strategy is to focus on enhancing manufacturing capabilities with focus not only on the United States but also keeping in view the demands in other markets, as well."

With President Donald Trump expected to go ahead with another round of tariffs on \$200 billion of imports from China in January, India looks to gain from opportunities from the dispute. Southeast Asia, a region that's mastered export competitiveness, is already seeing a boom in foreign direct investment as the trade war prompts companies to shift production to the region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has been exploring ways to close the gap between exports and imports which reached \$17.1 billion in October. The government has imposed some import curbs to ease pressure on the current-account deficit, a key vulnerability for the economy and one of the reasons why the rupee has lost more than 11 percent against the dollar this year.

The rising tensions could derail established trade orders like the World Trade Organization and will hurt smaller nations, Prabhu said.

"This is not a welcome development for sustaining a free and fair trade," he said.

Source: Bloomberg

Arun Jaitley to present interim budget on February 1

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will present the interim Budget for 2019-20 fiscal on February 1, 2019.

The Finance Ministry Wednesday said "the work for preparation of interim Budget 2019-20 has already commenced and is now gaining momentum".

It has already sought inputs from different central ministries for the budget speech, which would be the last budget of the current BJP-led NDA government before the 2019 general polls.

Last month, the ministry began the budgetary exercise for 2019-20. During the process, meetings were held with the ministries of steel, power, and housing and urban development, among others, to finalise revised expenditure for the current fiscal and projections for the next financial year. The ministry will impose quarantine from December 3, which will bar the entry of media persons into the North Block, the seat of the country's Finance Ministry, till the date of presentation of the interim Budget by the finance minister in Parliament on February 1, 2019, it said.

This will be the sixth consecutive Budget to be presented by Jaitley. As per practice, a vote-on-account or approval for essential government spending for a limited period is taken in an election year and a full-fledged budget is presented by the new government.

The Narendra Modi-led government scrapped the colonial-era tradition of presenting the budget at the end of February. With the preponement of budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning April.

ADANI GROUP TO SELF-FINANCE AUSTRALIAN COAL MINE PROJECT

MELBOURNE (TIP): Indian energy giant Adani today said it will self-finance its controversial coal mine in Australia and major works on the "scaled back" project will start "imminently" after eight years of court challenges from environmental activists and delayed approvals.

Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow said the Carmichael mine in Queensland would initially begin on a small scale and "ramp up" to a capacity of 27.5 million tonnes a year — less than half the size of the approved project.

"We have finance and we are ready to start," Dow said. "Adani Mining's Carmichael mine and rail project will be 100% financed through the Adani Group's resources," he said.

"We will now begin developing a smaller open-cut mine comparable to many other Queensland coal mines and will ramp up production over time." "Preparatory works at the mine site are imminent," he said in a statement said.

"We have already invested 3.3 billion dollar in Adani's Australian businesses, which is a clear demonstration of our capacity to deliver a financing solution for the revised scope of the mine and rail project," he said.

"The project stacks up both environmentally and financially," Dow said. The Indian energy giant has battled the opposition to any expansion of the Abbot Point port, saying it will cut into the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Rupee rises 21 paise to 3-month high of 69.64 against US dollar

MUMBAI (TIP): Rising for the fourth straight day, the rupee climbed 21 paise to a three-month high of 69.64 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday, amid weakness in the greenback against some currencies overseas and a higher opening of domestic equities.

Forex traders said increased selling of the American currency by exporters and banks and sustained foreign fund inflows also supported the domestic currency.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened higher at 69.68 and rose further to quote at 69.64, showing a rise of 21 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday the rupee had vaulted 77 paise to a three-month high of 69.85 per US dollar.

The local unit also gathered momentum following easing crude oil prices, which slipped below the USD 60 per dollar mark as investors fretted over a supply glut.

Globally, Brent crude, the international benchmark, was trading 0.42 per cent up at USD 59.76 per barrel.

Meanwhile, on net basis, foreign funds bought shares worth Rs 823.47



crore, while DIIs purchased share to the tune of Rs 973.31 crore on Thursday, provisional data showed.

The benchmark BSE Sensex gained over 150 points and the NSE Nifty began the December derivatives series by hitting the 10,900 mark in early trade on Friday on positive cues from the other Asian bourses ahead of the two-day G20 Summit.

The 30-share index rose 175.75 points, or 0.49 per cent, to trade at 36,346.16. In similar movement, the NSE Nifty breached the 10,900 mark, and was trading 50.45 points, or 0.46 per cent, higher at 10,909.15.

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 DECEMBER 03 - DECEMBER 09, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says these are high - voltage times spent with relatives and friends. You are busy untangling the stands of your complex domestic scene. There are also new love and a windfall. By mid period, there could be problems with the spouse, children, in-laws or friends. You feel that you are out of balance. But the period ends well. There are love, passion, hard work and money. You sign new deals, and new vistas open.

Taurus:

You look for anything that can break routine and monotony. You seek out the offbeat escape. There may be solo journeys as you are on a soul-finding mission. By mid - period, there is powerful intensity. You mow down the opposition. You sight money, excitement and passion. Those in creative fields do exceedingly well. There are money and honey, rewards and awards, accolades and applause. There could also be soul-stirring love.

Gemini:

There are stability and progress. You gain peer group applause. The self-employed will see massive expansion and the employed will have promotions and pay hikes. Mid - period onwards is a golden period. There could be extensive travel and new profitable associations. You have the Midas touch. This is a fantastic period for those in the media. You ride the crest of a wave. Success is yours on a platter.

Cancer:

Watch out for ego drives and accidents. There could be altercations. Relationships run into trouble. By the middle of the period, you are powered. You move with a new zeal. There could be unwarranted hostility if you reach in an unconsidered manner. Your ego drives are very powerful, and you will brook no opposition. There are expenses, emotions and a lot of bluster and chest-thumping. This can be an intensely amorous time. You want to give and receive love.

Leo:

There is a windfall in this phase. This is also your birth period and you can use the waxing phase of the moon to advantage. The trends are propitious. There are intense and powerful experiences that teach you about the inner workings of your life. The transformative energies in this phase are powerful. By mid - period, you are stable, happy, joyous, positive, determined, persevering and adventurous.

Virgo:

An about - turn seems to come over you in this phase. Your mood is one of rashness, or certainly a keenness to take calculated risks, in an attempt to brighten future prospects. This will apply almost equally to matters that affect your pocket and your heart. Perhaps you need to think seriously and pray for inspiration to make the right choices. It's not a time for bluster and bravado. You are convinced that you (and by extension your family) want a better lifestyle and so embark seriously on shifting to a better house / locality.

Libra:

Ganesha sends you a time in which you will bend every sinew to get things just right. Ideas flood in and preoccupy your mind greatly, mainly regarding new ventures / deals. You enjoy challenges at work, too, and are extremely realistic in the stance you take if / when problems arise. Not bad going at all, applauds Ganesha. Your thinking has put you dead - center on the right track! It will reflect most strongly in those aspects of life where equality of partners is desirable - both love / marriage and business. Also, in striving to balance income and expenditure.

Scorpio:

You're energized, enthusiastic, forward - looking. In this phase, your plans may go into top gear. A marvelous boost to your creativity as I've just said. You also derive strength and support as well as inspiration from close friends, family and your spouse / partner. Closeness, bonding, "good vibes", and therefore, meaningful achievements all come to you. You are open to new ideas, new approaches.

Sagittarius:

A time when you will re - think your priorities, and two strong concerns - achievements at work, and pleasurable times with family - emerge as equally balanced. You experience a sense of satisfaction in both and what could be better? It's what most people strive for. You continue to be more restrained, more low - key in all your activities. Funds and finances are low - key, but are approaching a point of either clearer investment or shared use so that there is a sense of achievement.

Capricorn:

A period of daring, courage and determination. You are willing, even eager, to take risks, chance your arm and your heart. You are willing to lay down your heart for your sweetheart to trample over, if it gets you what you want, but it just may not. A lot of hurt comes from such attitudes; they also go unappreciated for the most part. This realization will come, and it mellows you, so that you will be less demanding and more reasonable in your approach to both work and relationships.

Aquarius:

Courage came to you last period, and the testing times comes now. A fraught and hectic period that keeps you on your toes. The reasons are: a) sky - high expenses and outflow of money; b) extra assignments, perhaps even a stint of moonlighting to cope with expenses; in short, extra work, c) putting yourself out on a limb in your efforts to help someone else whom you have sympathy for. Risks and chances need to be weighed carefully.

Pisces:

A sense of ease and relaxation comes to you in this phase; you are far less keyed - up, much more laid - back than before. It could be because the theme of the new monthly trend is family, and family matters. This is partly because of your own sympathetic handling of matters that pertain to your property, house and home, ancestral property / wealth / assets shared with other members / relatives / kin.

THE MEANING AND CONCEPT OF MANTRA

Mantras are an important aspect of Hinduism. They are used in ritual and spiritual practices to express devotion, establish communication or fulfill desires, and in many respects serve the same purpose as prayers and supplications. Chants and incantations have been used since the earliest times by various ancient cultures to invoke or appease gods, ancestors and spirits or to cast spells.

Mantras in Vedic tradition

In ancient India, mantras formed a vital part of Vedic religion. It is possible that the Indus people also might have used similar practices to invoke their gods. Vedic mantras are derived mainly from the Vedas, which are primarily books of mantras, which go by different names such as the Riks, Samans and Yajus. They were chanted or sung or used in formulae in elaborate Vedic, sacrificial ceremonies.

Mantras have traditionally been used in both ritual and spiritual practices and worldly activities for various ends. They still occupy an important place in Hinduism as the manifestations of divine speech and expression of gods and heavenly knowledge. In Hindu ritual practice and prayers, mantras are used to communicate with gods and invoke their power to achieve certain ends.

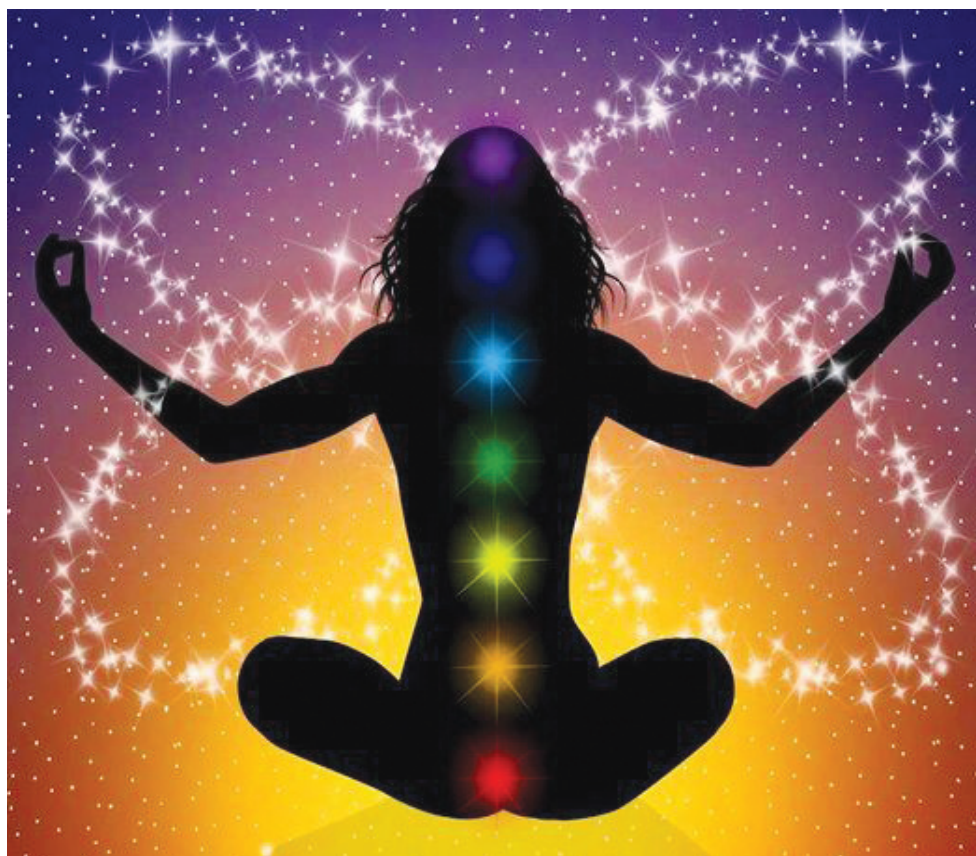
Mantras constitute the heart of Hindu sacrificial ceremonies, which cannot be performed without the intervention of experienced priests. On such occasions, the mantras are usually chanted aloud by one or more priests while others may join them in chorus or when required. One may also silently chant them to maintain secrecy or for convenience. The Vedas suggest that the efficacy of prayers and mantras increase manifold when they are silently chanted in mental worship rather than when they are uttered aloud.

Hindus also have the tradition of writing mantras (usually the name of a god) on paper as an offering to God or to express love and devotion to a particular deity. The practice usually consists of writing the name of a deity or a specific mantra for a certain number of times, which is usually ten million times. Once the goal is reached, devotees carry the papers or the notebooks in which they have written the name and leave them as an offering at the temples or sacred places of the deity.

The meaning of mantra

Literally speaking, in Sanskrit "mantra" means to consult, seek advice or help, think or deliberate. The source of the mantras is God. In the human body it is the breath in the speech which gives each mantra a verbal form, awakens its hidden power and sends it across the space as sound vibrations to its desired destination. Mantras are thus divine vehicles which carry the thoughts and prayers of devotees to the heaven and help them establish communication with gods.

Thus, in the religious parlance, mantras are primarily meant to communicate with gods, consult them or seek their advice and help. An associative or derivative word is mantri, which means a minister who gives counsel or advice to a ruler or a head priest (pradhan mantri). As the products of the mind, mantras are also associated with intelligence or mental brilliance. In a pure mind, mantras manifest



themselves, as they did in the minds of the Vedic seers. Each divine mantra (man + tra) is an expression of the pure mind, or a mind suffused with the brilliance of the Self. The purer the mind is, the greater will be the effect of a mantra. Since mantras manifest on their own in the minds of pure devotees, they are also considered eternal, not man-made (apauruseya) and only heard (sruti) as in case of the mantras from the Vedas.

In traditional usage, a mantra is a sacred utterance, word, phrase, syllable, sentence or prayer containing one or more of the five divine powers of God namely creation, preservation, concealment, destruction and revelation. A mantra may have a specific meaning or not. However, most mantras and even single syllables (bijaksharas) which are used in Hinduism have either a literal meaning or a symbolic or hidden meaning or both.

Of all the mantras, Aum is considered the source (mula) mantra. It is the highest and the purest and Brahman himself in word form (Sabda Brahma). It is also known as mantra Purusha (God as mantra) Pranava (life supporting mantra) and Taraka (secret), having potency to divinize and purify all other verbal expressions and word forms. Hence, it is customarily used as a prefix to all other mantras to infuse them divine power and purity.

Beliefs associated with mantras

Mantras are used as sacred sounds or utterances. Since they are taken from the sacred texts, they are considered auspicious and God in word form. As stated before, they are endowed with one or more of the five divine powers of God. Hence, they been extensively used to in the pursuit of the four chief aims of human life namely dharma (religious duty), artha (wealth), kama (sexual desire) and moksha (liberation).

They have also been used in the study and recitation of scriptures and contemplation. Many mantras are still used as mental hooks

to remember complex philosophical concepts or religious ideas. There is also a lot of secrecy associated with the mantra tradition. Because of their potency or specific effects, some mantras cannot be revealed to all or revealed to qualified people only. For example, traditionally the Upanishads are considered secret knowledge and taught only in person by a teacher to qualified students. A student or disciple is also expected to keep secret any initiation mantra given to him by his teacher or spiritual master.

Each mantra will have a seer (rishi) who composed it, a rhythm or meter (Chhanda) which determines its sound, and a deity (devata) who presides over it and manifests when the mantra is correctly pronounced. It also contains a seed syllable (bija) which imparts to it manifesting power (Shakti) and a support (kilakam) which makes it strong or stable until it delivers the intended result.

Because of these hidden components and their divine aspects, many rules are associated with the chanting of the mantras. The attitude and the personal purity of the person who utters them also matter.

Pronunciation is of utmost importance in the use of mantras. Without right pronunciation and intonation, the deity in the mantra may not respond. Equally important is the intention for which a mantra is used, since the use of mantras for any purpose produces karmic consequences and influences the destiny of its user.

Why mantras are used

Mantras are used both for positive and destructive purposes. The following are some of the most important purposes, for which mantras are used in Hinduism.

- To communicate with gods and express devotion
- To invoke gods and seek their help or counsel
- To propitiate fierce gods who are displeased or angry and avoid their wrath.
- To seek divine protection against evil forces and enemies
- To cleanse the mind and body for liberation or self-transformation
- To stabilize the mind in the contemplation of God
- To consecrate a place of worship before starting a sacrificial ritual or ceremony
- To install the images of gods in a temple or during domestic worship.
- To fulfill worldly desires and achieve peace and prosperity in life
- To attract opposite sex and enchant them or repel rival lovers and discourage competition
- To overcome death, diseases adversity, bad karma, or unfavorable circumstances
- To help the departing souls who are on their way to liberation or rebirth
- To cast spells, charm, delude or destroy opponents
- To control or enchant animals, wild beasts, serpents, etc.
- To restrain the mind and enter deep sleep or higher states of consciousness
- To earn divine grace or the grace of a guru
- To gain siddhis or spiritual powers (siddhis)
- To express profound spiritual and philosophical truths
- To validate truths with verbal testimony (sabda pramana)
- To achieve success in sports, duels, debates and battles

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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."

The Concept of Khimaa and the Lives of the Gurus

CONTD FROM PAGE 22

Vyaas taught and warned the king Janmayjaa not to do three things.

ਤਿਨਿਕਰਿਜਗਅਠਾਰਘਾਏਕਰਤੁਨਚਲੈਚਲਾਇਆ॥੪॥
Thinih Kar Jag AthaarehGhaaeaeKirath N ChalaiChalaaeiaa॥4॥

But he performed the sacred feast and killed eighteen Brahmins; the record of one's past deeds cannot be erased.॥4॥

ਗਣਤਨਗਣੀਹੁਕਮੁਪਛਾਣਾਬੋਲੀਭਾਇਸੁਭਾਈ॥
Ganath N Gananaee Hukam Pashhaanaa Bolee Bhaae Subhaae॥

I do not try to calculate the account; I accept the Hukam of the Divine's Command. I speak with intuitive love and respect all.

ਜੋਕਿਛੁਵਰਤੈਤੁਪੈਸਲਾਹੀਸਭਤੇਰੀਵਡਿਆਈ॥੫॥
Jo Kishh Varathai Thudhhai Salaahanaee Sabh Thaaree Vaddiaae॥5॥

No matter what happens, I will praise the Divine. It is all Your Glorious Greatness, O Divine One.॥5॥

ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿਅਲਿਪਤੁਲੇਪੁਕਦੇਨਲਾਗੈਸਦਾਰਹੈਸਰਣਾਈ॥
GurmukhAlipathLaepKadhae N Laagai Sadhaa Rehai Saranaae॥

The Guru Oriented Gurmukh remains detached; filth never attaches itself to such person. This individual remains forever in God's Sanctuary.

ਮਨਮੁਖੁਮੁਗਧੁਆਗੈਚੇਤੇਨਾਹੀਦੁਖਿਲਾਗੈਪਛੁਤਾਈ॥੬॥
ManamukhMugadhhAagaiChaethaiNaaee eDhukhLaagaiPashhuthaee॥6॥

The foolish self-willed manmukh does not think of the future; that is overtaken by pain, and then regrets.॥6॥

ਆਪੇਕਰੇਕਰਾਏਕਰਤਾਜਿਨਿਏਹਰਚਨਾਰਚੀਐ॥
AapaeKaraeKaraaeaeKarathaaJinEaehRac hanaaRacheeai॥

The Creator who created this creation acts, and causes all to act.

ਹਰਿਅਭਿਮਾਨੁਨਜਾਈਜੀਅਹੁਅਭਿਮਾਨੈਪੈਚੀਐ॥੭॥
Har Abhimaan N JaaeeJeeahuAbhimaanae Pai Pacheeai॥7॥

O Divine One, our egotistical pride does not depart from the soul. Falling into egotistical pride, we are ruined.॥7॥

ਭੁਲਣਵਿਚਕੀਆਸੁਭਕੋਈਕਰਤਾਆਪਿਨੁਭੁਲੈ॥
BhulanVichKeeaaSabhKoeKarathaaAap N Bhulai॥

Everyone makes mistakes; only the Creator does not make mistakes.

ਨਾਨਕਸਚਿਨਾਮਿਨਿਸਤਾਰਾਕੋਗੁਰਪਰਸਾਦਿਅਘੁਲੈ॥੮॥੪॥
NanakSach Naam Nisatharaa Ko Gur ParasaadhAghulai॥8॥4॥

Says Nanak, salvation comes through the True Name. By Guru's Gift, one is released.॥8॥4॥

The compassion in this Shabad (hymn) is so powerful. And this compassion has its roots in a non-dualistic perception of life.

"...no one knowingly makes a mistake....That one alone is mistaken whom the Divine makes so....The Creator acts and causes all to act....Everyone makes mistakes; only the Creator does not make mistakes....I do not try to calculate the account; I accept the Hukam of the Divine's Command. I speak with intuitive love and respect all....No matter what happens, I will praise the Divine. It is all Your Glorious Greatness"

The lines from this Shabad convey the essence of non-dualistic compassion. That "I" have no power to compute the account. That the Divine is the Doer of everything. That whatever happens, happens in Hukam - in alignment with the Cosmic Play. That nobody chooses to make a mistake. Though we all do make mistakes.

This Shabad gives us very powerful, though challenging, psycho-spiritual medicine. To

help us swallow this medicine, the Guru pulls examples from great myths and stories. King Janmayjaa, King Bal, Indra. It is not so much about whether these stories are literally true or not. What matters is the Guru saying - even Kings and Gods get deceived. Even they have no power to avoid mistakes. Focus your mind on the Doer of All and do not try to figure out why things happen, because Hukam is beyond our human capacity to compute.

Just keep appreciating. Just keep singing, in positive ways. Do not let the mind go into slander.

It is said that Guru Hargobind went on a friendly hunting trip with Emperor Jahangir only a few months after the torture and death of his father, Guru Arjan Dev ji, by the Emperor's order. Similarly, Guru Gobind Singh ji presented a special Robe of Honor to Bahadur Shah when he succeeded the throne of his father, the Mogul King, Aurazzeb. Even though Aurangzeb had caused the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh ji's father and mother, his four children and countless Sikhs.

This is very difficult to accept and understand if we look at the event through every-day eyes. Yet, the Guru's life stories exemplify the virtue of khimaa ਖਿਮਾ that was inculcated in the Sikh way of life. Guru Hargobind and Guru Gobind Singh had fully realized the truth embodied within the Shabad Guru. They had the character, courage and ability to look upon friends and enemies alike. They beheld everything that happened as Hukam, as part of the Divine Plan. This gave them the strength to stay positive in speech and action, to harbor no anxiety in their minds.

Khimaa ਖਿਮਾ is a very refined, emotionally mature and spiritually elevated point of view of Gurmat, the Guru's pathway. The capacity to be kind and positive, from the non-dualistic heart of compassion, even to the person who tortured your Beloved family to death.

The following passage from a Shabad by

Guru Naanak, on page 1013 of the Guru Granth, uses the word Khimaa ਖਿਮਾ And the context that surrounds it has the qualities that we have been discussing.

ਸੋਸੋਨਿਆਸੀਜੋਸਤਿਗੁਰਸੇਵੈਵਿਚਰੁਆਪੁਗਵਾਏ॥
So Sanniaasee Jo Sathigur Saevai Vichahu Aap Gavaaeae॥

That person alone is a Sannyasi, who serves the True Guru, and removes self-conceit from within.

ਛਾਦਨਭੋਜਨਕੀਆਸਨਕਰਈਅਚਿਤੁਮਿਲੈਸੋਪਾਏ॥
ShhaadhanBhojan Kee Aas N Karee Achinth Milai So Paaeae॥

That person does not ask for clothes or food; without asking, they accept whatever they receive.

ਬਕੈ ਨ ਬੋਲੈ ਖਿਮਾ ਧਨੁ ਸੰਗ੍ਰਹੈ ਤਾਮਸੁ ਨਾਮਿ ਜਲਾਏ॥
Bakai N Bolai Khimaa Dhhan Sangrehai Thaamas Naam Jalaaeae॥

That person does not speak empty words; but gathers the wealth of tolerance (????) and burns away their anger with the Naam.

ਧਨੁ ਗਿਰਗੈ ਸੋਨਿਆਸੀ ਜੋਗੀਜਿ ਹਰਿ ਚਰਣੀ ਚਿਤੁ ਲਾਏ॥੭॥
Dhhan Girehee Sanniaasee Jogee J Har Charanee Chith Laaeae॥7॥

Blessed is such a householder, Sannyasi and Yogi, who focuses their consciousness on the Divine's feet.॥7॥

Accepting what is given. Not speaking pointlessly with ill will. The wealth of Khimaa???? develops and with it we can burn away our anger and anxiety. Here - Khimaa ਖਿਮਾ is translated as "tolerance." But the context of it implies a compassionate, surrendered tolerance that creates a sense of forgiveness, and a willingness to engage others with a fully open heart.

(Dr. Harbans Lal is Professor Emeritus & Chairman, Dept of Pharmacology & Neurosciences, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Professor Emeritus, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India, President, Academy of Guru Granth Studies. He can be reached at Japji2050@gmail.com) For more information:

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PM Modi Reaches Argentina...

The trilateral meeting between Trump, Abe and PM Modi is taking place in the backdrop of China engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and with Japan in the East China Sea. Both the areas are said to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims in the waterway, which includes vital sea lanes through which about USD 3 trillion in global trade passes each year.

The US has been conducting regular patrols in the South China Sea to assert freedom of navigation in the area where Beijing has built up and militarized many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region.

During the RIC meeting, Prime Minister Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Buenos Aires, November 29, and they discussed ways to further boost economic, cultural and energy ties.

The two sides also held discussions on enhancing investment in technology, renewable energy and food security.

"Had a fruitful interaction with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. We discussed multiple aspects of India-Saudi Arabia relations and ways to further boost economic, cultural and energy ties," the Prime Minister wrote on Twitter.

"Deepening strategic ties. PM @narendramodi met with Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud on sidelines of #G20Argentina. Discussed enhancing Saudi investment in technology, infrastructure, petroleum, renewable energy, food security, fintech & defense sectors," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

"In recent years, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a valuable partner. The relationship has expanded beyond the Indian community to issues related to the economy, energy and security. All issues of bilateral and regional interest will be discussed," PMO sources said.

Later, the Prime Minister met UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. According to the sources, the UN Secretary General has reached out to PM Modi for the second time in two months.

They said the meeting signifies the importance that both leaders attach to the issue of climate change. This outreach comes just a week before the COP24 meet in Katowice, Poland.

"It reflects the respect in which the prime minister and his initiatives are held globally to take the lead on issues of global importance," the sources said.

"Looking forward to a wide range of interactions at the G-20 Summit, aimed at furthering sustainable development," PM Modi tweeted soon after he landed in Argentina.

PM Narendra Modi will be in Buenos Aires from November 29 to December 1. (Source: Agencies)

Democrats overwhelmingly...

Though she ran uncontested, Democrats who oppose her have called for fresh leadership and a change in the "status quo."

Pelosi faces a final test in January when the full House votes on leadership.

To become speaker, she will need support from a majority of the full House - 218, if all members vote.

"Are there dissenters? Yes," Pelosi said after receiving her party's nomination. "But I expect to have a powerful vote as we go forward."

Once undecided midterm election results are called, Democrats could have as many as 235 members in the House, which would mean she could afford to lose 17 of their votes in January if all Republicans voted against her.

Some Democrats, however, could vote "present" instead of voting for either Pelosi or incoming Republican Leader Kevin

McCarthy. That would lower the number of "yes" votes she needs.

In Wednesday's vote, 32 Democrats voted against her and three did not vote.

But Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., predicted the party will unify when voting publicly on the House floor in January.

"More people are coming off the 'Never Pelosi' letter than are going on it," Swalwell said of lawmakers who previously withheld their support. "I think the momentum is in her direction."

Rep. Elijah Cummings pleaded with Democratic holdouts to reconsider Pelosi's bid and seemed bewildered with the more than 30 members who voted against her.

"Here we are, a woman who has given her blood sweat and tears, who has sacrificed over and over and over again, who has had some of the most phenomenal accomplishments of any speaker to serve in the House," the Maryland Democrat said. "Then at a time when she has led us to have one of the greatest number of women that we've ever had, I would say to them, 'what do you want?'" (Source: Agencies)

Pakistan PM Imran Khan...

Narendra Modi while conceding that it was not in the interest of his country to allow terror activities from its territory.

Khan's remarks came a day after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj categorically ruled out the possibility of holding talks with Pakistan unless it stops cross-border terror activities.

"It is not in our interest to allow use of Pakistan's territory for terror outside," Khan, who is celebrating 100 days of his government, said during an interaction with a group of Indian journalists here.

Khan said the people in Pakistan want peace with India and he will be happy to meet Modi and talk to him on any issue. "I am ready for talks on any issue. There can't be a military solution for Kashmir," he said, adding that "nothing is impossible".

"The mindset of people here has changed," Khan said, a day after he laid the foundation stone for the Kartarpur corridor that will connect Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur - the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev - with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district.

Pakistan is projecting the corridor as a goodwill gesture.

"The India I know - majority must be appreciating it, Khan said, adding that the gesture for peace cannot be one-sided.

Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Kartarpur corridor on Wednesday, November 28, that peace was possible between the two neighbors.

Ms. Badal was in tears as she recalled that "lakhs and crores" of Indian Sikhs who had asked for making the Kartarpur shrine accessible to them. She asked Pakistan to run a rail service linking other major Sikh shrines.

"If the Berlin wall can fall, hate between India and Pakistan can be ended," Ms. Badal said.

Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who received the most applause, said it was unfair for pilgrims to have been prevented from visiting Kartarpur. Asked about Mr. Khan's speech calling for India and Pakistan to seek resolutions to their problems, Mr. Puri said that it was necessary to be realistic. "I am happy when something is grounded in positive hope. But at the same time you have to anchor this in reality, taking past experience."

All three Indian leaders accompanied by Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria paid their respects at the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara on Wednesday after the function and were briefed on the Pakistani government's plans to refurbish the complex around the shrine and build facilities along the way for people moving in the corridor. According to officials, the corridor will be "visa-free" and approximately a nominal \$50 would be charged to allow Indians to travel to the shrine from next November. (With inputs from PTI)

'Individual 1': Trump emerges...

ongoing probe says that the "new evidence from two separate fronts of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation casts fresh doubts on Trump's version of key events involving Russia, signaling potential political and legal peril for the president. Investigators have now publicly cast Trump as a central figure of their probe into whether Trump's campaign conspired with the Russian government during the 2016 campaign".

Here are excerpts from the news report published late afternoon on November 29.

Together, the documents show investigators have evidence that Trump was in close contact with his lieutenants as they made outreach to both Russia and WikiLeaks - and that they tried to conceal the extent of their activities.

On Thursday, Trump's longtime personal lawyer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty to lying to Congress when he insisted that Trump was not pursuing plans to build a Trump Tower in Moscow after January 2016, casting Trump's repeated claims that he had no business interests in Russia in a new light. A draft special counsel document revealed Tuesday also indicates that prosecutors are closely scrutinizing Trump's interactions with a longtime adviser, Roger Stone, as he was seeking information about WikiLeaks' plans to release hacked Democratic emails.

Legal experts said it's still unclear how much peril the president might face as a result of the new evidence Mueller has gathered about the Moscow project and WikiLeaks, but his prominence in the prosecutors' papers puts the president in an awkward starring role.

"It's deeply troubling. It's not a place that anybody wants to be, or where you would want your friends or family to be," former federal prosecutor Glen Kopp said. "And it's certainly not a place that you would want your president to be."

Trump, identified as "Individual 1" in Cohen's guilty plea, was said to have received direct updates from Cohen as he pursued a Moscow Trump Tower project with the Kremlin, up until June 14, 2016. The president also appears in the draft charging document for Trump ally Jerome Corsi, who allegedly told Stone about WikiLeaks' plans to release damaging Democratic emails in October of that year because he knew Stone was in "regular contact" with Trump. The Washington Post reported this week that Trump spoke with Stone the day after he got the alert from Corsi.

In the draft documents, prosecutors sought to have Corsi plead guilty to lying when he said he didn't know about WikiLeaks' plans and urging others to visit WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to obtain emails damaging to Democrats.

Trump has given slightly differing accounts of his Moscow business ties over time. In July 2016, he tweeted: "For the record, I have ZERO investments in Russia." A day later he claimed, "I have nothing to do with Russia."

In January 2017, he told a reporter: "I have no deals that could happen in Russia, because we've stayed away."

Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph W. Giuliani, said Thursday that the president's written answers to Mueller about the Moscow project, which he submitted just before Thanksgiving, conforms with Cohen's version of events. They discussed a project, starting in 2015, continuing into 2016, and it went nowhere, he said.

President Trump said Nov. 20 that his lawyers have his answers to special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's questions about Russia meddling in the 2016 election. (The Washington Post)

"The president, as far as he knows, he remembers there was such a proposal for a hotel," Giuliani said. "He talked it over with Cohen as Cohen said. There was a nonbinding letter of intent that was sent. As far as he knows it never came to fruition. That was kind of the end of it."

Alan Dershowitz, a Trump ally and constitutional lawyer, said Cohen's confessions don't suggest Trump committed any crime but could suggest that Trump wasn't telling the public the whole truth about the Moscow deal.

"This is politically damaging, but I'm not sure how legally damaging it is," Dershowitz said. "This is all about questionable political behavior. It's a good reason for people voting against Trump. But I don't see a crime yet."

But Tim O'Brien, a Trump biographer and frequent critic, said the developments pose significant new challenges for the president. "This is part of the fact pattern that gets to the heart of whether there was collusion between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin during the campaign," O'Brien said. "I think the unforgiving grinding force of the U.S. justice system, which he has tried to undermine since he became president, is encircling him. I don't think we know where he will land. But he is certainly mired in something that he is ill-equipped, legally and personally, to handle."

Some legal experts argued Mueller appears to be drawing a picture of a candidate who was beholden to the Kremlin. Emails released in the Cohen plea show Trump seeking a financial endorsement from the Russian government on a private project while Russian President Vladimir Putin was offering to say flattering things about Trump.

"It creates the potential for Trump to feel an obligation to pay back President Putin, or Russia in general that ??? do not put the best interests of American forward." Kopp said. "You are creating a potential vulnerability for a future leader of America." Trump privately stewed as he followed news coverage of Cohen's plea early Thursday morning, a White House official said. A Justice official called the White House Counsel's Office on Wednesday evening to let personnel know that Cohen would be pleading guilty in a case the following day, according to one person with direct knowledge of the notice. They were not told the details, however, which they learned about shortly before Cohen's plea Thursday morning.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

NOTICE NAME CHANGE

I SAMEER SINGH SETHI, son of DEVINDER SINGH, holder of Indian passport No. K129862 issued at Mumbai on Oct. 14, 1991, permanent resident of, A-1, SHEEL APTS, CORNER OF 16TH AND, BANGRA WEST MUMBAI 400050, India and presently residing at 33, PROSPECT AVE. NORWALK 06850, USA do hereby change my name from SAMEER SINGH to SAMEER SINGH SETHI, with immediate effect.

Mamallapuram, 50km south of Chennai, was the major seaport of the ancient Pallava kingdom based at Kanchipuram. A wander round the town's magnificent, World Heritage-listed temples and carvings inflames the imagination, especially at sunset.

In addition to ancient archaeological wonders, salty air and coastal beauty, there's also the traveller hub of Othavadai and Othavadai Cross Sts, where restaurants serve pasta, pizza and pancakes, and shops sell Tibetan trinkets. The town's buzzing, growing surf scene is another attraction.

'Mahabs', as most call it, is less than two hours by bus from Chennai, and many travellers make a beeline straight here. It's small and laid-back, and sights can be explored on foot or by bicycle.

Five Rathas

Huddled together at the southern end of Mamallapuram, the Five Rathas were, astonishingly, all carved from single large rocks. Each of these fine 7th-century temples was dedicated to a Hindu god and is now named after one or more of the Pandavas, the five hero-brothers of the epic Mahabharata, or their common wife, Draupadi. The rathas were hidden in the sand until excavated by the British 200 years ago.

Ratha is Sanskrit for 'chariot', and may refer to the temples' form or to their function as vehicles for the gods. It's thought they didn't originally serve as places of worship, but as architectural models.

The first ratha on the left after you enter is the Draupadi Ratha, in the form of a stylised South Indian hut. It's dedicated to the demon-fighting goddess Durga, who looks out from inside, standing on a lotus, and is depicted on the outside walls. Female guardians flank the entrance; a huge sculpted lion, Durga's mount, stands outside.

Next, on the same plinth, is the 'chariot' of the most important Pandava, the Arjuna Ratha, dedicated to Shiva. Its pilasters, miniature roof shrines, and small octagonal dome make it a precursor of many later South Indian temples. A huge Nandi stands behind. Shiva (leaning on Nandi, south side) and other gods are depicted on the temple's outer walls.

The barrel-roofed Bhima Ratha was never completed, as evidenced by the missing north-side colonnade; inside is a shrine to Vishnu. The Dharmaraja Ratha, tallest of the temples, is similar to the Arjuna Ratha but one storey higher, with lion pillars. The carvings on its outer walls mostly represent gods, including the androgynous Ardhanarishvara (half Shiva, half Parvati) on the east side. King Narasimhavarman I appears at the west end of the south side.

The Nakula-Sahadeva Ratha (named after two twin Pandavas) stands aside from the other four and is dedicated to Indra. The life-size stone elephant beside it is one of India's most perfectly sculpted elephants. Approaching from the gate to the north you see its back end first, hence its nickname Gajaprishtakara (elephant's backside).

Shore Temple

Standing like a magnificent fist of rock-cut elegance overlooking the sea, surrounded by gardens and ruined courts, the two-towered Shore Temple symbolises the heights of Pallava architecture and the maritime ambitions of the Pallava kings. Its small size belies its excellent proportion and the supreme quality of the carvings, many now eroded into vaguely Impressionist embellishments. Built under Narasimhavarman II in the 8th century, it's the earliest significant free-standing stone temple in Tamil Nadu.

The two towers rise above shrines to Shiva and their original linga captured the sunrise and sunset. Between the Shiva shrines is one to Vishnu, shown sleeping. Rows of Nandi

MAHABALIPURAM



(Shiva's vehicle) statues frame the temple courtyard. A boulder-carved Durga sits on her lion-vehicle's knee on the temple's south side.

Trimurti Cave Temple

At the northern end of the Mamallapuram Hill compound, the Trimurti Cave Temple depicts the Hindu 'trinity' amid guardian figures: Brahma (left), Shiva (centre) and Vishnu (right). A fine carving of elephants adorns the back side of the rock.

Lion Throne

A beautifully carved throne or seat in the shape of a lion, a little west (uphill) from the Raya Gopura on Mamallapuram Hill.

Krishna's Butterball

You can't miss this enormous boulder (and favourite photo spot), balancing precariously on Mamallapuram Hill, right opposite the compound's northernmost entrance.

Arjuna's Penance

The crowning masterpiece of Mamallapuram's stonework, this giant relief carving is one of India's greatest ancient artworks. Inscribed on two huge, adjacent boulders, the Penance bursts with scenes of Hindu myth and everyday South Indian life. In the centre, nagas (snake-beings) descend a once water-filled cleft, representing the Ganges. To the left Arjuna (hero of the Mahabharata) performs self-mortification (fasting on one leg), so that the four-armed Shiva will grant him his most powerful weapon, the god-slaying Pasupata.

Some scholars believe the carving actually shows the sage Bagiratha, who did severe penance to obtain Shiva's help in bringing the Ganges to earth. Shiva is attended by dwarves, and celestial beings fly across the carving's upper sections. Below Arjuna/Bagiratha is a temple to Vishnu (mythical ancestor of the Pallava kings), with sages, deer and a lion. The many wonderfully carved animals include a herd of elephants and – humour amid the holy – a cat mimicking Arjuna's penance to

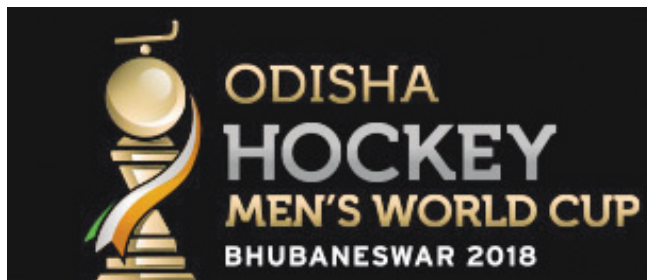


a crowd of mice.

South along the road from Arjuna's Penance are the unfinished Panch Pandava Mandapa cave temple; the Krishna Mandapa, which famously depicts

Krishna lifting Govardhana Hill to protect cows and villagers from a storm sent by Indra; an unfinished relief carving of similar size to Arjuna's Penance; and the empty Dharmaraja Cave Temple.

India begin World Cup with 5-0 win over South Africa



Harpreet Kaur Lamba

BHUBANESWAR: India came up with a strong performance against South Africa in the two teams' Pool C opener of the 2018 FIH Men's Hockey tournament at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on November 28. World No. 5 India walloped their 15th-ranked opponents 5-0 in what was an inspired performance.

There was a lot of debate when Hockey India had announced the 18-member team for the World Cup at home. In the absence of S.V. Sunil, recently-retired Sardar Singh and penalty corner specialist Rupinder Pal Singh, the team appeared thin on experience. In youngsters Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Simranjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Hardik Singh — all of whom have experience of less than 100 matches combined between them — India had made a bold move. Fresh legs were chosen ahead of established stars but if one expected a nervy show from the youngsters on the day, they were in for a surprise.

Playing in front of packed galleries with close to 15,000 screaming fans — who applauded every good move and were punishing when things took a wrong turn — Manpreet Singh's young guns stood out when it came to holding their own on the big stage. Right from opening their account in the ninth minute when Mandeep Singh found the net till the final hooter, the youngsters played with calm heads. There were no frills or big stage nerves — it was just plain, clean hockey, something that coach Harendra Singh advocates time and again.

If Simranjeet sparked with two goals and a man of the match award, Lalit Upadhyay played the role of a senior pro with elan. Seasoned campaigner Akashdeep Singh was lethal, cutting and piercing through the South African defence and was very effective as a link-man. Dilpreet and Mandeep were able foils as India pumped in five goals.

There were missed chances too which might have gone unnoticed in the big victory but with two crucial matches coming up next, India know they cannot afford to let it easy.

Well coordinated defense

The Indian defence was hardly tested in the first two quarters. India pushed South Africa to the wall making good use of the flanks and creating space in the midfield. After the



Mandeep Singh celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal in the 10th minute.

break, South Africa came back stronger and had their moments in the third quarter, but goalkeeper Sreejesh P.R., Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas and Surender Kumar were alert. That South Africa were slow on counters and failed to find men supporting up front worked in India's favour.

Penalty corner woes

India managed to score off two of the five penalty corners earned against South Africa, but none of them were direct conversions. India had picked up three drag-drag-flickers in Varun Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh and Amit Rohidas but the fact that the trio failed to get going against the 15th-ranked South Africa is a cause of worry.

At a time when international matches — and often titles — are decided by how good a team performs in the drag-flick department, India will have to get going in this area.

It was deemed as a bold move by the Indian selectors when they opted for young blood ahead of established names like

Rupinder Pal and Sunil, but with far bigger battles ahead it would be interesting to see how coach Harendra Singh marshals his troops.

Half chances would have to pounced on and the midfield would have to play a greater role to keep the structure compact and moving against teams like Belgium and Canada.

Belgium, who defeated Canada 2-1 in the other Pool C match, are known to shut out teams in the midfield. Nor will they provide India with so many chances. With a water-tight defence, Belgium do not allow many gaps. India will have to come up with different plans against the Olympic silver medallists on December 2 if they are to top the group and make a direct entry into the quarter-finals.

Result

India: 5 (Mandeep Singh 10th minute, Akashdeep Singh 12th, Simranjeet Singh 43rd, 46th, Lalit Upadhyay 45th) bt South Africa 0.

Olympics champs Argentina down gritty Spain in a thriller

BHUBANESWAR (TIP): Day 2 surpassed the opening day in the number of goals scored, all thanks to a thrilling high-scoring encounter between two teams known for their tight defending. The second day's first encounter was expected to be a low-scoring match, with both Argentina and Spain known for playing a defensive, counter-attacking game. But the possibility of a goalless draw went out of the question within three minutes, when Spain struck a surprising blow. Enrique Gonzalez, the best player of the 2016 Junior World Cup, finished a quick move after an interception in the Argentine half.

Argentina's plan of easing into their World Cup opener with a few minutes of warming up was quickly dashed. Spain's aggressive start shook them. They hit back instantly, Agustin Mazzilli equalising within a minute. It was scary to see the ease and swiftness with which Argentina changed gear.

They fell back again in the 14th minute to a Josep Romeu strike, but that was the last time they trailed. Argentina scored two in the next minute, Mazzilli getting the equaliser again, and Gonzalo Peillat scoring the first of his two drag-flicking goals. The world's deadliest drag-flicker's strike went in

through the goalkeeper's pads and back out off the backboard even before Quico Cortez could join his legs.

Spain equalised in the 35th minute through Vicenc Ruiz, but Peillat put Argentina ahead 11 minutes from the end. If anyone doubted Argentina's place among the pre-tournament favourites at the start of the match, the end showed why the gritty South Americans, who have developed a habit for winning, are the reigning Olympics champions.

New Zealand survived a late fightback from France, who were guilty of wasting their chances, to start their campaign with a 2-1 win. New Zealand got the opener in the 16th minute through Kane Russell. They held on to their lead despite France being more dominant. New Zealand rubbed salt into France's wounds with another goal late into match. Stephen Jenness finished off a counterattack in the 56th minute.

"We had the ball and the occasion but we failed to convert the chances," said France captain Cictor Charlet, who gave France hope with a goal in the penultimate minute.

Source: The Tribune



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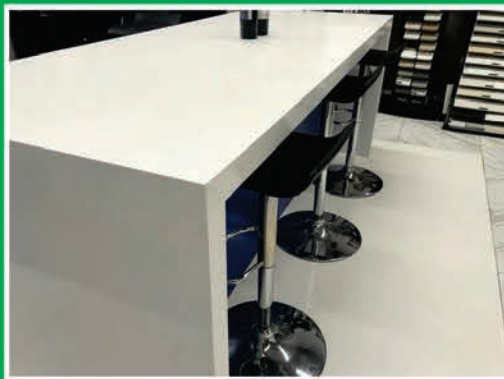
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