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HAPPY VETERANS DAY

Trump sacks AG, 'takes over' Russia meddling probe



Jeff Sessions who had fallen from Trump's grace for his recusing himself from Mueller investigation, finally got his marching orders, November 7.

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump on Wednesday, November 7, sacked US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, virtually taking operational control of a sensitive probe into foreign interference in the 2016 election and the possibility of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. For months, Trump publicly attacked Sessions for recusing himself
contd on Page 32

Democrats capture House, Republicans retain Senate

Record number of women win; Four Indian Americans re-elected to House

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has described the midterm election results as a "tremendous success" even as opposition Democrats wrested the House of Representatives from the ruling Republican party, which managed to retain its majority in the Senate in the highly polarized polls.

Trump, who campaigned aggressively in the last several weeks, Wednesday, November 7, offered an olive branch to Democrats, saying he wanted to
contd on Page 32



Four Indian Americans who have been re-elected to the House of Representatives. L to R: Pramila Jayapal, Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna

Mayhem in California: Ex-Marine kills 12 in 'horrific' mass shooting in a bar



Sgt. Ron Helus, of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, died after being shot while responding to a mass shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Nov. 7, 2018. The gunman Ian David Long. (right)
Photos handout / Ventura County Sheriff's Office

THOUSAND OAK CITY, CA (TIP): A US Marine veteran dressed in black sprayed bullets inside a crowded dance bar popular with college students Wednesday, November 7 night, killing at least 12 persons, including a police officer, Sgt. Ron Helus, here in a 'horrific' mass shooting incident, reminiscent of Oct. 1, 2017 shootings in Las Vegas where 64-year-old
contd on Page 32

Immigrant deportation filings hit record high in 2018, new report shows

WASHINGTON (TIP): A record high number of immigrants were ordered to be removed from the U.S. in 2018, a rise that many immigration advocates call the culmination of nearly two years of anti-immigration measures from the Trump administration. The president made immigration a central focus of the midterm election campaign.

Immigration officials ordered 287,741 new deportations in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, according to the report from Syracuse University's Transactional
contd on Page 32

The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL
Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Special Edition November 23, 2018

Articles and advertisements are invited for Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Special Edition of The Indian Panorama.

Please e-mail to editor@theindianpanorama.com or salujaindra@gmail.com

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GOPIO International hosted 2nd Health Summit - a Resounding Success

"Health Experts Presentations relevant to the Indian Diaspora"

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Health Council of Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International (www.gopio.net), in partnership with the New York Consulate General of India hosted a full house of attendees for "A Health Summit for the Indian Diaspora" on Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Consulate General of India, 3 East 64th Street, New York, NY. The Summit was inaugurated by New York Consul General of India Sandeep Chakravorty and Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO International. The event concluded with an award presentation to Mr. Ashook Ramsaran, former president of GOPIO for his service to GOPIO, followed by a Networking Reception.

GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham who closely worked with GOPIO Health Council team to put together the Health Summit said in his welcome address, "The goal of GOPIO Health Council is to improve the health of people of Indian origin by raising awareness of current and emerging health issues affecting them, and by promoting preventive practices and sharing information to better manage chronic diseases." Well documented medical data suggests that people from the Indian subcontinent are at a higher risk to develop Diabetes and Heart Disease than the rest of the American population. Hence the goal of this workshop was to educate the PIOs (People of Indian Origin) on their individual risk of developing Diabetes and Heart Disease, and more importantly, how to manage these risk factors to improve their overall health. "Towards that goal, we want to educate our community about treatment and prevention of diseases using modern medicine and alternative medicine, as well as to improve health and wellness by nutritious supplements, yoga and meditation," Dr. Abraham added.

Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty set the stage for the Summit with his remarks, "There is so much confusion regarding health practices - what advice to take, what to do or avoid, what diet to adopt, or fitness to practice etc. with so much changing literature on health topics." His comments resonated with the audience, who shared this same dilemma. He hoped that "some of the confusion we face would be resolved through the summit's panel discussions, and the day long proceedings would result in specific recommendations and clarity on health practices." He commended GOPIO's initiative for the welfare of the



GOPIO Health Summit Inauguration by Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty along with other Consulate officials, sponsors and GOPIO officials. From l. to r: Amit Kucheria, Kunal Gupta, Dr. Asha Samant, Lal Motwani and Rahul Shukla (not visible), Harbachan Singh, Consul General Chakravorty, Deputy Consul General Shatrugna Sinha, Dr. Tushar Patel, Nami Kaur, Ram Gadhavi, Hitesh Bhatt, Rockland County Council Woman Aney Paul and Dr. Thomas Abraham



Presentation of a plaque to GOPIO's former president Ashook Ramsaran. From l. to r.: Dr. Asha Samant, Dr. Rajeev Mehta, Consul General Chakravorty, Ashook Ramsaran, Lal Motwani, Dr. Thomas Abraham and Ram Gadhavi

Indian Diaspora and encouraged continuing discussions on such beneficial matters.

Moderated by GOPIO Health Council Chair Dr. Tushar Patel, the panel of health experts included key note speaker Rahul Shukla, President/CEO of S.S. Technologies and Shukla Medical; and guest speaker Hitesh Bhatt, Founder/CTO Bhatt Foundation and CCS Technology Solutions. Renowned

speakers and specialists from the Tri State area shared their expertise and provided practical tips on managing one's health and wellness, especially in the prevention of heart disease and diabetes.

The health and wellness panelists included Dr. Meena Murthy - Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Specialist; Dr. Shankar Iyer - Oral Health; Dr. Anurag Pande - VP Sabinsa

Corp.; Dr. Ravindra Amin - Geriatric Psychiatrist; Varsha Singh - Nurse Practitioner; Binny Talati - Physical Therapist; Dr. Vasudev Makhija - past President NJ Psychiatric Association; Dr. Ketan Vaidya - Internist; Uma Swaminathan - Healing with Herbs; Jaya Myra - Natural Lifestyle Expert; Dr. Bajrang Agarwal - Co-Founder, Dockedin Telehealth; and Ruchika Lal - NY Art of Living. Panels were moderated by GOPIO International officers, namely Dr. Asha Samant; Dr. Tushar Patel; Ram Gadhavi; and Dr. Rajeev Mehta.

In his remarks, Dr. Tushar Patel said, "It is important to get early screening and timely intervention for chronic diseases, so long term complications can be reduced, and healthy lifestyles can be lived."

Panelists Dr. Vasudev Makhija and Dr. Ravindra Amin, emphasized that getting timely help for mental health issues is very vital for successful outcome. There is no physical health without mental health and the stigma about mental health need to be eliminated in Indian diaspora, so people can live a healthy physical and emotional life.

Dr. Shankar Iyer said, "Oral health is very important, and all should get a routine dental checkups and preventive dental care since he overall, physical health is dependent on good oral hygiene and maintenance especially for people with chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disorders."

Dr. Meena Murthy said that self-management of diabetes is very important to live healthier life style. Regular exercise, diet and life style modifications and regular checkup of blood glucose and hemoglobin A1c are the key factors to live a productive life for people with diabetes.

Insightful health and wellness topics included diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, oral health, osteoporosis, emotional health, successful aging, life style modifications, joint disorders, medication management, alternative medicine, herbal remedies, access to care via tele-health, meditation, yoga breathing to reduce stress, and wisdom to handle mind and emotions. The audience was impressed by the quality of the presentations and engaged in the interactive sessions during lunch, coffee breaks and networking reception.

Grand sponsors for this summit were Sabinsa Corporation, Bhatt Foundation and S.S. White Technologies. Supporting organizations included JnJ Printing, Indian Health Camp of New Jersey and GOPIO Chapters of Central Jersey, Connecticut and New York.

The first such Health Summit was organized by GOPIO Health Council in 2010 in New York City. In response to the positive interactions and feedback GOPIO plans to organize similar seminars and workshops through its chapters all over the world.

GOPIO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, secular organization. GOPIO's volunteers are committed to enhancing cooperation and communication between NRIs/PIOs, building bonds, friendships, alliances, and the camaraderie of citizens and colleagues alike. GOPIO volunteers believe that when they help network the global Indian community, they facilitate making tomorrow a better world for the Indian Diaspora.

GOPIO publishes a very informative monthly newsletter. Interested persons can receive free of charge at www.gopio.net



Some of the speakers of the Health Summit, from l. to e.: Dr. Rajeev Mehta, Dr. Ketan Vaidya, Dr. Meena Murthy, Dr. Ravindra Amin, Dr. Shankar Iyer and Ruchika Lal

(Press Release: J.Nami Kaur / 914-476-2082. E-mail: namiq@gmail.com)

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi attends Screening of "The Price of the Free" in New York

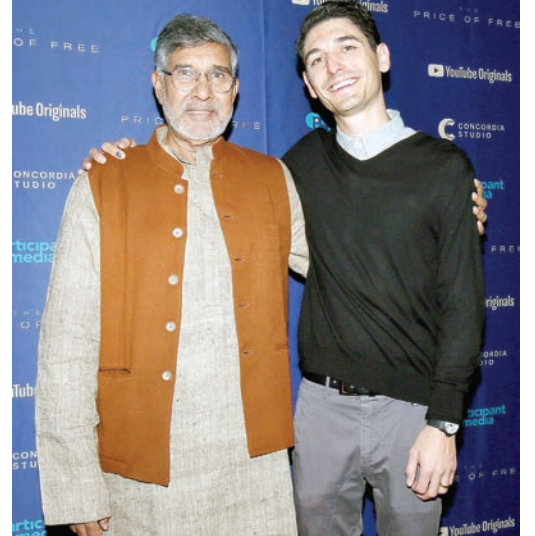
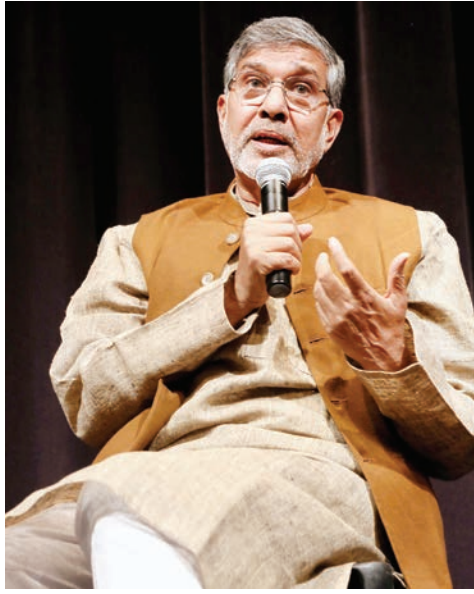
Crusader against child labor, the Nobel laureate attended screening of the award-winning documentary "The Price of the Free" based on his life at the 2018

Sundance Film Festival, at New York MOMA. Based on Kailash's own life and the groundbreaking movement he started over 3 decades ago to liberate every child possible, has

been documented quite well by Los Angeles based young director Derek Doneen.

Here are some images of the

participants and after screening Q&A session in NY City.



Photos / Jay Mandal /On Assignment

Diwali lights at Iconic Empire State Building in New York

Jay Sean and Nina Davuluri participated in the ceremonial lighting of the Empire State Building to celebrate Diwali on Wednesday, November 7, 2018. President Srujal Parikh wish community Happy Diwali and thank Empire State Building Reality Trust for giving Federation of Indian Associations opportunity for this historic Diwali Lighting Ceremony FIA Executive Team presented Diwali Mithai as traditional way of celebration of Diwali ,Arya Dance School perform opening the event and Diya lighting by FIA team and guest .empire State Building Iconic tower was lit Color of Diya Orange .



Empire State building



FIA President Srujal Parikh applauds as Jay Sean and Nina Davuluri participated in the ceremonial lighting of the Empire State Building to celebrate Diwali on Wednesday, November 7, 2018



Celebration time

Families of the staff at the Permanent Mission of India celebrated Diwali, November 7



Children singing a song



Families pose for photograph

Photos / Jay Madal-on assignment

Indian Americans Create Waves in Midterm Elections

Four Indian Americans Re-Elected to US House



They, as also many others, won. Jay Chaudhuri, Nima Kukikarni, Ash Kalra, Manka Dhingra

Indian American Kevin Thomas (right) defeated longtime incumbent Kemp Hannon who has represented the New York 6th SD since 1990

WASHINGTON (TIP): In the highly polarized midterm elections held on Tuesday November 6, four Indian American Congressmen from the Democratic party were re-elected to the US House of Representatives and more than a dozen others won various other races across the country.

In the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, Raja Krishnamoorthi was re-elected for the second term by a comfortable margin of more than 30 percentage points. He defeated his Indian American Republican opponent JD Diganvker.

Three-term lawmaker Dr Ami Bera was re-elected for a record fourth consecutive time from the seventh Congressional District of California. Unlike the previous three elections, Dr Bera did not have to wait for weeks for recounting of votes. He defeated Andrew Grant of the Republican party by a small five percentage margin.

In the Silicon Valley, Indian American Ro Khanna defeated Ron Cohen of the Republican party with a massive 44 percentage point difference in the 17th Congressional District of California.

"Tonight was a great night for our campaign and for Democrats across the country. I'm grateful to the voters of #CA17 for giving me the opportunity to continue to represent you in Congress. This has been the honor of my life," Ro Khanna said.

"With Democrats in control of the House, we will push for economic and foreign policy populism," he said.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the only Indian American woman lawmaker in the House of Representatives, defeated her GOP rival Craig Keller by a massive 66 percentage points.

"The American people voted to put the Democrats back in control of the US House of Representatives. Now, we are primed to restore the balance of power between the branches of government and push back even more strongly against the Trump administration's deeply destructive policies. Our communities are sick and tired of the corruption and injustice," Ms Jayapal said in her victory speech in Seattle.

"With new and diverse voices joining our ranks, we are building a movement that truly represents the people of this country," she said.

None of the more than half a dozen new Indian-Americans candidates, many of whom caught national attention by giving tough fight to their opponents and outraising them in the fund raisers, could make it to the House of Representatives, which is equivalent to the Lok Sabha in the Indian parliament.

However, Indian Americans picked up more seats in the State assemblies.

In Wisconsin State, Democratic Josh Kaul created history by becoming the first Indian American to win the race for Attorney General by defeating incumbent Brad Schimel of the Republican Party.

Democratic Nima Kulkarni defeated Joshua Neubert from the GOP to make her maiden entry into the Kentucky Assembly from State District 40. A practicing and recognized lawyer, she owns Indus Law Firm specializing in immigration, employment and business law.

Amish Shah made his maiden entry into the Arizona

Assembly from State Legislature District 24. So did, Kevin Thomas from the New York Senate District 6 for the New York State Assembly.

Mujtaba Mohammed entered the North Carolina State Senate from the Senate District 38. A former staff attorney at the Council for Children's Rights and assistant public defender, Mohammed defeated Richard Rivette.

Incumbent Jay Chaudhuri, an accomplished entrepreneur, was re-elected to North Carolina Senate from the State Senate District 15.

Republican Niraj Atani, 27, registered his third consecutive electoral victory from Ohio House 42nd District. He is the youngest Indian-American elected official in the US. He also is the second Indian-American state elected official in Ohio history, and the first Indian-American Republican.

In Washington State, Manka Dhingra and Vandana Slatter were re-elected for the State Senate. Among others re-elected at the State level are Sabi Kumar in Tennessee and Ash Kalra (California) and Kumar Bharve from Maryland.

Juli Mathew won the Fort Bend City Court at Law No 3 in Texas, K P George won the race for Fort Bend County Judge in Texas and Shalini Bahl-Milne for the Amherst Town Council District 4 in Massachusetts.

In New York, Indian American Kevin Thomas defeated longtime incumbent Kemp Hannon who has represented the 6th SD since 1990.

The emergence of a large number of young Indian Americans candidates reflects the growing desire of this small ethnic community comprising just one per cent of the US population of 32.57 crores.

Indian American CEO in Silicon Valley Arrested over H-1B Visa Fraud



WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian American CEO has been charged with H-1B visa and mail fraud, officials said.

Kishore Kumar Kavuru, 46, was arrested and was presented before US Magistrate Judge Susan van Keulen, the US Department of Justice said in a press release.

He was charged with 10 counts of visa fraud and 10 counts of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to maintain a pool of foreign workers for the clients of Kavuru's consulting companies.

If convicted, Kavuru faces the sentence of 10 years in

prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count of visa fraud. The defendant also faces up to 20 years in jail and \$250,000 for each count of mail fraud, the federal prosecutors said.

According to the indictment, Kavuru, a resident of Sunnyvale, California, held himself out as a staffing specialist for technology firms based in Santa Clara County and elsewhere seeking to fill temporary positions with foreign workers.

Since at least as early as 2007, Kavuru was the owner and Chief Executive Officer of four consulting companies -- Scopus Consulting Group, Inc.; ITECH Analyst Corp; Infinity Methods Corp; and Orian Engineers Incorporated.

The indictment described how Kavuru used the consulting companies to process and submit fraudulent applications for foreign workers to obtain permission to work in the US under the H-1B visa program.

He was accused of submitting fraudulent documents to both the Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security, containing details of bogus work projects awaiting the foreign workers.

Because many of the applications were ultimately approved, Kavuru had a pool of unemployed H-1B beneficiaries that were immediately available for legitimate work projects, giving him a competitive advantage over other law-abiding staffing companies that followed the sometimes-lengthy visa application process for petitioning

foreign workers, according to federal prosecutors.

As part of the scheme, Kavuru required some prospective workers to pay thousands of dollars in cash before he would prepare and submit the visa applications.

Kavuru also required some workers to wait unpaid, sometimes for months, to be placed at an end-client's workplace.

Through his consulting companies, Kavuru submitted and mailed approximately 43 petitions for H-1B software engineers, the statement said.

"In fact, there were no software engineer positions available at the benefits company," the federal prosecutors said.





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IALI'S WOMEN'S FORUM HOSTED DIWALI DHAMAKA LUNCHEON



Stephannie Lalithe Cosme gives a Rajasthani dance performance



Ladies all set for celebrations

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): There were more than 150 attendees who enjoyed mingling, greeting and wishing Happy Diwali to each other. The program started with Anuradha Khanna doing Ganesh Vandana with lit diyas with some ladies, followed by Rajasthani dances by Stephannie Lalithe Cosme. Next was the melodious singing by Kulbhushan Sharma who sang some lively Shammi Kapoor songs also duets with Amita Karwal and Jyoti Gupta. Lots of ladies got up to dance.

Veena Lamba welcomed all the guests and talked about significance of Diwali, in her welcome speech she said, "All the Women's forum programs this year have been extremely successful under the leadership of President Gunjan Rastogi and I want to thank the President, my team and the Event coordinator Jyoti Gupta for all their help throughout year".

Ladies and Gents enjoyed shopping for clothes by Meenu Kumar, Bead jewelry made by Rekha Mehta and Diwali Coins by Jewels Galleria. Agewell was the grand sponsor and gave a talk and information on Medicare.

Everything went very well attendees all went home with a smile, a gift of Diyas and Sweets. 'Diyas' were gifted by IALI President, Gunjan Rastogi. Bags of sweets were courtesy of Lalit Aery Vice President, Shashi Malik Secretary and Vimal Goyal Finance Chair. The delicious cake was sponsored by the Women's forum chair Veena Lamba.

(Press Release: Gunjan Rastogi)



IALI Members at the lunch

Air India Launches 3x Weekly Non-Stop Service Between Jfk & Mumbai With Limited-Time Special Fares

Flights Will Operate Wednesday, Friday and Sunday for a
Total of 36 Non-stop Flights Between the U.S. and India



NEW YORK (TIP): Air India announced that it will introduce three-times-a-week non-stop service between New York's JFK International Airport and Mumbai, effective December 7, 2018. The flights will depart at 11:05 am from JFK on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday on 777-300ER planes. They will arrive in Mumbai at 12:10 pm the following day.

With the current JFK - Delhi daily service, the new flights bring non-stop JFK - India service to 10 flights a week, while increasing total non-stop service from the U.S. to India to 36 nationwide. These include daily non-stop service from Newark (EWR) to Mumbai and Chicago (ORD) to Delhi, 3x weekly Washington (IAD) to Delhi, and 9x weekly San Francisco (SFO) to Delhi. All flights offer convenient

connections from the U.S. to major cities across India, including Bangalore, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune and more.

To celebrate the launch of the only nonstop flight between JFK and Mumbai, Air India is offering special fares on the new route, good for travel from December 9, 2018 through May 11, 2019. This offer is available for a limited time. All Air India's non-stop flights from the U.S.A. feature First, Business, and Economy Class and a choice of Continental or Indian cuisine served in a style that is distinctly Indian.

"The additional New York to Mumbai nonstop service reflects the growing popularity of India as a business and leisure destination" said Mrs. Bhuvana Rao, Air India's Regional Head in the Americas. "And for the thriving Indo-American community, the nonstop service and seamless connections to major cities across India provide an important and convenient way to remain connected to families and friends."

For more information and to make reservations, contact your travel agent or visit www.airindia.in.

ABOUT AIR INDIA: Air India, India's national airline, has been in operation since 1932. Today, the airline serves 35 international destinations on four continents, and 66 cities across India. The airline's fleet of 125 aircraft, including B787 Dreamliners and B777LR's and ER's, is one of the world's youngest. Air India is also a member of the Star Alliance. For more information about the airline, visit www.airindia.in.

UN Women welcomes the gains made by women of both parties in US midterm elections

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): UN Women celebrates the achievements of women who participated in the 2018 US midterm elections. Their historic victories indicate the rising voice and leadership of women, particularly as a total of 277 women ran from both parties for office, as well as unprecedented levels of candidates and winners who represented all ages, races, religions, sexual orientation, backgrounds and cultures. The new cohort of elected women will bring the total number in Congress to more than 100. This is a record. The numbers and diversity of women are unprecedented with a 75 per cent increase in women of color-including Black, Hispanic, Muslim and Native American-who ran for Congress.

Women's political participation across the world is a vital human right and critical for the achievement of gender equality and sustainable development. With more women in decision-making positions in many countries, we see more inclusive decisions, and we find different solutions to long-standing problems. Issues like health, education, infrastructure, ending violence against women, and overall quality of life concerns are paid greater attention; there is

an impact on the efficiency of oversight functions, and a reduction in corruption. More importantly, when girls growing up can see women in leadership roles, it raises their educational attainment and career aspirations.

As a world we signed on to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to leave no one behind, with a specific target of ensuring women's effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. These are deeply desirable patterns of growth and change. This is key to unlocking the transformational change we want to see to improve societies everywhere and build a safer, more equal and prosperous world.

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. For more information, visit www.unwomen.org. UN Women, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, New York. Tel: +1 646 781-4400. Fax: +1 646 781-4496.

Simrranjit Kaur crowned Mrs. India-USA 2018 & Mrs. Environment

QUEENS, NY (TIP): Queens, New York based Simrranjit Kaur, participated in Mrs. India Earth beauty pageant and was crowned as Mrs. India USA 2018 and Mrs. Environment. The pageant was held in New Delhi, India from September 05 to September 07, 2018. There were 50 contestants from across the globe who competed at the pageant. The contestants were judged on various aspects including initial interactive conversation, interview round, talent round, fitness round, introduction round, Eco wear round, Traditional wear round, and evening gown round.

Mrs. India Earth is a beauty with a cause to save the planet pageant. Before the final competition contestants were assigned various tasks and one unique task was Mass plantation drive. Through this unique platform the participants conducted a number of plantation drives. Simrranjit in association with Ekal Vidyalaya planted 14k trees in different parts of India and New York and won the title of Mrs. Environment. We need to save our planet for ourselves and future generations. We should educate our kids about ways to save our environment.

Simrranjit Kaur believes that all her hard work and struggles have made her a much stronger and a compassionate person. She is married to a clinical Lab scientist and has a 6 years old lovely son. She is a Sr. Treasury Analyst by profession, truly believes that her education is her biggest asset and strength. Her vision is to improve India's current situation by providing underserved communities access to basic education and a good health care. To support this cause she is connected with an NGO called Ekal Vidyalaya whose mission is to empower rural and tribal India by providing them free education. She believes illiteracy is a major cause for many problems faced by majority of people in the world. If we educate people, that will empower them and make them capable of earning a better living for themselves. Education removes



Simrranjit Kaur of Queens, New York was crowned Mrs. India-USA 2018 and Mrs. Environment in Delhi, India

ignorance and therefore removes darkness.

Flushing Town Hall Presents 4th Annual Diwali Festival-Kathak, Bhangra & Beyond- With Music, Dance, Food, Family-Friendly Activities - on Saturday, November 10

Event features Basement Bhangra's DJ Rekha, cooking workshops, dance lessons, Indian handicrafts; Tickets on sale at www.flushingtownhall.org

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): On Saturday, November 10, Flushing Town Hall will celebrate the Festival of Lights with its fourth annual Diwali Festival, this time as a Diwali Dance Party, featuring DJ Rekha and Abha Roy in a mash-up of Bhangra and Kathak music and dance styles, with cooking workshops, dance lessons, traditional foods, and family-friendly activities such as a jewelry workshop and henna painting. The event will provide a rare opportunity to see DJ Rekha perform in New York City.

"Diwali is a festive time of gift-giving, charity and sharing in feasts with loved ones," said Ellen Kodadek, Executive and Artistic Director of Flushing Town Hall. "We are excited to continue this tradition at Flushing Town Hall and to provide an experience that fills all senses: musical performances, classical dance, traditional food, henna painting, fashion and much more."

Historic Flushing Town Hall (circa 1862) features year-round arts and cultural programming from all over the globe as a way to bring people together. Celebrating and educating the global communities of Queens and New York City, their tagline is: Global Arts for a Global Community. Flushing Town Hall is a member of New York City's prestigious Cultural Institutions Group, and a Smithsonian Affiliate. They support local, immigrant, national, and international artists, developing partnerships and collaborations that enhance their efforts.

The Diwali Festival is supported by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Mayor Bill de Blasio; The National Endowment of the Arts; The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; Con Edison; The New York Community Bank Foundation; and Affinity Health Plan.

The three-hour celebration features DJ Rekha, who returns to the stage for a Bhangra dance party, and master Indian dancer Abha B. Roy and the Srijan Dance Center, who will present "Parvati-Putra (Parvati's Child)," a dance drama re-telling of the story of the birth of Ganesha from Parvati's (his mother) point of view. Audiences will recognize Ganesha is the Hindu deity with the elephant head; and children will be invited to make a Ganesha mask before the performance. The role of Ganesha will be performed by a 7th grader from Queens, Puja Singh. Prior to the performance, each artist will introduce you to her form and invite you to learn traditional Kathak dance moves and bhangra folk dances mixed with hip-hop. Then hit the dance floor!

Join us for henna painting, rangoli (decorative design) workshops, a dance workshop, and cooking workshops led by Nupur Arora, owner of Queens Curry Kitchen. Delicious Indian foods and handmade Indian jewelry also will be for sale during the lively event.

The event runs from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Flushing Town Hall, located at 137-35 Northern Blvd. Flushing, Queens. Tickets-\$20/\$15 Members/\$10 Students & Children-are available at www.flushingtownhall.org.

Additionally, Flushing Town Hall will hold two school shows for grades four to eight on Friday, October 27th at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM. To make reservations, call (718) 463-7700 ext. 224 or email education@flushingtownhall.org.

Diwali, or Deepavali, comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "row of lights." It is a day of solidarity, where the soft light of diyas - or oil-wick candles - illuminate streets and homes, banishing the darkness of ignorance and suffering. Diwali began as a part of an ancient harvest festival, which celebrated the fertility of the earth and prosperity of the new harvest. Though Diwali has taken on a significant meaning in Hinduism, in India, it is still celebrated by all groups regardless of religious affiliation as a time of renewal and growth.

PARTICIPANTS AT THE EVENT INCLUDE: Abha Roy has blazed a trail of her own in the sphere of Kathak, a classic northern Indian dance form. Abha, who is a dance Teaching Artist at Flushing Town Hall, started her career as a classical dancer in 1984, completing her diploma in Kathak under the guidance of late great Guru Kundan Lal Gangani.

Read Full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

NY City Health Department reports eleven new cases of Measles in Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish Community

● **URGES ON TIME VACCINATION FOR ALL CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY BEFORE TRAVELING TO ISRAEL AND OTHER COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING MEASLES OUTBREAKS**

● **There are now seventeen children who have been diagnosed with measles in Williamsburg and Borough Park**

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Health Department recommends the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine for all children at age 12 months, with a second dose at 4 to 6 years old; two doses of MMR vaccine are required to attend kindergarten through grade 12; all persons, including infants aged 6 to 11 months, should be vaccinated prior to international travel.

New York City kicks off affordable care act open enrollment period and encourages new yorkers to "get covered"

Annual Open Enrollment Period is underway and continues through January 31, 2019. GetCoverdNYC launches increased outreach to reach as many New Yorkers as possible, there is a new enrollment location in Astoria, and certain locations have expanded hours.

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Open Enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has begun, meaning uninsured New Yorkers can sign up for health insurance coverage through the New York State of Health Marketplace. During Open Enrollment, GetCoverdNYC, the City's health insurance outreach and enrollment program, will expand its year-round citywide outreach to contact over 100,000 uninsured New Yorkers and provide enrollees with free one-on-one assistance in over 12 languages.

The Open Enrollment Period runs from November 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. New Yorkers who are new to the Marketplace can enroll now, and people with existing coverage can renew their health plans starting November 16. Consumers must enroll or renew by December 15 for coverage effective January 1, 2019. New Yorkers who previously enrolled through the Marketplace must renew their health insurance each year to maintain coverage.

For Open Enrollment GetCoverdNYC has launched a citywide multilingual advertising campaign promoting health insurance and the free enrollment services available to New Yorkers. In addition, GetCoverdNYC is expanding its neighborhood enrollment events with community-based organizations and local elected officials, and several City health centers will offer extended hours during Open Enrollment. New Yorkers can access free in-person enrollment assistance by calling 311, texting Covered NYC (SeguroNYCenEspañol) to 877877, or visiting nyc.gov/GetCoverdNYC.

Read Full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



GUEST COMMENT

BY TAKING THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DEMOCRATS CAN TRY TO FRAME NATIONAL AGENDA

The Democratic Party made a comeback in Tuesday's midterm elections after spending two years in the political darkness, when it seized control of the House of Representatives. Yet, predictions of a "blue wave", as a backlash to the racially charged, polarizing campaign led by President Donald Trump, failed to materialize. The Democrats secured control of the 435-member lower chamber of Congress, flipping at least 26 seats from their Republican incumbents. This outcome, which will likely give the Trump administration pause for thought on the policy agenda for the remainder of its tenure, ends one-party rule in Washington. Yet, Mr. Trump hailed the results as a "tremendous success", alluding to the fact that Republicans gained at least two seats in the Senate, giving them a clear majority in the 100-seat upper chamber. Results among the 36 gubernatorial races favored Democrats: although Mr. Trump's support paid off in some swing States crucial to his 2020 re-election campaign, including Florida, Iowa and Ohio, his party failed to hold on to power in Wisconsin and Michigan. Democrats flipped seven States out of Republican control. While the 2018 midterm election results tracked the typical historical pattern of the party controlling the White House facing setbacks on Capitol Hill, the voter split appeared to reflect the legacy of Mr. Trump's 2016 campaign. Republicans polled well in small towns and rural areas, while Democrats fared well in urban and suburban districts across the country. The Grand Old Party scored well in Senate races in Texas, Indiana, North Dakota and Missouri.

Does this mean that the bitter polarization, racial hatred and culture wars that buoyed Mr. Trump's prospects in 2016 have become entrenched in American society? Perhaps, but what the Democratic sweep of the House implies is that the constitutionally mandated system of checks and balances will be actively in force from January 2019. This could come in the form of House subpoenas to the White House, impediments to the progress of the additional tax cut proposals of the White House, or even putting the brakes on hardline stances impacting trade policies. Democrats under the likely leadership of Representative Nancy Pelosi may be tempted to lead the charge on inquiries into some of the Trump Organization's murkier business dealings, or the Robert Mueller-led investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. But for now the Democrats are unlikely to go as far as attempting to impeach Mr. Trump. And rightly so, for a sober assessment of the midterm election mandate would focus on jobs, healthcare, and immigration, issues that matter most to the common American. If bipartisanship, and not belligerence, emerges between the two sides, that might then afford some space to discuss concerns about the functioning of the U.S. democratic machine, including campaign finance laws, redistricting and voter suppression. *(The Hindu)*

What Resignation of Sessions Means for Robert Mueller

His temporary replacement, Matthew Whitaker, has expressed skepticism over the scope of the Russia investigation-which he'll now oversee.



By Natasha Bertrand

President Donald Trump has forced out Attorney General Jeff Sessions just one day after the midterm elections and after nearly a year of berating him for refusing himself from the Justice Department's Russia investigation. His temporary replacement-Matthew Whitaker, his chief of staff-is now effectively Special Counsel Robert Mueller's new boss. But he's expressed repeated skepticism over the scope of Mueller's inquiry in the past, raising immediate questions about whether he will try to limit it.

Trump, who has been unsparing in publicly castigating his own Cabinet official, had been hinting that he would ask for Sessions's resignation following the elections. Privately, Trump has reportedly called him an "idiot" and said that hiring him was a mistake. He first asked Sessions to resign following Mueller's appointment to lead the probe in May 2017, according to The New York Times, but then wouldn't accept his resignation.

Legal experts and political strategists who have either worked directly with the president or observed his behavior from afar attributed Trump's reluctance to fire Sessions to two major considerations: fears in the White House that the move would cost the president support among GOP voters and members of Congress, who generally like and support Sessions, and the risk of provoking further allegations of obstruction of justice-both of which could deepen the challenges already facing the administration.

Elie Honig, a former federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York, told me that Trump's decision to oust Sessions and replace him with Whitaker probably wouldn't be considered an obstructive act in and of itself. But it could add to the "totality of the circumstances" surrounding a series of moves Trump has taken to try to stymie the Russia investigation since early last year, Honig said, including his firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his attacks on Sessions.

David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners who served as the assistant attorney general for the DOJ's National Security Division from 2009 to 2011, said it was "obvious" that Trump was motivated "by his well-expressed feelings of dislike toward the Mueller investigation. There can be no serious question about that." Kris, like Honig, said that ousting Sessions and appointing Whitaker "could be another element in a bill of particulars" used by prosecutors to specify the ways that Trump "has used the powers of the presidency toward

Intelligence and law-enforcement experts-as well as sitting members of Congress-have pointed out that the question of whether Russia has any kind of financial leverage over the president is highly relevant to determining whether Trump could have been coerced into conspiring with Moscow's election interference in 2016. Indeed, several of the Justice Department and FBI officials who have investigated Trump's campaign-and who have been attacked by Trump directly-have extensive experience in probing money laundering and organized crime, particularly as they pertain to Russia.



Jeff Sessions will be made to resign was always known. There, however, is an element of surprise in his quick ouster, with a stop gap replacement by Matthew Whitaker, who is on record having questioned validity of Mueller investigation, and who will now be overseeing it.

a corrupt end."

With the midterms out of the way, however, Trump evidently feels freer to make changes to his Cabinet, regardless of how it may be perceived by investigators who have been closely examining his behavior for signs of corrupt intent with regard to the Russia investigation over the last 18 months.

Whitaker will be the acting attorney general until a permanent replacement is nominated, Trump tweeted on Wednesday, and he'll be overseeing the Mueller investigation directly in his new post. While he has touted Mueller's character-"There is no honest person that sits in the world of politics, in the world of law, that can find anything wrong with Bob Mueller," he told CNN last year-he seems to have already formed an opinion on the probe itself. In a tweet, Whitaker said an article that characterized Mueller's investigators as a "lynch mob" was a "must read," and he told CNN that if Sessions were fired, his replacement could "reduce" Mueller's budget in such a way that it would grind his investigation almost to a halt. He also shared an article on Twitter that explored the process by which Trump could fire Mueller, said in a radio interview that "there is no criminal obstruction-of-justice charge to be had" against Trump, and defended the Trump campaign's decision to meet with Russian nationals to obtain dirt on Hillary

Clinton-a meeting Mueller has been closely examining. "You would always take the meeting," Whitaker told CNN last year. "You certainly want to have any advantage, any legal advantage you can." Whitaker is also friendly with Sam Clovis-a key grand-jury witness in the Mueller probe-and chaired his state-treasurer campaign in 2014.

Whitaker most clearly expressed his view of the Mueller probe in an op-ed last year, writing that the inquiry had gone "too far," and arguing that the president's personal finances were a "red line" that the special counsel had come "dangerously close to crossing." (Mueller subpoenaed the Trump Organization earlier this year, but it is not clear which documents his team had requested.) Whitaker added that "investigating Donald Trump's finances or his family's finances falls completely outside of the realm of his 2016 campaign and allegations that the campaign coordinated with the Russian government or anyone else. That goes beyond the scope of the appointment of the special counsel."

In reality, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein gave Mueller a fairly broad mandate when he appointed him following Sessions's recusal in May 2017: Mueller was free to investigate not only Russia's election interference and potential coordination between Trump's campaign and Moscow, but "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation" as well. Mueller has also been farming out aspects of the investigation to prosecutors in New York and Washington, D.C., that don't fall squarely within his mandate.

Moreover, intelligence and law-enforcement experts-as well as sitting members of Congress-have pointed out that the question of whether Russia has any kind of financial leverage over the president is highly relevant to determining whether Trump could have been coerced into conspiring with Moscow's election interference in 2016. Indeed, several of the Justice Department and FBI officials who have investigated Trump's campaign-and who have been attacked by Trump directly-have extensive experience in probing money laundering and organized crime, particularly as they pertain to Russia.

contd on Page 32

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Modi is lucky to get an 'F' in managing India and its economy



By Dave Makkar



Modi with his mismanagement of economy and administration has brought the biggest insult and miseries to Indians with India now ranking 103rd out of 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2018. In 2014 India used to rank 55th on GHI. India stood 103rd on the Global Hunger Index along with Nigeria and has been categorized as a country with 'serious levels of hunger,' says the author.



- According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), there are currently nearly 31 million unemployed Indians looking for jobs. CMIE is a board that tracks business and economic data of the country.
- 5 states with highest unemployment rate in descending order are; Tripura 39.1%, Chhattisgarh 22.2%, Haryana 17.6%, Chandigarh 15%, Himachal 14% and all 5 are ruled by the BJP.
- 5 states with lowest unemployment rates in ascending order are; Telangana 0.4%, Karnataka 0.8%, Tamilnadu 1.9%, Uttarakhand 2.4%, Puducherry 3.5%, except Uttarakhand that is ruled by BJP, rest 4 are ruled by opposition parties.



If there can be a grade below "F" in economy management and general administration Modi deserves to be awarded that grade for ruining Indian economy, general administration and above all peace and harmony among different sections of the Indian society. Modi inherited the economy when it was on an upswing, and oil prices were sliding down. His predecessor PM Singh steered the economy through the difficult Great Recession that practically bankrupted the world economy in 2008. Under him India made a commendable comeback averaging a GDP growth rate of 8.2 per cent (2004-014) despite steeply rising crude oil prices. Modi is still below this at 7.2% average with a few months left of his 5 years term. That too after changing the base year for GDP calculation to 2010-11 from 2004-05 -- the benchmark used under PM Singh. If previous bench mark is used for Modi than GDP growth rate will come down to below 5% and if Modi benchmark is used for Singh; than growth rate will be 10.4% under PM Singh!

India has become a laughing stock around the world because Modi is in perpetual election mode blurring rhetoric's and no actions along with promoting Savarkar/Golwalkar's understanding of religion to divide India. Truth, facts, reality, data, problems, challenges, genuine issues have become meaningless for Modi. Some of the world-renowned economist has ranked his government probably the worst ever in governance standards for his mindless demonetization to rob the poor, ill planned GST implementation with over 213 amendments in its first year, negligible to no recoveries by banks under NPA aka Bad Loans that has gone up to USD 135.6 Billion under Modi from USD 27 Billion in 2014. Aadhaar execution and foreign policy etc.

Foreign portfolio investors have withdrawn over USD 7.1 Billion in the first quarter of 2018-19. Under Modi Rupee that was 63.38 to a 1 USD in 2014 as of Oct 31, 2018 was trading at 74.02 to 1 USD; a whopping 16% devaluation. 52 per cent of India's Foreign Exchange reserves are short-term foreign currency debt maturing this fiscal year which makes India highly vulnerable, especially when US Fed is raising interest rates to cool down the US economy from overheating and inflation.

Modi with his mismanagement of economy and administration has brought the biggest insult and miseries to Indians with India now ranking 103rd out of 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2018. In 2014 India used to rank 55th on GHI. India stood 103rd on the Global Hunger Index along with Nigeria and has been categorized as a country with 'serious' levels of hunger.

The World Bank released its first report on Human Capital Index (HCI) on Oct. 18, 2018, which placed India at the 115th position, lower than Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The report ranked 157 economies on parameters like child mortality, health and education. Singapore topped the list after it was highly rated for its universal healthcare system, education exams results and life

expectancy figures, followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland.

Recent Oxfam survey showed that the share of the wealth of the richest 1% persons had increased to 73% this year. According to the survey, India's poorest saw their wealth rising by one percent during the same period. In 2014 when Modi came to power the share of the 1% richest persons was 49%. A 25% gain for the wealthy in 4 years of Modi!

On the other hand under Singh, India lifted a miraculous 271 million out of poverty establishing irrevocably that "inclusive growth model", is the most suitable option for India. Under Modi rule only his Crony Capitalist and Religious Gurus turned Crony Capitalist friends; their net worth has grown from 100% to 200%. None of these industrialist or Religious Gurus have ever invented anything; they have become rich by getting free access to PSU Banks aka public money, natural resources like oil, gas, minerals including land belonging to Indians and by exploiting or getting changed the trade & commerce policies to their advantage by bribing the politicians across the aisle.

According to a report by Centre for Sustainable Employment of the Azim Premji University; "The current rate of unemployment is the highest seen in India in the last 20 years." This shortage of jobs is compounded by depressed wages, with 82% of men and 92% of women earning less than Rs 10,000 per month. The report also notes that the growth in GDP hasn't resulted in a commensurate increase in employment.

A 10% increase in GDP now results in less than 1% increase in employment," says the study. "Nationally, 67% of households reported monthly earnings of up to Rs 10,000 in 2015. In comparison, the minimum salary recommended by the Seventh Central Pay Commission (CPC) is Rs 18,000 per month. This suggests that a large majority of Indians are not being paid what may be termed a living wage, and it explains the intense hunger for government jobs," the report observes. Worryingly, it adds that 90% of industries even in the organized manufacturing sector "pay wages below the CPC minimum. The situation is worse in the unorganized sector".

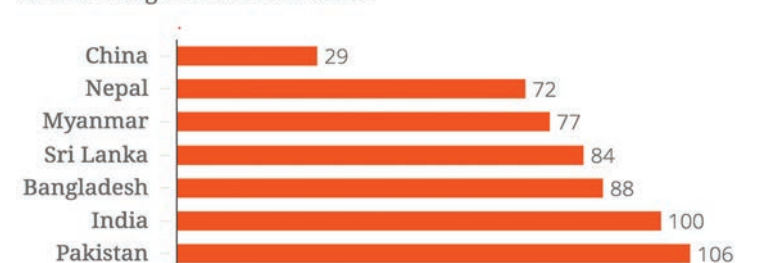
According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), there are currently nearly 31 million unemployed Indians looking for jobs. CMIE is a board that tracks business and economic data of the country.

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According to mathematician Anand Kumar, founder of Super 30 educational program for the underprivileged; "In India, there is a huge craving for education, but quality education is not accessible to all of them. There is no dearth of talent in India, but equal opportunities in terms of quality education and modern-day requirements often eluded a large number of students." But for Modi with dubious educational record of his own, hardly educated ministers and the states ruled by his party BJP; "Education is not on their priority list." Only Kerala ruled by left front and Delhi ruled by AAP in India had made "Education" a priority under their governance. Modi can spend almost a USD 1 Billion on 2 statues of Sardar Patel & Shivaji but not on Education!

Global Hunger Index 2017 Rank



Scroll.in

Data: Global Hunger Index, 2017

contd on Page 30

Indonesia's Lion Air plane crashes into pole in new accident

JAKARTA (TIP) : A week after an Indonesian low-cost airline Lion Air plane crashed, killing 189 people, another of its aircraft was involved in an incident on Thursday, when it smashed into a pole during takeoff from an airport on Sumatra Island. Lion Air blamed airport staff for the incident, which did not cause any casualties, Efe news reported. A spokesperson for the airline said in a statement that they had received a letter of apology from the airport's air traffic controller. Images distributed on social media showed passengers on the runway observing the broken part of the plane. This latest incident came just over a week after a Lion Air plane crashed into the Java Sea on October 29, killing everyone on board, prompting the Indonesian Transport Ministry to conduct a special investigation into the airline.

The ministry also ordered an inspection of all Boeing 737 Max 8 — the model which crashed into the sea — planes in the country. Flight data from the black box revealed that the plane's sensors were defective and had received erroneous data. (IANS)

Tajikistan: At least 27 killed in prison riot in northern city of Khujand

DUSHANBE (TIP): At least 25 inmates and two security officers have been killed in a riot at a high-security prison in the northern Tajik city of Khujand, security sources said on Thursday.

Local authorities confirmed there had been a riot on Wednesday at the prison known for housing people convicted on extremism charges, but provided no other information. Khujand lies around 300 km (186 miles) north of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.

According to an interior ministry official not authorised to comment publicly, the riot started when one inmate regarded by the authorities as a member of the Islamic State militant group attacked a prison guard.

The prison called in security forces to help quash the riot, which had now ended, said a security official speaking on the condition of anonymity. Tajikistan, an impoverished Central Asian country, routinely reports detentions and convictions of Islamist militants. Last July, Islamic State claimed responsibility for an attack which killed four Western tourists in Tajikistan. (Reuters)

Thailand waives visa-on-arrival fees to boost tourism

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's cabinet on Tuesday approved a measure to waive for two months fees paid by visitors for visas on arrival, in a bid to boost a lucrative industry hit by a drop in visitors from China, its biggest market. The fee of 2,000 baht (\$60) will be waived between Dec. 1 and Jan. 31 for travellers from 21 countries, including China, Taiwan, India and Saudi Arabia, government spokesman Puttiphong Punnakan told reporters. The scheme is expected to increase tourist numbers by at least 30 percent during the period, he said. In September, overall tourist arrivals rose just 2.1 percent from a year earlier, but arrivals from China fell almost 15 percent following a boat accident in July, which killed 47 Chinese tourists, making it Thailand's worst tourist-related disaster in years. (Reuters)

Reports Of Asia Bibi Leaving For Netherlands 'Fake News', Says Pakistan

Asia Bibi, 47, was freed from a jail in Multan on Wednesday night amid protests by hardliners in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE (TIP): Asia Bibi, a Christian woman freed from jail after Pakistan's top court overturned her death sentence in a blasphemy case, has not left for the Netherlands and any report saying so is most likely "fake news", Pakistani authorities said today.

Ms Bibi, 47, was freed from a jail in Multan on Wednesday night amid protests by hardliners in Pakistan. Media reports said Ms Bibi was taken to Noor Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi, from where she would be flown to the Netherlands.

"Asia Bibi was released from New Jail for Women Multan (350 km from Lahore) on Wednesday midnight. She is taken to Noor Khan Airbase Rawalpindi where a chartered plane will take her to Netherlands," 24News reported today.

Other news channels reported Ms Bibi had left for the Netherlands.

However, Pakistan's foreign office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said the mother of five has not left the country. "There is no truth in reports about Bibi leaving the country -- it is fake news," he said.

Information minister Fawad Chaudhry also rejected the reports about Ms Bibi leaving the country. "It has become a norm to publish fake news for sake of headlines. Asia Bibi case is sensitive issue; it was extremely irresponsible to publish news of her leaving the country without confirmation. I strongly urge section of media to act responsible," he said.

Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan spokesperson Hafiz Shahbaz Attari in a statement said, "The Imran Khan government has released Asia Bibi as the Netherlands ambassador in Islamabad reached Multan jail along with the government officials to ensure her release. She is being transported to Netherlands."

He said a call has been given to party workers in Islamabad and



Rawalpindi to stop the government from letting Ms Bibi leave the country. The Pakistan Supreme Court's verdict on Ms Bibi prompted immediate anger from a hardline party that has threatened street protests if her acquittal was not reversed.

Italy has said it would help Ms Bibi leave Pakistan because her life is in danger. Her husband has asked the leaders of US, the UK and Canada to help her leave Pakistan. (NDTV)

Bangladesh rejects opposition plea for caretaker government

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's ruling party has rejected an opposition party's demand for a caretaker government it says is essential for a free and fair general election due to be held in December.

Although Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League had agreed to unprecedented talks last week with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to discuss the arrangement, on Wednesday it declared the demand was unconstitutional.

"Our prime minister told them there is no provision in our constitution to form such a caretaker government," said Obaidul Quader, her party's secretary general.

The BNP, which is in disarray after the jailing of its chief, former prime minister Khaleda Zia, on corruption charges, also pressed for a caretaker government at the last



general election in 2014.

When that demand was not met, it boycotted the poll.

The party and its allies were still undecided whether to participate in the election, BNP

Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told Reuters.

Quader said the Awami League would ensure a level playing field by preventing ministers from using government buildings or vehicles for the next three months.

Hasina and Khaleda, who between them have ruled Bangladesh for decades, are bitter rivals and the BNP says its leader has been jailed on trumped-up charges to keep her out of politics.

On Wednesday the Awami League also rejected BNP demands to reconsider Khaleda's sentence, which was doubled to 10 years on October 30, so ruling her out of December's contest.

"We told them the High Court already announced its verdict about Khaleda Zia," Quader said. (Reuters)

Two Indian-origin men in Singapore accused of lighting illegal fireworks on Diwali eve

SINGAPORE (TIP): Two Indian-origin men were charged with lighting illegal fireworks in Singapore's 'Little India' precinct on the eve of Diwali and they face up to two years in jail and a fine ranging between SGD2,000 and SGD10,000. It is illegal to set off fireworks in Singapore without obtaining permission from the authorities. Thiagu Selvarajoo (29) is accused of letting off dangerous fireworks while Siva Kumar Subramaniam (48) is charged with abetting him, The Straits Times

reported on Thursday. According to court documents, Siva Kumar allegedly placed a box of fireworks on a road divider on Gloucester Road shortly before midnight on Monday and Thiagu reportedly lit them. The court documents did not reveal how the two men procured the firecrackers.

The two were arrested on Tuesday.

A video of the fireworks display made the rounds on social media.

Facebook group SG Road Vigilante (SGRV)

posted the video on Tuesday afternoon along with a post which read, "Illegal fireworks being set off at Race Course Road. Singapore police officers can be seen rushing towards the scene." The post ended by wishing people a happy Diwali.

The roads are within the Little India precinct where large crowds of Indians gather on holidays and weekends.

The two Singaporeans are remanded and will be back in court on November 14. (PTI)

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Westbury (Salisbury)
5BR, 2 Baths
Mother/Daughter
\$479,000

Valley Stream
5BR, 2 Baths
Fully Renovated, Possible Mother/Daughter
\$699,000

Hempstead
3BR, 2 Baths
Short Sale
\$175,000

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NFIA Schedules Convention at Sheraton, VA

WASHINGTON (TIP): The oldest association of the associations, NFIA, using the theme, "Indian Americans - We are going Places", will showcase talented, accomplished professionals, artists, scientists, and technologists at the 3-day convention. It is scheduled on November 16-18, 2018, at Sheraton Tyson corner, VA.

The president, convener, co-conveners, along with the past presidents are working hard to have a successful conference where prominent personalities will speak on the topics of Technology 20-20, Trade, Business, spirituality and art of living stress free. You will enjoy dance, music and fashion show. For shoppers there will be vendors to help you pick beautiful items of clothing, jewelry, and small gifts for holidays.

Invited guests include Congressman Connolly, Congresswomen Barbara Comstock and others who are well-versed and are at the forefront of diplomacy, building and strengthening Indo - U.S. bilateral relations. Indian Embassy will be represented by the community minister, Anurag Kumar.

Other invited guests include Digvijay (Danny) Gaekwad. Mr. Gaekwad is a first-generation American entrepreneur and community leader based in Florida. He is the founder and CEO of NDS USA Information Technology, an IT firm, and MGM Hotels, LLC, which owns and operates hotels.

A well-known personality, Mahinder Kaur Tak, a radiation oncologist and retired U.S. army Colonel, is also an invited guest who has mentored many in civic engagement. As a political activist and fundraiser, she has been a trailblazer within the Indian American community, having mentored dozens of young people from the community and holding fundraisers for them. She has raised money for, among other candidates and officeholders, prominent Indian Americans Nikki Haley, Bobby Jindal, Ami Bera, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthy.

Besides Indian Americans, Mahinder has also raised money for a number of candidates running for national and statewide offices, including President Obama, First Lady Hillary Clinton, Sen. John Kerry and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe. She has hosted Clinton many times at her house, including when the Democrat was a First Lady, when she ran for the US Senate campaign, and during her presidential bid.

Dr. Ajay Kothari is President and Founder of Astrox Corporation. He received his PhD and MS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland. He will speak. Another speaker who is well-known and is invited to speak is Dr. Priyadarshy, who is a Chief Data Scientist at Halliburton. He is a Senior Fellow of International Cyber Security Center at George Mason University. He is a veteran of Big Data and Data Science and will speak about Artificial Intelligence. Another member of the Technology 20-20 is Rajeev Kumar. He is a chief customer officer of Appirio, a global IT company.

On the softer side, for your pure enjoyment, we have Kathak and Bharatanatyam dances, a fashion show and a vocalist who will keep you smiling. There will also be a coach sharing some key exercises. The coach will teach how to manage the breathing cycles to relieve stress and how one can stay calm during stressful situations.

It will be a treat to listen to Alok Dasgupta, who is an Indian sitar player. He studied under the legendary sarod player, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, and has performed with George Harrison, V.G. Jog, the LA Philharmonic and the Rolling Stones, among others. Widely known for his range of collaborations in various genres, he has kept the integrity of classical-style sitar intact. His concerts were sold-out worldwide, having recorded/performed for Ozzy Osbourne, Mick Jagger, and Gwen Stefani.

NFIA has worked for decades to help ease the assimilation of Indian Americans, to protect their civil rights, preserve their vibrant cultural heritage, enhance their political participation and help to maintain the cordial relations between the United States and India. It has close contacts with a number of elected US legislators and officials in the White House.

It has organized Congressional Luncheon for over two decades and the Women Conferences for the past six years. The organization has partnered with many prestigious organizations consisting of business men, hotel and motel owners, physicians, scientists and engineers; and continues to strive for the benefit of community by advocating for all.

Saturday will provide lot of opportunities to mingle and enjoy Indian dinner and applaud the recipients of awards in several categories. Writing contests winners, the youngsters will also be honored for their superior writing abilities during the banquet along with adults. The evening will end with music and dance. For additional information, please check the nfia.net web site, the association web site, and you will find the contact information for the president, convener, co-conveners, board members along with the registration information and seminar and dinner ticket prices.

Manchin: Sessions firing puts U.S. 'on the verge' of constitutional crisis

WASHINGTON (TIP): Sen. Joe Manchin on Thursday, November 8, warned that the firing of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, as well as his replacement by an acting attorney general loyal to President Donald Trump, has put the country "on the verge" of a constitutional crisis.

In an interview on "CBS This Morning," Manchin (D-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told anchor Norah O'Donnell that "it's a big mistake to let Jeff Sessions go."

Manchin praised Sessions, whom he called a good friend, as a "good person" who is "grounded" and committed to the rule of law and he expressed worry over the future of the Justice Department's investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 election.

Sessions recused himself from the probe early on after it was revealed that Sessions had met with the then-Russian ambassador while he served as an adviser to Trump during the campaign, despite previously claiming he had no contacts with Russians.

Though Sessions was among Trump's earliest and most loyal backers in Congress, the president viewed his recusal as a betrayal, and the move marked the beginning of the end for Sessions' time as the nation's top cop.

Sessions' temporary replacement, his chief of staff Matt Whitaker, has been vocal in his opposition to special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe, an investigation Trump has labeled a "witch hunt." His ascendance to acting attorney general, which pushed Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein out as overseer of the Mueller probe, has prompted indignation from Democrats and caution from some Republicans that the special counsel's office should not



Manchin (D-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee has said that "it's a big mistake to let Jeff Sessions go."

be tampered with. Democrats have cried foul over the president installing a loyalist atop the Justice Department soon after Democrats won control of the House in Tuesday's midterms. Manchin echoed those fears on Thursday.

"What raises my concerns is a person that's been so vocal against the investigation that was going on now putting in charge a day after the election. I think that sheds bad light on it. I think that gives concern to every senator - Democrat and Republican," he said.

"If they pull Rosenstein out, which they've done, then we're in trouble," he added.

CNN reporter loses access to WH after spat with Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): In an unprecedented move, the White House has suspended the credentials of a senior CNN journalist for his "disgusting and outrageous" behavior, hours after he had a testy exchange with President Donald Trump during a marathon news conference.

The move came just hours after CNN's chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta drew the ire of Trump by persisting with questions about his views on a caravan of Central American migrants making its way to the US border and refused to the President's orders to sit down and clung to the microphone.

The removal of Acosta's pass is a sharp escalation of tensions between the Trump administration and the media.

At the news conference, which lasted 1 hour and 26 minutes, Trump snapped at the press corps, called reporters "rude" for asking questions, and made baseless claims about political polling.

Acosta was one of the first reporters Trump called on. "Thank you, Mr President," he said. "I want to challenge you on one of the statements that you made in the tail end of the campaign."

"As you know, Mr President, the caravan is not an invasion," Acosta said. "It's a group of migrants moving up from Central America towards the



A White House staff member reaches for the microphone held by CNN's Jim Acosta as he questions US President Donald Trump during a news conference at the White House in Washington

border with the US." Trump, sarcastically, replied, "Thank you for telling me that, I appreciate it."

Acosta: "Why did you characterize it as such?" "Because I consider it an invasion. You and I have a difference of opinion." "But do you think that you demonized immigrants?"

"No, not at all. I want them to come into the country. But they have to come in legally," Trump said. That's what the migrants are trying to do, they say they intend to seek asylum, he said.

"You know what? I think you should," Trump started to say, pointing at Acosta. "Honestly, I think you should let me run the country. You run CNN. And if you did it well, your ratings would be much better." "Okay, that's enough," a visibly angry Trump said as Acosta tried to ask another question. Then a White House intern unsuccessfully tried to take the microphone from the CNN correspondent.

(Source: PTI)

Former first lady Michelle Obama in her upcoming book "Becoming" said she would "never forgive" President Donald Trump for promoting the false birther conspiracy

WASHINGTON (TIP): During the 2012 US presidential election, Trump floated the racist conspiracy theory that President Barack Obama was not a US citizen, and touted the demonstrably false claim that Obama's birth certificate was not real.

Mrs. Obama called the conspiracy "crazy and mean-spirited," and said it endangered her family.

"What if someone with an unstable mind loaded a gun and drove to Washington," she wrote in her book, according to The Washington Post. "What if that person went looking for our girls? Donald Trump, with his loud and reckless innuendos, was putting my family's safety at risk."

Former first lady Michelle Obama in her upcoming book laid out her most damning statement against President Donald Trump, who she said promoted the "dangerous" birther conspiracy that could have endangered her family's safety.

"The whole [birther] thing was crazy and mean-spirited, of course, its underlying bigotry and xenophobia hardly concealed," Obama wrote in her memoir, according to a



Former first lady Michelle Obama in her upcoming book "Becoming" said, she would never forgive Trump for promoting the birther movement

Washington Post review. "But it was also dangerous, deliberately meant to stir up the wingnuts and kooks." For years, even prior to

the 2012 US presidential election, Trump fueled the racist conspiracy theory that questioned the authenticity of President

Barack Obama's birth certificate and his citizenship.

"He doesn't have a birth certificate, or if he does, there's something on that certificate that is very bad for him," Trump said during an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham in 2011.

Obama added that she would "never forgive" Trump for promoting the birther movement.

"What if someone with an unstable mind loaded a gun and drove to Washington," she added. "What if that person went looking for our girls? Donald Trump, with his loud and reckless innuendos, was putting my family's safety at risk. And for this I'd never forgive him." Obama eventually released his longform birth certificate. In September 2016, Trump relented and admitted Obama was born in the country but added an unverifiable claim that his then-Democratic presidential opponent Hillary Clinton was to blame for promoting the conspiracy theory.

"President Barack Obama was born in the United States," Trump said during a press conference at the time. "Period. Now we all want to get back to making America strong

Prachi Tehlan to debut in Telugu opposite Rakulpreet Singh's brother



Bollywood actress Prachi Tehlan will debut in Telugu

WASHINGTON (TIP): With an array of versatile roles on her career chart, Prachi Tehlan proved that she is very choosy about the kind of projects she signs. Tehlan always looks for the work of substance and doesn't hesitate in turning down offers that aren't exciting for her. That's the reason she is leaving her mark in every regional film industry with her performance.

After successfully locking a space in Punjabi as well as Television industry, the actress is gearing up for her Telugu debut opposite Amanpreet Singh. (Brother of Bollywood actress Rakulpreet Singh).

Tehlan's excitement is evident from her social media accounts where she is frequently sharing updates from the sets at Tirupati Balaji.

Sharing her feeling about SrikrishnaGorle's directorial, Tehlan said, "Currently, I am shooting for 13-14 hours in the jungles of Tirupati. It's a no network area with minimal facilities, but even then I am enjoying everything. It's another fabulous opportunity to strengthen my acting skills."

Surviving and shooting amid tough conditions of the jungle has been tough, but Prachi believes that sports made her strong. What's noteworthy is the fact that Prachi is the only girl in a unit of 50.

Besides this, Tehlan's Malayalam debut is also the talk of the tinsle town these days. She will soon be seen opposite Mammootty in the period drama 'Mammankam'.

Dead Nevada brothel owner wins election

WASHINGTON (TIP): A colorful brothel owner and former reality TV star who died last month nonetheless posthumously won a seat in the Nevada state legislature.

He may be dead, but Dennis Hof scored 69.02 per cent in Tuesday's vote against Democratic candidate Lesia Romanov, at 30.98 per cent, to win the assembly seat representing rural southern Nye County, official records showed.

A Republican will be tapped to serve in his place.

Hof, 72, was found dead at the Love Ranch, one of his legal brothels in Crystal, Nevada, on October 16 after celebrating his birthday with a party attended by porn star Ron Jeremy and other guests. He was believed to have died in his sleep.

Hof, who starred in the HBO reality television show "Cathouse" about the prostitutes working at one of his establishments, was running as a Donald Trump-style Republican. - AFP



Dead Nevada brothel owner, Dennis Hof wins election

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INDIA TO BE IN TALKS WITH TALIBAN IN RUSSIA AT 'NON-OFFICIAL' LEVEL



NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday said it will participate, at a "non-official level", in the meeting being hosted by Russia on Afghanistan where representatives of the Taliban will be present.

The Moscow-format meeting on Afghanistan will be held on November 9 and representatives of the Afghan Taliban radical movement will take part in it, the Russian Foreign Ministry had said last week.

In response to queries regarding India's participation in the meeting, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "We are aware that the Russian Federation is hosting a meeting in Moscow on 9 November on Afghanistan." "Our participation at the meeting will be at the non-official level," he said.

India supports all efforts at peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan that will preserve unity and plurality, and bring security, stability and prosperity to the country, he said.

"India's consistent policy has been that such efforts should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled and with participation of the government of Afghanistan," Kumar asserted.

According to Russian news agency TASS, this is for the second time, Russia is attempting to bring regional powers together while discovering ways for establishing peace in war-torn Afghanistan.

The first such meeting, proposed for September 4 this year, was called off at the last moment after the Afghan government pulled out, describing its involvement in the Moscow meeting as "unnecessary" as the Taliban had "disrespected internationally-sanctioned principles and rejected the message of peace and direct negotiations." According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, invitations to take part in the event had been sent to Afghanistan, India, Iran, China, Pakistan, the US and some other countries.

The meeting comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks a host of global issues.

RSS wants BJP to expedite efforts to build Ram temple

NEW DELHI (TIP): The rank and file of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Bharatiya Janata Party's ideological fount, is unhappy with efforts by the latter in terms of a legislation that will enable the building of a temple at the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi site, senior functionaries of the organisation said on condition of anonymity.

Thus far, a Bharatiya Janata Party MP from the Rajya Sabha Rakesh Sinha has said he will move a private member's bill on the temple, a few ministers not connected with the issue have commented on the possibility of a law or the need for one, and top government functionaries addressing a background briefing last week emphasised the fact that the government has the power to bring about a law to the effect.

According to the RSS functionaries, at several meetings after the Supreme Court decided to defer the hearing of the Ram Janmabhoomi case to January, the organisation's cadre pushed their top leadership to take up the matter with the government, saying the decision could not be left to the top court.

"There was unanimity on the need to move the issue from the domain of the judiciary to a parliamentary forum. The cadre relayed to the top brass that the government's ambiguity on the issue and waiting for the court decision, which seemed endless would prove counterproductive for the Sangh as well as for the BJP's electoral fortunes," said one senior functionary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Source: HT

Jaitley defends DeMo, says rise in tax base proves 'prophets of doom' wrong

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Nov 8 staunchly defended the demonetisation drive, saying 'prophets of doom' have been proven wrong as hard data of two years shows an increase in tax base, greater formalisation of the economy and India retaining the fastest growing economy tag for the fifth year in a row.

On the second anniversary of the shock note ban, Jaitley wrote a Facebook blog 'Impact of Demonetisation', listing an 80 per cent jump in income tax return filers to 6.86 crore, increase in digital transactions and more resources being available for poor and for building better infrastructure as the main achievements.

With depositing junked currency in banks only mode left to liquidate holding of old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes, the government was able to track down people holding cash beyond their known sources of income.

"The enormity of cash deposited and identified with the owner resulted in suspected 17.42 lakh account holders



The enormity of cash deposited and identified with the owner resulted in suspected 17.42 lakh account holders from whom the response has been received online through non-invasive method

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley

from whom the response has been received online through non-invasive method," he wrote.

Since the money came into bank accounts, the holders were forced to file income returns, which went up from 3.8 crore in May 2014 to 6.86 crore. "By the time the first five years of this government are over, we will be close to doubling the assessee base," he said.

Responding to criticism from opposition parties, Jaitley said India clocking the fastest growth rate has

proved "prophets of doom", who had predicted that demonetisation will shave off 2 per cent of growth rate, conclusively wrong.

Opposition parties led by Congress launched a scathing attack on the government, with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh terming demonetisation as an "ill-fated" and "ill-thought" exercise, whose "scars and wounds" are more visible on the second anniversary of the "economic misadventure".

Scars of DeMo are more visible with time: Dr Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI (TIP): On the second anniversary of demonetisation exercise by the Narendra Modi government, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh said the scars and wounds inflicted by notebandi are now more visible.

"It is often said that time is a great healer. But unfortunately, in the case of demonetisation, the scars and wounds of demonetisation are only getting more visible with time," Dr Singh said in a statement. Describing demonetisation as an "ill-fated and ill-thought" exercise, Dr Manmohan Singh said "the havoc that it unleashed on the Indian economy and society is now evident to everyone. Notebandi impacted every single person, regardless of age, gender, religion, occupation or creed."



"Beyond the steep drop in headline GDP growth numbers after demonetisation, the deeper ramifications of notebandi are still unraveling. Small and medium businesses that are the cornerstone of India's economy are yet to recover from the demonetisation shock. This has had a direct impact on employment as the

economy continues to struggle to create enough new jobs for our youth," he said adding that today is a day to remember how "economic misadventures" can roil the nation for a long time.

The former prime minister blamed demonetisation as the reason behind the volatility in financial markets saying the liquidity crisis wrought by demonetisation is taking its eventual toll on infrastructure lenders and non-bank financial services firms. Urging the government to restore certainty and visibility in economic policies, Dr Manmohan Singh advised that it is prudent to not resort to further unorthodox, short-term economic measures that can cause any more uncertainty in the economy and financial markets.

After Allahabad, Yogi Adityanath renames UP's Faizabad district as Ayodhya

LUCKNOW (TIP): UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is on a spree to change names of districts in his state. After renaming Allahabad as Prayagraj, the name of Faizabad district has been changed to Ayodhya. On the occasion of the Diwali eve on Tuesday, Adityanath said that the Faizabad district will henceforth be known as Ayodhya.

"Ayodhya is a symbol of our 'aan, baan aur shaan' (honour, pride and prestige)" he said at the pilgrim town, which is 120km from the state capital Lucknow. "Nobody can do injustice to Ayodhya," he said, adding that the holy city is identified by Lord Ram. He also announced the setting up of a medical college in the name of King Dashrath, father of Lord Ram, in the district. "A



medical college will be established here in Ayodhya, I want it to be named after King Dasharatha. We will also construct an airport here named after Lord Ram," said the UP CM.

Later in the evening, South Korean First Lady Kim-Jung Sook, who is on a four-day visit to India, and Yogi Adityanath performed 'Aarti' on banks

of Sarayu river in Ayodhya. As per news agency ANI, over 3,01,152 earthen lamps were lighted at the event named as Ayodhya Deepostav 2018. The event entered the Guinness Book of Record for lighting these lamps.

On October 16, Yogi Adityanath had announced to rename the historic city of Allahabad to Prayagraj, ahead of the 2019 Kumbh Mela. The move had drawn flak from the Opposition parties, including Congress and the Samajwadi Party. Akhilesh Yadav, former CM of Uttar Pradesh blasted Yogi, saying he wanted to show that he is working just by changing names of places. "They have even re-named Ardh Kumbh to Kumbh. This is toying with tradition and belief," he said.

As politics heats over Sabarimala, Kerala BJP president booked

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP): Kerala police booked Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president PS Sreedharan Pillai for his speech claiming credit for the Sabarimala agitation, on a day his party launched a rath yatra (chariot campaign) to protect the Lord Ayyappa temple's traditions and rituals and the Congress announced rallies covering the entire state.

The case was registered in Kozhikode on Thursday on a complaint by journalist Shybin alleging that Pillai had recently instigated activists to protest against the entry of women of child-bearing age into the hill shrine, police said. Reacting to this, Pillai accused the CPI(M) and the Congress of 'witch hunting' and trying to 'tarnish' his image.

On September 29, the Supreme Court had allowed entry of all women into the temple, triggering protests by various groups that kept them out on October 17 when the doors were thrown open. Addressing youth leaders later, Pillai had claimed that the protests were planned and executed by his party.

On Thursday, within hours of former Karnataka chief minister BS Yeddyurappa flagging off the rath yatra aimed at expanding the BJP influence in the state before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls,



stones were pelted in Payyanur in the evening. Immediately, the BJP called for a statewide protest on Friday. Pillai and Tushar Vellapally, leader of Bharath Dharma Jana Sena, an ally of the NDA in Kerala, are leading the 'Sabarimala Samrakshana Rath Yatra'. The Congress too announced five rallies across the state. Five senior leaders, including K Sudhakaran and K Muralidharan, will be leading the rallies.

On Thursday, the Kerala high court

rejected the bail application of Kochi resident Govind Madhusudhan, arrested in connection with the Sabarimala protests. "The protests at Sabarimala are not acceptable as it is against the verdict of the Supreme Court," the court said. "If the bail application is considered, it will send wrong signals and similar incidents will recur."

Police have arrested at least 3,700 people in connection with the violence.

Source: HT

'Nov 19 day of reckoning': P Chidambaram ahead of key RBI meet

NEW DELHI (TIP): Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Thursday accused the Narendra Modi government of trying to "capture" the Reserve Bank of India to tide over its fiscal crisis, warning that any such move would be "catastrophic", reports PTI

"The government stares at a fiscal deficit crisis... The government wants to step up the expenditure in an election year. Finding all avenues closed, in desperation, the government has demanded Rs 1 lakh crore from the reserves of RBI," the former finance minister said at a press conference.

He said the Centre is planning to issue a direction under Section 7 of the RBI Act, 1934, directing the central bank to transfer Rs 1 lakh crore to the government's account.

"The day of reckoning is November 19 when the RBI board is scheduled to meet. The government has packed the RBI board with its handpicked nominees and is making every attempt to ram through its proposal at the meeting," Chidambaram said, according to PTI.

"If the RBI either defies the government or RBI governor resigns, in either events, the consequence will be catastrophic," he added.

Though differences between the government and RBI have peaked this year over a number of issues, including the central bank's handling of the Nirav Modi crisis and the latter's firm stand on bringing weak banks under prompt corrective action, the latest reason for the escalation is the liquidity crisis being faced by Non Banking Financial Company (NBFCs).

While NBFCs have approached the government complaining of a liquidity crunch and are seeking government support, the central bank is of the view that there is no liquidity problem, according to Livemint.



Uniting opposition to 'save Indian democracy', says Chandrababu Naidu

BENGALURU (TIP): TDP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday met Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) supremo HD Deve Gowda in Bengaluru in a bid to unite the opposition parties against the BJP ahead of the 2019 general elections.

"The meeting with former Prime Minister Deve Gowda and Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy was an initial exercise to unite the opposition parties," Naidu told reporters after an hour-long meet at Gowda's residence in the city's southwestern suburb.

The opposition parties will work together to "save" Indian democracy, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo said.

"Under the NDA government, all autonomous institutions like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been destroyed," he added.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's policies like demonetisation have thrown the country's economy into a crisis, Naidu claimed.

"It is the responsibility of the opposition parties to join hands and save the democracy," he stressed.

Naidu's meeting with the JD-S leaders comes a week after he met Congress President Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on November 1 as part of his effort to unify the opposition.

"We discussed the future course of action for forging an alliance ahead of the 2019 general elections," Gowda told reporters after the meeting.

The meeting with Naidu was to bring together the "secular forces" in the country, said Kumaraswamy.

"Chandrababu Naidu is working hard, as a coordinator, to unite the secular parties ahead of the upcoming general elections. We (Naidu and JD-S leadership) share good political arithmetics and have been friends," the Chief Minister added.

AHEAD OF PM'S VISIT, BLAST KILLS 5 IN CHHATTISGARH



RAIPUR (TIP): Four civilians and a CISF jawan were killed in an IED blast inside a bus, suspected to be the handiwork of Naxals, in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Thursday, ahead of PM Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Jagdalpur district, about 100 km from Dantewada, on Friday to campaign for the BJP.

Also, two personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) were injured in the third Naxal attack in 15 days in the poll-bound state.

The IED explosion took place in a hilly area in Bachel, about 450 km from here, when the CISF personnel were returning to their camp in Akashnagar after purchasing groceries, Dantewada SP Abhishek Pallava said.

"The Naxals triggered a powerful IED blast, killing a CISF jawan, the bus driver, conductor, cleaner and another person, who is yet to be identified," he said.

The private bus was allotted to the CISF team deployed in the Bailadila mining area of the National Mining Development Corporation in Dantewada for election duty.

On October 30, three police personnel and a Doordarshan cameraman were killed in a Maoist attack in Dantewada's Aranpur area. Prior to that, on October 27, four CRPF personnel were killed and two injured after Maoists blew up a bulletproof bunker vehicle in Bijapur district. The Naxalites have asked voters to boycott the Assembly polls, to be held in two phases.

Source: PTI

CBI vs CBI: Verma meets CVC, refutes corruption charges



CBI Director Alok Verma (left) and Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

NEW DELHI (TIP): CBI Director Alok Verma on Thursday met Central Vigilance Commissioner K V Chowdary and denied corruption charges levelled against him by his deputy and special director in the probe agency Rakesh Asthana, officials said.

Verma came to the CVC office in the late afternoon and stayed there for about two hours, they said.

He met Chowdary and Vigilance Commissioner Sharad Kumar, the officials said, without giving any other details.

The Supreme Court had on October 26 asked the Central Vigilance Commission to complete within two weeks its inquiry into allegations against Verma levelled by Asthana.

Verma and Asthana have been sent on leave by the government.

The Commission had recently examined some CBI officials probing crucial cases which figured in Asthana's complaint of corruption against the probe agency's chief Verma, they said.

The officials said CBI personnel from the rank of inspector up to superintendent of police were called and their versions recorded before a senior CVC official.

Source: PTI

IAAC DIWALI: Musical Celebration of Lights and Life

By Mabel Pais

"Music has connected the world and is the common expression of every human being" Maestro Amjad Ali Khan

"The most charismatic performer of Indian Ragas..." The New York Times

"...the finest living exponent of the sarod" The Guardian

Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan's concert 'Musical Celebration of Lights and Life' was presented by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) on November 3, at Symphony Space, Manhattan, New York City.

The theme of the concert was "Diwali, The Festival Of Lights".

The event was enthusiastically attended by about 600 leading members of the Indian diaspora from the fields of the arts and culture, entertainment, sports, finance, and medicine, among other fans.

The evening began with an address by IAAC board member Anurag Harsh, who thanked the patrons and IAAC members for supporting Indian arts. Chairman Dr. Nirmal Mattoo spoke of his long association with Amjadji.

This was followed by the lamp lighting ceremony to kick off the Diwali concert. Besides, the stage was lit with diyas and flowers giving a very festive appearance.

THE CONCERT

The concert was in 3 sections.

The first section or the appetizer to the "main course" as his younger son Ayaan put it, was performed by his sons, Amaan Ali Bangash (older) and Ayaan Ali Bangash (younger). They played Raag Jhinjhoti in 2 compositions with 9 1/2 beats and 16 beats.

The second set or the "main course" brought Khan Saheb, as he is popularly called, to the stage. Accompanying the Maestro on the stage were Anubrata Chatterjee, son and disciple of Pandit Anindo Chatterjee and Amit Kavthekar, disciple of Alla Rakha Khan Saheb and Ustad Zakir Hussain.

Commending IAAC for their service, he also spoke about his association with New York City, coming here as a young boy in 1963. "Music has connected the world and is the common expression of every human being" he said. It being Diwali, he decided on melodies played at the time of roshni, melodies that have the happiness of light and also sadness of entering a different world. He started with Raag Shyama Gauri with 14 beats time cycle.

The next piece played was Raag Saraswati, which is a rare raga, having no record of this raga on sarod and hence is difficult, technically. Another composition was Raag Durga. Both are named after goddesses and are so different musically, but they come with a beautiful message.

In addition, celebrations continued for #GandhiAt150 with the maestro playing a few songs popularized by Mahatma Gandhi.

Khan Saheb noted that most of the songs are based on language whether folk music, Dhrupad, Dhamar, Thumri etc. In the 13th century sufi saint Hazrat Amir Khusrau created the qawwali with many new instruments, new ragas. He created a new style of singing called tarana that doesn't deal with language, so he created a language of music, of syllables. Khan Saheb having composed many taranas, sang one



Maestro Amjad Ali Khan



left to right: Anubrata Chatterjee, Amaan Ali Bangash, Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Bangash, Amit Kavthekar



Amaan Ali Bangash, Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Bangash

Photos / Courtesy IAAC.

at the concert in Raag Bahar. His next piece was Raag Malkauns composition in Jhaptal 10 beats time cycle with a taarana of different kind.

In conclusion of his solo, he played the devotional songs which were also favorites of Mahatma Gandhi, Vaishnava Jana To and Ram Dhun. In the third set, joining him on stage were his older son Amaan Ali Bangash and younger son Ayaan Ali Bangash. They played Raag Desh, a composition in a beautiful melody and the Bengali song by Tagore Ekla Chalo Re.

Amjad ji spoke to the audience, explaining the necessity to file his nails on stage, as there are grooves in his nails, after each item. Sarod cannot be played with fingertips and the musician needs to press with the edge of the fingernails to bring out the resonance, to bring out the human emotions.

Khan Saheb also spoke of Tagore, who was a great poet and also a great composer. The maestro had the honor of playing with the great singer Suchitra Mitra and had made an album of 10 songs of Tagore. Most of Tagore's songs were based on Indian classical Ragas but Tagore took liberty with them. Only a genius can do that and only another genius such as Amjad Ali Khan Saheb can play as melodiously

as he did this evening. Ending the event, host Anurag Harsh, whom the maestro had praised earlier in the evening, wished the audience a very happy Diwali. The event was followed by a dinner and VIP reception.

ABOUT MAESTRO AMJAD ALI KHAN

He is India's most celebrated classical musician and an undisputed master of the Sarod, a stringed instrument used in classical Indian music. He is the seventh generation of musicians playing the same instrument, being heir to a long and distinguished musical lineage. He gave his first performance at age six and has since performed his own compositions with the finest orchestras and ensembles in venues around the world, including an acclaimed performance at the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Concert in Norway. The Grammy-nominated musician has won many prestigious awards including the Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum, UNICEF's National Ambassadorship, and India's prestigious awards, the Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award for music.

Based on his belief that music transcends all, he has broadened the appeal of Indian music

and its spirit throughout the world, transcending race, region and generation. In the current political climate, there is even more reason to find commonality and feel inclusive. Human emotions are universal and are the common thread binding us as a community. Khan affirms "Since my childhood, I always wanted my instrument, the Sarod to be able to express the entire range of human emotions...to Sing, Shout, Whisper and cry. All the emotions! It has been a long journey so far and by the benevolence of the heavens, the Sarod has become far more expressive than it was 35 years ago."

Khan has had a long association with New York. In his own words, "New York holds a very special place in my heart and my association with this city goes back nearly fifty-five years. Today, I feel so happy to see the awareness and love that Indian music has generated over the period of time, especially in this part of the

world."

To learn more about Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and his sons, visit www.sarod.com.

ABOUT INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL:

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. The Council works cooperatively with colleagues around the United States to broaden its collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. The focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. For more information or to become a member, visit www.iaac.us.

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SRK'S ZERO IN TROUBLE FOR HURTING SENTIMENTS OF SIKHS

Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) general secretary, Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday filed a complaint against Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan for allegedly hurting the sentiments of the Sikh community in his upcoming venture Zero.

In a complaint filed at the North Avenue Police Station, Sirsa has said that they have received a number of complaints from the Sikh Sangat.

In the complaint, Sirsa alleged that in the promo of the movie, actor Shah Rukh Khan has been shown wearing 'Gatra Kirpan' (Article of Sikh Faith) in their movie promo which has created an outrage among Sikh community worldwide.

The Akali Dal legislator told the police that according to the Sikh Rehat Maryada only an 'Amritdhari Sikh' can wear Gatra Kirpan. He further urged the police to lodge FIR against the movie. He also requested the authorities that the promo of the upcoming movie Zero showing actor Shah Rukh Khan wearing Gatra Kirpan, should be stopped without any further delay.

He further said that in the promo, the film star not only appears wearing the Kirpan but also the poster shows the star in a lighter mood thereby further showing the Sikh article of faith in a lighter vein. He added that Sikhs cannot tolerate such mischievous acts either in films or in real life. Sirsa further added, "Sikh Guru Sahiban have given enough power and strength to the Sikhs to fight with such situations if they arise in their life."

Source: ANI

ARJUN SHIELDS MALAIKA FROM PAPARAZZI AS THEY HEAD OUT FOR DINNER DATE

As rumours of the romance gain steam, actor Arjun Kapoor and reality show host Malaika Arora were spotted on a dinner date on Tuesday. Arjun and Malaika were seen waddling through a sea of fans and paparazzi outside a restaurant in Mumbai's Bandra.

Arjun was seen in a big black jacket while Malaika wore a white tank top and denims. While she kept her head low to avoid the camera flashes, Arjun put his arms around her to shield her from the crowd. Arjun was heard asking their fans to give them space as they made their way through.

The two were also seen at designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla's Diwali bash. Both came dressed in their festive best but weren't spotted together. They also reportedly celebrated Malaika's birthday in Italy last month and were spotted holding hands at the airport.

Upon her return to India, film director and Malaika's co-judge on India's Got Talent, Karan Johar, teased her about her holiday and if she went alone or not. He shared the video of his interrogation of Malaika on Instagram but she blushing denied to answer his question.

Malaika and Arjun are rumoured to have been in a relationship since last year. However, they kept their public appearances to a minimum all this while. It is only recently that they have started heading out together.

A report in Filmfare also suggests that the two will tie the knot soon. "Malaika and Arjun are extremely fond of each other. They have never really spoken about each other but they are extremely happy in their own personal space. In a steady relationship now, Malaika and Arjun plan to take their relationship to next level and tie the knot next year," a source told the magazine.

Malaika and her actor husband Arbaaz Khan got divorced in 2015 and continue to be friends, making frequent appearances together with their son.

Source: HT



Parineeti Chopra demands \$5 million from Nick Jonas as shoe-hiding fee

Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra has once again demanded \$5 million from her cousin Priyanka Chopra's fiancé, Nick Jonas, as shoe-hiding fee.

Parineeti's demand came in response to Nick's comment on her Instagram post of Priyanka's bachelorette party in Amsterdam

The actor shared a picture of herself and Priyanka on which Nick commented saying, "Wow she is so beautiful. Any chance you could introduce me?"

In response, Parineeti said, "She is very hard to get! But I can try for you, if you agree to pay the \$5 million shoe-hiding fee!"

Earlier, during an interview with Bollywood Hungama, Parineeti was asked about the amount she's going to ask from Nick during the shoe-hiding tradition and she had revealed that she will demand \$5 million.

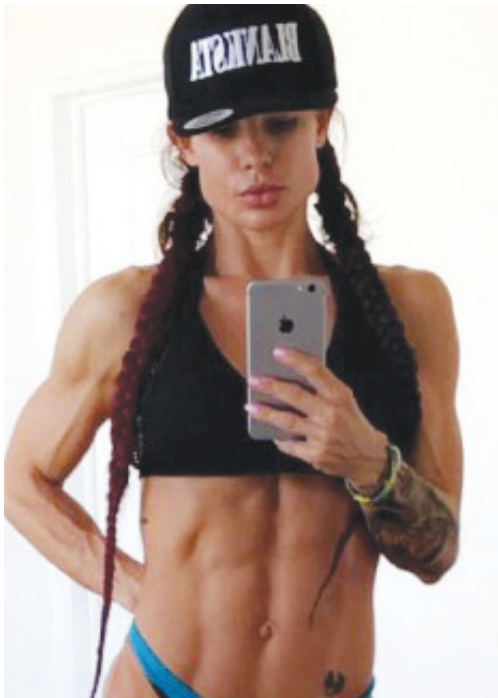
Parineeti has previously called Nick the

Parineeti Chopra already has a way to make a little profit off her cousin Priyanka Chopra's wedding to Nick Jonas. Here is what she has planned

perfect man for her cousin. "I always wondered who Mimi didi (Priyanka) was going to marry. I always thought who that guy would be. And when you meet Nick, it is kind of reassuring that she has found her one, the man who is right for her. He is funny, calm, normal, simple and he loves her. She adores him and they're very much in love. They look wonderful together. I don't think there could have been a better person for her."

Priyanka and Nick will reportedly tie the knot on December 2 in Jodhpur's Mehrangarh Fort.





CELEBRITY FITNESS TRAINER MANDY BLANK FOUND DEAD AT 42

Celebrity fitness trainer Amanda "Mandy" Blank has been found dead in the bathtub of her Los Angeles home. She was 42, reports news.com.au.

Blank was discovered on Monday by a housekeeper and was pronounced dead at the scene after paramedics arrived, TMZ reported.

No drugs or alcohol were found at the scene, the report said, citing sources. An autopsy and toxicology test will determine the exact cause of death.

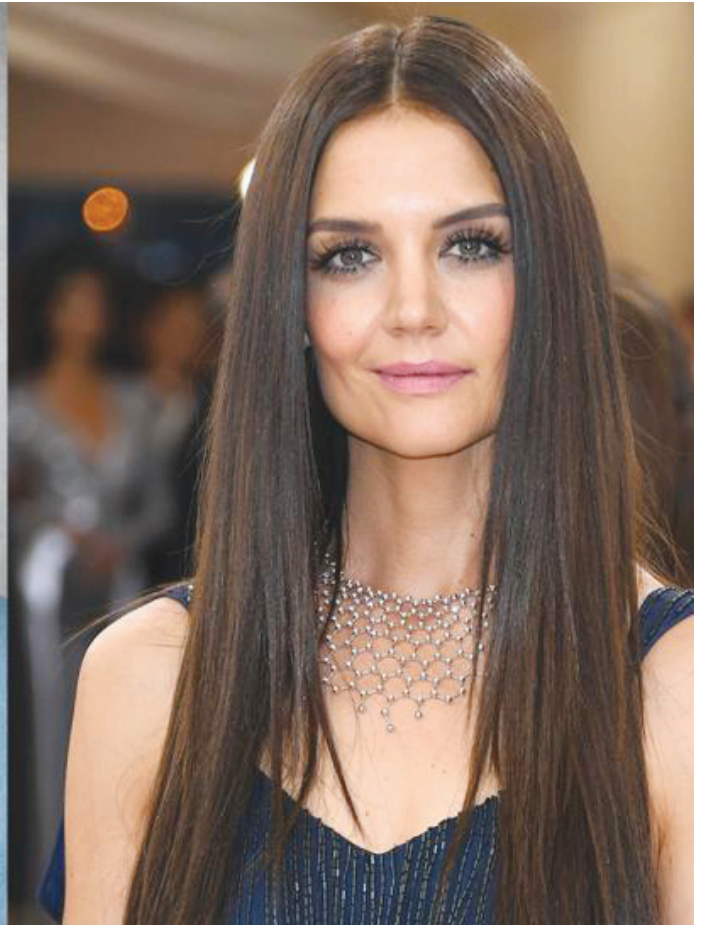
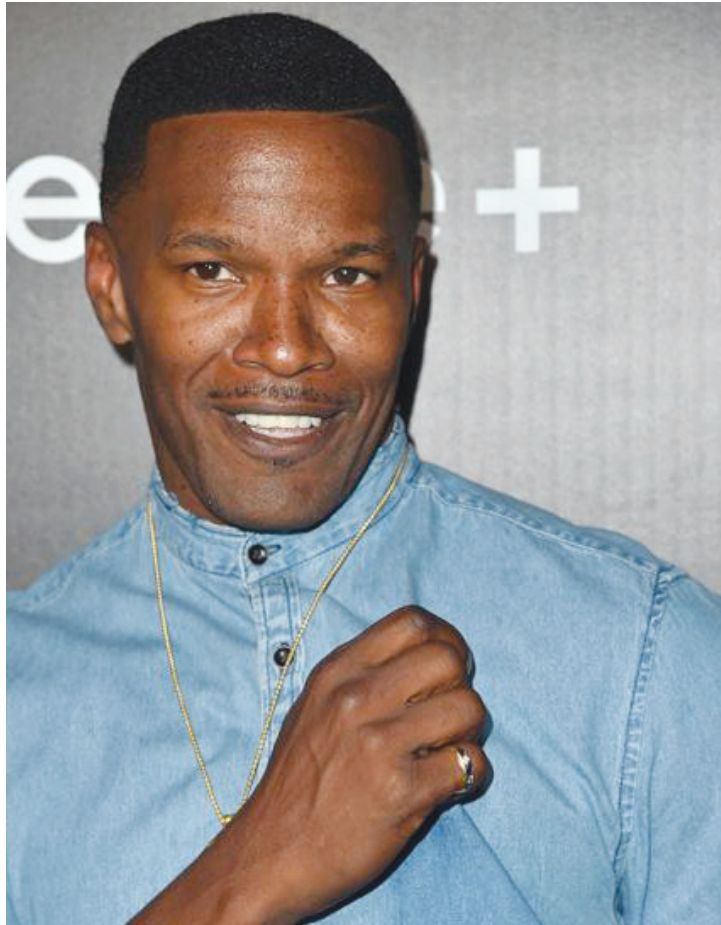
A source told the New York Daily News that there was no foul play suspected "at this time."

"I'm absolutely shocked, for sure," fellow fitness personality Annette Milbers told the Daily News. "We messaged last week. She always made other people feel great, and she had reached out to me because I competed. She said how proud she was."

Blank was also a bodybuilder, becoming the youngest competitor to win the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness World Championships in 1999.

When she was just 18 she placed 5th in World Fitness Olympia and soon after began making appearances in women's fitness and bodybuilding magazines.

KATIE HOLMES FLAUNTS DIAMOND RING. IS SHE ENGAGED TO JAMIE FOXX?



Actor Katie Holmes has sparked engagement speculations with a diamond ring she flaunted on her left hand.

She stepped out on Wednesday flaunting a sparkler, and was all smiles as she was photographed taking a break from filming while in New Orleans.

A representative for the actress told

people.com the ring is not an engagement ring. "Katie's not engaged to anyone besides her fictional movie fiance, played by Jerry O'Connell," the representative said.

Holmes is filming *The Secret*, based on the book of the same name which focuses on the power of positive thinking.

She has been linked to actor Jamie

Foxx since August 2013. The pair has been recently photographed showing more public display of affection and enjoying time together.

In September, Holmes made frequent trips to Georgia to visit Foxx while he filmed his upcoming movie *Just Mercy* where they enjoyed a bike ride and a gym session together.

Source: IANS

Hilary Duff, boyfriend Matthew Koma welcome baby daughter

American actor Hilary Duff has given birth to a beautiful baby girl, named Banks Violet Bair. On October 25, the 31-year-old star welcomed Banks with her boyfriend Matthew Koma at her Los Angeles home.

Duff took to her official Instagram account to share the happy news with her fans. She posted a photo, in which the couple can be seen all smiles holding the little one.

"Banks Violet Bair, this little bit has fully stolen our hearts! She joined our world at home on Thursday afternoon and is absolute magic," she wrote alongside the picture.

She also shared a picture on her Instagram story giving her fans a closer look at her baby.

In June, the couple had announced that they are expecting their first child together. "Guess what guys! @matthewkoma and I made a little

princess of our own and we couldn't be more excited!!!!!!" Duff said.

Koma also shared the news with his fans, writing, "We made ababygirl! She will be as beautiful and sweet as her mother... @hilaryduff another incredible chapter begins."

In early September, the couple had a sweet maternity photo shoot and Duff glowed from head to toe.

Although Koma and Duff just welcomed their daughter, an engagement is nowhere in the near future for the two. A source told E! News that they were in "no rush to get married." The insider said, "They already feel married and don't feel they need a signed document to seal the deal."

Duff also has a 6-year-old son named Luca Comrie with her ex, Mike Comrie.



VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

When Is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day occurs on November 11 every year in the United States.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11, due to the important historical significance of the date.

Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and World War II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November).

In Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

History

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings



on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

In 1958, the White House advised VA’s General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee’s chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national



holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for

their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

In the United States, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, while parades and other celebrations are held in states around the country.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American servicemembers who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

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US expands sanctions over Russia activities in Ukraine

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US imposed sanctions Thursday on three men and nine entities, including a luxury hotel on the Black Sea, as it seeks to increase pressure on Moscow over its annexation of Crimea and human rights abuses in Ukraine.

The Treasury Department sanctioned Andriy Sushko, a member of the Russian security agency known as the FSB, who is suspected in the abduction of a Crimean Tatar activist who has protested the annexation. Also on the sanctions list is Aleksandr Basov, a top separatist official in Luhansk, in eastern Ukraine, who is accused of harassing and abusing religious minorities. His employer, the Ministry of State Security in the self-proclaimed Luhansk government, was also sanctioned over the torture and abuse of detainees.

Treasury said the Mriya Resort and Spa, a five-star hotel on the southern coast of Crimea, was added because its ownership can be traced to Russia's state-owned Sberbank, which had already faced sanctions. It is also a target as the venue for the annual Yalta International Economic Forum, which is used by Russia to promote investment in Crimea. Three other hotels that were seized and sold after the annexation were also added to the list, a designation that bars any US-linked financial transactions and freezes any assets they have under American jurisdiction. Vladimir Zaritsky, a former commander of the Missile Forces and Artillery of Russia, who owns the three hotels, was also added to the list.

Russia dismissed the sanctions. "Any American attempts to score political points using events that have already become history are of course doomed to failure and will not be taken into consideration by us," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told the Interfax news agency.

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 after pushing through a separatist vote there. Moscow then went on to back separatists in eastern Ukraine in a conflict that has claimed more than 10,000 lives. (AP)

South Korea's Moon to replace finance minister this week: Report

SEOUL (TIP): South Korean President Moon Jae-in plans to replace his finance minister with another veteran bureaucrat as early as Friday, local media reported citing unnamed sources within the ruling party and the presidential office.

"As far as I am aware, the announcement (of the replacement of the finance minister) is due for this afternoon," domestic Yonhap news agency reported, citing an unnamed source at the ruling party. Another unnamed senior official at the presidential office was quoted as confirming that an announcement on replacing the finance minister is due soon.

Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon has served since June last year as Moon's first top economic policy planner. President Moon's approval rating has been falling in recent weeks as Asia's fourth-largest economy has been hobbled by worsening employment and a plunge in domestic investment.

Government plans to regulate the housing market and sharply increase minimum wages have also darkened the growth prospects. (Reuters)

Philippine lawyer who resisted Rodrigo Duterte's drug war gunned down

Benjamin Ramos is the 34th lawyer killed since Duterte became president two years ago.

MANILA (TIP): One of the founding members of a Philippine lawyers' group at the forefront of opposing President Rodrigo Duterte's lethal war on drugs was gunned down Tuesday, killed by three bullets as he was leaving his office for the night.

The lawyer, Benjamin Ramos, 56, was the 34th lawyer killed since Duterte became president two years ago. His group, the National Union of People's Lawyers, specialized in doing no-cost work for poor clients whose families have been targeted by police, soldiers and death squads associated with the president's drug war.

"We are shocked, devastated and enraged at the premeditated, cold-blooded murder of our colleague and fellow people's lawyer," said Edre Olalia, a leader of the group. "We are disturbed and unbowed. These are dangerous times."

Initial police reports said that Ramos had just finished work when he was shot by motorcycle-riding men near the central town of Kabankalan on Tuesday night. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Colleagues described Ramos as passionately dedicated to pro-bono work for the poor, environmentalists, activists and political prisoners.

The lawyers' group said his work had angered local policemen and the military. His picture was recently included by the local police in a list of people accused of having ties to the underground communist movement, a claim the group has denied.

Jose Manuel Diokno, a human rights lawyer for another organization, the Free Legal Assistance Group, said he was outraged by the killing.

"I join the calls for the police to conduct an impartial and thorough investigation, to find the motive, the gunmen and the mastermind," Diokno said in an interview, urging the Justice Department to take the lead in the inquiry. "I ask my fellow lawyers who fight for what is right and just to continue and not be



cowed."

In a speech in August 2017, Duterte told the national police not to be daunted by rights lawyers investigating the thousands of deaths of what he called drug addicts and dealers.

"If they are obstructing justice, you shoot them," Duterte instructed police, referring to lawyers. (The president, himself a lawyer, began his political career as a prosecutor.)

He often carries a list of the names of dozens of judges, members of the armed and police forces as well as of local politicians he claims are protecting drug suspects.

Duterte has not publicly divulged how he came up with the list, although at least three mayors whose names appeared on it have been killed. Eight other mayors were also gunned down in suspicious circumstances. One of them was killed last year in a raid that left his wife and 10 other people dead. Another mayor was fatally shot during a flag-raising ceremony in July.

Olalia said that some members of the National Union of People's Lawyers had received threats, and had been labelled by police and the military as sympathetic to the

political left, in "open contempt of basic principles of the role of lawyers in democracy."

He said a colleague investigating abuses against women and children, Katherine Panguban, had recently been criticized by police for leading a fact-finding mission into the killings of nine farmers in the central city of Sagay. The military has said the farmers were recruited by a front organization for communist rebels and attributed their deaths to infighting among the cadres.

Olalia said Ramos' death would not stop the group's work. "We will be there in the trenches in defence of the defenceless," he said. "There is no other choice."

The group Human Rights Watch said Ramos' killing was proof that impunity existed under Duterte's drug war.

"It is a blow to the human rights movement in the Philippines," the group said in a statement. "We demand an impartial investigation into Ramos' murder and the many other attacks against lawyers in the Philippines and that the authorities bring the perpetrators to justice." (NYT)

"I'm Not That Stupid": Prince Charles Says Won't Meddle When He's King

LONDON (TIP): Britain's Prince Charles said he will stop speaking out on issues he feels strongly about when he becomes king as he is "not that stupid".

Speaking to the BBC ahead of his 70th birthday next week, the son of 92 year-old Queen Elizabeth said that the role of monarch was completely different to his current position as Prince of Wales.

"The idea, somehow, that I'm going to go on in exactly the same way, if I have to succeed, is complete nonsense because the two - the two situations - are completely different," he said.

Asked whether his public campaigning will continue, he said: "No, it won't. I'm not that stupid."

Britain currently has a constitutional monarchy, where the monarch has a formal role in the formation of governments but an obligation to remain neutral and no practical political power.

Charles has been outspoken on topics such as the environment and social issues. In September Charles said in an interview with GQ magazine in September that "My problem is I find there are too



many things that need doing or battling on behalf of." But he told the BBC that he would operate within "constitutional parameters" as king.

"I do realise that it is a separate exercise being sovereign. So of course I understand entirely how that should operate," he said.

But he defended his activism as heir to the throne, which includes founding the Prince's Trust charity in 1976 to support vulnerable young people.

He said: "If it's meddling to worry about the inner cities as I did 40 years ago, then if that's meddling I'm proud of it." (NDTV)

Canada apologises for turning away Nazi era ship of Jews

OTTAWA (CANADA) (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is formally apologizing on behalf of his nation for turning away a ship full of Jewish refugees trying to flee Nazi Germany in 1939. The German liner MS St. Louis was carrying 907 German Jews fleeing Nazi persecution and it also had been rejected by Cuba and the United States. The passengers were forced to return to Europe and more than 250 later died in the Holocaust.

Trudeau called the apology long overdue. Trudeau said in Parliament Wednesday that officials at the time used Canadian laws to mask anti-Semitism.

In the run-up to World War II and the ensuing Holocaust, the government heeded anti-Semitic sentiment and severely restricted Jewish immigration. From 1933 to 1945, only about 5,000 Jewish refugees were accepted. (AP)

China VP Wang says Beijing ready for US talks, work for trade solutions

Trump has threatened to impose further tariffs on \$267 billion of Chinese imports into the US if the two countries cannot reach an agreement on trade, ahead of his expected meeting with Xi Jinping later this month.

BEIJING (TIP): China is ready to hold discussions and work with the United States to resolve trade disputes because the world's two largest economies stand to lose from confrontation, Vice President Wang Qishan said on Tuesday.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose further tariffs on \$267 billion of Chinese imports into the United States if the two countries cannot reach an agreement on trade, ahead of his expected meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping later this month.

"Both China and the US would love to see greater trade and economic cooperation," Wang told the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore.

"The Chinese side is ready to have discussions with the US on issues of mutual concern and work for a solution on trade acceptable to both sides," he said.

"The world today faces many major problems that require close cooperation between China and the United States," he said. "It is our firm belief that China and the US will both gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation."

Wang echoed comments by Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday at a major trade expo that Beijing will embrace greater



openness, amid mounting frictions with the United States.

Trump has railed against China for what he sees as intellectual property theft, entry barriers to U.S. business and a gaping trade deficit.

Wang said Beijing supports the settlement of international disputes via rules and consensus and stands against unilateralism and protectionism.

"Our relationship will have a direct impact on global stability and development," he said.

"Trade and economic cooperation remain the anchor and propeller of a steady and healthy China-US relationship which is in essence mutually beneficial. China will stay calm and sober-minded, embrace greater openness and work for mutual benefit." (Reuters)

Underperforming Chinese workers made to drink urine, eat bugs

BEIJING (TIP): Workers at a Chinese home renovation company who failed to complete their tasks had to drink urine, eat cockroaches or get whipped by a belt.

Others had to shave their heads or drink water from a toilet bowl and had their salaries withheld by a month, according to images and videos on Chinese social media cited by state media.

The punishments were all publicly meted out in the presence of other staff, state media said, citing workers who had quit the company in the southwestern province of Guizhou.

Forgetful staff who did not wear leather shoes to work or failed to turn up in formal attire were given 50 yuan fines.

Their misdemeanours were duly recorded in little, white slips. But most staff chose to stay despite the punishments, which started this year, state media said.

Three managers at the company were jailed from five to 10 days on the charge of humiliating others, according to a social media post by the local public security bureau.

Labour conditions in China have often been described by activists as harsh and unforgiving, with workers having to work excessive hours and live in cramped quarters on meagre wages. At the Guizhou company, many of the punished showed little outward sign of unhappiness, according to state media, choosing instead to accept their fate. (Reuters)

Saudi Arabia rule change may bar Israeli pilgrims from Mecca visit

MECCA (TIP): Israeli Muslims will not be able to reach Mecca for the annual hajj pilgrimage because of a change in passport regulations by Saudi Arabia, the Haaretz newspaper reported. The new rules close a loophole that allowed passage from Israel, which does not have diplomatic relations with the Saudi kingdom, home to Islam's two holiest shrines. Saudi authorities announced they will no longer accept temporary passports Jordan had issued to Israeli Muslims to facilitate the trip, Haaretz said.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a text message that the government is "checking the situation." Jordanian religious authorities in Jerusalem declined to comment. The development comes despite growing covert ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia, driven by a shared fear of Iran. With Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman coming under international pressure after dissident columnist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said recently the incident shouldn't be allowed to destabilize the kingdom.

Palestinians Affected According to Haaretz, the change also affects Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip who hold temporary Jordanian passports, though not those with Palestinian travel documents. Salim Alashqar, a Palestinian Authority official responsible for the pilgrimage, said "thousands" of Israeli Arabs and Palestinians will be affected. "We have gotten complaints from citizens who were refused visas for the hajj to enter Saudi Arabia with a temporary Jordanian passport," Alashqar said. (Bloomberg)

Iran oil waivers: How India, China are lining up after US exemptions

TEHRAN (TIP): The exemptions mean at least some supplies from OPEC's third-biggest producer will keep flowing into international markets, after its exports plunged almost 40% since April -- the month before Washington announced the curbs. In a bid to keep customers, the state-run National Iranian Oil Co. has been offering record discounts on its crude.

Almost all major buyers of Iran's oil had negotiated with the US for the waivers, arguing that cutting purchases to zero would affect their energy industries and boost fuel costs. US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo has defended the exemptions and said the Trump administration's campaign to pressure Iran has already reduced exports by over 1 million barrels a day and they'll continue to shrink.

A summary of plans by some of Iran's biggest oil customers and what they may buy under the waivers is set out below. This story will be updated as new information becomes available. The exemptions have been granted for 180 days, and will be reviewed toward the end of the period.

SOUTH KOREA: Waiver: Up to 200,000 barrels a day of condensate Purchases before sanctions: 300,000 barrels a day (condensate) in 2017

While the Asian country was the third-biggest importer of Iranian oil, it was the first major buyer to cut purchases to zero as the U.S. prepared to impose sanctions. It's now

allowed to buy as much as 200,000 barrels a day, though actual imports may not be that high.

Purchases must be limited to cargoes of condensate, a type of ultra-light oil that's critical for South Korea because many of the nation's plants are geared to process it. The country bought about 300,000 barrels a day of South Pars condensate from Iran in 2017.

The government is said to be in discussion with companies to decide how to split the import volume. They'll maintain a won-based payment system with Iran, making deposits into local escrow accounts in Industrial Bank of Korea and Woori Bank. The money won't directly go to Iran, which can only use it to buy food, medicine or other non-sanctioned goods from its customers.

INDIA: Waiver: Up to 300,000 b/d Purchases before sanctions: 560,000 b/d in Jan.-Oct. 2018. The South Asian nation was one of the most vocal negotiators for an exemption from the US, as the government faced protests over rising fuel costs before national elections next year.

Under the exemptions, it will be allowed to import as much as 300,000 barrels a day. That's under Iran's average daily exports to the nation of about 560,000 barrels this year, and almost 450,000 barrels in 2017, shipping data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Indian refiners are expected to buy about 9 million barrels of oil for loading in November from Iran. They too will make payments into a

local escrow account for the crude supply.

CHINA: Waiver: 360,000 b/d Purchases before sanctions: 658,000 b/d in Jan.-Sept. 2018

The biggest buyer of Iran's crude is allowed to import 360,000 barrels a day under the exemptions, according to people with knowledge of the matter. That doesn't include oil produced by projects in the Islamic Republic in which Chinese companies have equity.

While China had bought about 658,000 barrels a day over the first nine months of this year, the government was said to have told at least two state oil companies to avoid purchasing the producer's oil before the sanctions went into effect. That decision preceded an upcoming meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. counterpart Donald Trump and coincided with flaring trade tensions between the countries. Chinese ship owners had also stopped hauling Iranian oil.

JAPAN: Waiver: TBC Purchases before sanctions: About 160,000 b/d in Jan.-Sept. 2018

The nation's refiners are likely to restart imports of Iranian oil now that it's one of the eight recipients of exemptions, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko told reporters on Tuesday. While JXTG Holdings Inc., the country's biggest refiner, echoed that view, it's still considering whether to resume purchases from the Persian Gulf state, according to Senior Vice President Yasushi Onoda. (Bloomberg)

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS FOR GLOWING SKIN

Oranges, berries, peppers, tomatoes, melons and broccoli are all high in vitamin C, which is so important in helping you get that vibrant, healthy glow while building healthy tissue and skin. Carrots, broccoli, spinach and kale are high in vitamin A, another beauty nutrient that your skin and eyes just love.

Carrots

Carrot is a powerhouse of benefits. It is rich in beta-carotene, which is converted into Vitamin A in the liver and is good for the eyes. It has anti-cancer properties and helps reduce the risk of lung, breast and colon cancer. It also helps slow down cell ageing and can be used on cuts to prevent infection.

Beauty tip: Carrots are rich in Vitamin A and antioxidants, that protect the skin from sun damage. To get rid of dry skin and pigmentation, apply a mixture of carrot juice, one tablespoon of olive oil and fresh cream over your face, hand and neck regularly.

Peas

Peas contain high amounts of polyphenol that helps prevent stomach cancer. A cup of peas has less than 100 calories, but is loaded with protein and fibre. It is also high in antioxidants and has anti-ageing properties. Regular consumption of peas helps prevent bronchitis, osteoporosis and constipation, regulates blood sugar, heart disease and reduces accumulation of bad cholesterol.

Beauty tip: For smooth and wrinkle-free skin, mix powdered pea with papaya pulp and rose water. Apply it as a face pack and wash off with cold water.

Spinach

Spinach helps restore energy, increase vitality and improve blood quality. It is low on calories, very high on fibre, and is an excellent source of Vitamins K, A, B2, C and folic acid. It's also a good source of iron, manganese and magnesium. So, eating a bowl of spinach every day increases muscle efficiency, relaxes the body, reduces hypertension and risk of skin cancer.

Beauty tip: Spinach contains huge amounts of Vitamins A and C, which stimulate hair growth. Take a cup of boiled spinach pulp and mix it with one tablespoon of honey and castor oil. Apply it on the scalp and hair and wash it off with shampoo after 30 minutes.

Cabbages

It's nutritious, helps in weight loss and prevent cholesterol accumulation. It's an excellent source of natural antioxidants, Vitamin C and minerals like potassium, manganese, iron, and magnesium. And it helps cure constipation and regulates stomach ulcers. It reduces headaches and heart diseases. Raw cabbage juice is an excellent natural cure for obesity and skin inflammation.

Beauty tip: Cabbage juice can reduce hairfall and nourish the roots. It contains Vitamin E and silicon which makes tresses lustrous. Mix cabbage juice with ripe banana pulp and honey. Apply this hair mask after oiling your



hair. Keep it for about 20 minutes. Wash it off with a mild shampoo.

Grapefruit

It is rich in vitamins and minerals and helps maintain overall health, right from boosting your immune system to our metabolism. It has been found to successfully prevent formation of kidney cysts and is an excellent source of Vitamin C. It is proven to help people lose fat and maintain a healthy weight. It is also low in sodium and has high water content, which helps you feel full.

Beauty tip: People with oily skin can use grapefruit juice as a cleanser and toner. A simple grapefruit scrub made from sugar, a little oil and fresh grapefruit juice is great for your feet because it has natural anti-bacterial properties that cleanses your feet as well as softens them.

Oranges

Oranges are rich in citrus limonoids, which are known to prevent skin, lung, breast, stomach and colon cancers. Drinking orange juice regularly prevents kidney diseases and reduces the risk of kidney stones. Since oranges are full of soluble fibre, they help reduce cholesterol and constipation. They are also full of potassium, which helps the heart function well. The Vitamin C in it helps fight cancer. Studies show that polyphenols in oranges prevent viral infections and the magnesium helps maintain blood pressure.

Beauty tip: Orange peels and juice are great beauty treatment ingredients. Mix orange peel powder with curd and orange juice and make a paste. Apply evenly all over the face and neck to

flaunt glowing skin. Add some orange peel powder in your bath water to get instant glow and smooth skin.

Grapes

The Queen of Fruits is considered one of the best skincare ingredients. Loaded with phytochemicals and phytonutrients, which possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, grapes are also rich in Vitamin C that's vital for skin health. Regular consumption of grapes helps lose weight, boosts immunity, prevents constipation and is good for the eyes. They also help prevent heart diseases and reduce blood pressure.

Beauty tip: The antioxidants in grapes, along with Vitamin C, protect the skin from the harmful effects of free radicals, reduce wrinkles, dark spots and help tone the skin. Rubbing the grape pulp on the face along with honey regularly and rinsing after 20 minutes helps reduce wrinkles.

Pears

Pears help you lose weight, protects you against cancer, hypertension and diabetes and prevents osteoporosis and heart diseases. It is also rich in antioxidants and the Vitamins C, K and copper in pears fight against free radicals that damage our body cells. The fibre in it can reduce the risk of stroke to a large extent and the high glucose content gives you instant energy.

Beauty tip: To get rid of dry and damaged nails during winter, mix pear juice with malai and massage on your hands and feet. Pear juice mixed with water and honey can also be used as a conditioner to moisturise and nourish dry and damaged hair.

Natural exfoliants from your kitchen

Do you know that in order to achieve healthy, luscious skin you need to get rid of old dead cells, which reside in the deep layers of your skin?

Exfoliation, when done the right way, can make ageing skin look younger and preserve youthful appeal. And what if we tell you that the best of these exfoliants aren't expensive and are available in plenty right where you are! Excited? Read on to discover the top 5 natural exfoliants in your very own kitchen.

HONEY. A healthy and sweet addition to your skin care routine, unprocessed honey is a superb antiseptic. This is because it has anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral benefits. Loaded with antioxidants, honey helps in protecting and repairing the skin, by reducing skin inflammation too. Mix it in your hydrating facial scrub and it acts as a great moisturiser too.

YOGURT. An excellent staple food in your kitchen and healthy diet regimen, yogurt is full of lactic acid, which contains alpha hydroxyl acid (an acid present in prescription skin care treatments). Combine it with milk, and yogurt works as an excellent skin-smoothing exfoliant. All you have to do is apply yogurt on any part of your body, let it stay for 20 minutes and then rinse.

Baking soda. A must-use in baking and odor control procedures, baking soda is used extensively in high-end spa treatments. Now they may not leak it to you, but baking soda is used extensively in microdermabrasion treatments, which contains sodium bicarbonate. However, do note that the amount of baking soda you should be using on your skin should be quite moderate, as sensitive or mature skin can suffer from its harsh effects. Best would be to add a pinch of it to your facial cleanser in the morning and enjoy a spa-worthy treatment at home.

GROUND FRUIT SEEDS AND NUTS. Go for blackberry seeds or raspberry or ground almonds mixture and exfoliate your skin with these easily available ingredients. These ingredients help in removing dead cells, when massaged onto the skin in a smooth, circular motion. Avoid using sharp edged ingredients. Infact, make a puree of the nuts, almonds and readily available fruit seeds and then apply them to your skin for a softer, smoother skin.

SEA SALT. If you are looking for a facial scrub that really helps in opening your pores, then mixing sea salt with water is a great idea. Scrubbing your face with it in the morning is a great homemade exfoliation procedure. An inexpensive and quite popular body treatment at spas, sea salt scrubs help in detoxifying the body by stimulating blood circulation through vasodilation of blood capillaries inside the skin.

FOOD CORNER

Gobhi Fry

Ingredients

Cauliflower - 1 (cut into florets)
Turmeric Powder - 1/2 tsp
Red Chilly Powder - 2 tsp
Chichen 65 masala (any brand) - 1 tblsp
Ginger garlic paste - 1 tsp
Rice Flour (or corn flour) - 2 tblsp
Oil - for deep frying
Salt - to taste



Method

1. Cut the cauliflower into florets. Put it in hot salted water for about 5 minutes.
2. Drain the florets and take it in a mixing bowl.
3. Add required salt, chilly powder, turmeric powder, ginger garlic paste, chicken 65 masala and rice flour.
4. Mix well so that all the florets are coated well. The moisture in the florets will help the spices to stick to it.
5. Heat oil in a kadai for deep frying. Drop a few florets and deep fry till golden brown and crispy.
6. Drain the excess oil in a kitchen towel. Fry the rest of the florets in batches.

BEWARE, PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS COULD CAUSE BREAST CANCER

Parabens used in cosmetics and personal care products may stimulate the growth of breast cancer cells, according to a new study.

Parabens are a class of preservatives widely used in consumer products. They are considered estrogenic because they activate the same estrogen receptor as the natural hormone estradiol.

Studies have linked exposure to estradiol and related estrogens with an increased risk of breast cancer, as well as reproductive problems. "Although parabens are known to mimic the growth effects of estrogens on breast cancer cells, some consider their effect too weak to cause harm," said lead investigator Dale Leitman, from University California, Berkeley in US.

"But this might not be true when parabens are combined with other agents that regulate cell growth," said Leitman.

Existing chemical safety tests, which measure the effects of chemicals on human cells, look only at parabens in isolation and fail to take into account that parabens could interact with other types of signalling molecules in the cells to increase breast cancer risk.

In the study, researchers looked at breast cancer cells expressing two types of receptors - estrogen receptors and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2).

Approximately 25 per cent of breast cancers produce an abundance of HER2. HER2-positive tumours tend to grow and spread more aggressively than other types of breast cancer.

The researchers activated the HER2 receptors in breast cancer cells with a growth factor called heregulin that is naturally made in breast cells, while exposing the cells to parabens.

Not only did the parabens trigger the estrogen receptors by turning on genes



that caused the cells to proliferate, then effect was significant.

The parabens in the HER2-activated cells were able to stimulate breast cancer cell growth at concentrations 100 times lower than in cells that were deprived of heregulin. The study demonstrates that

parabens may be more potent at lower doses than previously thought, which may spur scientists and regulators to rethink the potential impacts of parabens on the development of breast cancer, particularly on HER2 and estrogen receptor positive breast cells.

Lack of sleep is bad for your kidneys: Study

Do you know how vital it is for us to sleep better every night? People are more likely to experience a rapid decline in kidney function if they don't get enough sleep, says a new study.

Shorter sleep duration can lead to a more rapid decline in kidney function, says a new study.

Many of the body's processes follow a natural daily rhythm or so-called circadian clock that is based on regular sleep-wake cycles. The study found that kidney function may be compromised when this natural cycle is disrupted.

Researchers led by Ciaran Joseph McMullan from Brigham and Women's Hospital analysed information on 4,238 participants from the Nurses' Health Study with kidney function measurements on at least two occasions over an 11-year period.

The researchers found that shorter sleep duration was significantly linked with a more rapid decline in kidney function.

As an example, women sleeping for five hours per night had a 65 percent increased likelihood of experiencing a rapid decline in kidney function compared with women sleeping seven to eight hours per night.

"This is the first prospective study to find that shorter sleep duration is associated with a more rapid decline in renal function," said McMullan.

"The findings of this paper coupled with research from others suggest that renal physiology may be adversely affected by disruption in sleep, including sleep restriction," McMullan added.



Calorie-burning ways to lose weight fast without diet or exercise

Burning extra calories throughout the day can be super easy. All it takes is a little planning and creativity. Check out these simple ways to burn more calories and keep your body toned without hitting the gym:

Choose the stairs when you can

There's a reason this tip is a classic: It works. "Whenever you have the opportunity, take stairs. If there are no stairs, walk up the escalator; don't stand still," says Sharma. Climbing stairs — whether it's at your office or apartment — not only helps burn calories, but tones the legs.

Enjoy a refreshing swim in the pool

Moving through the water even at a slow pace gives you an aerobic workout that tones your entire body, says Sharma. Swimming is a great full-body



exercise and regular swimming will help maintain your weight.

Out of town and no gym?

When possible, see the sights by walking the streets of whichever place you're visiting, says Sharma. Or on your

daily commute, get off the bus or Metro a stop early. And if you drive, park far away.

Instead of taking your whole lunch break to eat, try splitting your lunch break in half and squeeze in a small workout. "Instead of browsing the internet at your desk, get outside and walk. A mid-workday walk will do wonders for both your physical and mental health," says Dr Amita Mishra, general practitioner at Max Healthcare.

When you're not in the gym, stay active at home. Burn calories while making your house more beautiful with gardening. Constantly bending to reach plants is great for your gluteal muscles. "Ultimately, it's all about moving as much as possible — even though the little things, like gardening, seem insignificant, it all adds up to a healthy, active lifestyle.

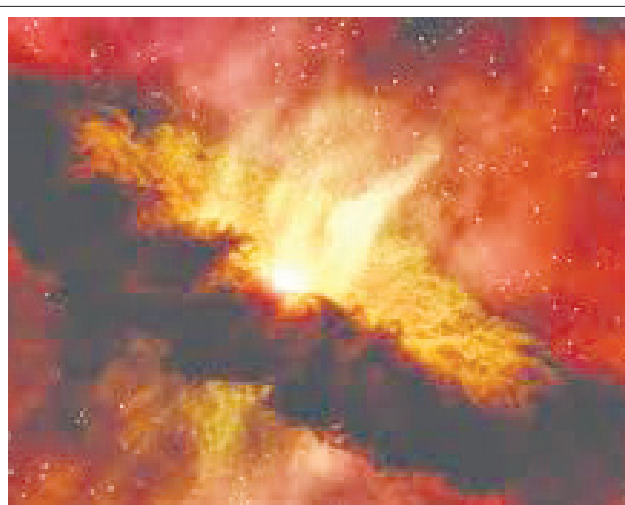
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STAR WITH ORIGINS CLOSE TO BIG BANG DISCOVERED

Astronomers have discovered what could be one of the universe's oldest stars, a 13.5 billion-year-old body almost entirely made of materials spewed from the Big Bang.

The discovery of the tiny star means more stars with very low mass and very low metal content are likely out there -- perhaps even some of the universe's very first stars.

The star is unusual because unlike other stars with very low metal content, it is part of the Milky Way's "thin disk" -- the part of the galaxy in which our Sun resides.

Researchers said that it is possible that our galactic neighbourhood is at least 3 billion years older than previously thought.

"This star is maybe one in 10 million. It tells us something very important about the first generations of stars," said lead author Kevin Schlaufman, an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University in the US.

The universe's first stars after the Big Bang would have consisted entirely of elements like hydrogen, helium, and small amounts of lithium.

Those stars then produced elements heavier than helium in their cores and seeded the universe with them when they exploded as supernovae.

The next generation of stars formed from clouds of material laced with those metals, incorporating them into their makeup. The metal content, or metallicity, of stars in the universe increased as the cycle of star birth and death continued.

Source: PTI



Ultralight 'supermaterial' made using plastic bottle waste

Scientists have developed a way to convert plastic bottle waste into flexible and durable aerogels that could be used for heat and sound insulation in buildings, oil spill cleaning, and as a lightweight lining for firefighter coats and masks.

Plastic waste is toxic and non-biodegradable. Such waste often ends up in oceans and landfills, affecting marine life and causing problems such as groundwater contamination and land scarcity.

Globally, the annual consumption of plastic bottles has been rising steadily, and it is expected to exceed half a trillion tons per year by 2021.

"Plastic bottle waste is one of the most common type of plastic waste and has detrimental effects on the environment," said Hai Minh Duong, an associate professor at National University of Singapore (NUS).

Plastic bottles are commonly made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is the most recycled plastic in the world.

"Our team has developed a simple, cost-effective and green method to convert plastic bottle waste into PET aerogels for many exciting uses," said Duong.

Source: PTI

MICROSOFT WORD TO SOON GET 'TO-DO' FEATURE

Microsoft is testing a "to-do" feature on Word that would enable users to come back to a document, view a list of their remaining to-dos, navigate to the right spot and fill-in additional information including images and charts to complete the document without confusion.

"The new capabilities to Word that help users create and fill in these placeholders without leaving the flow of their work. For example, type TODO: finish this section or <<insert closing here>> and Word recognizes and tracks them as to-dos," Jared Spataro, Corporate Vice President for Microsoft 365, wrote in a blog post on Wednesday.

The test functionality, which is first reaching Office Insiders using Mac, would also allow co-workers and friends to complete the tasks mentioned in the to-do list.

Users would have to mention them within a placeholder and Word would send them a notification with a deep link to the relevant place in the document so that they are able to insert their



contributions which would be added directly into the document, Spataro added. Microsoft plans to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Office to help fill in information in left out placeholders.

"In the next few months, Word will use Microsoft Search to suggest content for a to-do like <<insert chart of

quarterly sales figures>>. You will be able to pick from the results and insert content from another document with a single click," the post said.

Microsoft said it would release the feature on Word for Windows, Mac and web very soon to all Office 365 subscribers.

Source: IANS

FACEBOOK MESSENGER TO GET WHATSAPP-LIKE 'DELETE FOR EVERYONE' FEATURE

Facebook will be rolling out a new feature to Messenger which will let users unsend messages within 10 minutes of sending.

Facebook's plans of working on an unsend button for Messenger has been in the news for quite some time now. The company also confirmed the feature which it will release soon. More evidence for this feature was spotted by a Twitter user, The Verge reported.

This feature was listed as "coming soon" in the release notes for version 191.0 of Messenger v191.0 for iOS.

"Coming soon: Remove a message from a chat thread after it's been sent. If you accidentally send the wrong photo, incorrect information or message the wrong thread, you can easily correct it by removing the message within ten minutes of sending it," read the description.

The feature was first discovered and tweeted about by an engineer named Jane Manchun Wong in October while it was being tested.

Amid the data breach and other scandals, the company had been silently deleting messages which were shared through Messenger by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg after which the



company said that the ability to retract messages would also be made available to all Messenger users, media had reported in April.

However, no specific date has been announced by the company as to by when would the functionality be finally available for users.

Earlier in March, Facebook released the "delete for everyone" feature on WhatsApp that provides the users an hour-long window to remove sent messages from individual as well as group chats.

Source: IANS

First 5G iPhone to hit the stores in 2020

The first 5G iPhone is likely to use an Intel modem, the 8161, and it could hit the stores in 2020, according to a report in the Fast Company.

If everything goes as planned, Intel will be the sole provider of iPhone modems, said the report.

For prototyping and testing the 5G iPhone, Intel is reportedly working on a precursor to the 8161 called the 8060.

To increase transistor density for more speed and efficiency, Intel is likely to fabricate the 8161 using its 10-nanometre process.

The performance of 8060 appears to have triggered a little tension between Apple and Intel due to "heat dissipation issues" that would both raise the temperature and hurt battery life.

However, Apple's current issues with



Intel are not serious enough to cause Apple to turn to Qualcomm for the supply of 5G modems, said the Fast Company report, based on its source. Apple declined to comment on the report.

The first 5G smartphone is expected

next year. Android phones from such manufacturers as Xiaomi, Oppo and Huawei will contain 5G modem chips made by Qualcomm which has claimed that its modems have managed the heat dissipation issues, the report said.

Source: IANS

Tata Consultancy Services faces US jury over why it fires so many Americans

SAN FRANCISCO/BANGALORE (TIP): India's IT outsourcing giant Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. needs to offer a good explanation for why engineers hired at its American outposts are 13 times as likely to be fired if they're not South Asian.

The company is set to go on trial on Monday in California over racial discrimination claims by American workers who lost their jobs at TCS offices in the US because they hadn't been assigned to any of its clients.

The trial will cast a spotlight on work visa programmes companies use to bring overseas workers to the US, a practice President Donald Trump has criticised in his protectionist push.

TCS, Asia's largest outsourcer, and rival Indian information technology staffing firms Infosys Ltd. and Wipro Ltd. have all been squeezed by the Trump administration to hire more Americans on US soil.

Mumbai-based TCS denies any unlawful bias in its US operations and says in court filings that the Caucasian American leading the lawsuit was



removed from one of its projects and ultimately terminated over "performance concerns". TCS said it can't comment specifically on the pending litigation, but believes it has a strong case and will prevail at trial.

"Our success is based on our ability to provide the best talent available, both in the US and globally, based purely on the individual's specialized experience, skills and fit for each client's specific needs," a company spokesman said. "TCS also strictly adheres to all federal

and state equal employment opportunity laws and regulations."

The jury is expected to be shown statistical evidence that the odds of race and national origin not being a factor in TCS's termination decisions are less than one in a billion. That's because, since 2011, the company fired 12.6 percent of its non-South Asian workers in the US, compared with less than 1 percent of its South Asian employees, according to the complaint.

Source: Bloomberg

TESLA REPLACES ELON MUSK, NAMES TELSTRA EXECUTIVE ROBYN DENHOLM AS CHAIR

BANGKOK (TIP): Tesla Inc said board member Robyn Denholm will replace Elon Musk as its Chair, more than a month after the billionaire had to step down as the electric-car maker's Chair as part of a settlement with US regulators.

Tesla had until Nov. 13 to name an independent board chairman under the settlement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, which said Musk's tweets about taking the company private were fraudulent and that the billionaire could retain his role as CEO but should quit as chairman.

Musk said in August he was considering taking Tesla private in a \$420 a share and that he had secured funding for a deal that was later scuttled but attracted scrutiny from several government agencies.

The appointment of Denholm caps months of turbulence for the company and its stock and investors called for stronger oversight of Musk, whose recent erratic public behavior raised concerns about his ability to steer the company through a rocky phase of growth.

Denholm is currently chief financial officer at Australian telecoms operator Telstra Corp Ltd and has been an independent director on Tesla's board since 2014.

Denholm will leave her role as CFO and head of strategy at Telstra once her six-month notice period with the company is complete, Tesla said late on Wednesday. She was appointed as Telstra's CFO in July.

Tesla said Denholm will be serving as Chair on a full-time basis and that she will temporarily step down as Chair of the company's audit committee until she leaves Telstra.

The carmaker last month quieted some critics after it reported a net profit, positive cash flow and wider-than-expected margins in the third quarter, delivering on Musk's promise to turn the company profitable.



Robyn Denholm

INDIA CAN BUY OIL FROM IRAN AS US AGREES TO WAIVER

WASHINGTON (TIP): India is set to continue oil imports from Iran with the US agreeing on waivers for eight countries regarding sanctions set to kick in on November 5 and there are no plans to cut crude purchases from Tehran to zero, people familiar with the development said. The US has agreed to let eight countries, including its strategic allies India, Japan and South Korea, to keep buying Iranian oil after it reimposes sanctions next week, an unnamed senior US administration

official was quoted as saying by Bloomberg on Friday. China too is among the countries, though terms for its waiver are being finalised, the report added.

Announcing the imposition of sanctions targeting Iran's oil and gas exports, ports and banking system, secretary of state Mike Pompeo said on a conference call with reporters the US will grant waivers to "eight jurisdictions" because they had "demonstrated significant reductions in

crude oil and cooperation on many other fronts". He said a list of the countries will be released on Monday.

India is also likely to be given a carve-out for operating Chabahar port in Iran, under a waiver clause linked to the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. The waiver is the outcome of prolonged negotiations between India and the US over the past few months, during which the Indian side highlighted its energy security concerns and problems related to finding a new supplier.

Source: HT

PNB fraud: ED attaches 11 properties of Nirav Modi in Dubai

DUBAI (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday said it had attached 11 properties worth over Rs 56 crore of fugitive diamond jeweller Nirav Modi in Dubai in connection with its money-laundering probe in the US \$2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case.

The central probe agency said the assets were in the name of "Modi and his group company M/s Firestar Diamond FZE and they bear a market value of US \$7.79 million, which is equivalent to Rs 56.8 crore".

The ED has issued a provisional order for attachment of these assets under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Last month, the agency had attached assets worth Rs 637 crore of Modi and his family members, including two apartments at New York's iconic Central Park.

Sources in the agency said the ED would soon get multiple letters rogatory



(judicial requests) issued by a Mumbai court for the legal formalisation of the attachment of these assets in coordination with its counterpart in Dubai.

Once the LRs were issued, India could freeze the foreign assets of an accused as part of a global legal cooperation in criminal matters, they added.

Modi has been absconding since the alleged bank fraud, by far the biggest in the country, came to light early this year and an Interpol arrest warrant was recently notified against him even as India is working to get him extradited from the UK, where he was last reported to have been based.

The agency has attached assets worth over Rs 700 crore of Modi and his family in the country till now. It has also filed a chargesheet against the fugitive diamond jeweller, alleging that he laundered and diverted over Rs 6,400 crore of bank funds to dummy companies abroad, which were under his and his family's control.

Modi, his uncle Mehul Choksi and others are being probed under various criminal laws, following a complaint by the PNB that they cheated the nationalised bank to the tune of over Rs 13,000 crore with the purported involvement of some of its employees.

Source: PTI



Commission rejects price-fixing allegations against Uber and Ola

Ride-sharing firms Uber and Ola did not break price-fixing rules, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said in a ruling issued late on Tuesday in response to a complaint about their technological pricing strategy.

A case brought by a private individual against the holding companies of the two firms claimed that their algorithmic pricing model "takes away the liberty of individual drivers to compete with each other and thus, amounts to price fixing".

In its judgement, the CCI ruled that there was no evidence the two companies had conspired to fix prices.

"The drivers may have acceded to the algorithmically-determined prices by the platform (but) this cannot be said to be amounting to collusion between the drivers," the CCI said.

Uber and Ola have also faced allegations from domestic rival Meru that investments in both companies by Japan's SoftBank was evidence that they were abusing their market position.

Uber declined to comment. Ola did not respond to requests for comment.

Source: Reuters



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE NOVEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 18, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says a marvelous of inspired activities and results follows last period's similar one. The activities themselves will be many and varied - there's nothing left out I could say. Home, family, parents and pets, dependents, work, performance, office, colleagues, social life, the arts and creative pursuits. You need to have the time and energy for it all, of course, but you're genuinely inspired and can definitely handle it all. You do your best in this busy, very active phase. The main thrust and focus of all your activities will definitely be finances.

Taurus:

Your schedule will be even more frantically busy. You've taken on a lot and are determined to do justice to do it all. This will be the way things are for most of the month ahead that is certain. If you were busy last period, now it's something in a different league altogether. Work, family, socializing, partying, hectic lobbying, net - working - you name it. Rest and relaxation will therefore be vital and imperative on a regular basis to prevent a burnout. Prayers, meditation, tantra and mantra, religion and rituals will give solace, strength and inspiration. Love, romance, money matters, sheer unadulterated hard and slogging are what you're busy with.

Gemini:

Journeys and relationships and acquisitions all conspire to come together, and yet you are both enthused and happy as you cope. Not just cope, you will handle them rather brilliantly, despite your hectic schedule of activities. They will center around all/some of: travel, loans, sex, passion, funds, buying/selling/shopping, (these three most certainly) and reaching out to people. Both professional networking and personal bonding will be equally important, equally valid in your mind.

Cancer:

You will start implementing your new plan/scheme for living right from this period. Journeys, travels and/or mental growth take precedence in your schedule. You will embark on both with zest and great sincerity - a) as a true learning experience, and also b) as a means of contacts, relationships/ties. You have realized both the value and relevance of genuine bonding and are keen to have the best of it all. Your own siblings, relatives and people really close to you will come to mean much more and react well to you. You will also be drawn greatly to the much more elevated plane, to intellectual activities, education and higher studies, even research.

Leo:

Another grand period, full of joys and achievements, Ganesha gives you much. Achievements, Accomplishments, wish-fulfilment, but at a price. There's always a price, remember - there are no free lunches in life as they say. But you are both willing and able to say this price - effort, sincere commitment, and of course hard work. You will concentrate on increasing your influence and status as well as your bank balance, realizing that both matter equally to you. Money issue will be handled with both flair and wisdom, especially your resources, income so that you can maximize them. Expenses have to be addressed and dealt with.

Virgo:

From the last period where you zeroed in on finances and achievements, you shift your focus to your good interactions and bonding with people you care for. Games, parties, ceremonies and functions, lots of publicity and lots of business activities. Your mood will be very focused on - loving, giving and sharing. It is truly this cementing of ties is probably what you enjoy the most, even at your party and socialize. Alongside, the mental stresses will continue in your money angle, and you'll still have to give income and assets a lot of attention. Ganesha says - brokerage, commission agencies, ties and collaboration will all prove fulfilling.

Libra:

You're able to really relax, let go of your worries. Peace and harmony, striving for balance and Excellence, and above all, realizing the value and place of domestic commitments, will make you both happy and contented. Your personal, intimate life of love, and bonding, as well as family attachments and caring will be of paramount importance. You will try to seek and find these in love, romance, marriage, or in a relationship that brings the same kind of ties. Your own responses are strong too.

Scorpio:

Your ties and bounds have been reinforced, and there has been quite a shift in your thinking and focus. All these lead you to enjoy rather than resent your daily round of activities - domestic chores and commitments/duties at home and at work, family and filial responsibilities will all be handled with sensitivity and grace to your own gain. The main thrust of activities will definitely deal with house, home, land, property, building or matters connected with all of the above.

Sagittarius:

You've put your house in order, both literally and figuratively, over the past period. This period will therefore be really and truly time to relax and be happy. Have a load of fun, wine and dine your friends, be a happy host, enjoy life and above all live well, love well. More than assets, success, money you will realize that to make these meaningful, you need love, the warmth of companionship, and you will be going all out to get it. It's what you feel will be your greatest achievement to date. This is the outcome of your changed attitude, in which you have the firm conviction and strong belief that marriage, romance, the joys of wedded bliss are much more your scene.

Capricorn:

Your self-belief and confidence have increased, and you now feel a surge of power and greatness with regard to passion, sex, finance, religion. Religion may take the form of ceremonies and praying for the living and the dead. You also need to build up your own mental and spiritual strengths, says Ganesha. They will be of help since there is a slight risk of ill health, or of accidents befalling you. This is something you have definitely to watch out for, guard against. Adequate precautions - of all kinds, not just physical or health wise, will need to be put in place. Even in your emotions and your relationships, adds Ganesha.

Aquarius:

You're both busy and active once again on the professional and social scenes, both. What this period will definitely bring in will be the 3 Fs of family, finance and food, and much more. A wide spectrum of business and professional transactions, deals and negotiations will have to be handled as well, along with the angles of money of high finances even should. As I explain, the three Fs will be linked to form part of the whole, and on a large scale. You will be entertaining, attending or giving parties, being a good host/hostess, even dealing with dietetics and nutrition.

Pisces:

You will need to pull out all the stops and not just work hard but think and plan ahead equally intensively. You will now find yourself entering extremely busy, involved, perhaps occasionally even confused phase, with much to do/cope with/handle. There will be both personal and professional issues to address. Some Compromises, too, will have to be worked out. You'll have to do within your involvements with domestic pursuits and family matters, your children, and their affairs, and finally your own creativity, most especially. You'll have to work at reconciling this last with all the huge demands on yourself that you will now perceive. To be fair, you do try to do your best.

CHHATH PUJA

Chhath Puja is an important Hindu festival that is mainly celebrated in Bihar and some regions of Nepal. The puja is dedicated to the worship of the Sun god and his wife Usha. During the occasion, devotees perform puja to thank god for supporting life on earth and seek the divine couple's blessing. However, Chhath – the main day – isn't the first day but the third day of the puja and, this year it will be celebrated on November 13.

According to Hindu religion, the Sun is believed to heal many severe health conditions and ensure longevity, prosperity, progress and well-being. People celebrate the festival by following a rigorous routine that lasts four days. The rituals include: fasting (including abstinence from drinking water), holy bathing, offering prayers to the rising and setting sun, and meditating by standing in water.

In addition to Bihar, many other states such as Jharkhand, eastern UP, regions of Nepal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh also celebrate the festival with great fervour. Chhath Puja is so called as it is celebrated on the sixth day of the month of Karthika in the Vikram Samvat. It is also celebrated in the summers, some days after Holi. However, Karthika month's Chhath is more ardently followed by people.

History of Chhath Puja

It is believed that the celebration of Chhath puja may predate to the ancient Vedas, as the rituals performed during the puja are similar to the ones mentioned in Rig Veda, in which the Sun god is worshipped. At the time, the rishis (sages) were also known to worship the Sun and remain without intake of food as they would obtain their energy directly from the sun. However, another significance of the puja is attached to the story of Lord Rama.

According to ancient texts, Rama and his wife Sita had kept fast and offered prayers to the Sun god, in the month of Kartika in Shukla Paksh, once they returned to the Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. From then on, the Chhath Puja became a significant and traditional Hindu festival, which is celebrated with zeal and zest every year.

Chhath Puja Celebrations

The four-day festival starts four days after Diwali. This is how the devotees observe the festival.

NAHAY KHAY: The first day of Chhath Puja, devotees take a dip, preferably in the Kosi river, Karnali and Ganga, and carry home the holy water to prepare the offerings.

LOHANDA: The second day, the devotees observe a fast for the whole day, which ends in the evening a little after sunset. After worshipping the Sun and the Moon, they prepare offerings of kheer, bananas and rice for their family. After consuming the offering, they fast for 36 hours without water.

SANDHYA ARGHYA (EVENING OFFERINGS): After preparing the prasada, the devotees take a dip in the holy water body in the evening and worship the Sun god and Chhathi maiyya. They offer the evening offerings amid folk songs.

USHA ARGHYA: The fourth day, devotees go to the holy waters and offer morning offerings or 'Usha arghya' to the sun, following which they break their fast.

Devotees during this period observe purity and live frugally. They sleep on the floor on a single blanket. The main festival is commemorated on the third day of Chhath, when the Sun god is offered Surya Namaskar and fruits.

Chhath Puja Katha

A long year ago, there was a king named, Priyabrat and his wife Malini. They were living very happily but there was a big unhappiness in their life as they have no child. They decided to make a big Yagya by



the help of Maharishi Kashyap in order to be blessed with a child. His wife became pregnant because of the effect of Yagya. But she had given birth to a dead child after nine months. King was very sad and decided to suicide. Suddenly, there came a Goddess in front of him while suicide. Goddess said that, I am a Goddess Khashti, if someone would offer puja to me with pure mind and soul, he would definitely get a child. The king, Priyabrat did the same and blessed with a very beautiful and cute child. Since then, people started celebrating the chhath puja.

Rituals and Traditions

It is believed that worshipers of the Chhath take holy bath and follows a period of abstinence and become separate for 4 days from the main family. Throughout the period he is believed as the pure spirit and sleep on the floor having single blanket. There is a normal belief that once a family begins Chhatt Puja, he has to perform it yearly as well as pass it to his next generations and it can only be skipped when there is a death of any person in the family that year.

Devotees offer prasada to Sun at the Chhath such as sweets, Kheer, Thekua and fruits included in a small bamboo tokari. The prasada should be cooked without salt, onions or garlic with maintained purity. It is a four days festival which includes:

On the first day, devotees take bath early in the morning in the holy water of Gange and bring some water to their home to prepare the offerings. The home and its surroundings should be cleaned at this day. They take only one meal a day known as kaddu-bhat cooked only by using the bronze or soil utensils and mango woods over the soil stove.

On the second day (the day before Chhath), Panchami, devotees keep fast for whole day and

break their fast in the evening after sunset after the worship of Sun. They offer Rasai-kheer, puris, fruits in the puja. After taking meal in the evening, they go on a fast without water for the next 36 hours.

On the third day (day of Chhath) they offer the Sanjhiya Arghya at the ghat of riverbank. After Arghya, they wear the single saree of turmeric color. Other family members are waiting for getting the blessings from worshiper. At the night of Chhath a vibrant event of Kosi is celebrated by lighting the lamps of clay diyas under the covering of five sugarcane sticks. The five sugarcane sticks indicate the Panchatattva (earth, water, fire, air and space) that human body made of Panchatattva. On the early morning of the fourth day (Paarun), devotees along with their family and friends offer Bihaniya Arghya at the ghat of riverbank of Gange. Devotees end their festival through breaking the fast by having the Chhath prashad.

Stages of Chhath Puja

There are six great stages of the Chhath puja which are:

- The belief of fast and cleanliness of body on the festival identify the detoxification of the body and mind in order to set up the body and mind to accept the cosmic solar energy.
- Standing in water with half of the body inside the water diminishes the escape of energy as well as facilitates the prana to elevate to the sushumna.
- Then the entrance of cosmic solar energy takes place in the pineal, pituitary and hypothalamus glands (known as the Triveni complex) by the retina and optic nerves.
- In the 4th stage Triveni complex gets activated.
- After activation of the Triveni complex, spine gets polarized and body of devotee gets transformed into a cosmic powerhouse and gets the Kundalini Shakti.
- At this stage the devotee is fully able to conduct, recycle and pass on the energy into entire universe.

Benefits of Chhath Puja

- Devotee of the Chhath puja can improve the immunity of body.
- A variety of skin infections can be cured through the safe radiations of sunlight.
- It increases the fighting power of blood by improving the performance of WBC.
- Solar energy provides the power to control the secretion of hormones.
- Daily sun meditation relaxes the body and mind. Pranayam, yoga, meditation are also the way to improve the control on body and mind. Pilgrims come at Varanasi for a peaceful yoga and meditation at the bank of river Ganga.

Significance of Chhath Puja

- Chhath puja has a special significance during the Sunrise and Sunset periods. The Sunrise and sunset are the most important periods of the day during which a human body can safely get the solar energy without any harm. That's why there is a myth of offering the Sanjhiya Arghya and Bihaniya Arghya to the Sun at the Chhath festival. During this period the solar energy has low level of ultraviolet radiations so it is safe for the human body. People perform the Chhath puja in order to thank the Lord Sun for continuing the life on the earth as well as to get blessings.

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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."

Modi is lucky to get an 'F' in managing India and its economy

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

In the name of education he can grant \$135 Million, subsidized land and "Institute of Eminence" status to yet to be born Jio Institute of his friend Mukesh Ambani a crony Capitalist that has grown from \$19 billion to \$43 Billion in net worth under Modi. Funniest part is Ambani group companies have no experience or expertise in the field of Education. Their experience is in how to get easy money/funding and natural wealth like oil wells, spectrum, land, mining rights etc. and defense contracts at terms favoring to them not to the owners the "Indian Public".

Team Modi is spreading lies and misinformation for last 4 1/2 years by using people's money through ads in India's morbid media: They have been shouting from the roof tops in India and the world arena that "India has superseded China as the world's fastest growing economy. The fact is in 2017 India's GDP was \$2.59 Trillion and China's \$12.24 Trillion that is almost 5 times the Indian GDP. Per Capita GDP for China is \$8,827.00 and for India it is \$1,940.00 that is almost 1/5 of China. India's Military spending was \$63.9 billion, and China spent \$228 billion almost 4 times than India. For India to take over China's per capita GDP, the Indian economy needs to grow more than 30 percent annually. At the present rate of 6.1% at which Indian economy is growing it will take more than 125 years for India to match China's success story. (Ashok Swain professor of Peace & Conflict Research at Uppsala University, Sweden)

India Under Modi is heading for the biggest humanitarian crisis: Modi's moral

police is more concerned with the length of a prominent celebrity women's skirt or cleavage exposure or cows being transported or beef being consumed or love-Jihad or anti-Romeo squads than the lack of healthcare for the poor; modern education and employment opportunities for the youth or the unabated farmer suicides or rampant unemployment. The worst is cow transporters and beef eaters can be lynched to death by cow vigilantes with impunity from the government. The people's courts dispensing instant justice without a trial and lynch mobs carry out the execution. Modi was described by Katrina Lantos-Swett, vice-chair of the influential US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) as the "poster child for India's failure to punish the violent". Cow protection has taken higher precedence over the right to life of humans. More precious resources are being directed for unproductive cow sheds, money to feed them, hospitals and ambulances than for the basic health care facilities for poor human beings. They don't even get transportation for their dead loved ones from the hospitals.

Earlier, India was compared with modernizing countries like China, but today India is being bracketed with regressive Islamic fundamentalist regimes. India's international image on being democratic, secular and scientific has been seriously dented. Modi himself gave examples of Karan and Ganesh to support the claim that cosmetic surgery and genetic science existed in India thousands of years ago. The first head transplant that of Lord Ganesh was

done in India! An analysis of 198 countries by the Pew Research Center finds India is the fourth-worst country in the world for religious intolerance and violence. Only three countries - Syria, Nigeria and Iraq - are before India in this name-and-shame list, and even Pakistan fares much better than India on this front, being in the tenth position.

According to a very prominent economist, former High Commissioner to UK, journalist, author, human rights activist and former BJP Federal Minister Arun Shourie; current problems in India reflect "The Gujarat Model." No Cabinet functions there and no cabinet functions here. The state legislature was reduced to impotence and irrelevance. The Parliament has been reduced to impotence and irrelevance. The judiciary was subordinated there and judiciary has been subordinated here. The Agencies and Police forces were made into Private Forces and Private Armies. That has been done here. It is exactly "The Gujarat Model."

He further added that Modi invoke God and says it is God who has willed in whatever he is doing citing "Higher Purpose". If anybody gets hurt, if any institution suffered upon or country is being torn apart; it is done for "Higher Purpose". Modi has become the Agent of God!

All the above points to that Indian's have been let down again by its morbid media, economist, intellectuals, religious, business & political leaders across the aisle. Whatever little integrity was left of them under Congress; that has been reduced to Zero rather negative under Modi. Barring a few dozen journalist, intellectuals, economist,

religious & political leaders; the millions from the privileged class that could have spoken against the Modi's atrocious regime either have been bribed to keep quiet rather to praise Modi government and some have chosen to keep quiet under the extreme fear created by Modi supporters that any criticism of Modi regime is anti-national.

Modi regime is propagating, encouraging and protecting misguided Hindus to impose their personal Hindutva beliefs on other Hindus as well as on non-Hindus. Some of their beliefs are indefensibly hateful and insulting, and do not concur with Hinduism.

It is a lesson for Indian voters as well as other voters around the world that they cannot vote for development only if it does not include tolerance, human rights, healthy debates on important issues like education, healthcare, employment, inclusive economics and progressive politics. Unfortunately Indians voted for Modi for his exclusive promise of development in 2014 that even after his 4 1/2 years of rule is nowhere to be seen rather country is facing a grim reality of biggest humanitarian crisis in the near future because of extreme poverty, massive unemployment, lack of healthcare, intolerance, fewer economic & education opportunities for majority of the population.

More on <https://www.globalhungerindex.org>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>

(Compiled by the author with inputs from eminent scholars, historians & journalists. The author is a New Jersey based social activist. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

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contd from page 1

Democrats capture House, Republicans retain Senate

work together with the Democratic leadership to continue delivering for the American people, including on economic growth, infrastructure, trade, lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

"Last night the Republican Party defied history to expand our Senate majority while significantly beating expectations in the House for the midterm year," Trump told reporters, hours after the Republicans lost control of the House for the first time in eight years.

"These are some of the things that the Democrats do want to work on, and I really believe we'll be able to do that. I think we're going to have a lot of reason to do it," he said as he termed the midterm poll results as a "tremendous success".

The Democrats now have majority in the 435-member House, while Trump's party has retained majority in the 100-member Senate.

At the time of going to press, late November 8 night, Democrats had won 229 House seats with Republicans getting 199, while 11 were still undecided.

Democrats polled 52% of votes in an election which has sent 99 women to the House, surpassing the previous record of 84 women elected to the House.

In the Senate, Democrats won 46 seats, a loss of 2 seats while Republicans won 51, a gain of 2 seats. 3 remain to be decided

The statements from the Democratic party leaders after the results indicated it would make it tough for President Trump, who wants major legislative changes on some of his signature issues including immigration, tax and healthcare reforms.

By capturing the House of Representatives, the Democrats may exert a major institutional check on Trump and break the Republican monopoly in Washington.

In the House of Representatives, the Democrats seized at least 30 seats from Republican hands, enough for the majority in the 435-membered chamber. In the outgoing House, the Republicans had 235 seats while the Democrats 193.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi hopes to return as Speaker when the new Democratic majority takes over in January. After House win, the top Democrat in the US House of Representatives pledged a new era of congressional scrutiny over President Donald Trump, shrugging off White House threats of political warfare if Democrats launch investigations into his affairs.

Emboldened Democrats want healthcare protected and Trump impeached.

Democrats have a clear message for party leaders who will take control of the US House of Representatives next year, according to a Reuters/Ipsos national opinion poll: Protect their healthcare and impeach President Donald Trump.

The poll released on Thursday, November 8, found that 43 per cent of people who identified as Democrats want impeachment to be a top priority for Congress. That goal was second in priority only to healthcare

Party leaders on Wednesday, November 7, vowed to use their majority to impose a new level of scrutiny on the Trump White House, but said impeachment would require evidence of action to subvert the Constitution.

A divided country has much to worry in the coming months, even as the Republicans and Democrats head for a collision course.

Trump sacks AG, 'takes over' Russia meddling probe

himself from overseeing the probe in 2017 and blamed his decision for allowing Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to appoint a special counsel.

Trump said Sessions will be temporarily replaced by his chief of staff, Matthew Whitaker, who is a Republican loyalist. Now, with Whitaker at the helm, Trump has someone leading the Justice Department who has already suggested that Mueller's probe should be reined in.

CBS News reported that Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein is no longer leading the Mueller inquiry, and that Whitaker will now assume control.

In a tweet on Wednesday Trump said: "We are pleased to announce that Matthew G Whitaker, Chief of Staff to Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the Department of Justice, will become our new Acting Attorney General of the US. He will serve our country well (sic)."

"We thank Attorney General Jeff Sessions for his service and wish him well! A permanent replacement will be nominated at a later date," he tweeted.

Observers opine that Trump's move will have potential implication on Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe as Whitaker has been overtly critical of the Mueller's team to

investigate beyond allegations Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in 2016 and other ties between the President, his family and aides, and Kremlin.

Questions are also being raised about the validity of appointment of Whitaker as Acting Attorney General.

Meanwhile, thousands, on November 8, took to streets asking Whitaker to recuse himself from Mueller investigation.

The coming days are likely to witness an interesting tug of war between Republicans and Democrats on the issue of Mueller Investigation.

New York Attorney Ravi Batra described Jeff Sessions as a man of honor.

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions is a man of honor - he honored his oath to the Constitution, and then he honored the president of the United States in faithfully discharging the laws of the United States. The uncomfortable tension between the attorney general and the president speaks to American exceptionalism. Indeed, it is dissent itself that serves to 'check and balance', so that we may form a more perfect nation."

Mayhem in California: Ex-Marine kills 12 in 'horrific' mass shooting in a bar

Stephen Paddock broke through the window of his suite at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino and fired at 22,000 people gathered at the country music concert, resulting in the death of 58 persons.

Besides the 12 killed, twenty-one persons were hurt. They were taken to area hospitals where they were treated for their injuries and released.

Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean identified the gunman as 28-year-old Ian David Long, a retired Marine who served in Afghanistan. The suspect used a .45 caliber Glock handgun during the shooting, Dean said.

Long, who shot himself, was dead when officers made entry into the bar, Dean said as he described the shooting incident as 'horrific'.

He said the motive of the shooter is still unclear. He was known to authorities for minor crimes. The shooter was on active duty with the US Marine Corps from August 2008 to March 2013, according to Department of Defense records. He also served in Afghanistan from November 2010 to June 2011.

Sheriff Sgt. Ron Helus was among the first to arrive on the scene, entering the bar with a California Highway Patrol officer. Helus exchanged gunfire with the suspect before being shot multiple times. He later died at a hospital.

The tragedy left a community that is annually listed as one of the safest cities in America reeling. Shootings of any kind are extremely rare in Thousand Oaks, a city of about 130,000 people about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from Los Angeles, just across the county line.

Scores of people stood in line for hours to donate blood for the wounded, and all morning, people looking for missing friends and relatives arrived at a community center where authorities and counselors were informing the next-of-kin of those who died. Many people walked past TV cameras with blank stares or tears in their eyes. In the parking lot, some comforted each other with hugs or a pat on the back.

It was the nation's deadliest such attack since 17 students and teachers were killed at a Parkland, Florida, high school nine months ago. It also came less than two weeks after a gunman massacred 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Democratic Gov-elect Gavin Newsom, in his first public appearance since winning office on Tuesday, lamented the violence that has come again to California.

"It's a gun culture," he said. "You can't go to a bar or nightclub? You can't go to church or synagogue? It's insane is the only way to describe it. The normalization, that's the only way I can describe it. It's become normalized."

President Donald Trump praised police for their "great bravery" in the attack and ordered flags flown at half-staff in honor of the victims.

Authorities searched Long's home in Newbury Park, about 5 miles from the Borderline bar, for clues to what set him off.

"There's no indication that he targeted the employees. We haven't found any correlation," the sheriff said. "Maybe there was a motive for this particular night, but we have no information leading to that at all."

Long was in the Marines from 2008 to 2013, rose to the rank of corporal and served in Afghanistan in 2010-11 before he was honorably discharged, the military said. Court records show he married in 2009 and was divorced in 2013.

Authorities said he had no criminal record, but in April officers were called to his home, where deputies found him angry and acting irrationally. The sheriff said officers were told he might have PTSD because of his military service. A mental health specialist met with him and didn't feel he needed to be hospitalized.

Immigrant deportation filings hit record high in 2018, new report shows

Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). TRAC obtained the data from the Department of Homeland Security through Freedom of Information Act requests.

It's the highest number of new removal filings since the group began tracking deportation orders in 1992.

According to TRAC's data, the most common reason for new deportations was "entry without inspection," accounting for 42.5 percent of new deportees. This group includes any undocumented individual living in the U.S. who hasn't declared themselves to immigration officials, Mackler said.

Just over 5 percent of new removal filings were based on aggravated felony charges, and 1.3 percent were on the basis of possible terrorist ties, according to data compiled by TRAC.

Immigrants from Mexico were the most frequently expelled nationality, accounting for just over 26 percent, or 73,339, new removal filings.

Migrants from three Central American nations - including Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras - together accounted for nearly half of all new deportation filings, or 130,667 cases, according to TRAC's report. Those countries, wracked by violence and economic hardship, are the source of the migrant caravan currently making its way north through Mexico to the U.S. border.

Courts in Texas ordered more new deportations than any other state, ordering 60,431 new removals in the year ending September 30. Texas courts have led the number of new deportations since 2008, according to TRAC.

contd from page 8

What Resignation of Sessions Means for Robert Mueller

David Laufman, a former high-ranking DOJ official who oversaw parts of the Russia investigation in his role as chief of the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, said Trump's "installation of a political loyalist who previously questioned the merits of the special counsel investigation must be viewed precisely for what it is: a preliminary assault on the special counsel's latitude to complete his essential work and by extension on the rule of law."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said on Wednesday, following Sessions's resignation, that Whitaker "should recuse himself from" the Russia probe "for the duration of his time as acting attorney general" given his previous comments "advocating defunding and imposing limitations on the Mueller investigation." Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings, who is set to chair the House Oversight Committee when the new Congress convenes next year, called Whitaker's supervision of the Russia probe "wholly inappropriate" and told the Justice Department to preserve documents in preparation for an inquiry into his appointment. House Democrats could also opt to subpoena Whitaker to testify under oath once they take power in January.

Trump's move could still backfire. Without the administration's protection, Sessions may now find himself both more vulnerable and more inclined to cooperate with Mueller, who has been investigating a period last summer when Trump privately discussed firing Sessions and attacked him in a series of tweets. At one point, the FBI opened an investigation into whether Sessions perjured himself in congressional testimony when he said he had no contact with Russians during the campaign. "It's possible that Sessions will now be either angry or, at a minimum, no longer feel any need to curry favor with the president," Kris said. Sessions's conversations during the campaign with former Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and the Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos have been closely scrutinized by the special counsel, moreover, and Sessions's campaign-era interactions with Trump would not be covered by executive privilege, Kris noted.

Sessions had mostly laid low in the face of the president's taunts, but he's not shied away from defending himself when necessary. "I took control of the Department of Justice the day I was sworn in," he said in August. "While I am attorney general, the actions of the Department of Justice will not be improperly influenced by political considerations. I demand the highest standards, and where they are not met, I take action."

(The author is a staff writer at The Atlantic where she covers national security and the intelligence community)

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BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK

Bandhavgarh National Park, the most popular national parks in India is located in the Vindhya Hills of the Umari district in Madhya Pradesh. Declared as a national park in 1968 the Bandhavgarh National Park is spread across the area of 105 km². The name Bandhavgarh has been derived from the most prominent hillock of the area of Umari. The area of Bandhavgarh is being flourished with a large biodiversity, the place which is also being famed to grip highest density of tiger population in India. Similarly, the park also beholds the largest breeding population of leopards and various species of deer. Over the years, the park has shown a great number of increases in the count of the tiger species and this is the reason why tiger tours is so famed to attract large amount of tourists at its vicinity.

The park has been divided into three major zones named as Tala, Magdi and Bamera out of which the Tala zone attracts major number of tourists by offering the tiger sighting opportunities. The park authorities are also focusing on the Magdi Zone by providing more opportunity to spot tigers. Elephant shows are also organized in Magdi zone of the Bandhavgarh national park to increase the chances of spotting the elusive king of the jungle.

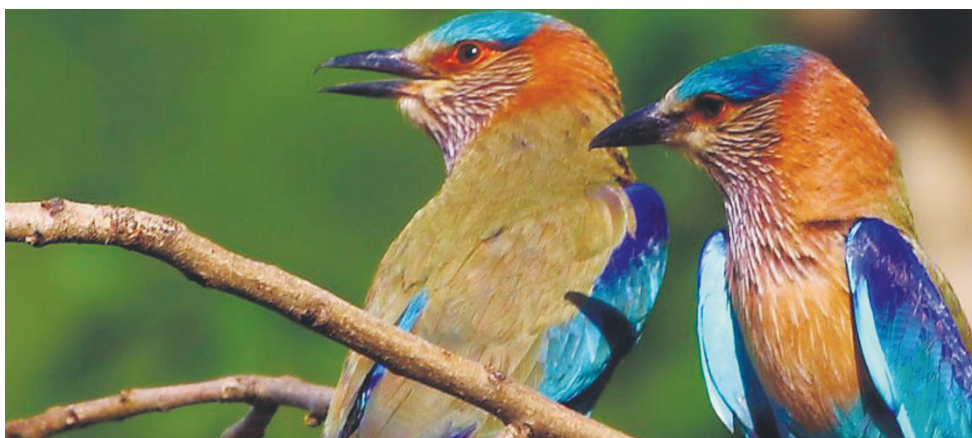
Bandhavgarh National Park consists of mixed vegetations ranging from tall grasslands to thick Sal forest and so is the perfect habitat of variety of animals and birds. Due to varied topography, the Bandhavgarh national park provides ample opportunity to spot the majestic Indian tiger and some rarely seen animals like leopard and sloth bear. Due to high wildlife sighting it is becoming popular amongst tourists visiting India.

Wildlife in Bandhavgarh

There are more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds. Common Langurs and Rhesus Macaque represent the primate group. Carnivores include the Asiatic Jackal, Bengal Fox, Sloth Bear, Ratel, Gray Mongoose, Striped Hyena, Jungle Cat, Leopard and Tiger. The artiodactyls frequently sighted are Wild Pigs, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Chausingha, Nilgai, Chinkara and Gaur. Mammals such as Dhole, the small Indian Civet, Palm Squirrel and Lesser Bandicoot Rat are seen occasionally. Among the herbivores, Gaur is the only coarse feeder. There are two main ways of getting about in the park in a motor vehicle or on elephant back. Many of the animals are now accustomed to both; even so, it is best to talk quietly and not make rapid movements. Jeep safaris are best undertaken from dawn until about 10am and from about 4pm until dusk, as the animals are most active during these periods. A Forest Department guide must always accompany you. This guide will be able to direct you and point out wildlife. Elephants are used every morning by the Forest Department for Tiger-tracking. If a Tiger is found, then the elephant will take you directly to the Tiger either from the lodge or from a nearby point reached by jeep/car.

Wildlife Viewing

Getting a closer view of the wild creatures in the dense jungles of Bandhavgarh brings



immense pleasure and enthusiasm among the tourists but a proper care and instructions are equally important for a safe and protected safari trip. For your knowledge, there are generally two main ways of getting about in the reserve; either in a motor vehicle or on an elephant back. And the pleasing fact is that many of the animals are accustomed to either of the mediums and don't get annoyed of it but

still it is advisable to talk quietly and to avoid making rapid movements.

Tips

- If you are choosing for the jeep safari, it should be best undertaken from dawn until 10 am and from about 4 pm until dusk, as most of the animals are active during these periods.

- A forest department guide must always accompany you who will be able to direct you and point any particular wild species.
- Elephant safari is the safest medium for tiger tour and is preferred mostly by the forest department. If a tiger is found, then the elephant will take you directly to the tiger either from the lodge or from a nearby point reached by jeep/car.
- You must pick safe and comfortable clothing so that you can find easy movement. Preferably cotton is the perfect choice which is safe and comfortable in every respect. Additionally, the color of the cloth should not be too bright to catch the attention of the animals (since it may disturb them) but a camouflage color can be the good option.
- You must pay attention to your movements and activities that should surely not disturb the wild creatures.
- Carrying almost every necessary item can be very helpful for you but mind it you should not be over-luggage. This can help you to avoid the extra burden of carrying weight and you can enjoy your trip completely by avoiding fatigue.
- Carrying first aid ailments while travelling is a smart move as you never know when you will meet any inconveniences while enjoying jungle trip.
- Photography is the most important part of any kind of wildlife tour when you can click the special moments and take them along with you. But while clicking on the object, your aim should be not to disturb them and you should silently click their shots.
- You must be patient while observing the wild creatures and should note down their movement, behavior and features for your records.
- Observe the birds carefully with a constant eye and be active throughout the observation since you are going to read the movements of nature's most active creature.
- Your observation should include everything, right from their movement, appearance and voice that will certainly help you to distinguish every species from another.
- You must keep a permanent record of your observation so that you can make a careful distinction of the color and pattern of the birds, their hood shape, the size and shape of their beaks and wings and of course if possible their flying style and movements.
- Your observation should also include the feeding habits and their style of eating.
- Observing the general habitat, climate and the regions where the most common birds are found will definitely increase your knowledge of birds and will complement your bird-watching.
- Above all a patient and careful observation and keeping a documented record of all of it will bring about a successful birding trip in Bandhavgarh which is the most perfect location for almost more than 150 species of birds.

Indian women cricketers eye T20 crown

GUYANA (TIP): Are the Indian women cricketers ready to become world champions in the T20 format? T20 cricket is a game of chance, but India's women have shown in recent past that they do have a vital ingredient to be successful in this format — firepower. Why, only Nov 7 India beat England in a warm-up match, with captain Harmanpreet Kaur smashing 62 off 32 balls, with six fours and three sixes. Last month, former captain Mithali Raj struck 105 off 61 balls in a T20 game against Australia A in Mumbai. India also possess the very attacking Smriti Mandhana — who could be key to India's fortunes — and the teenaged Jemimah Rodrigues, an exciting prospect.

Young squad

The young Indian squad will be aiming to break away from a winless past when it launches its bid for a maiden Women's World T20 title. The Indians have a tough game to begin with, against New Zealand, in the first standalone Women's World T20.

India have not been very competitive in the shortest format of the sport. Their 50-over achievements have been much better in recent times, with the team reaching the 50-over World Cup final last year.

Captain Harmanpreet and coach Ramesh Powar insist that the team has learnt from the loss in the 50-over World Cup final. They say that the presence of several youngsters, including six World Cup debutants, makes the squad "fearless".

India have competed in five World T20 events, their best being semifinal appearances in 2009 and 2010. In the lead-up to this tournament, India have hit good form, beating Sri Lanka in their own



HARMANPREET KAUR

backyard before blanking Australia A at home. Wins against reigning champions West Indies and England in the warm-up matches here in the West Indies would give them more confidence.

Opener Smriti said, "After the setback in the Asia Cup, everyone went back and worked hard. You can see everyone is up to the mark where you need to be at the international standard. The Sri Lanka series has been really good. For me personally, I didn't get really good scores, but one match, Harmanpreet and I didn't score a single run and we got 170. That was brilliant."

Jemimah, Taniya Bhatia and Harmanpreet make up a strong middle-order. The spin department, led by leg-

spinner Poonam Yadav, is India's strength, though the pace department lacks in experience after the retirement of veteran Jhulan Goswami.

India failed to go past the group stage in the previous three editions and they must play well consistently to advance to the knockouts.

India squad

Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Taniya Bhatia (wk), Ekta Bisht, Dayalan Hemalatha, Mansi Joshi, Veda Krishnamurthy, Smriti Mandhana, Anuja Patil, Mithali Raj, Arundathi Reddy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav, Poonam Yadav.

Source: PTI

CHINA OPEN

Sindhu, Srikanth in quarterfinals

FUZHOU (TIP): Former champions PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth recorded contrasting victories to advance to the quarterfinals of the China Open.

While Sindhu stamped her authority with a 21-12 21-15 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in the second round, Srikanth got the better of Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto in a three-game match.

Third seeded Sindhu, who had clinched the title in 2016, will face eighth seed He Bingjiao next. Sindhu has lost both her meetings against the world No. 7 Chinese.

Srikanth, who had skipped the event due to a muscle strain last season, managed to script a come-from-behind 10-21 21-9 21-9 win over Tommy Sugiarto in a 45-minute match.

The 25-year-old had won the China Open in 2014, getting the better of the legendary Lin Dan of China. He will next face Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen, silver medallist at the Asian Games earlier this year.

World No. 9 Srikanth has lost to Chen twice in the last three years. His only win had come at the 2014 Hong Kong Open. On Thursday, Sugiarto, son of former world champion Icku Sugiarto, began in dominating fashion to take the opening game. The 30-year-old Indonesian grabbed an 11-6 lead at the break and comfortably moved ahead even as the Indian struggled.

Srikanth changed his tactics and looked a different player in the second game as he came out with all cylinders blazing. He moved to 11-6 and then gave away just three more points while grabbing the remaining 10 points to roar back into the contest. Srikanth dominated the decider as well, jumping from 7-3 to 13-3 before shutting the door on his rival with a similar 21-9 margin.

Source: PTI



Kohli issues statement after backlash over 'leave India' remark to fan

NEW DELHI (TIP): Virat Kohli found himself in hot water on Wednesday when he asked a cricket fan to 'leave India' after he said that he likes watching Australian and English batsmen more than the Indian ones. However, on Thursday, Kohli issued a statement saying that he supports freedom of speech and added that he was just trying to troll the user.

The Indian cricket team skipper took to Twitter on Thursday and wrote: "I guess trolling isn't for me guys, I'll stick to getting trolled! I spoke about how "these Indians" was mentioned in the comment and that's all. I'm all for freedom of choice. "Keep it light guys and enjoy the festive season. Love and peace to all."

In a video available on his newly released app, Kohli was reading out messages from his fans. Then, he read out a message which said - "Over-rated batsman and personally I see nothing special in his batting. I enjoy watching English and Australian batsmen more than these Indians."

The message did not go down well with Kohli who answered - "I don't think you



should live in India, go and live somewhere else. Why are you living in our country and loving other countries? I don't mind you not liking me, but I don't think you should live in our country and like other things. Get your priorities right."

Kohli's response sparked a huge controversy among the social media users with the majority criticising the Indian cricket team skipper for his comment. Kohli is currently not in action for Team India as he was rested for the ongoing T20I series against West Indies.

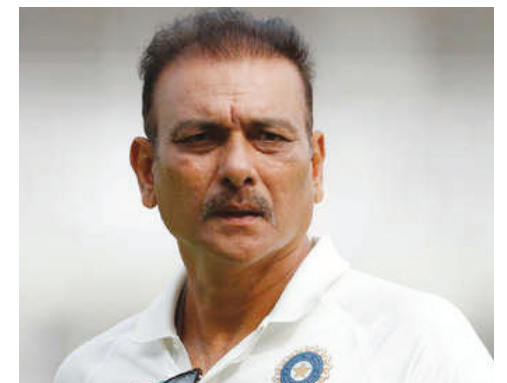
Source: HT

Let people judge the best travelling team, CoA to Shastri

NEW DELHI (TIP): "India's best travelling team in the last 15 years," said Ravi Shastri. "Let people be the judge," retorted the Committee of Administrators (CoA) when the national cricket coach spoke of the criticism that his team faces, a top BCCI official has said. At a recent meeting between the team management and the CoA in Hyderabad, Shastri reiterated his much-publicised comments that drew sharp reactions from former cricketers such as Sunil Gavaskar and Sourav Ganguly. "Ravi initially started off by saying that the Indian media always criticises its own players and how this is one of the best ever teams in the last 15 years," an official present in the meeting said.

Shastri's reference to the criticism was related to a verbal altercation that Kohli had with a journalist in England after the team lost the Test series 1-3.

The skipper, when questioned about Shastri's comment in England, asked for the journalist's view on it. When the scribe said he wasn't quite convinced about the coach's assertion, Kohli snapped back, "That's your opinion, thank you." "When Ravi went on about how great this current team is, one of the CoA members just cut him short," the official recollected. "The CoA member told



him, 'Let's stick to the agenda of the meeting and discuss the tour policies for Australia. You don't decide if the team is the best travelling side in the world. Let people be the judge,'" the official said.

Shastri and Kohli were told that the Indian team is being provided each and every facility that they have sought and their performance on the field should match that input.

The meeting was attended by CoA chief Vinod Rai, Diana Edulji, CEO Rahul Johri, IPL COO Hemang Amin, GM (Cricket Operations) Saba Karim along with Kohli, Shastri, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane and the chairman of selectors MSK Prasad.

Source: PTI

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