



**15th Edition of
Pravasi Bharatiya
Divas Concludes**

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Federal Government Shutdown Ends after a 35 -day Stand off

**Trump Signs Bill Reopening Government
for 3 Weeks through February 15**



President Trump announcing that "we have reached a deal to end the shutdown." He has since signed a bill which will keep government open through February 15

WASHINGTON (TIP): The House and Senate both approved a measure Friday, January 25 to temporarily reopen the federal government with a short-term spending bill that does not include President Donald Trump's tax plan.
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Dr. Raju honored for his four-decade crusade to eradicate avoidable blindness in India



Vice-President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu honored Dr. V.K. Raju for his over 40 years work to eradicate avoidable blindness in India during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Rangaraya Medical College in Kakinada on Saturday, January 5.

Read full story on page 4

India celebrates 70th Republic Day

- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa attends as Chief Guest**
- **Impressive Parade and enthusiasm mark the celebration**
- **PM lays a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti and pays tribute to martyrs**

NEW DELHI (TIP): Celebrations for the 70th Republic Day began on Saturday, January 26, with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in attendance as the chief guest, amid heavy security deployment in the city.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his tributes to the martyrs by laying a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti in the presence of Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the three service chiefs. Later Modi, wearing his traditional kurta-pajama and trademark Nehru jacket, reached the Rajpath and received and greeted President Ram Nath Kovind and the chief guest.
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Prime Minister Modi greets Chief Guest South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at Rajpath

Photo / courtesy PIB



Bharat Ratna for former President Pranab Mukherji, Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumous), Bhupen Hazarika (posthumous)

Padma Vibhushan for 4; Padma Bhushan for 14; Padma Shri for 94

NEW DELHI (TIP): Bharat Ratna and the Padma Awards for the year 2019 were announced here on Friday, January 25.

One of the highest civilian Awards of the country, the Padma awards are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The awards are given in various disciplines or fields of activities: social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

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Bharat Ratna for Pranab Mukherji, Nanaji Deshmukh, Bhupen Hazarika

40 Universities honored Mahamahopadhyaya Swami Bhadreshdasji in Lucknow

LUCKNOW (TIP): Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University gathered more than 40 Universities at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Scientific Convention Center, Lucknow on 16 January 2019 to felicitate Mahamahopadhyaya Swami Bhadreshdasji, a sadhu and scholar of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. He was honored with two awards - 'Acharya Pravar' by Uttar Pradesh State and 'Excellence in Philosophy' by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for

authoring two unique contemporary Sanskrit texts: the Swaminarayan Bhashya and the Swaminarayan-Siddhant-Sudha.

Bhadreshdas Swamiji and his work is acknowledged by many awards such as Mahamahopadhyay, Vedant Martand, Darshan Kesari, Abhinav Bhashyakar and Vidvat-Sarvabhauma.

Swami Bhadreshdasji addressed the audience on the inspiration force behind the creation of the Prasthantrayi bhashyas, his Guru, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj. "All this work has only been possible due to the grace of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, Guru Pramukh Swami Maharaj and Guru Mahant Swami Maharaj. I offer all the acclaims to their lotus feet," said Bhadreshdas Swamiji.

BAPS senior sadhu, Pujya Narayanmuni Swamiji gave concluding remarks in recognition of the event, "This ceremony is historical as 40 universities and the Deputy Chief Minister himself have gathered to felicitate Pu. Bhadreshdas Swami. This shows their love and respect towards educational accomplishments. This historical ceremony celebrates the Akshar-Purushottam Darshan revealed by Bhagwan Swaminarayan proclaiming that one should become akshar and offer upasana to Purushottam"



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15th Edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Concludes

President confers Pravasi Bharatiya awards on 28 overseas Indians and two organizations
Chandra Shekhar Mishra, Gita Gopinath, Gitesh Jayantilal, Prakash Madhavdas Heda from the US are among the Honorees



President Ram Nath Kovind presenting Pravasi Bharatiya Samman to an honoree

VARANASI (TIP): The three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Sammelan concluded here on January 23, with President Ram Nath Kovind delivering the valedictory address and conferring the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards on 28 eminent personalities and two organizations of the Indian diaspora for their contributions and achievements in various fields.

"Happy to have conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman on 30 members of our diaspora. We value your committed efforts to promote India and to work for the welfare of Indian community abroad. You are a living bridge between India and the world," President said.

According to a list provided by the External Affairs Ministry, the awards were conferred in the fields of social, community and public service, business, business management, entrepreneurship, chartered accountancy, training and simulation, science, medical science, engineering, technology, architecture, academics, arts and diplomacy.

Nihal Singh Agar, known for his services to the Hindu community in Australia, was conferred the award under the category of social service.

Two organizations - Indian Community Association of Egypt and Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha - and Swami Saradaprabhananda of the Ramakrishna Centre of South Africa, got the award for community service.

Himanshu Gulati, a Member of Parliament in Norway, and Shamim Parkar Khan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were honoured for public service.

Under the business category, Ramesh Chotai of Canada, Amit Waikar of China, Bitthal Das Maheswari of Italy, Bhavdeep Singh Dhillon of New Zealand, Vinodan Verambally Thazhikuniyil of Oman and Girish Pand and Surender Singh Kandhari of the UAE were honored.

While Banwarilal Satya Narayan Goenka was conferred the award in the field of business management, Rajesh Chaplot of Uganda got it for chartered accountancy, Jagdishwar Rao Maddukuri of Poland for entrepreneurship, and Purnendu Chandra Tiwary of Qatar for training and simulation.

In the field of medical science, Guna Sekhar Muppuri of Jamaica, Prakash Madhavdas Heda of the US, and Zulekha Daud of the UAE were honoured.

Rajendra Kumar Joshi of Switzerland and Chandrashekhar Mishra of the US were honoured for their contributions in the field of science.

Rajinder Nath Khazanchi of Bhutan got the award for civil engineering, Gitesh Jayantilal Desai of the US for structural engineering, P.V. Sambasiva Rao of Kenya for technology and Rajpal Tyagi of Kuwait for architecture.

Malini Ranganathan of France and Gita Gopinath of the US were honoured for their contributions in the fields of

academics and arts.

Veteran South African diplomat Anil Sookal was conferred the award in the field of diplomacy.

Earlier, the PBD got off to a start on January 21, with the External Affairs Minister inaugurating the Youth PBD.

In her inaugural address, the External Affairs Minister said India is a land of limitless opportunities, and Pravasi Bharatiyas are and will continue to be partners in progress of our motherland. She emphasized that shared identity and shared commonness are the key features which bind us together which will grow manifold in years to come. The Minister said that the story of Pravasi Bharatiyas is a tale of courage, determination and character and cited the examples of Google CEO, Sunder Pichai, Microsoft COO Satya Nadella, IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath to name a few. She thanked the diaspora for kindling a new wave for India abroad.

Union Minister of State Information and Broadcasting (independent Charge) and Sports and Youth Affairs, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore spoke about the unique and binding force of Indian identity and said Pravasi Bharatiya community is India's best Ambassador. He urged them to join in the building of a New India. The Minister lauded the role of NRIs in preserving their cultural values and respect for the motherland. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh looks up to the diaspora community for its valued contribution. 30-year-old Norwegian MP, Himanshu Gulati recalled the journey of his parents from India to Norway 40 years ago. He said that natural resource are our biggest assets and youth must imbibe the values of Mahatma Gandhi, 'Be the change you want to see'.

Guest of Honor, MP from New Zealand, Kanwaljeet Singh Bakshi said Agriculture and Horticulture are key areas in which India and New Zealand can collaborate. The MP put up the request for Dual citizenship and Nomination of NRIs to Rajya Sabha for active participation in politics. He urged people to take pride in their culture and heritage. Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been organized with a view to share the ideas for a New India among the NRI youth and the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi ready to light a lamp to inaugurate the Convention in the presence of Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth (extreme left). EAM Sushma Swaraj is seen on the right.

generation next back home

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the PBD Convention on January 22. The Convention deliberated on the theme- Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India.

Observing that his government helped changed perceptions regarding the country in the last four and half years, Modi said, "Earlier, people used to say India cannot change... but we have changed that perception and this mindset itself." Addressing the over 4,000 NRI delegates from about 85 countries, he said that India is the fastest growing economy in the world and also urged the Indian diaspora across the to participate in the building of new India.

Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, the chief guest this year, surprised the audience by speaking in Hindi. Addressing the audience yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described NRIs as brand ambassadors of the country. While observing that people of Indian origin are in leadership roles in many countries including Mauritius, Portugal and Ireland, he said, "I consider NRIs to be India's brand ambassadors. They are the symbols of our capacities and capabilities."

The 15th edition of the PBD was organized by the External Affairs Ministry in partnership with the government of Uttar Pradesh.



External Affairs Minister is speaking at the Youth PBD on January 21. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is seen on left.



A group of honorees with President Kovind

Indian American Composer Named 2019 United States Artists Fellow, Grand Prize Winner by S&R Foundation

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Indian American Composer Reena Esmail is among the 45 recipients of the 2019 United States Artists Fellowship, a \$50,000 unrestricted grant given annually to artists and collectives working across a wide range of disciplines.

She has also been named 2019 S&R Washington Award Grand Prize winner by S&R Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting talented individuals with high aspirations in the arts, sciences and social entrepreneurship.

Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music and brings communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces.

In recent seasons, Esmail has worked with the Kronos Quartet, Albany Symphony, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Salastina Music Society, SOLI, and American Composers Orchestra. Her work is performed regularly throughout the US and abroad, and has been programmed at Carnegie Hall, the Barbican Centre in London, Schloss Esterhazy in Hungary, and throughout India. She has served as Composer in Residence for Albany Symphony (2016-17), Street Symphony (2016-present) in downtown Los Angeles, Concerts



Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music

on the Slope (2015-16) in Brooklyn, NY and the Pasadena Master Chorale (2014-16) in Pasadena, CA.

Esmail received a 2011-12 Fulbright-Nehru to study Hindustani music in India, where she was also a 2011 INK Fellow (in association with TED). In 2010, Esmail co-founded of Yale's Hindi a cappella group, Sur et Veritaal. Esmail's doctoral thesis, entitled Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Hindustani and Western Art Musicians

explores the methods and challenges of the collaborative process between Hindustani musicians and Western composers. Her teachers include Srimati Lakshmi Shankar and Saili Oak.

Esmail was on the composition and theory faculty at Manhattan School of Music Precollege from 2006-2011. She taught the music theory core curriculum at Yale College from 2012-14. Recently, Esmail has worked with young composers through mentorship programs including Shashtra's Arranging with Hindustani Music, Pasadena Master Chorale's Listening to the Future. This season, she will mentor young women composers through Kaufmann Center's new program, The Luna Lab.

In addition to her work as a composer, Esmail is the Co-Artistic Director of Shashtra, a non-profit organization that promotes cross-cultural music that connects the great musical traditions of India and the West. She is also the Composer-in-Residence with Street Symphony, where she works with communities experiencing homelessness and incarceration in Los Angeles.

Esmail currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

Indian-American Activist Gurinder Singh Khalsa Presented with Rosa Park Trailblazer Award



India-born American Sikh Gurinder Singh Khalsa was presented the Rosa Parks Trailblazer Award

INDIANAPOLIS (TIP): Indian-American Entrepreneur Gurinder Singh Khalsa, founder and chairman of Sikhs Political Action Committee has been honoured with Rosa Park Trailblazer award for his campaign to persuade US authorities to change policy towards Sikh headgear. A large number of Sikh community members from Indiana attended the function on January 17 at Indianapolis.

Gurinder Singh Khalsa, who hails from Ambala (India), was not allowed to board an aeroplane in 2007 due to his refusal to remove the turban. Determined to stand up for his faith and fight for justice, Khalsa mobilized more than 67,000 people nationwide for petitions and took the issue all the way to the US Congress, compelling Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) to change its headgear policy towards the Sikh community. Sikhs can now wear their turban through airport security in the US.

Indianapolis-based Khalsa, 45, was presented Distinguished 2019 Champions of Diversity -Rosa Parks Trailblazer Award for his continued demonstration of courage and compassion by State Representative of Indiana Robin Schackelford and Robert Shegog, vice president and chief operating officer at the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper and Indiana Minority Business Magazine. Khalsa dedicated the award to the Sikh community.

Earlier this month Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness on Jan 13 appointed Gurinder Singh Khalsa as Board Member of Economic Development and Planning Commission.

Indian American Selected as Wisconsin School of Business Dean



Sambamurthy has previously served at business schools at the University of Maryland and Florida State University

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Vallabh Sambamurthy, Eli Broad Professor and associate dean of the MBA and professional master's programs at the Broad College of Business at Michigan State University, has been selected as the Albert O. Nicholas Dean of the Wisconsin School of Business. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Two Indian Americans Renominated by Trump for Federal Judgeship



Nicholas Ranjan and Neomi Rao

WASHINGTON (TIP): On January 22, President Donald Trump re-present a list of 51 judicial nominees including two Indian Americans for federal posts after they weren't acted upon by the Senate at the closing of the last Congress.

Pittsburgh-based attorney Nicholas Ranjan is to be nominated at a federal judgeship on the District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and Neomi Rao, who is currently the administrator for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, is the President's nominee to replace Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in his old seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

The seat Nicholas Ranjan has been nominated for opened on June 3, 2016, with Judge Kim Gibson's move to senior status. While the seat opened in the Obama Administration, no nomination was put forward to fill the vacancy.

Ranjan applied to the bipartisan judicial selection committee set up by Pennsylvania Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey in March 2017. Ranjan interviewed with Toomey and Casey and was then recommended to the White House. He was formally nominated on July 24, 2018.

Ranjan began his career with a fellowship in the Ohio Solicitor General's Office and a clerkship on the Sixth Circuit, but he's spent his entire legal career since then at the Pittsburgh office of K&L Gates, handling commercial and appellate litigation.

Neomi Rao is a former professor of structural constitutional law, administrative law, and legislation and statutory interpretation at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University. Prior to joining the Law School, Rao served in all three branches of government. She served as Associate Counsel and Special Assistant to President George W. Bush. Administrator Rao also served as counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, where she was responsible for judicial nominations and constitutional law issues.

But Rao's nomination is sparking controversy for her past writings in which she partly blamed women victims of date-rape, according to media reports. A report from BuzzFeed News unearthed some troubling pieces that Rao wrote between 1994 and 1996-when she was a student at Yale and shortly afterward. In an October 1994 column in the Yale Herald, she reportedly acknowledged that men who rape drunk women should face charges but added that "a good way to avoid a potential date rape is to stay reasonably sober."

Indian American Engineer elected to the title of Chartered Petroleum Engineer

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Chemical Engineer Dr. Raj Shah was recently conferred the coveted title of a Chartered Petroleum engineer. He is the first ever Indian American to achieve this distinction, an honor which so far only half a dozen Americans have been recognized with in the life of this award. This honorary title is awarded by the Energy institute (EI), which is the largest professional membership body that

brings global energy expertise together. Energy Institute's ambition is that energy, and its critical role in our world, is better understood, managed and valued. The Energy Institute is a unique network with insight spanning the world of energy, from conventional oil and gas to the most innovative renewable and energy efficient technologies and working with the know-how of around 20,000 members and 250 companies from 120 countries. The global energy industry, the people working in it and wider society all benefit from the work done at the Energy Institute.

The honor of being the first Indian American Chartered petroleum engineer in an association that has 20000 plus members and spans over 120 countries was not lost to Dr. Shah who accepted this distinction with great humility thanking his colleagues and family for all their support

Dr. Shah is the also the only individual in the chemical industry worldwide who is an elected Fellow at all these international professional organizations: namely, STLE, NLGI, AIC, RSC and EI. He also holds the distinction of being the first person ever to hold all 6 of these highly coveted certifications. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*



Dr. Raj Shah is the first Indian American to be conferred the title of a Chartered Petroleum engineer

Dr. Raju honored for his four-decade crusade to eradicate avoidable blindness in India

KAKINADA, AP (TIP): Dr. V.K. Raju, an eminent ophthalmologist based in Morgantown, West Virginia, USA was honored for his over 40 years work to eradicate avoidable blindness in India during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Rangaraya Medical College in Kakinada on Saturday, January 5. The award was presented to him by the Vice President of Indi, M Venkaiah Naidu who was the chief guest. This award adds to a long list of awards and honors conferred on Dr. Raju.

Dr. V.K. Raju is founder and president of the Eye Foundation of America, a nearly 40-year-old not-for-profit engaged in the work of eradication of preventable blindness across the world. (www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

Dr. V.K. Raju was on a visit to India to attend a couple of conferences and speak at some events. He was in Mumbai on December 28 to attend the AAPI-GAPIO Summit where he spoke on Diabetics & its Pandemic health consequences.

In Kolkata on January 1, Dr. Raju spoke at Kolkata Rotary Club, which is the oldest Rotary Club in India and which will be celebrating its centenary towards the end of 2019. Dr. Raju was the keynote speaker on childhood blindness.

Addressing the Rotarians he complimented them for their tremendous achievement in "wiping out Polio in 28 years. He exhorted them to evince the same zeal in respect of preventing avoidable blindness from the face of India.

"If Rotary puts in its effort for as many years, we can have a world without blindness, he said, reminding that "80% of our learning comes through vision". It needs only three wills- political will, professional will, and people's will to achieve the desired goal. He quoted US Ambassador Galbraith, the hyper educated economist of the world who underscored the importance of education when he said, "Education is the most effective equalizer".

While in Kolkata, he took the opportunity of spending 2 days at the Asiatic Library where he studied the original Bowerman manuscripts dealing with Yoga.

Dr. Raju delivered a lecture at Andhra Medical College at Vishakhapatnam on January 2. He also attended a meeting at the Eye Bank where he pointed out that corneal blindness which is rampant in India, is preventable. In fact, 70% of it can be prevented through education and affordable primary care in every village.

Next, in Kakinada on January 5, Dr. Raju attended the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Rangaraya Medical College where he was honored for his work by the Vice President of India.

However, the most absorbing engagement for Dr. Raju was lecturing to staff and examining patients at the Eye Foundation of America supported Goutami Eye Institute in Rajahmundry. Over a period of 5 days, Dr. Raju worked day and night with the Goutami Eye Institute staff, examining hundreds of patients who have great faith in Dr. Raju and Goutami Eye Institute.

Indian Consulate, Chicago Celebrates Sikh Gurus' Birth Anniversary

352nd Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji and 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji celebrated with fervor

CHICAGO (TIP): Consulate General of India, Chicago in association with Gurdwara Sahib of Chicago celebrated the 352nd Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji and 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji on Sunday 20th January 2019 at the Gurdwara Sahib of Chicago. This Gurdwara was also celebrating its 25th Anniversary as well on this occasion. This Gurdwara is known to feeding the needy for free every day from 7.00am to 9.00pm.

The program started with Shabad Kirtan followed by Keynote speech by Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India. She spoke on the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji and his message of one God, communal harmony and its relevance in today's world.

She mentioned that Guru Nanak Dev ji visited many places to spread his message of



Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India, Chicago and Congressman of 8th Congressional District Raja Krishnamoorthi joined the celebrations



Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India, Chicago addressing the audience



Langar for all. Consul General joins the sangat at langar

tolerance and harmony. He denounced ritualism, superstition, ceremonialism and believed in simplicity and that God was present in each one of us. The lessons he taught are relevant to this day.

About Guru Gobind Singh ji she mentioned that apart from being an extraordinary human being, he was an outstanding example of his love for his people and for helping the oppressed and protecting a person's right to practice the religion of his choice. Every incident of his life revealed his love for

humanity and courage to stand for what he believed was right. Guru Gobind Singh ji was born at Patna Sahib in Bihar which is now among the sacred shrines of not just members of Sikh religion but for people from all religion and walks of life.

The occasion was also graced by Congressman of 8th Congressional District Raja Krishnamoorthi, who also spoke about the relevance of teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji. The Consul General thanked all the people who attended the program and Mr. Balvinder Singh in organizing this event at the Gurdwara. The program was well attended and concluded with a Langar.

(Photographs and Press release /Asian Media USA)

AARP Celebrates Asian American & Pacific Islander Hero Award Winner Denny Chan of Justice in Aging

PASADENA, CA (TIP): AARP celebrated its Asian American and Pacific Islander Hero Award winner Denny Chan for his work using the power of the law to fight senior poverty at Justice in Aging on Wednesday, January 23 at the AARP California Office in Pasadena, CA.

Facing language barriers and limited resources, many older Asian American and Pacific Islanders find themselves struggling to gain access to the health care and other services they need and are entitled to by law. As a staff attorney at Justice in Aging, Chan advocates for the needs of older adults, especially those with limited English proficiency.

Never far from Chan's mind is his maternal grandmother who doesn't speak English and whose journey mirrors those of the individuals he helps.

"Older AAPI adults living in or at risk of poverty not only are one unexpected expense away from homelessness or one fall away from a hospital visit, but they also face a complex health care system made up of people who don't necessarily speak their language," said Denny Chan. "At Justice in Aging, we



advocate every day for laws and policies that better protect older Americans, fighting for healthcare, economic security, and access to the courts, no matter what language they speak."

AARP's AAPI Hero Award is a nationwide contest that celebrates unsung heroes - volunteer and staff members who work diligently behind the scenes in nonprofit organizations serving AAPI age 50 and older.

Khanna, Sanders Introduce Sweeping Plan in House and Senate to Lower Drug Prices

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) along with more than two dozen of their colleagues in the House and Senate introduced sweeping reforms earlier this month that would dramatically reduce prescription drug prices in the United States.

The plan to reduce the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs includes three bills:

1. The Prescription Drug Price Relief Act, which would peg the price of prescription drugs in the United States to the median price in five major countries: Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Japan;
2. The Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act, which would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D;
3. The Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act, which would allow patients, pharmacists and wholesalers to import safe, affordable medicine from Canada and other major countries.

The Prescription Drug Price Relief Act



This bill will bring down drug prices, says Khanna

would lower drug prices in the United States by 50 percent according to Dean Baker. Additionally, the U.S. government could save close to \$360 billion over 10 years if Medicare

negotiated the same prices for drugs as people in Canada pay, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

"There is absolutely no reason for the big pharmaceutical companies to make Americans pay higher prescription drug prices than they charge our friends in Canada, Germany, and the UK. Today we're sending big pharma a message: market exclusivity is a privilege, and when you abuse that by price gouging the sick and aging, then you lose that privilege," Khanna said. "This bill will bring down drug prices by taking on monopolies and boosting prescription drug competition."

Meanwhile, in Canada and other major countries, the same medications, manufactured by the same companies, in the same factories are available for a fraction of the price compared to the United States. In 2017, Americans spent \$1,208 per person on prescription drugs while Canadians spent \$860 and people in the U.K. spent \$476.

The measures introduced were overwhelmingly supported by the American people. Seventy-two percent of Americans favor allowing the importation of prescription drugs from Canada, and 92 percent of the American people support allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

Indian American Assembly member Ash Kalra named Chair of Labor Committee

SAN JOSE (TIP): Indian American Assembly member Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), the first Indian American elected to the State Legislature, has been named Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment



Ash Kalra is the first Indian American elected to the State Legislature

Committee for the 2019-20 legislative session by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood). "I am grateful for this leadership opportunity and would like to thank Speaker Rendon for appointing me chair of the Labor Committee," said Kalra. "Having served on the Committee, I have been proud to author and support legislation that protect the health and safety of workers, promote fair and timely wages, and combat income inequality. As the new chair, I look forward to continuing these efforts and guiding the committee in fostering innovation in the workplace and envisioning the future of work in our state."

The committee's primary jurisdictions are wages, hours, employment discrimination, Cal-OSHA, employment development, and public job programs.

Prior to being elected to the California State Assembly, Assembly member Kalra served two terms on the San Jose City Council, where he championed protections for City employees, including police and firefighters, and was an outspoken voice in support of maintaining San Jose's pension commitments to its workers. Assembly member Kalra was previously Chair of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee, of which he remains a member, and continues to serve on the Education, Judiciary, and Water, Parks, and Wildlife committees.

Trump associate Roger Stone charged with obstruction, lying to Congress and witness tampering

WASHINGTON (TIP): Roger Stone, a longtime Donald Trump associate, was indicted by a grand jury on charges brought by special counsel Robert Mueller. He appeared in court in Florida, Friday, January 25. Special Counsel Mueller alleges that Stone sought stolen emails from WikiLeaks that could damage Trump's opponents at the direction of "a senior Trump Campaign official."

The court filings shed some startling new light on how President Donald Trump's campaign allegedly eagerly tried to benefit from Russian meddling in real time.

Stone denies colluding with the Russian government and said he plans to plead not guilty and fight the charges, which include obstruction, lying to Congress and witness tampering. Stone is the sixth Trump aide or adviser charged by Mueller and the 34th person overall. The nearly two-year-old probe has exposed multiple contacts between Trump associates and Russia during the campaign and transition period and revealed efforts by several to conceal those communications.

An American who has always been 'Bullish on India' named for Padma Bhushan



John Thomas Chambers, Former executive chairman and CEO of Cisco Systems

NEW DELHI (TIP): John Thomas Chambers, Former executive chairman and CEO of Cisco Systems - the American multinational conglomerate company that manufactures and sells IT and telecommunications networking hardware and software, has been named for the

Padma Bhushan award - India's third-highest civilian honor.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive the Padma Bhushan award. I've always believed in India & it's been incredible seeing the transition the country has made from slow follower to fast innovator. I'm lucky to be part of this incredible success story", John tweeted after the Government of India announced his name as Padma Bhushan awardee.

Chambers, who was in Ahmedabad to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2019, earlier said that he has always been bullish on India but his mindset has changed exceptionally. "I've always been bullish on India, but the last 5 years have been exceptional. India's startup ecosystem is showing great signs of growth & large enterprises will need to partner more with innovative startups like JC2," he tweeted just one day before the announcement.

Chambers is the founder and CEO of JC2 Ventures wherehe focuses on helping disruptive startups from around the world build and scale, while also promoting the broader development of startup nations and a startup world. He invests in companies across categories and geographies that are leading market transitions.

Indian American Senator Kamala Harris Announces Presidential Run

WASHINGTON (TIP): On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Indian American Senator Kamala Harris announced that she is running for the White House in 2020. She will formally launch her campaign at a rally in her birthplace Oakland on January 27. Elected in 2016, Harris is the first Indian American and second African American woman in history to be elected to the U.S. Senate, and the first African American and first woman to serve as Attorney General of the state of California.

As U.S. Senator, Kamala introduced or co-sponsored legislation to provide sweeping tax cuts for the middle class, address the high cost of rent, raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, make higher education tuition-free for the vast majority of Americans, reform the cash bail system, protect the legal rights of refugees and immigrants, and expand access to affordable, quality health care with Medicare for All.

Kamala has been a key voice in the fight to hold the Trump administration accountable, asking the tough questions on behalf of the American people. She serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Select Committee On Intelligence, and the Committee On Budget. Kamala served two terms as District Attorney of San Francisco. Defeating a two-term incumbent, she was first elected in 2003, and was overwhelmingly re-elected to a second term in November 2007.

She began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, where she specialized in prosecuting child sexual assault cases. In 1998, she joined the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, where she led the Career Criminal Unit. She also served as the head of the San Francisco City Attorney's Division on Children and Families.

Born to an Indian mother and Jamaican father, Kamala Harris is a graduate of Howard University. She earned her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.



Harris is the first Indian American and second African American woman in US history to be elected to the Senate

SC notice to Centre on plea challenging passport rules

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court sought Centre's response Friday on a PIL questioning the government move to grant "automatic citizenship" to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who migrated to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till 2014 end, owing to alleged religious persecution. A bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi issued notice to the Tripura government, MEA and Union MHA on a petition filed by NGO Tripura People's Front through advocate Manish Goswami. It gave three weeks to the authorities to respond.

CVC asks CBI to act against Alok Verma in corruption case

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) this month asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take "necessary action" against its ex-director Alok Verma in a case involving a bribe allegedly paid to him by Sana Satish Babu, and the Department of Personnel and Trading (DoPT) to initiate disciplinary proceedings against him — both based on a CVC report submitted to the Supreme Court in November, according to three officials in the federal investigation agency and DoPT who spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to the officials, a complaint is likely to be filed against Verma over an allegation that middleman Sana Satish Babu paid a Rs 2 crore bribe to him in the Moin Qureshi case. DoPT will look into an incident involving the exclusion of the name of a key suspect Rakesh Saxena from a complaint registered by CBI in the Indian Railways Catering and Tourist Corp (IRCTC) case, allegedly at Verma's behest.

NEW DELHI (TIP): The biggest democracy in the world is due to elect its leader for the next five years in fewer than 100 days. And the race has just become more interesting.

On Wednesday (January 23), the main Indian opposition Congress party announced that Priyanka Gandhi - the younger sister of party leader Rahul Gandhi and one of the youngest scions of the country's most fabled political family - had officially entered politics. The popular 47-year-old accepted a senior position and will be in charge of the party's affairs in the key state of Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 MPs to the 545-strong lower house of parliament and has produced nine Indian prime ministers.

'Crowd-puller'

Priyanka Gandhi's appointment is expected to significantly help her brother in mounting a credible challenge to the dominance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP.

In the last elections in 2014, Congress saw its seat count in the lower house of parliament fall to just 44, while its vote share in Uttar Pradesh dropped to about eight percent.

Analysts said the party needed new ideas and new faces to revive their fortunes.

"This was in the offing," Said Naqvi, a journalist and political analyst, told Al Jazeera. "She (Priyanka Gandhi) is a definite crowd-puller and this decision will certainly weigh on the ruling BJP's gameplay now."

Political dynasty

Priyanka Gandhi's family has long dominated Indian politics. Her great grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, was the first

I don't hate Modi but will fight him to ensure he doesn't become PM again, says Rahul

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who has been attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various issues, said on Friday that he doesn't "hate" him but only had difference of views.

Gandhi, who had hugged the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha last year, said he feels like giving Modi a "hug whenever he abuses me".

He said he will fight Modi and try to ensure that he does not become the Prime Minister again after the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"We don't want a bureaucratic dictatorship. We want people's democratic state," Gandhi said while addressing a town hall meeting here. Attacking the BJP and the RSS, Gandhi said the "abuses" he received from these organisations was the "best thing" that had happened to him as a politician and a human being.

"I realise PM Modi disagrees with me and I disagree with him. I will fight him and I will try and make sure that he is not the prime minister but I don't hate him. I give him the right to have his opinion," he said while addressing 'The Odisha Dialogue' event in Odisha.

Gandhi has been singularly attacking Modi over various issues like Rafale fighter deal, demonetisation, GST, farmers' crisis. Yesterday, he even described Modi as "a symbol of hatred".

The Congress President said that unlike the BJP, the Congress party has a dynamic process which allows it to listen to the people.

"I am sorry to say that the Congress, of course, has a chaotic conversation. We allow our leaders to talk to each other. Sometimes,



we even have disagreements. Believe me, Mr. Modi's entire cabinet is disagreeing with him but none of them has the guts to open his mouth," he said.

"Ours is a dynamic process, we listen to the people. Not like Mr Narendra Modi who thinks he knows everything. There is no scope for feedback. This is the basic difference between us and the BJP," Gandhi said.

He said India should be run by its 1.2 billion people but "RSS wants to penetrate into all other institutions and control them. One set of people; one ideology should not run the country and that is the broad direction in which he would push."

He went on to add, "We have to do a lot of repair work because what has been done over the last five years is actually devastating to the country. For the first time in history, the Supreme Court judges came out and said they

are not allowed to do our work. And this has never happened in Indian history. You can see the imprint of RSS."

While targeting the Modi government, Gandhi said while there was a talk about high economic growth rate, nobody was talking about jobs.

"Today, if you listen to the conversation in India and read newspapers, the main thing people talk about is growth. If we have 9 percent growth, we are doing well, if we are having 7 percent, we are not doing so well and if we are having 6 percent growth, we have a real problem. Nobody talks about jobs. You can grow at 9 percent and still don't have jobs," he said.

While emphasizing the need for decentralization power, he said there is a connection between Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Priyanka Gandhi's entry into politics: Is she Cong's trump card?

prime minister of independent India; her grandmother, Indira, and father, Rajiv, were also prime ministers, while her mother, Sonia, is a former Congress party president, who headed the party for nearly two decades, until Rahul took over in 2017.

Priyanka Gandhi herself is no stranger to politics but had confined herself to Amethi and Raebareli, constituencies which are represented by her brother and mother respectively.

She is married to businessman Robert Vadra, who the BJP has accused of corruption in his business dealings. The Congress party has dismissed the allegations as "politically motivated".

In recent months, Congress has been on an upward curve, wresting power from the BJP in December's regional elections in the key states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The results dealt Modi his biggest defeat since taking office in 2014, boosting the opposition before the national polls, when more than 900 million eligible voters are expected to pick the country's members of parliament who, in turn, will elect the prime minister.

'Game-changer'

So far, most opinion polls have the BJP



leading the race, with Modi's popularity remaining high.

The outcome, however, is not seen as a foregone conclusion.

This month, the leaders of the regional Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) announced the creation of a potentially formidable coalition aiming to challenge Modi. Meanwhile, in a show of strength, Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of the eastern state of West Bengal, a few days

ago organised a massive rally attended by most of the parties opposing the BJP.

And now, Priyanka Gandhi's official foray into the state's politics is expected to add more pressure on Modi and his ruling party.

"Priyanka's entry is a game-changer," Jai Prakash, a farmer from Amethi, told Al Jazeera. "People see a reflection of Indira Gandhi in her. She is more charismatic than Rahul," he added. "She is Congress's trump card."

Supreme Court refuses to stay 10% quota for poor in jobs, education

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the executive order of the Centre implementing the law providing for 10 per cent quota for the poor in jobs and higher education. A Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi issued notice to the Centre seeking response in four weeks.

The Supreme Court also refused to pass orders to the effect that whatever appointments they make under the new reservation policy would be subject to the outcome of the case before it. "We are examining the matter," said the Supreme Court bench.

The matter would be heard after the pleadings are complete. The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the recently enacted law to provide 10 per cent reservation in government jobs and higher education to economically weaker sections from unreserved, otherwise referred to as general category. The petition challenging the Constitution (103rd) Amendment Act was filed by an NGO, Youth for Equality and it contends that the law alters the "basic structure" of the Constitution.

The legislation got Parliament's approval earlier this month amid Opposition parties questioning the Union government's "haste" in pushing the bill through months ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha elections and in the aftermath of the BJP's defeat in the Hindi heartland states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The petition cites a Supreme Court order by



a nine-judge bench in 1992 Indra Sawhney case stating that economic backwardness cannot be the basis of reservation in jobs and education. "Such an Amendment is hence, vulnerable and ought to be struck down as it merely negates a binding judgement," says the PIL.

The PIL further argues that the new quota law breaches the cap of 50 per cent total reservation in jobs and education. This ceiling was fixed by the top court in the M Nagaraj case in 2006. Under the existing constitutional arrangements, reservation in jobs and education is available to the members of the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward

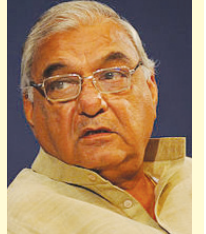
Classes (OBC) communities.

The government has, however, maintained that the amended law can withstand legal scrutiny. Speaking during the debate on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, "The apex court had stated that the rule of 50% [cap on reservations] applies only to reservation for backward classes... This bill is for social and economic justice."

The PIL has also challenged the new quota law on the ground that the amendment provides for reservation in private unaided educational institutions, which has been clearly barred by the top court through two previous judgments.

CBI registers new case against Hooda in land scam; searches held at 30 locations

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI on Friday registered a new case against former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and others over alleged irregularities in land allocation and carried out searches at 30 locations in Delhi-NCR, officials said.



A team of officials from the agency arrived early morning at Hooda's residence in Rohtak, they said.

According to the officials, 30 locations in the Delhi-NCR region are part of the probe, the officials said.

The agency is tight-lipped about the details of the case as the search operation is under way.

The case is understood to be related to alleged irregularities in land allotment, sources said.

SC/ST Act: SC to consider listing of Centre's review, petitions together



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday said it would consider listing the Centre's review and petitions challenging the amendments to the SC/ ST Act 2018, together before an appropriate bench. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said it would consider and do the needful. Attorney General KK Venugopal said a bench headed by Justice AK Sikri had on Thursday passed an order, saying it would be appropriate to hear the Centre's review and writ petitions against the AC/ST Act 2018 together.

The apex court had on Thursday refused to stay the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018, which restored the provision that no anticipatory bail be granted to the accused.

ISRO launches student-made satellite

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its 46th flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44) and put into space Microsat-R, an imaging satellite and student-made Kalamsat, a communication satellite named after former President Abdul Kalam, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

In PSLV-C44, the fourth stage (PS4) of the vehicle will be moved to a higher circular orbit so as to establish an orbital platform for carrying out experiments.

Kalamsat, a student payload, will be the first to use PS4 as orbital platform. PSLV-C44 will also carry Microsat-R, an imaging satellite.

Militant-turned soldier awarded Ashok Chakra posthumously

NEW DELHI (TIP): Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani, a surrendered militant who became a soldier, will be posthumously awarded India's highest peacetime gallantry award, the Ashok Chakra, on Republic Day for his courage during a fierce encounter in which six terrorists were killed in Kashmir last November.

Wani belonged to an army unit raised 15 years ago with surrendered militants as an experiment to rewrite the rules of counter-terror operations in Kashmir.

President Ram Nath Kovind will present the award to Wani's wife, Mahajabeen Wani, at the 70th Republic Day parade, the army said on Thursday. Wani, who was 38 when he died, will be the first soldier from Kashmir to be awarded the Ashok Chakra. Thus far, 88 individuals have been awarded the Ashok Chakra; of these 68 have been awarded posthumously.

Exactly two months ago, on November 25, 2018, the army received intelligence on the presence of six heavily-armed terrorists at Hiranagar village in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Wani and his squad were asked to block the



terrorists' most likely escape route, a standard drill during such operations. The soldiers closed in on the target house and positioned themselves to engage the terrorists at close range.

"Sensing danger, the terrorists attempted breaching the inner cordon, firing indiscriminately and lobbing grenades. Undeterred by the situation, L/Nk Nazir held ground and eliminated one hard core terrorist [a district commander of LeT] in a fierce exchange at close range," said a notification issued by the President's secretariat on Wednesday.

Nazir's second kill followed a few minutes later when he fearlessly stormed into the house, amid bullets and grenades flying around him.

"Seeing the foreign terrorist escaping from the window, he [Wani] encountered him in a hand to hand combat situation. Despite being severely wounded, L/Nk Nazir eliminated the terrorist," the notification added.

In the ensuing gun battle, Wani was hit multiple times, and took a shot to the head, army officials said. Bleeding heavily, the soldier continued to engage the remaining terrorists and injured a third one at close range. His action helped his squad kill the remaining terrorists. Wani even helped evacuate his wounded colleagues before succumbing to his injuries.

This was not the first time Wani demonstrated courage in combat, according to army officials. He was twice decorated with the Sena Medal for gallantry in counter-terrorism operations in 2007 and 2018.

He was a hero right from the beginning, the army said in a statement, adding that he operated with Rashtriya Rifles units in Kashmir to fight the onslaught of Pakistan-supported terror outfits. Wani joined the Indian Army's 162 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army), Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, in 2004.

Patna Sikh shrine to revamp gurdwaras in Bangladesh

PATNA (TIP): The managing committee of Takht Sri Patna Sahib is drawing a roadmap for the renovation and beautification of gurdwaras in Bangladesh. Patna Sahib shrine is the birthplace of 10th Sikh master Guru Gobind Singh and second biggest shrine of Sikhs in the country. It looks after maintenance and development of gurdwaras in the east and south India, besides those in Bangladesh.

At a crucial meeting held last week, the shrine management committee decided to send a delegation to Bangladesh to study the condition of gurdwaras in the country and chalk out an effective plan to revamp them.

Committee's general secretary Mahendra Pal Singh Dhillon, said, "We have learnt that the gurdwaras in Bangladesh are in need of a revamp. One Dr Parmveer Singh, researcher and professor at Punjabi University, Patiala, has been given the responsibility on behalf of the Takht committee to travel to Bangladesh to study the prevailing condition of the historical gurdwaras in the country where the founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak and Guru Teg Bahadur had visited. Proofs of their footprints can be found in those gurdwaras."

He said Dr Singh will assess and submit a report on the work to be done for bringing back the shrines to their original grandeur. Bangladesh till the late sixties had in all 18 gurdwaras.



COMMENT

Prof I.S. Saluja

The State of the Indian Republic

India is celebrating 70th Republic Day. What a day! Congratulations! Indians celebrate the Constitution of India- the most well written Constitution in the world, it is said. There is a plethora of rights and guarantees for all citizens of a wonderful country, gifted with Nature's bounty. God's own country, one may as well say. And Indians are legitimately proud of the work done by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and his colleagues in giving them a wonderful Constitution.

India has a political system which has weathered all kinds of storms. India has a system of governance which can be functional under any person and party. India is growing in numbers, in wealth, in influence in the world. India truly is progressing. And Indians must be proud of the achievements India can boast of.

India has some of the world's wealthiest people. Indians have the best brains. They may not have opportunities in India. But they are all over the world. Some of them head the largest companies in the world. Some are the top scientists. Some others are the best-known academics. Name any profession, they are among the top.

But then how it is that India is hungry, 73 years after independence, and 70 years after becoming a Republic? When you have the manpower, intellectual power, wealth and all kinds of means in your armor, how is it that there is so much poverty in India? In 2012, the Indian government stated 22% of its population is below its official poverty limit. The World Bank, in 2011 based on 2005's PPPs International Comparison Program, estimated 23.6% of Indian population, or about 276 million people, lived below \$1.25 per day on purchasing power parity.

According to Global Wealth Report 2016 compiled by Credit Suisse Research Institute, India is the second most unequal country in the world with the top one per cent of the population owning 58% of the total wealth. And this gap is widening, day by day.

On this Republic Day, I will like our political and thought leaders to please put their heads together and find ways to end poverty, and, next the unjust economic inequality, in the interest of the great nation that India is and the equally great people that Indians are.

Readers Write

Indian Flag Burning by SFJ on January 26, 2019

"In America, given our cherished Bill of Rights, 'Flag burning' by an American is both

AS I SEE IT

A failed coup in Venezuela



By Vijay Prashad

The fulcrum of geopolitical tension sits on Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. An attempted coup on January 23 has failed. The U.S. decided to recognize a member of the Opposition, Juan Guaidó, as the President of Venezuela. U.S. officials called upon the military to rise up against the government of President Nicolás Maduro. This was against the charters of the United Nations and of the Organisation of American States (OAS). None of that mattered. The drumbeats sounded from Washington to Caracas. There was a minor drum playing from many Latin American capitals, those whose governments had joined the Lima Group - set up in Peru in 2017 to overthrow the government of Venezuela.

There is little respite for the country, where tension sits heavily from one end to another. Thus far, the government of Mr. Maduro remains in power, and the military has pledged its fealty to the re-elected president. It is unlikely that the Venezuelan Opposition - controlled by the old oligarchy - will be able to engineer a coup from within the country. It tried such a political maneuver in 2002, which failed. This time it has failed again.

Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, 45, has been understandably busy on the day after the attempted coup. The U.S. tried to isolate the Maduro government. The OAS met in Washington DC, where the U.S. government tried to get it to unanimously vote against Mr. Maduro. Even that meeting could not go as scripted. A veteran activist from Code Pink, Medea Benjamin, sneaked into the room and chanted slogans against the attempted coup. Many Latin American states, despite intense pressure from the U.S. government, either voted against the OAS motion or abstained. Mr. Arreaza watched these

When I asked him about the coup, he went back to 2017, the last time that the oligarchy tried to wrest control of the government from the socialists. The socialists, led by Hugo Chávez, came to power in 1999. After the U.S. attempted to overthrow Chávez and the socialists in 2002, things calmed down. Oil prices rose and the U.S. was distracted by events in Iraq and Afghanistan. For a decade, Venezuela was able to lead a regional process of integration on an anti-imperialist foundation. But, when Chávez died in 2013, the experiment began to unravel. Oil prices fell dramatically, and the U.S. had already turned its attention to Latin America. A coup in 2009 overthrew the democratically elected government of Honduras. The sunsights turned toward Venezuela. The oligarchy, backed fully by the U.S., attempted to foment trouble in 2017.

Mr. Arreaza recalled one man, Orlando

emotionally offensive and legally protected political speech. Desecration, when devoid of political speech, however, is a crime. Indeed, being upon one's knee in NFL games is in the same genre, albeit, less offensive.

What SFJ - an American-born & accredited

The country was once the heartbeat of leftist assertion. But with change in the Americas, matters are now complex

Thus far, the government of Mr. Maduro remains in power, and the military has pledged its fealty to the re-elected president. It is unlikely that the Venezuelan Opposition - controlled by the old oligarchy - will be able to engineer a coup from within the country. It tried such a political maneuver in 2002, which failed. This time it has failed again.



Figuera, 21, who was going through an Opposition stronghold in May 2017. "He was accused of being a government supporter and brutally beaten by masked protesters who then soaked him in gasoline and set him on fire," Mr. Arreaza told me. He brought up this story to offer an illustration of the character of the Opposition. Mr. Arreaza called this a 'violent fascist movement'. He wanted to make it clear that the coup attempt was a part of that movement - one that is less interested in democracy and more interested in power and wealth.

Venezuela is in trouble. No one doubts that. Oil prices have fallen to half of what they were at the highpoint of Chávez's government. Since the treasury of Venezuela is almost entirely replenished by the incomes from oil sales, the collapse of oil prices means the collapse of Venezuela's public finances. Unable to borrow easily, the country faces serious economic difficulties. Sanctions by the U.S. and the seizure of refining sites in the Caribbean put the country into a situation of great crisis. No wonder that people are leaving the country, fleeing their homeland as it is suffocated for political purposes by the U.S. and its Latin American allies in the Lima Group.

Colombia's Iván Duque and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro are both right-wing politicians who control the governments of Venezuela's neighbors. They have committed themselves to the overthrow of the Venezuelan government.

Mr. Arreaza and others in Venezuela told me that Mr. Duque, Mr. Bolsonaro and U.S. President Donald Trump have overplayed their hands. After the attempted overthrow in 2017, the Venezuelan government tried to deepen public participation by the formation of a Constituent Assembly. It is true that the oligarchy hated this idea and that the western press amplified its views about this being anti-democratic. But, as many Venezuelans say, the Constituent Assembly and the many elections for candidates and referendums that came before 2017 have sharpened their political consciousness. It will be hard to befuddle them with talk of dictatorship.

The isolation of Venezuela is remarkable. Not long ago, the country was the heartbeat of the leftist assertion in the hemisphere. Now, with the emergence of right-of-center governments in Latin America and with an explosive energy for regime change in Washington, matters are more complex. Mr. Arreaza said that Mr. Maduro had invited the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, to visit Venezuela. She has not yet come. Mr. Maduro, he said, wanted the UN to host a dialogue with the Opposition to restore some balance to the politics in the country. No such assistance has been provided. A hand is outstretched from Caracas, Mr. Arreaza said. It is waiting for someone to take hold of it.

(The author is Executive Director, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research)

flag-desecration, let alone terror and foreign agency, are the calculus of this calculated act to evoke, provoke and injure the sovereignty of a core American ally, India."

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UN Peacekeeping: India's Contributions



By Asoke Kumar
Mukerji

“

As an "original" founder-member of the United Nations, India has not hesitated to respond to the calls of the UN to contribute troops for maintaining international peace and security. In 1950, soon after India's independence, the 60 Parachute Field Ambulance of the Indian Army was sent to provide medical cover to U.S./R.O.K. and UN forces engaged in the Korean War. The unit served in Korea for a total of three and a half years (November 1950- May 1954), the longest single tenure by any military unit under the UN flag.

”



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Indian Peacekeepers who returned from South Sudan

India's contributions to UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) have been underscored by the experience and professionalism of India's armed forces. Speaking at the September 2015 Leaders' Summit in New York on UN Peacekeeping, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had said: "The foundations of the United Nations were laid by the brave soldiers on the battlefields of the Second World War. By 1945, they included 2.5 million men of the Indian Army, the largest volunteer force in history." India today is the largest contributor of troops to UNPKOs. More than 200,000 Indian troops have served in 49 of the 71 UNPKOs deployed so far.

As an "original" founder-member of the United Nations, India has not hesitated to respond to the calls of the UN to contribute troops for maintaining international peace and security. In 1950, soon after India's independence, the 60 Parachute Field Ambulance of the Indian Army was sent to provide medical cover to U.S./R.O.K. and UN forces engaged in the Korean War. The unit served in Korea for a total of three and a half years (November 1950- May 1954), the longest single tenure by any military unit under the UN flag.

From 15 November 1956 to 19 May 1967, eleven infantry battalions from India served by rotation in the UN Emergency Force (UNEF 1) to ensure the withdrawal of France, U.K. and Israel from Egyptian territory and to sustain the peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors. 27 Indian UN peacekeepers lost their lives in this operation.

In 1960, the Congo requested for deployment of UN peacekeepers to counter secession and re-integrate the country after Belgian rule. Between 14 July 1960 and 30 June 1964, two Indian brigades participated in ONUC UNPKO. The rules of engagement were modified to cater for use of force in defense of the mandate, in carrying out humanitarian tasks, and in countering mercenaries. 39 Indian personnel lost their lives in the operation. Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria became the only UN peacekeeper to receive the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military award, for laying down his life in defense of the UN mandate in the Congo.

India's participation in the initial UNPKOs resulted in a growing pool of Indian military

officers seconded to the UN whose professionalism and experience have contributed to UN peacekeeping doctrine. The contribution of Major-General

I.J. Rikhye, appointed as the first Military Adviser to the UN Secretary General between 1960-1967, was seminal in this context. The three core principles of effective UN peacekeeping were identified based on the experience of UNPKOs on the ground. These are deployment with the consent of the parties, impartiality in operations, and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate.

Subsequent contributions to UN peacekeeping doctrine by Indian military officers have built on this, both at UN Headquarters (where two Indian Generals have served as Military Advisers in recent years) and in the field (where 15 Indian Generals have acted as Force Commanders with distinction).

The end of the Cold War resulted in a mushrooming of crises. More than 20 new UNPKOs were deployed between 1989-1994 alone. India's contributions to these new operations rose significantly. Three broad areas have emerged where India's contributions have made a difference.

The first area is in making use of UN peacekeeping across the world to ensure a political transition to peace. Such UNPKOs include UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia, whose first Force Commander was India's Lt. General Satish Nambiar; UNTAC in Cambodia; ONUSAL in El Salvador; ONUMOZ in Mozambique; UNOSOM in Somalia; UNAVEM in Angola; UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone; UNMEE in Ethiopia-Eritrea; and UNMIT in East Timor.

The second area is in augmenting peacebuilding activities by encouraging and mentoring the strengthening of national governance institutions. UNTAG saw Indian peacekeepers assist in the creation of the institutions of an independent Namibia. India became the first country to demonstrate the effectiveness of women as UN peacekeepers in peacebuilding with the deployment of the first all-female formed police unit (FFPU) to the UNPKO in Liberia (UNMIL) in 2007. When UNMIL was wound up in February 2018, President Sirleaf of Liberia commented: "The contribution you have made

in inspiring Liberian women, imparting in them the spirit of professionalism and encouraging them to join operations that protect the nation, for that we will always be grateful."

The third area is in leading the ground level response to new challenges, while the UN Security Council remains ineffective in implementing its decisions, due to reasons set out unanimously by world leaders at the 2005 UN World Summit which mandated reforms of the Security Council. The protection of civilians caught in intra-state conflicts is one issue where India's UN peacekeepers have made a positive difference, especially in complex UNPKOs like MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo and UNMISS in South Sudan. Going beyond the call of duty, Indian UN peacekeepers have volunteered medical services, including veterinary support, and engineering services, in these UNPKOs, which has contributed to sustaining the livelihood of conflict-impacted local communities.

The challenges faced by India's troops contributed to UNPKOs today include terrorist threats to the UN by non-state actors. In UNDOF, deployed on the Golan Heights of Syria, Indian UN military officers were the first to confront such challenges by the Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist group which took UN peacekeepers hostage in 2014.

A bigger challenge for troop-contributing countries like India is the denial by the permanent members of the Security Council to participate in "decisions of the Security Council" concerning the deployment of her troops, as provided for in Article 44 of the UN Charter.

3802 troops from UN member-states have given their lives defending the UN Charter between 1948-2018. The highest number (164) are from India. India has launched a virtual wall of remembrance for her peacekeepers. The UN General Assembly has approved constructing a Memorial to all fallen UN peacekeepers. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emphasized: "It would be most fitting if the proposed memorial wall to the fallen peacekeepers is created quickly."

(The author, a retired diplomat, is a Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations)

‘I have to stay alive’: Gay Brazilian lawmaker gives up seat amid threats

SAO PAULO (BRAZIL) (TIP): An openly gay federal lawmaker in Brazil who has frequently clashed with the country’s new far-right president said January 25 that he was giving up his seat because of death threats.

The lawmaker, Jean Wyllys, a fierce advocate for gay rights who was due to be sworn in for a third term in February, said in an interview with newspaper *Folha de S. Paulo* that “this environment isn’t safe for me” after the assassination of a political ally in March and violence that followed the election of President Jair Bolsonaro in October.

“For the future of this cause,” Wyllys said, “I have to stay alive. I don’t want to be a martyr.” He added that he was currently on vacation abroad and did not plan to return to Brazil.

Wyllys called Bolsonaro, a former colleague of his in the lower house of Congress, “a president who always vilified me, who always openly insulted me, who was always homophobic with me.”

In 2016, Wyllys responded by spitting at Bolsonaro during the hearing to impeach President Dilma Rousseff. Bolsonaro, before reinventing himself as a fighter of political corruption and rampant violence, was best known for delivering verbal attacks on women, black people and gay people from the congressional floor.

Shortly after Wyllys’ interview was published, Bolsonaro, who was in Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum, tweeted “Great day!” and a thumbs-up emoticon. Supporters weighed in, many with homophobic comments.

Wyllys has been the target of death threats for years, but he said those threats had become more severe after Marielle Franco, a human rights advocate who was his friend and political ally, was assassinated. (NYT)

Down to its last two villages in Syria, ISIS still fights back

BAGHDAD (TIP): Along two sharp curves of the Euphrates River in northeastern Syria, the Islamic State is fighting to hold on to the last speck of the vast territory it once controlled.

At its height, the group enforced its brutal version of Islamic rule over more than 60,000 square miles in Syria and Iraq. It is now squeezed into two villages occupying 6 square miles. There, its foot soldiers have been engaged in heavy clashes with the US-backed and Kurdish-led militia Syrian Democratic Forces who are battling to take back the turf, according to a spokesman for the militia and observers in the area.

While some of the extremists are fighting to the end, local officials say the militants have been surrendering by the dozens, repeating a pattern observed in other cities shortly before the group was overrun.

Even with the end of the group’s self-proclaimed caliphate in Syria and Iraq within view, Western officials caution that this is not the end of the violent threat posed by the group. It has continued carrying out devastating attacks as it reverts to its insurgent roots, including a suicide bombing that killed four Americans in Manbij, Syria, last week. “I think this is the end of a phase, and the beginning of a subsequent fight,” said Col. Sean Ryan, a Baghdad-based spokesman for the US-backed coalition fighting the group. “Now they will resume smaller attacks. Everyone needs to remain vigilant.”

The Islamic State’s ambitions have always been global, and its affiliates in Afghanistan, West Africa, the Philippines, Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere have been growing, experts say. And just inside Syria and Iraq, the group still has between 20,000 and 30,000 fighters, according to separate estimates by the Pentagon inspector general, the United Nations and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

While many fighters have been killed since those estimates were calculated late last year, analysts say that large numbers have simply melted into the population.

The two villages still held by the group — Marashidah and Baghuz Fawqani — represent the final 0.01 percent of the caliphate in Syria and Iraq. They sit inside the hook created by two bends in the Euphrates. The terrain is lush near the river and then increasingly desiccated farther out.



After months of grueling war that has claimed the lives of thousands of fighters in Syria, the Kurdish-led militia has recently made significant inroads. Some officials are optimistically declaring that the last two villages will fall in a matter of days. Others estimate the final battles, which come as the United States prepares to withdraw 2,000 troops in the coming months, could take as long as three weeks.

“Yesterday, 60 fighters — among them 50 foreigners — surrendered to our forces, and the number was 30 fighters the day before,” Shervan Derwish, spokesman of the military council in Manbij, said Wednesday. “The remaining Daesh fighters are split between those who want to surrender and those who want to fight until the end,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State.

It’s not surprising that a majority of those who surrendered are foreign fighters. The Islamic State, as it established its caliphate in 2014, recruited from 100 countries and tens of thousands of people flocked to its territory.

Unlike the local population, the foreigners often do not speak Arabic fluently, and their non-Arab features mean that they cannot blend in with the local population. Those handing themselves over, including the wives and children of foreign fighters, are bitterly complaining that their local counterparts were able to slip away, leaving them to fend for themselves. The leaders of the Syrian Democratic Forces say a decision to alter their battle plan has allowed them to advance more

quickly on the Islamic State holdouts.

During previous assaults, the militia usually attacked from a single front. Then came an aggressive counterattack by the Islamic State in October in the village of Sousa that inflicted heavy casualties on the coalition and allowed the militants to regain areas lost days before.

“After that, the leadership took a decision to change tactics, and moved us to attacking on two — or even three — axes so that the small force that ISIS has cannot counter,” said Zana Amedi, a spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces. “Right now, the operation is going on two axes — from the north, we are attacking the village of Marashidah, and from the south, the village of Baghuz.”

In recent days, the Islamic State has shown that it is still a potent force by leading back-to-back attacks on U.S. forces.

The first was the suicide explosion at a restaurant in Manbij, which killed 15 people, including two U.S. service members, a Defense Department civilian and a military contractor. The second was a strike on a U.S. convoy passing south of the town of Hasakah, which claimed no lives but was nevertheless worrying because of its targeted nature.

“If they are able to operate in Manbij, which is 300 kilometers away from where they hold territory, you tell me, are they defeated?” asked Amedi, the Syrian Democratic Forces spokesman. “ISIS has power, ISIS has sleeper cells and ISIS has been preparing for this for years,” he added. (New York Times)

Not aware of plans by Xi Jinping to visit India: Chinese Foreign Ministry



BEIJING (TIP): China’s Foreign Ministry said on January 25 that it was not aware about any plans of President Xi Jinping’s visit to India in the next two months for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as reported by a Japanese publication.

Japanese publication *Nikkei Asian Review*

on Tuesday carried a report titled “Xi plans India visit, as diplomatic chess with US intensifies”.

The story said, “Xi intends to visit India as early as February in a move seen at countering Washington’s increasingly antagonistic trade policy and aggressive Indo-Pacific diplomacy.”

When asked about the report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, “You said this was reported by Japanese media. So it is quite interesting. I am not aware of what you said.”

Hua said China and India are friendly neighbours.

“We attach importance to maintain high level exchanges. And the leader of the both the countries also maintain friendly

communication and exchange,” she said.

When pointed out that the Russian media also carried a similar report, Hua said, “Chinese media hasn’t reported it and I am not aware of the information you mentioned”.

“But we attach importance to our relations with India and we stand to maintain close communication at various levels,” she said.

Officials sources here on Wednesday told PTI here that there was no proposal for Xi to visit India for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Modi.

Wuhan summit was the first such high-level meeting ever between Indian and Chinese leaders. It was conceived by both the sides following the 2017 military standoff at Doklam which ratcheted up tensions between the two countries. The two-day summit at

Wuhan during which the two leaders closely interacted for hours on bilateral and international issues has paved the way for the two countries to normalise relations on all fronts putting behind the Doklam standoff.

Since then the two countries steadily normalised relations with intensified dialogue on various fronts, including the military and trade fronts.

Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan has concluded his two-day visit to China on Tuesday after talks with Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen and Zhang Jiwen, Chinese Vice Minister of General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), to enhance Indian exports to China to reduce the trade deficit of over USD 57 billion. (PTI)

Venezuela military backs Maduro, as Russia warns US not to intervene

CARACAS (VENEZUELA) (TIP): The leader of Venezuela's armed forces declared loyalty to President Nicolás Maduro on January 24 and said the opposition's effort to replace him with a transitional government amounted to an attempted coup.

The pronouncement by the defense minister, Vladimir Padrino López, came a day after an opposition lawmaker proclaimed himself the country's rightful leader during nationwide protests and pleaded with the armed forces to abandon Maduro.

The defense minister's declaration was a setback for the opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, whose claim to legitimacy has been backed by a number of countries, including the United States. In a further blow to the opposition, Russia warned the United States on Thursday against meddling in Venezuela, a longtime Kremlin ally that has received billions of dollars in Russian support.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia telephoned Maduro and "emphasized that destructive external interference is a gross violation of the fundamental norms of international law," according to a statement on Putin's official website.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ignored the admonitions and intensified the Trump administration's call for other countries to accept Guaidó and renounce Maduro.

"His regime is morally bankrupt, it's economically incompetent, and it is profoundly corrupt, and it is undemocratic to the core," Pompeo told a meeting of the 35-member Organization of American States in Washington.

The United States also offered \$20 million in emergency aid to Guaidó's side and requested an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Saturday on the Venezuela crisis. Diplomats said Pompeo was expected to attend.

Taken together, the events escalated the confusion and conflict over who is the rightful president of Venezuela, the oil-rich and formerly prosperous country upended by political repression and severe economic hardship under Maduro.

An infuriated Maduro cut ties Wednesday with the United States and ordered all diplomats to leave within 72 hours. Pompeo said the United States would not comply.

But a senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the embassy in Caracas was evacuating all family members



and several diplomats, keeping a core team of officers in place. How long they might stay remained unclear.

Maduro, addressing Supreme Court judges at an event Thursday afternoon, urged the United States to heed his call to withdraw all diplomats by this weekend.

"If there is any sense and rationality, I say to the State Department: You must follow the order," Maduro said.

He added that Venezuela's diplomatic missions in the United States, which include an embassy in Washington and consulates in Florida and Texas, would be shut down by Saturday.

Opposition leaders had hoped key members of the armed forces would break ranks with Maduro after large demonstrations across the country and international pledges of support for Guaidó, including the Trump administration's repeated warnings that a "military option" is possible for restoring democracy in Venezuela.

But so far, senior military commanders appear to be siding with Maduro, even as they express alarm over the possible consequences of rival claims to power.

"We're here to avoid a clash between Venezuelans," Padrino, the defense minister, said in a televised address, flanked by high-ranking officers. "It's not a civil war, a war among brothers, that will resolve Venezuelans' problems."

Padrino called Guaidó's claim to power "laughable" and described him as a pawn of right-wing factions subservient to the United

States.

"It makes you want to laugh," he said. "But I must alert the people of the danger this represents."

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala and the Organization of American States have also recognized Guaidó as the country's leader. Others in the region, however, have not, including Mexico, as well as Cuba and Bolivia, longtime allies of Maduro.

Guaidó took an oath Wednesday to lead Venezuela until fair elections can be held. He has argued that as the president of the National Assembly, an opposition-controlled legislative body, he has the constitutional authority to assume power after Maduro took office earlier this month following an election widely viewed as rigged.

The military's pledge of support for Maduro raised the stakes of a standoff that U.S. officials had hoped would be resolved quickly.

Diplomats who back Guaidó hoped that key members of the armed forces would switch sides after an outpouring of support for Guaidó on the streets of Venezuela on Wednesday, and pledges of support by several nations in Latin America.

Military analysts and diplomats were surprised that Padrino had remained largely silent and invisible for hours after Guaidó proclaimed himself the country's interim president. Some were looking for signs of rifts within the armed forces. (NYT)

Australia urges China to treat detained writer fairly

Canberra (TIP): Australia's foreign minister has urged China to treat a Chinese-Australian writer fairly and says there is no evidence that his detention is part of a backlash against Canada's arrest of a top Chinese telecommunications executive.

Spy novelist and online commentator Yang Hengjun was a Chinese diplomat before he became an Australian citizen.

Friends say the 53-year-old had been living in New York as a visiting scholar at Columbia University and had returned to China last week with his wife and 14-year-old stepdaughter.

Foreign Minister Marise Payne said Australian Embassy officials had their first meeting with Chinese officials in Beijing on Yang's detention on Thursday.

Australia had requested urgent consular accesses to him, an explanation for his detention and of possible charges. (AP)

Scientist who edited babies' genes is likely to face charges in China

HONG KONG (TIP): A Chinese scientist who claimed to have created the world's first genetically edited babies "seriously violated" state regulations, according to the results of an initial government investigation reported on January 19 by Chinese state media.

The investigators' findings indicate that the scientist, He Jiankui, and his collaborators are likely to face criminal charges.

He shocked the world in November when he announced that he had used Crispr, a powerful gene-editing technique, to alter the genes of human embryos. He produced some data but no definitive proof during his presentation at an international conference in Hong Kong.

The investigation found that he and his team had edited the genes of human embryos and then implanted the embryos in female volunteers, as he claimed last year. One volunteer gave birth to twin girls in November, and another volunteer is now pregnant, according to Xinhua, the Chinese state news agency.

He's announcement raised ethical concerns about the long-term effects of such genetic alterations, which if successful would be inherited by the child's progeny, and whether other scientists would be emboldened to try their own gene-editing experiments.

Scientists inside and outside China criticized He's work, which highlighted fears that the country has overlooked ethical issues in the pursuit of scientific achievement. Chinese authorities placed He under investigation, during which time he has been kept under guard at a guesthouse at the Southern University of Science and Technology in the city of Shenzhen.

The university announced Monday that it was rescinding He's contract and canceling all of his teaching and research activities there.

The investigation also found that He had raised funds on his own "in pursuit of personal fame and fortune." The allegations that he forged documents and financed his work independently could shield from punishment his university, local authorities and the hospital where the trial was carried out. (New York Times)

Queen sends a Brexit message to UK politicians: End your bickering

LONDON (TIP): Queen Elizabeth has sent a delicately coded message to Britain's factious political class over Brexit, urging lawmakers to seek common ground and grasp the big picture to resolve the crisis. With the clock ticking down to March 29, the date set in law for Britain to leave the European Union, the United Kingdom is in the deepest political crisis in half a century as it grapples with how, or even whether, to exit the European project it joined in 1973.

While Elizabeth, 92, did not mention Brexit explicitly in an annual speech to her local Women's Institute in Norfolk, the monarch said every generation faced "fresh challenges and opportunities." "As we look for new answers in the modern age, I for one prefer the tried and tested recipes, like speaking well of each other and respecting different points of view; coming

together to seek out the common ground; and never losing sight of the bigger picture," the queen said. Though steeped in the conventional language the queen has made her hallmark, the remarks in the context of Britain's crisis are a signal to politicians to sort out the turmoil that has pushed the world's fifth largest economy to the brink. "She's been a gold standard monarch for very nearly 67 years now and this is a particularly gilt-edged moment, I think it's very important what she said and how she said it," historian Peter Hennessy said. Buckingham Palace declined to comment though the British media was clear about the significance of her remarks. The Times' headline read: "End Brexit feud, Queen tells warring politicians". As head of state, the queen remains neutral on politics in public and is unable to vote, though ahead of

the 2014 referendum on Scottish independence she made a delicately crafted plea for Scots to think carefully about their future.

The future of Brexit remains unpredictable with options ranging from a disorderly exit that would spook investors across the world to a new referendum that could reverse the process. Prime Minister Theresa May is engaged in a last-ditch bid to win support for a tweaked divorce deal after parliament this month crushed the original plan in the biggest defeat in modern British history.

Goldman Sachs will invest less in the United Kingdom if there is a difficult or hard Brexit, Chief Executive Officer David Solomon said. "Our headcount in the UK over the last couple of years has not gone down but it hasn't gone up either. (Reuters)



BEING FAMOUS DOESN'T MAKE AN ACTOR A STAR: KAJOL

Kajol, one of the most sought after names of Hindi film industry, believes it has become easier to get famous, but being a star is not a cakewalk even today.

"The words star and fame cannot be put together. There are lot of people who are famous today but there are a very few stars. So, it is not synonymous anymore today which used to be there earlier," Kajol told PTI. The actor, who has been active in films for over 25 years, said she stayed relevant as she decided to grow with time both personally and professionally.

"I believe I am relevant today. I believe my personality has a lot to do with it. My personality has grown on screen and off screen with age. I am way smarter, cooler than what I was at the age 16. I am more beautiful. I think I am bound to be relevant in a lot of ways," she said.

Kajol made her acting debut in 1992 with Rahul Rawail's *Bekhudi* and went on to deliver hits like *Baazigar*, *Yeh Dillagi*, *Karan Arjun*, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, *Gupt*, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, *My Name is Khan*, *Fanaa* among others.

PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR ME TO FAIL, SAYS KANGANA

Kangana established herself by playing characters dealing with emotional turmoil in her earlier films like *"Gangster"*, *"Woh Lamhe"* and *"Fashion"*, before gaining stardom with *"Queen"* and subsequently headlining powerful women-oriented movies.

Though she delivered hits and cemented her position, Kangana's crashing of recent projects *"Simran"* and *"Rangoon"* were more talked about.

"I do feel there are people waiting for me to fail," Kangana told PTI. "That there are people who are waiting to prove to themselves that she's not a real deal, to make themselves feel better. My failure is important to them," she added.

The 31-year-old actor, known to speak her mind, said while a certain section will look at her in a particular light but her world view is extremely positive and she wouldn't change that. "Even though I can realise or feel, I can never be like them or feel through them. I understand their cynicism but I can never be them. Personally, I've never waited for anyone to fail. That's why I think I could do what I did in my life. That inherent positivity that I have in me. I praise everyone regardless of who they are or what they think of me is actually something I live by. I'm not a double-faced person. What others feel I'm not concerned about that," she added.

Kangana is currently gearing up for her ambitious epic-drama *"Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi"*. The actor underwent a rigorous and "exhaustive" physical and emotional exercise to tap into the character of Rani Lakshmibai, one of the key leaders in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Things changed, however, when she had to also turn director after the original helmer, Krish, was not available to re-shoot a chunk of the project. Kangana said she was aware when the news dropped that she will now helm the project, there was widespread scepticism around her.



"When the studio is investing money, I must've shown them some calibre because nobody will put money on anyone. If the entire team, the writers who are India's best are ready to work with me, it's beyond me why people get so touchy," she said.

Kangana added that most of it could be "deep-rooted sexism" which invited the amount of doubt on whether she could direct the film. "I'm just a new director on

the block, what's the big deal? I see there is a lot of sexism involved in this- a woman, doing an epic action film and directing it. That's something even Hollywood was struggling with.

The *"Tanu Weds Manu"* star is currently "neck deep" in the final stage of the film from readying the print for international delivery to fixing last-minute sound hiccups.

Source: PTI

Photographers tease Janhvi Kapoor by calling her Sara Ali Khan

Actor Janhvi Kapoor was caught in an awkward moment when photographers decided to pull her leg and call her 'Sara Ji' as she stepped out of her trailer. When Janhvi hears it, she says, "Jaan booch ke kar rahe hai (He is doing it intentionally)." She says it with a smile on her face, understanding that the photographers were trying to tease her.

Janhvi was also trolled recently for an outfit that she wore for the shoot of a popular magazine. Instagram page Diet Sabya called out the actor's stylist and the designer for plagiarising Balmain's design. She was also trolled for her wig, the dress and also for nepotism. Some even gave a shoutout to Rhea Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor, who had posted a long note on why one of the Anamika Khanna designs that Diet Sabya had featured in their Instagram site was not a copy.

On the work front, Janhvi will be seen in the biopic of Indian Air Force officer Gunjan Saxena, who was the first female Indian pilot. A picture of Janhvi dressed in IAF uniform was leaked on the social media. Janhvi will

Janhvi was also trolled recently for an outfit that she wore for the shoot of a popular magazine

also be seen in Karan Johar's big-budget directorial *Takht*, which will also star Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Bhumi Pednekar and others.

Recently speaking of her late mother, actor Sridevi, Janhvi had said, "I think, I was still in that state of shock, to be very honest. I think I am still in shock. None of it has been processed. Like, I have no memory of three or four months. You know at the end of the day, we have the same blood in us. I don't remember anything of those four months but I do remember that one day when we were sitting in Harsh (Harshvardhan Kapoor, Anil Kapoor's son and Janhvi's cousin) bhaiya's room and Arjun bhaiya and Anshula didi came in, I think that was the one day when I felt like, 'Ok maybe we might be okay.'"





NINA DOBREV ALMOST KILLED BY LION DURING SAFARI

Actress Nina Dobrev almost became a lion's meal during her trip to South Africa.

"The Vampire Diaries' star was thrilled to see big cats in the wild safari but getting up close to one lion gave the actress and her friends a bit of a scare.

"I've always wanted to go to South Africa. It was fun and the safari part of it was the best part. There were elephants drinking out of our pool, we saw leopards, and at one point a lion actually charged at us!" Dobrev told.

But the lion was no match for her guide, who came to her rescue.

"The lion opened its mouth and tried to attack us, and our guide was like a real-life Indiana Jones and roared back at him and scared the lion off (That is) the closest I've been to death so far in my life, and I've done some crazy s**t," she added.

ANGELINA JOLIE FINDS LOVE IN TOM HIDDLESTON

One year ago today, a tabloid falsely claimed Angelina Jolie was dating Tom Hiddleston after being introduced to the actor by Chris Hemsworth. Gossip Cop debunked the phony romance rumors as soon as they emerged. Time has proven the narrative to be completely untrue.

On January 23, 2018, Woman's Day New Zealand wrongly reported Jolie and Hiddleston had been set up on a date by Hemsworth, who sat next to the actress at that year's Golden Globes. According to the magazine, Jolie opened up about her love life to the Australian actor while they were hanging out at the ceremony. The actress supposedly told Hemsworth "guys were scared of asking her out" following her divorce from Brad Pitt, but the actor mentioned that his Thor co-star Hiddleston "always had the hots for her, and Ange said she liked him too."

From there, the magazine's anonymous and untraceable "source" claimed Hemsworth gave Hiddleston's contact information to Jolie, which resulted in the two "texting and calling each other" nonstop. The magazine's alleged insider further maintained the actress was "longing to find love again," which put Hiddleston "in the right place at the right time."



Around the same time the tabloid published its story last year, People magazine reported Jolie was "single and not interested in dating." The reputable celebrity news outlet further noted the actress wasn't planning on dating "for a very long time" as she was instead "focused on her children and their needs." Naturally, we doubted the veracity of the Woman's Day story, and those doubts were confirmed after checking in with sources close to both

Jolie and Hiddleston, who dismissed the entire report as fiction.

Not only did the actress never embark on a romance with Hiddleston, but two months later, E! News once again confirmed that Jolie is "not dating" and is "very focused on her kids and doesn't have a lot going on outside of that." As of January 2019, the actress has continued putting her love life on the back burner for the sake of her children.

OSCAR NOMINATIONS 2019

Black Panther creates history, becomes first superhero film to get best picture nod

Black Panther, the Marvel blockbuster fronted by virtually an all-black cast, has created history by becoming the first superhero film to get the Best Picture nomination at the Oscars. The film, directed by Ryan Coogler and featuring Chadwick Boseman in the titular role, received total seven nominations for the 91st Academy Awards.

Apart from the Best Picture category, the Marvel project has received nods for original song, original score, sound mixing, sound editing, costume design and production design. In the Best Picture category, the film is pitted against The Favourite, Vice, Roma, Green Book, A Star Is Born, BlacKkKlansman and Bohemian Rhapsody.

Black Panther, set in a fictional African country of Wakanda, became a massive hit earning USD 1.3 billion worldwide. The film, featuring Michael B Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Forrest Whitaker, Angela Bassett and Letitia Wright among others, received praise from both the critics and the audiences for its authentic portrayal of African culture.

The film has had a spectacular awards season, as it received nods at the Critics' Choice Awards, SAG, BAFTAs and a history-making Golden Globe nomination. In the past, superhero films have been nominated and have also won a few Academy Awards, but mainly in the technical categories. Last year, James Mangold and Michael Green had a break through as they received the Best Adapted Screenplay nomination for Hugh Jackman's "Logan".

Prior to that, Heath Ledger won a posthumous Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in 2009 for his portrayal of one of the most notorious DC villains, the Joker, in Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight. Nolan's film had raked in eight nominations, but could not make it to the Best Picture category.



Rebecca Ferguson secretly married partner Rory

Rebecca Ferguson has revealed that she tied the knot with her boyfriend, Rory in an intimate ceremony last month. The 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout' star and Rory, whose last name is unknown, have been relationship since 2016.

"I think we both wanted to step over all thresholds. Also, I'm not very religious. I believe in love. It was more for us and our family. We rented a cottage with friends and family and Wellington boots and big woolly socks and big ruggy jumpers" she told.

The Swedish actor, however, claims married life is 'nothing' different.

"I wore a beautiful skirt, a wedding skirt, that I can shorten off, get some pockets in, and use in Greece for the summer!" she added.

Ferguson said that her six-month-old daughter slept through the ceremony, while the ring bearer was her 11-year-old son, Isaac, from her previous relationship with Ludwig Hallberg.



Singapore to reduce military training after actor Aloysius Pang's death

SINGAPORE (TIP): Singapore's military said January 24 it will reduce the length, intensity and frequency of its training programs after an actor in the reserves died from injuries he sustained overseas.

Aloysius Pang was on a military training exercise in New Zealand when a gun barrel was lowered on a large artillery device he was helping to repair Saturday. It crushed his abdomen and chest.

The defense ministry said Pang had been put on life support following surgeries to repair his damaged organs. Pang died at Waikato Hospital on Thursday. He was 28.

In a briefing, Chief of Defence Force Melvyn Ong said the Singapore Armed Forces will modify its training programs in the weeks ahead.

"This reduction of training tempo ... will be enforced for as long as it takes for us to get it right. And we want to do it right, we want to do it safe for every activity, we want to do it right every time," Ong said, according to The Straits Times newspaper.

Singapore mandates that young men serve in its armed forces, police force or civil defense force. Most serve full time for two years and then have annual training obligations. Pang had completed his full-time service, and was an armament technician whose rank was corporal first class. (AP)

Clarify plans for transitional justice process, Nepal govt told

KATHMANDU (TIP): The international community led by the United Nations January 24 sought a commitment from the K P Oli-led Nepal government to ensure that the transitional justice process, bringing the Maoists and government together under the Comprehensive Peace Accord 12 years ago, is taken forward seriously.

The Nepal government was asked to "clarify to the public its plans to take the transitional justice process forward in the ongoing year", according to a joint statement signed by the embassies of Australia, Germany, Finland, France, Norway, Switzerland, Britain, US, and members of the European Union and United Nations.

The joint statement comes in wake of the government's move to throttle investigations by two designated commissions by not giving them adequate powers and jurisdiction ahead of the expiry of their four-year term on February 1. (Indian express)

Pakistan Unveils Tax Cuts, Incentives To Boost Growth

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistani Finance Minister Asad Umar unveiled a package of measures on January 23 to boost exports and investment and help Islamabad address a severe balance of payments squeeze that has forced it to turn to the International Monetary Fund for help.

Announcing measures to cut red tape, lower taxes for small and medium-sized businesses and cutting taxes on imports of industrial raw materials, he said the government had to improve conditions for local businesses to bring its public finances under control.

"Until there is investment, the country's economy cannot move forward," he told parliament above the jeers of opposition lawmakers. "This is not a budget, it is a reform package."

He said a full economic medium-term reform package would be presented next week. With growth set to drop to around 4 percent this year from 5.8 percent last year, a yawning current account deficit and a fiscal deficit of almost 7 percent of gross domestic product, Pakistan faces heavy pressure to reform its economy. Since coming to power in August, much of the government's effort has focused on staving off a balance of payments crisis that has seen its foreign exchange reserves dwindle to cover only two months of import payments.

Pakistan has opened talks with the IMF and although there has so far been no agreement on the terms of what would be its 13th bailout since the 1980s, Prime Minister Imran Khan's government has pledged reforms to bring down its current account deficit, which the IMF expects to reach 5.3 percent of GDP this year.



"We need to create an economy where this IMF programme will be Pakistan's last," Umar said.

Pakistan has invested great hopes in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, part of the mammoth Belt and Road Initiative but it has had to absorb the impact of high imports of capital equipment the project has required. In addition, strong demand for consumer products and energy costs in past years have pushed the current account deficit wider, leaving the government struggling to bring it back under control.

Umar said taxes on imported luxury cars would be raised, while local manufacturers

would be helped by a cut in import duty on imported raw materials and on machinery imported into special economic zones.

Customs duty would also be cut on equipment for renewable energy generations for five years, in a bid to ease a chronic energy crisis that has left Pakistani businesses and households suffering repeated power outages and gas supply interruptions.

In addition, a series of tax measures would be introduced to help the local stock market, with a removal of withholding tax and measures to allow capital losses to be carried over from one year to the next. (NDTV)

Sri Lanka Opposition Attacks PM Wickremesinghe Over New Constitution

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (TIP): : Sri Lanka's Opposition leader Mahinda Rajapaksa on January 23 slammed the efforts being made to formulate a new Constitution, saying Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's government does not have political moral to introduce it and should therefore hold fresh polls.

Mr Rajapaksa was speaking in parliament on the report of the experts panel presented in the Constitutional assembly by Mr Wickremesinghe two weeks ago.

Sri Lanka's former strongman, who attempted to overthrow Wickremesinghe with the help of President Maithripala Sirisena last year, criticised the prime minister's statements that the country will remain indivisible and united even after the new Constitution is enacted.

The new Constitution would weaken the parliament and "immeasurably strengthen provincial legislatures" Mr Rajapaksa said.

Since the presentation of the report, Mr Rajapaksa has been alleging that the government is drafting a new Constitution to appease the main Tamil political party - Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and that the new Constitution would harm the Sinhala majority community "the turning point at which the unitary state becomes a federal state" Mr Rajapaksa said.

Mr Rajapaksa is also critical of the devolved police powers for provinces as advocated in the report. He told Parliament that Mr. Wickremesinghe's government lacked political moral to introduce a new Constitution and therefore they should hold a fresh parliamentary poll.

It appears that the current constitutional process had run into the same historical problems which stopped efforts by various government to address the Tamil demand for political recognition.

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe maintains that there is no draft constitution and the process was still open for all concerned to make a joint effort to come up with a final draft.

The LTTE fought a bloody separatist war to create a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east provinces.

With the military defeat of the LTTE in 2009, the main Tamil political party has taken a much conciliatory attitude by shedding the demand for a separate state. (NDTV)

Blast kills 2 civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (TIP): At least two civilians were killed and more than 20 others wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) blasted in eastern Afghanistan on January 22, an official confirmed. Habib Shah, public health director in the Khost province, told Anadolu Agency that an IED attached to a motorcycle blew up in the Kabul Adda area of provincial capital around 11 a.m. local time (0630 GMT).

He confirmed that all victims of the blast are civilians who were going through everyday life when the blast ripped through the crowded area.

On Monday, another IED blast in the neighboring Paktika province killed six civilians.

There has been no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is yet to issue its annual report on the civilian casualties in the country. However, the quarterly report in October documented 8,050 civilian victims, including 2,798 deaths. (www.aa.com)

Police Complaint Filed After Nepal Spiritual Leader's Followers Disappear

KATHMANDU (TIP): The Nepal police have launched a search for five missing followers of a Buddhist spiritual leader, popularly known as "Buddha Boy", after their families filed complaints against the godman, officials said in Kathmandu on January 25.

Ram Bahadur Bomjon gained global media attention in 2005 after his devotees claimed that he meditated for months without food, water or sleeping.

Later, he got embroiled into controversies after several of his followers and their relatives accused him of assaulting them sexually and physically. However, his aides rejected the accusations.

According to the police, following complaints of the families of five of Bomjon's followers, they launched a search operation.

The families in their complaint claimed that the followers, including women, have gone missing from his ashram located in Bara district. On Sunday, the family of a nun from Sarlahi, who has been reportedly missing from the ashram for the past nine years, has asked the police to find her whereabouts.

Earlier, the families of four other followers, including a girl, had filed police complaints stating that they lost touch with them in the ashram of the godman. (NDTV)

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was an eminent freedom activist and an influential political leader who played a dominant role in India's struggle for independence. Gandhi is known by different names, such as Mahatma (a great soul), Bapuji (endearment for father in Gujarati) and Father of the Nation. Every year, his birthday is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday in India, and also observed as the International Day of Nonviolence. Mahatma Gandhi, as he is most commonly referred to, was instrumental in liberating India from the clutches of the British. With his unusual yet powerful political tools of Satyagraha and non-violence, he inspired several other political leaders all over the world including the likes of Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr and Aung San Suu Kyi. Gandhi, apart from helping India triumph in its fight for independence against the English, also led a simple and righteous life, for which he is often revered. Gandhi's early life was pretty much ordinary, and he became a great man during the course of his life. This is one of the main reasons why Gandhi is followed by millions, for he proved that one can become a great soul during the course of one's life, should they possess the will to do so.

Gandhi in South Africa

After returning to India, Gandhi struggled to find work as a lawyer. In 1893, Dada Abdullah, a merchant who owned a shipping business in South Africa asked if he would be interested to serve as his cousin's lawyer in South Africa. Gandhi gladly accepted the offer and left to South Africa, which would serve as a turning point in his political career.

In South Africa, he faced racial discrimination directed towards blacks and Indians. He faced humiliation on many occasions but made up his mind to fight for his rights. This turned him into an activist and he took upon him many cases that would benefit the Indians and other minorities living in South Africa. Indians were not allowed to vote or walk on footpaths as those privileges were limited strictly to the Europeans. Gandhi questioned this unfair treatment and eventually managed to establish an organization named 'Natal Indian Congress' in 1894. After he came across an ancient Indian literature known as 'Tirukkural', which was originally written in Tamil and later translated into many languages, Gandhi was influenced by the idea of Satyagraha (devotion to the truth) and implemented non-violent protests around 1906. After spending 21 years in South Africa, where he fought for civil rights, he had transformed into a new person and he returned to India in 1915.

Gandhi and the Indian National Congress

After his long stay in South Africa and his activism against the racist policy of the British, Gandhi had earned the reputation as a nationalist, theorist and organiser. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, a senior leader of the Indian National Congress, invited Gandhi to join India's struggle for independence against the British Rule. Gokhale thoroughly guided Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi about the prevailing political situation in India and also the social issues of the time. He then joined the Indian National Congress and before taking over the leadership in 1920, headed many agitations which he named Satyagraha.

Non-cooperation Movement

Non-cooperation Movement was one of Gandhi's most important movements against the British. Gandhi's urged his fellow countrymen to stop co-operation with the British. He believed that the British succeeded in India only because of the co-

MAHATMA GANDHI:
FATHER OF THE NATION

Mahatma's death anniversary falls on January 30



FAST FACTS	
■ Date of Birth: October 2, 1869	■ Professions: Lawyer, politician, activist, writer
■ Place of Birth: Porbandar, British India (now Gujarat)	■ Spouse: Kasturba Gandhi
■ Date of Death: January 30, 1948	■ Children: Harilal Gandhi, Manilal Gandhi, Ramdas Gandhi and Devdas Gandhi
■ Place of Death: Delhi, India	■ Father: Karamchand Uttamchand Gandhi
■ Cause of Death: Assassination	■ Mother: Putlibai Gandhi

operation of the Indians. He had cautioned the British not to pass the Rowlatt Act, but they did not pay any attention to his words and passed the Act. As announced, Gandhiji asked everyone to start civil disobedience against the British. The British began suppressing the civil disobedience movement by force and opened fire on a peaceful crowd in Delhi. The British asked Gandhiji to not enter Delhi which he defied as a result of which he was arrested and this further enraged people and they rioted. He urged people to show unity, non-violence and respect for human life. But the British responded aggressively to this and arrested many protesters.

On 13 April 1919, a British officer, Dyer, ordered his forces to open fire on a peaceful gathering, including women and children, in Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh. As a result of this, hundreds of innocent Hindu and Sikh civilians were killed. The incident is known as 'Jallianwala Bagh Massacre'. But Gandhi criticized the protesters instead of blaming the English and asked Indians to use love while dealing with the hatred of British. He urged the Indians to refrain from all kinds of non-violence and went on fast-to-death to pressure Indians to stop their rioting.

Quit India Movement

As the World War II progressed, Mahatma Gandhi intensified his protests for the complete independence of India. He drafted a resolution calling for the British to Quit India. The 'Quit India Movement' or the 'Bharat Chhodo Andolan' was the most aggressive movement launched by the Indian national Congress under the leadership of Mahatma

Gandhi. Gandhi was arrested on 9th August 1942 and was held for two years in the Aga Khan Palace in Pune, where he lost his secretary, Mahadev Desai and his wife, Kasturba. The Quit India Movement came to an end by the end of 1943, when the British gave hints that complete power would be transferred to the people of India. Gandhi called off the movement which resulted in the release of 100,000 political prisoners.

Freedom and Partition of India

The independence cum partition proposal offered by the British Cabinet Mission in 1946 was accepted by the Congress, despite being advised otherwise by Mahatma Gandhi. Sardar Patel convinced Gandhi that it was the only way to avoid civil war and he reluctantly gave his consent. After India's independence, Gandhi focused on peace and unity of Hindus and Muslims. He launched his last fast-unto-death in Delhi, and asked people to stop communal violence and emphasized that the payment of Rs. 55 crores, as per the Partition Council agreement, be made to Pakistan. Ultimately, all political leaders conceded to his wishes and he broke his fast.

Assassination of Mahatma

The inspiring life of Mahatma Gandhi came to an end on 30th January 1948, when he was shot by a fanatic, Nathuram Godse, at point-blank range. Nathuram was a Hindu radical, who held Gandhi responsible for weakening India by ensuring the partition payment to Pakistan. Godse and his co-conspirator, Narayan Apte, were later tried and convicted. They were executed on 15th November 1949.

TRIBUTE TO GANDHI BY
WORLD LEADERS

“Gandhi's ideas have played a vital role in South Africa’s transformation and with the help of Gandhi’s teaching, apartheid has been overcome.” — Nelson Mandela

“I have the greatest admiration for Mahatma Gandhi. He was a great human being with a deep understanding of human nature. His life has inspired me.” — The Dalai Lama

“Christ gave us the goals and Mahatma Gandhi the tactics.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

“I believe that Gandhi’s views were the most enlightened of all the political men in our time.” — Albert Einstein

“Mahatma Gandhi came and stood at the door of India’s destitute millions...who else has so unreservedly accepted the vast masses of the Indian people as his flesh and blood...Truth awakened Truth.” — Rabindranath Tagore

“I and others may be revolutionaries but we are disciples of Mahatma Gandhi, directly or indirectly, nothing more nothing less.” — Ho Chi Minh

“It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr. Gandhi, a seditious middle temple lawyer, now posing as a fakir of a type well known in the east, striding half-naked up the steps of the viceregal palace, while he is still organizing and conducting a defiant campaign of civil disobedience, to parley on equal terms with the representative of the king-emperor.” — Winston Churchill

Friends and Comrades, the light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere. The light has gone out, I said, and yet I was wrong. For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light that has illumined this country for these many years will illumine this country for many more years, and a thousand years later, that light will be seen in this country and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable hearts.

—Jawaharlal Nehru, 1948 on the death of Gandhiji

“He is a man among men, a hero among heroes, a patriot among patriots and we may well say that in him Indian humanity at the present time has really reached its high water-mark.” — Gopal Krishna Gokhale

HERE'S WHY OILING YOUR MANE IS IMPORTANT

No matter what your hair type is, you need to use a hair vitaliser to regain your mane's strength and quality.

Why is hair oiling crucial?

Beautician Nishi Nanda says, "Similar to hair oil, a hair vitaliser contains ayurvedic herbs that enhances the growth of hair and also stimulates the scalp. However, to ensure that you get optimum results, it is always advisable to choose a vitaliser that suits your hair type."

Bhringraj

Those who have oily scalp and experience dandruff issues, a hair vitaliser that contains bhringraj is ideal for you. You can also opt for one that has shikakai in it to boost hair growth and reduction of excess sebum from scalp.

Reetha

This vitaliser is ideal for those who have a normal hair type - not too oily nor too dry. Apart from keeping your scalp clean, it also ensures that your hair does not lose out on its sheen.

Amla and lemon

This combination is good for those who have dry hair. Amla keeps the hair and scalp moisturised, while lemon ensures that the scalp does not experience dandruff problems.

Starry pony-tales

Move over Hollywood curls and wispy waves, because the humble ponytail is having its day in the limelight. Here's how you can get a celeb-perfect variation:

Lusting after an Ariana Grande-style voluminous, half-up/half-down ponytail? The trick is to use hair extensions that make for a cascading, volume-high ponytail. In a social media post a few years back, Ariana had revealed that the ponytail is not only her signature style, but it also helps her masquerade damaged hair. Lusting after an Ariana Grande-style voluminous, half-up/half-down ponytail? The trick is to use hair extensions that make for a cascading, volume-high ponytail. In a social media post a few years back, Ariana had revealed that the ponytail is not only her signature style, but it also helps her masquerade damaged hair. Whatever the reason, it's safe to say that her fierce ponytail makes for quite an inspiration. Ariana hit beauty headlines again when her ponytail peeped stylishly from her baseball cap too, during a



performance. Now that's what you call commitment!

Slick and sleek

Thought ponytails have a casual edge to them? Go for straightened hair tied into a pony, with a tightly pulled-back mane. Our very own Deepika Padukone has been rocking it, and so did many Hollywood beauties at the recently held Golden Globes. Also it'll give you a quick Croydon facelift — highlighting your jawline and helping your makeup pop.

Minimal styling

If we've learned one thing from celeb pony-dome, it has to be to keep it simple. Skip the hair ties and pins, keeping the look minimal. This will put the focus off of your accessories and bring it straight to your neat ponytail and the way it has been styled. Of course, to keep that cascading pony intact, you'd need a swirl of hair to hold it all together. A little trick here, a few hacks there, and you'll be all set.

FOOD CORNER



EGG FRIED RICE

Ingredients

Basmati Rice - 2 cups, Eggs - 10, Onions - 2 Spring, Onions - 1 bunch, Beans - 10, Carrot - 2, Capsicum - 2, Cabbage - 100 gms
Pepper Powder - 1/2 tbsp, Green Chillies - 2, Tomato Puree - 2 to 3 tbsp (or as required), Ajinomoto - 3 tsp (optional), Soy Sauce - 4 tbsp, Salt as per taste, Oil - 3 tbsp, Coriander Leaves - few, chopped

Method

- Pressure cook the rice until 1 whistle and remove.
- Chop all the vegetables finely and keep aside.
- Grind together the green chillies and mix well 2 tbsp water.
- Heat oil in a pan.
- Saute the onions for a minute.
- Add the chopped vegetables one by one and cook for a minute or two.
- Add the green chilli paste and tomato puree.
- Add salt and ajinomoto.
- Mix well and add soy sauce.
- Break the eggs into the pan and stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes.
- Add the cooked rice and mix until all ingredients are combined.
- Garnish with coriander leaves.
- Serve.

COMFORT WITH A BREATH EASY MODE

As girls you are always ready to do anything to make your man happy. After a long day's hard work when he returns back home half of the energy goes wasted because he looks extremely fatigued. This is perhaps one of the best way to arouse his mood when you see him worn out. Just make sure that you act as a helping hand in wiping out his tiredness either through a hot/cold beverage, a home made cuisine and at the most sacrificing your favorite channel by handing him over the remote as well! In the process ask him if there is anything which he would like you to do for him at the present moment. This will relieve him of his stress, and the relaxation that would take place thereafter will be the perfect buzz for arousing his willingness.

GIVE HIM A BACK-RUB WITH WARM OIL

Well nothing seems more sensual than ever before to offer your man a hot oil massage to get him back in his mood. I doubt if there's any exceptional guy who would refuse this cozy relaxation. Take him to a neat and clean room, turn on a soft romantic music as a background score, open his clothes, gently make him laid down on a soft couch and slather him up with oils. As you run your hands all through his body he will be arousing a passionate urge from within. If possible you too can remove your clothes halfway though, to heighten the ambience. Subsequent to his oiling up for you, there's no means he can turn down your lascivious mood.

Sensuous ways to arouse your man



OPT FOR A TITILLATING OUTFIT

More than women men are no doubt very perceptible. If he somehow sees you in a sexy outfit, or rather a slickest work wear, or the most in a state of wildness and beauty he cannot take his eyes off you, and within no less time he will definitely bump into you. In

order to add an extra charm to the mood why don't you opt for a candlelight dinner, or offer him his favorite drink and make him sip the glass with your own hands by wearing the sexy nightwear. When he will see your sensuousness he too will be an active participant to that wild mood as well.

WHISPER INTO HIS EARS YOUR DESIRES

Be cozy with your partner and rest your head on his shoulders. Look into his eyes and kiss him on his forehead. Then gently bring him closer to you and in a hushed tone murmur into his ears what exactly you want him to do for you in a private space. This moment is the perfect timing for arousing his mood, since he has already begun to visualize the wild fantasies dropped down into his ears. As your breath increases so does his sensitive feelings to take you in his arms straight away to the bedchamber and escalate the seduction.

TURN ON A SENSUOUS MELODY

Always remember that ambience plays an important role for heightening the crotchet. In order to execute things as planned by you, make sure that the room is a bit unilluminated, and somewhere in the corner turn on a sexy music to make the situation more sensuous. You can also tune in to the mix tape of love songs which you had previously dedicated to him either on your fist date, or your first night with him. Let the songs act as a nostalgic mode so that he reminisces about the cozy moment spent between you both, and relive the moment by following the step to step flashback moments once again with you at the present moment.

LOW CARB? LOW FAT?

WHAT LATEST DIETING STUDIES TELL US

Bacon and black coffee for breakfast, or oatmeal and bananas? If you're planning to try to lose weight in 2019, you're sure to find a fierce debate online and among friends and family about how best to do it. It seems like everyone has an opinion, and new fads emerge every year.

Two major studies last year provided more fuel for a particularly polarizing topic — the role carbs play in making us fat. The studies gave scientists some clues, but, like other nutrition studies, they can't say which diet — if any — is best for everyone.

That's not going to satisfy people who want black-and-white answers, but nutrition research is extremely difficult and even the most respected studies come with big caveats. People are so different that it's all but impossible to conduct studies that show what really works over long periods of time.

Before embarking on a weight loss plan for the new year, here's a look at some of what was learned last year.

Fewer Carbs, Fewer Pounds?

It's no longer called the Atkins Diet, but the low-carb school of dieting has been enjoying a comeback. The idea is that the refined carbohydrates in foods like white bread are quickly converted into sugar in our bodies, leading to energy swings and hunger.

By cutting carbs, the claim is that weight loss will be easier because your body will instead burn fat for fuel while feeling less hungry. A recent study seems to offer more support for low-carb proponents. But, like many studies, it tried to understand just one sliver of how the body works.

The study, co-led by an author of books promoting low-carb diets, looked at whether varying carb levels might affect how the body uses energy. Among 164 participants, it found those on low-carb diets burned more total calories than those on high-carb diets.

The study did not say people lost more weight on a low-carb diet — and didn't try to measure that. Meals and snacks were tightly controlled and continually adjusted so everyone's weights stayed stable.

David Ludwig, a lead author of the paper and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital, said it suggests limiting carbs could make it easier for people to keep weight off once they've lost it. He said the approach might work best for those with diabetes or pre-diabetes.

Ludwig noted the study wasn't intended to test long-term health effects or real-world scenarios where people make their own food. The findings also need to be replicated to be validated, he said. Caroline Apovian of Boston University's



School of Medicine said the findings are interesting fodder for the scientific community, but that they shouldn't be taken as advice for the average person looking to lose weight.

Do I Avoid Fat To Be Skinny?

For years people were advised to curb fats, which are found in foods including meat, nuts, eggs, butter and oil. Cutting fat was seen as a way to control weight, since a gram of fat has twice as many calories than the same amount of carbs or protein.

Many say the advice had the opposite effect by inadvertently giving us license to gobble up fat-free cookies, cakes and other foods that were instead full of the refined carbs and sugars now blamed for our wider waistlines.

Nutrition experts gradually moved away from blanket recommendations to limit fats for weight loss. Fats are necessary for absorbing important nutrients and can help us feel full. That doesn't mean you have to subsist on steak drizzled in butter to be healthy.

Bruce Y. Lee, a professor of international health at Johns Hopkins, said the lessons learned from the anti-fat fad should be applied to the anti-carb fad: don't oversimplify advice.



Fried chicken, fish linked to increased risk of early death

Regularly eating fried chicken or fish is associated with a higher risk of death from any cause, specifically heart-related mortality, according to a study on postmenopausal women in the US.

The study, published in the British Medical Journal, suggests that reducing consumption of fried foods, especially fried chicken and fried fish/shellfish, could have a positive public health impact.

Up to a third of North American adults have fast-food every day, and previous studies have suggested that a greater intake of fried food is associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease, researchers said.

The US researchers investigated the association of eating fried food with death from any cause, and in particular heart and cancer-related death.

They used questionnaire data to assess the diets of 106,966 women, aged 50 to 79, who enrolled in the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) between 1993-1998 and who were followed up to February 2017.

During this time, 31,588 deaths occurred, including 9,320 heart-related deaths, 8,358 cancer deaths and 13,880 from other causes.

The researchers looked at the women's total and specific consumption of different fried foods, including: "fried chicken"; "fried fish, fish sandwich and fried shellfish (shrimp and oysters)"; and other fried foods, such as french fries, tortilla chips and tacos.

After taking account of potentially influential factors such as lifestyle, overall diet quality, education level and income, the researchers found that regularly eating fried foods was associated with a heightened risk of death from any cause and, specifically, heart-related death.

Those who ate one or more servings a day had an eight per cent higher risk compared with those who did not eat fried food.

One or more servings of fried chicken a day was linked to a 13 per cent higher risk of death from any cause and a 12 per cent higher risk of heart-related death compared with no fried food.

Similarly, one or more servings of fried fish/shellfish a day was linked to a seven per cent higher risk of death from any cause and a 13 per cent higher risk of heart-related death compared with no fried food.

However, the researchers found no evidence that eating fried food was associated with cancer-related death.

This is an observational study which only considers women in the US, so may not be applicable more widely, the researchers said.

Source: PTI

New smartphone app may help you quit smoking

Researchers say they have created a smartphone app that offers real-time monitoring of smoking-induced ageing, and may help smokers quit the habit.

Smoking is one of the major life-shortening factors that leads to accelerated ageing and premature death, said scientists from Roswell Park Cancer Institute in the US. Quitting smoking increases lifespan and decreases biological age, as measured by DNA methylation, they said. The researchers created the mobile app, Gero Healthspan that offers real-time monitoring of bioage changes in response to lifestyle interventions. People can also use it to explore how lifestyle changes such as diets, activities and supplements affect your predicted healthy life expectancy, researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Aging, offers a way to track rejuvenating effect of smoking cessation in real time



through the analysis of wearable data.

The bioage acceleration caused by smoking can be detected through the analysis of physical activity signals collected from wearable devices.

A new AI algorithm trained to find certain patterns in intra-day changes of activity level to estimate the biological age of a person has been developed.

The study demonstrates that the

smoking-induced ageing acceleration reverts back to normal after smoking cessation: the process can be tracked by wearable device. "It is fascinating that the profound positive effect of lifestyle changes such as smoking cessation could be observed by analysing physical activity of a person," said Peter Fedichev, founder and Chief Science Officer of Gero.

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FACEBOOK TO PROACTIVELY SHUT DOWN FAKE PAGES, GROUPS

Facebook will proactively shut down fake Groups and Pages, even if they were not found to be in violation of its Community Guidelines, the company has announced.

In a blog post on Wednesday, the social media giant said when a Page or Group is removed for violating policies, "we may now also remove other Pages and Groups even if that specific Page or Group has not met the threshold to be unpublished on its own".

Facebook also listed other steps to handle Page content that goes against its policies.

"People who manage a Page will see a new tab that shows when we remove certain content that goes against our Community Standards and when we reduce the distribution of posts that have been rated false by a third-party fact-checker," said Facebook.

The tab includes two sections: content Facebook recently removed for violating a subset of its Community Standards and content recently rated "False," "Mixture" or "False Headline" by third-party fact-checkers

"To start, we're including content removed for policies like hate speech, graphic violence, harassment and bullying, and regulated goods, nudity or sexual activity, and support or praise of people and events that are not allowed to be on Facebook," said the post.

Body heat can be used to power 'smart garments'

Scientists say they have developed a fabric that can harvest body heat to power small wearable electronic devices such as activity trackers.

Many wearable biosensors, data transmitters and similar tech advances for personalised health monitoring have been "creatively miniaturised," said Trisha Andrew from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the US.

However, they require a lot of energy, and power sources can be bulky and heavy, said Andrew.

The research, published in the journal *Advanced Materials Technologies*, describes that in theory, body heat can produce power by taking advantage of the difference between body temperature and ambient cooler air, a "thermoelectric" effect.

Materials with high electrical conductivity and low thermal conductivity can move electrical charge from a warm region towards a cooler one in this way.

Some studies has shown that small amounts of power can be harvested from a human body over an eight-hour workday, but the special materials needed at present are either very expensive, toxic or inefficient, researchers said.

Twitter rolls out new interface for web-users

Micro-blogging site Twitter is rolling out a new interface for web-users that comes with some shortcuts, an updated trending section and a newly-designed emoji button.

"A new Twitter is coming. Some of you got an opt-in to try it now. Check out the emoji button, quick keyboard shortcuts, upgraded trends, advanced search and more," the company tweeted early on Wednesday.

With this update, Twitter has kept in mind little aesthetic updates to make it easier to see who all are involved in a conversation.

"These changes, alongside the way Twitter's desktop version has condensed from three columns into two, should make it easier to both read and send tweets," *The Verge* reported.

The micro-blogging site is planning on releasing many new updates to the app, including a battery-saving darker mode for the interface.

OVER 55% PC APPS RUNNING OUT-OF-DATE SOFTWARE GLOBALLY: REPORT

More than half (55 per cent) of the personal computer (PC) applications installed worldwide are obsolete, thus making the users and their personal data vulnerable to security risks, a new research from global cybersecurity company Avast said.

According to Avast's "PC Trends Report 2019", users are making themselves vulnerable to hackers by not implementing security patches and keeping outdated versions of popular applications on their PCs. The applications where updates are most frequently neglected include Adobe Shockwave (96 per cent), VLC Media Player (94 per cent) and Skype (94 per cent).

"Most of us replace our smartphone regularly, but the same cannot be said for our PCs. With the average age of a PC now reaching six years, we need to be doing more to ensure our devices are not putting us at unnecessary risk.

"With the right amount of care, such as cleaning our hardware's insides using cleaners, optimisation and security products, PCs will be safe and reliable for even longer," Ondrej Vlcek,



President, Avast, said in a statement.

The report, which used anonymised and aggregated data from 163 million devices across the globe, also found that Windows 10 operating system (OS) is now installed on 40 per cent of PCs globally, which is fast approaching the 43 per cent share held by Windows 7.

However, almost one in six (15 per

cent) of all Windows 7 users and one in 10 (nine per cent) of all Windows 10 users worldwide are running older and no longer supported versions of their product.

Running out-of-date OS puts them at risk from vulnerabilities and other significant security issues, noted the global cybersecurity firm. *Source: IANS*

Google adds Search, Map support to its 'My Business app

Google has released an updated version of its "My Business" app to allow users to share the service areas and information about their business via Maps and Search, increasing their chances to be discovered.

Google's "My Business" is a free tool for businesses and organisations, created to help them manage their online presence across Google.

"With this update, we hope to better connect you with potential customers in your service areas so consumers get the services they need and you find new customers," Tom Pritchard, Product Lead, My Business, Google wrote in a blog post on Tuesday.

Since service areas vary from business to business, to make information accurate, users could also configure their service areas by adding specific postal codes or cities they cover.

"Taking into account the changes every business goes through, these settings can be adjusted as needed - so there's no need to worry about being locked into any specific area," Pritchard said. The company will guide new users through the setup process with prompts for local service area businesses and existing "My Business" users would now be able to edit their business information from the app dashboard.

"You'll notice that the 'service area' and 'storefront address' can now be edited separately and if an address isn't applicable to your business, you can easily clear it," Pritchard added.

The app was first released in June 2014.



PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU EVEN IF YOU AREN'T ON FACEBOOK

It does not matter if you are on Facebook or not - or have just deleted your social media presence. Your friends are constantly leaking your privacy to others, reveals a significant study.

The researchers from the University of Vermont in the US and University of Adelaide in Australia found that if a person leaves a social media platform - or never joined -- the online posts and words of their friends still provide about 95 per cent of the "potential predictive accuracy", of a person's future activities -- even without any of that person's data.

"Privacy on social media is like

second-hand smoke. It's controlled by the people around you," the researchers said in a paper published in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*.

To reach this conclusion, the team of scientists gathered more than 30 million public posts on Twitter from 13,905 users.

With this data, they showed that information within the Twitter messages from eight or nine of a person's contacts make it possible to predict that person's later tweets as accurately as if they were looking directly at that person's own Twitter feed.

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY LIKELY TO REMAIN SUBDUED IN NEAR TERM: REPORT

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's industrial activity is expected to remain subdued in the near term, owing to muted domestic demand, weak global economic outlook and uncertainty among businesses over the outcome of Lok Sabha elections, 2019, says a report.

According to D&B Economy Forecast, concerns about the government curtailing its investment due to significant shortfall in tax collections against the target, are expected to keep the industrial activity subdued in the near term.

Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) expects Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to have moderated by 1.5-2 per cent during December 2018.

As per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), industrial output growth dropped to a 17-month low of 0.5 per cent in November on account of contraction in manufacturing sector, particularly consumer and capital goods.

Factory output as measured in terms of the IIP had grown by 8.5 per cent in November 2017.

D&B Lead Economist Arun Singh said the likelihood of a robust economic growth during 2018-19 was dented by unfavourable developments and unexpected shocks that occurred during the year. "We believe that there are likely



to be some populist measures announced in the Budget, given it is the election year, around the rural and MSME sectors and overall job creation," Singh said adding that the initiatives around labour and land laws, if taken, would be an added support.

He said the upcoming union budget will set the tone for the economy.

On rupee, the report said concerns

over widening trade deficit, rise in global crude oil prices, and uncertainty over the general election outcome are expected to drag down the domestic currency in the near term, even as a likely pause in the US Fed rate hike is expected to support the local unit.

D&B expects the rupee to depreciate to around 70.6-70.8 per US dollar during January this year.



WORLD'S 26 RICHEST OWN SAME AS POOREST HALF OF HUMANITY: REPORT

The world's 26 richest people own the same wealth as the poorest half of humanity, Oxfam said Monday, urging governments to hike taxes on the wealthy to fight soaring inequality.

A new report from the charity, published ahead of the World Economic Forum in Davos, also found that billionaires around the world saw their combined fortunes grow by \$2.5 billion each day in 2018.

The world's richest man, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, saw his fortune increase to \$112 billion last year, Oxfam said, pointing out that just one percent of his wealth was the equivalent to the entire health budget of Ethiopia, a country of 105 million people.

The 3.8 billion people at the bottom of the scale meanwhile saw their wealth decline by 11 percent last year, Oxfam said, stressing that the growing gap between rich and poor was undermining the fight against poverty, damaging economies and fuelling public anger.

"People across the globe are angry and frustrated," warned Oxfam executive director Winnie Byanyima in a statement.

The numbers are stark: Between 1980 and 2016, the poorest half of humanity pocketed just 12 cents on each dollar of global income growth, compared with the 27 cents captured by the top one percent, the report found.

India likely to surpass UK in world's largest economy rankings: Report

India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.

As per the report, while the UK and France have regularly switched places owing to similar levels of development and roughly equal populations, India's climb up the rankings is likely to be permanent.

PwC's Global Economy Watch report projects real GDP growth of 1.6 % for the UK, 1.7 per cent for France and 7.6 per cent for India in 2019.

"India and France are likely to surpass the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, knocking it from fifth to seventh place in the global table," the report said.

According to World Bank data, India became the world's sixth largest economy in 2017 surpassing France and was likely to go past the UK which stood at the fifth position. PwC's Global Economy Watch is a short publication that looks at the trends and issues affecting the global economy and details its latest projections for the world's leading economies.

"India should return to a healthy growth rate of 7.6 % in 2019-20, if there are no major headwinds in the global economy such as enhanced trade tensions or supply side shocks in oil.

"The growth will be supported through further realisation of efficiency gains from the newly adopted GST and policy impetus expected in the first year of a new government," said Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Leader - Public Finance and Economics, PwC India.



China's economy slows to the weakest pace since 2009

China notched its slowest expansion since the 2009 financial crisis last quarter amid a debt cleanup and trade woes, while signs of stabilization in December suggest government efforts to cushion the deceleration are beginning to take hold.

Gross domestic product rose 6.4 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier compared with 6.5 percent in the previous three-month period. In December, gauges of consumption and factory output accelerated, while investment held up.

The world's second-largest economy is on a long-term slowing trajectory as it shifts from the investment-led model of the past while carrying a heavy debt load. The government's response with targeted stimulus measures is being tested by the standoff with US president Donald Trump over trade at a time when the global expansion is already looking shakier.

"Growth will improve from the second quarter onwards," said Morgan Stanley's Chief China Economist Robin Xing in an interview with Bloomberg Television in Hong Kong. "The greater the downward pressure on growth, the stronger the policy response will be."

The data contributed to a continued rally in Asian stocks. Shares in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney climbed after the S&P 500 Index hit its highest since early



December on Friday.

For the full year, the economy expanded 6.6 percent, the slowest pace since 1990 and in line with estimates. Although it has moderated significantly from the years of double-digit growth, China is still one of the fastest growing large economies and its larger size now means it remains the world's growth engine.

A breakdown of the data indicate modest signs that government stimulus may be working, albeit slowly. Investment in infrastructure continued its pickup from a nadir reached in September. Industrial output data signal stronger activity in construction, with glass and cement output both accelerating.

The retail sales breakdown also went some way to counter fears of a slump in consumer confidence, showing that the decline in auto sales far outpaces any weakening in other items. Sales of household electronics, furniture, clothing and food all accelerated.

"More crucial than the GDP figure for me was that retail sales didn't see any further deterioration," said James Laurenceson, deputy director of the Australia-China Relations Institute at the University of Technology in Sydney. "As long as services and retail sales are holding up, generally speaking China can get by. But if those remaining drivers of growth start to tank, then the trouble becomes very significant indeed."

contd from page 1

India celebrates 70th Republic...



In a display of woman power, Lt. Ambika Sudhakaran leads Indian Navy's marching regiment at Republic Day 2019 parade

Photo /courtesy PIB

At the unfurling of the Tricolor, the band played the national anthem with a 21-gun salute fired in the background.

Most of the ministers of the Modi government, including Home Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and Deve Gowda, and Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad were among those present on the occasion.

The overall theme for the Republic Day celebrations this year is the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and tableaux of many states, themed on the iconic freedom fighter, were lined up for the occasion. (Source: PTI)

Federal Government Shutdown...

Trump's requested \$5.7 billion for a border wall, CNN reported.

The measure -- a three-week stop-gap spending bill would reopen shuttered parts of the government through February 15 with President having signed the Bill.

Congressional approval of the measure came quickly after the President conceded earlier Friday to mounting pressure over the ongoing shutdown, agreeing to a temporary funding measure that would allow federal employees to return to work.

"I will sign a bill to open our government for three weeks," the President said in an address on Friday, saying that he was announcing that "we have reached a deal to end the shutdown."

Trump said that "a bipartisan conference committee of House and Senate lawmakers and leaders" will work to "put together a homeland security package for me to shortly sign into law."

"Over the next 21 days, I expect that both Democrats and Republicans will operate in good faith," the President said.

Democrats have insisted throughout the shutdown that the President should sign a measure to reopen the government before they proceed to a debate on border wall funding. After weeks of resistance, Trump agreed to just that on Friday, paving the way for congressional Democrats and Republicans to approve a stop-gap funding bill.

The action on Capitol Hill comes after weeks of negotiations largely going nowhere. And it is not yet clear what kind of a deal can be struck between Democrats and Republicans in the weeks to come over border security.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer suggested at a news conference on Friday that the President's decision to accept a stop-gap funding measure amounted to a validation of the position taken by Democrats during the shutdown fight.

"The President has agreed to our request to open the government and then debate border security," Schumer said.

Schumer appeared optimistic that a resolution over border security can be reached once the government is reopened.

"We in Congress will roll up our sleeves and try to find some agreement on border security," Schumer said.

Democrats have maintained throughout the shutdown fight that they support border security measures, but not new funding for a border wall, a signature promise of Trump's campaign for the White House.

"We don't agree on some of the specifics of border security. Democrats are firmly against the wall," Schumer said on Friday.

"But we agree on many things such as the need for drug inspection technology, humanitarian aid, strengthening security at our ports of entry. And that bodes well for finding an eventual agreement," he added.

In his Rose Garden remarks, Trump did not appear conciliatory nor did he concede defeat. Instead, he continued to paint the matter as a national security crisis and said another shutdown is possible if lawmakers cannot agree to new border wall funding.

"As everyone knows I have a very powerful alternative but

I'm not going to use it at this time," Trump said after declaring he'd struck a deal to reopen government. CNN reported exclusively on Thursday that a national emergency proclamation had been drafted that would allow for potentially billions of federal dollars to be put toward wall construction.

"If we don't get a fair deal from Congress, the government will either shut down on February 15 again, or I will use the powers afforded to me under the laws and the Constitution of the United States to address this emergency," Trump said. "We will have great security."

Nearly his entire Cabinet and many of his senior advisers had assembled along the Rose Garden colonnade to listen to Trump speak. They offered enthusiastic applause during his speech, which Trump opened by saying he was "very proud to announce today that we have reached a deal to end the shutdown and reopen the federal government."

"I will make sure that all employees receive their back pay very quickly or as soon as possible. It'll happen fast," Trump said.

"When I say make America great again -- it could never be done without you," Trump said, calling federal workers "great people."

Bharat Ratna for former...

The Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; the Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and the Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March or April every year. This year the President of India Ram Nath Kovind approved conferment of 112 Padma Awards including one duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri Awards. 21 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 11 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 3 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender person.

Here is the full list of awardees:

Padma Vibhushan

- Ms. Teejan Bai (Art-Vocals-Folk)
- Shri Ismail Omar Guelleh (Public Affairs) Djibouti
- Shri Anilkumar Manibhai Naik (Trade & Industry-Infrastructure)
- Shri Balwant Moreshwar Purandare (Art-Acting-Theatre)

Padma Bhushan

- Shri John Chambers (Trade & Industry-Technology)
- Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (Public Affairs)
- Shri Pravin Gordhan (Foreigner) for Public Affairs
- Shri Mahashay Dharam Pal Gulati (Trade & Industry-Food Processing)
- Shri Darshan Lal Jain (Social Work)
- Shri Ashok LaxmanraoKukade (Medicine-Affordable Healthcare)
- Shri Kariya Munda (Public Affairs)
- Shri Budhaditya Mukherjee (Art-Music-Sitar)
- Shri Mohanlal Viswanathan Nair (Art-Acting-Film)
- Shri S Nambi Narayan (Science & Engineering-Space)
- Shri Kuldip Nayar (Posthumous) for Literature & Education (Journalism)
- Ms. Bachendri Pal (Sports-Mountaineering)
- Shri V K Shunglu (Civil Service)
- Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (Public Affairs)

Padma Shri

- Shri Rajeshwar Acharya (Art-Vocal-Hindustani)
- Shri Bangaru Adigalar(Others-Spiritualism)
- Shri Ilias Ali (Medicine-Surgery)
- Shri Manoj Bajpayee (Art-Acting-Films)
- Shri Uddhab Kumar Bharali (Science & Engineering-Grassroots Innovation)
- Shri Omesh Kumar Bharti (Medicine-Rabies)
- Shri Pritam Bhartwan (Art-Vocals-Folk)
- Shri Jyoti Bhatt (Art-Painting)
- Shri Dilip Chakravarty (Others-Archaeology)
- Shri Mammen Chandy (Medicine-Hematology)
- Shri Swapan Chaudhuri (Art-Music-Tabla)
- Shri Kanwal Singh Chauhan
- Shri Sunil Chhetri (Sports-Football)
- Shri Dinyar Contractor (Art-Acting-Theatre)
- Ms. Muktaben Pankajkumar Dagli (Social Work-Divyang Welfare)
- Shri Babulal Dahiya (Others-Agriculture)
- Shri Thanga Darlong (Art-Music-Flute)
- Shri Prabhu Deva (Art-Dance)
- Ms. Rajkumari Devi (Others-Agriculture)

- Ms. Bhagirathi Devi (Public Affairs)
- Shri Baldev Singh Dhillon (Science & Engineering-Agriculture)
- Ms. Harika Dronavalli (Sports-Chess)
- Ms. Godawari Dutta (Art-Painting)
- Shri Gautam Gambhir (Sports-Cricket)
- Ms. Draupadi Ghimiray (Social Work-Divyang Welfare)
- Ms. Rohini Godbole (Science & Engineering-Nuclear)
- Shri Sandeep Guleria (Medicine-Surgery)
- Shri Pratap Singh Hardia (Medicine- Opthmology)
- Shri Bulu Imam (Social Work-Culture)
- Ms. Friederike Irina (Foreigner) (Social Work-Animal Welfare)
- Shri Joravarsinh Jadav (Art-Dance Folk)
- Shri S Jaishankar (Civil Service)
- Shri Narsingh Dev Jamwal (Literature & Education)
- Shri Fayaz Ahmad Jan (Art-Craft-Papier Mache)
- Shri K G Jayan (Art-Music-Bhakti)
- Shri Subhash Kak (Foreigner) (Science & Engineering-Technology)
- Shri Sharath Kamal (Sports-Table Tennis)
- Shri Rajani Kant (Social Work)
- Shri Sudam Kate (Medicine-Sickle Cell)
- Shri Waman Kendre (Art-Acting-Theatre)
- Shri Kader Khan (Posthumous-Foreigner) (Art-Acting-Films)
- Shri Abdul Gafur Khatri (Art-Painting)
- Shri Ravindra Kolhe and Ms. Smita Kolhe (Medicine-Affordable Healthcare)
- Ms. Bombayla Devi Laishram (Sports-Archery)
- Shri Kailash Madbaiya (Literature & Education)
- Shri Ramesh Babaji Maharaj (Social Work-Animal Welfare)
- Shri Vallabhbbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya (Others-Agriculture)
- Ms. Gita Mehta (Foreigner) (Literature & Education)
- Shri Shadab Mohammad (Medicine-Dentistry)
- Shri K Muhammed (Others-Archaeology)
- Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Medicine-Affordable Healthcare)
- Shri Daitari Naik (Social Work)
- Shri Shankar Mahadevan Narayan (Art-Vocals-Films)
- Shri Shantanu Narayen (Foreigner) (Trade & Industry-Technology)
- Nartaki Natraj (Art-Dance-Bharatnatyam)
- Shri Tsering Norboo (Medicine-Surgery)
- Shri Anup Ranjan Pandey (Art-Music)
- Shri Jagdish Prasad Parikh (Others-Agriculture)
- Shri Ganpathbai Patel (Foreigner) (Literature & Education)
- Shri Bimal Patel (Others-Architecture)
- Shri Hukumchand Patidar (Others-Agriculture)
- Shri Harvinder Singh Phoolka (Public Affairs)
- Ms. Madurai Chinna Pillai (Social Work-Microfinance)
- Ms. Tao Porchon-Lynch (Foreigner) (Others-Yoga)
- Ms. Kamala Pujhari (Others-Agriculture)
- Shri Bajrang Punia (Sports-Wrestling)
- Shri Jagat Ram (Medicine-Ophthalmology)
- Shri R V Ramani (Medicine-Ophthalmology)
- Shri Devarapalli Prakash Rao (Social Work-Affordable Education)
- Shri Anup Sah (Art-Photography)
- Ms. Milena Salvini (Foreigner) (Art-Dance-Kathakali)
- Shri Nagindas Sanghavi (Literature & Education-Journalism)
- Shri Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry (Art-Lyrics)
- Shri Shabbir Sayyad (Social Work-Animal Welfare)
- Shri Mahesh Sharma (Social Work-Tribal Welfare)
- Shri Mohammad Hanif Khan Shastri (Literature & Education)
- Shri Brijesh Kumar Shukla (Literature & Education)
- Shri Narendra Singh (Others-Animal Husbandry)
- Ms. Prashanti Singh (Sports-Basketball)
- Shri Sultan Singh (Others-Animal Husbandry)
- Shri Jyoti Kumar Sinha (Social Work-Affordable Education)
- Shri Anandan Sivamani (Art-Music)
- Ms. Sharada Srinivasan (Others-Archaeology)
- Shri Devendra Swarup (Posthumous) (Literature & Education-Journalism)
- Shri Ajay Thakur (Sports-Kabaddi)
- Shri Rajeev Tharanath (Art-Music-Sarod)
- Ms. Saalumarada Thimmakka (Social Work-Environment)
- Ms. Jamuna Tudu (Social Work-Environment)
- Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi (Others-Agriculture)
- Shri Ramaswami Venkataswami (Medicine-Surgery)
- Shri Ram Saran Verma (Others-Agriculture)
- Shri Swami Vishudhananda (Others-Spiritualism)
- Shri Hiralal Yadav (Art-Vocals-Folk)
- Shri Venkateswara Rao Yadlapalli (Others-Agriculture)

SYMBOLS OF LORD SHIVA

Lord Shiva is one of the prominent Hindu gods and one of the "trimurti"(holy trinity) of the Hindu pantheon. Know about the different symbols of Lord Shiva as symbolized by the various things associated with Him. Each of these signify a different aspect of his Supreme Being. Read to know about them.

Unclad body smeared with ashes

This form of Lord Shiva symbolizes the transcendental aspect of his nature and indicates that his presence is much higher than this physical phenomenon. The ashes on the Lord's body is cemetery ash, which points to the philosophy of the life and death and shows that death is the ultimate reality of the life. Most things in the universe reduce to ashes when burned and this aspect of nature is suggested by the ash-smeared appearance of Lord Shiva, who is held to be the God of destruction in Hindu mythology. The Lord is beyond the cycle of birth and death.

Jata (Matted Hair)

The flow of his matted hair represents Shiva as the Lord of Wind or Vayu, who is the subtle form of breath present in all living beings. It shows that Shiva is Pashupatinath, Lord Of All Living Beings.

Sacred Ganga

The river Ganga (or Ganges) is the most sacred river for pious Hindus. According to a legend, the river Ganga has its source in Shiva and flows from his matted hair. This is symbolically represented by depicting Ganga as a jet of water sprinkling out of the head of the Lord and falling on the ground. Legend has it that the Lord allowed an outlet to the great river to traverse the earth and bring purifying water to human being. Hence, Lord Shiva is often referred to as Gangadhara or "Bearer of the river Ganga". The river Ganga also denotes fertility, one of the creative aspects of the Rudra. It also indicates that Shiva is not only the Lord of destruction but also the bestower of knowledge, purity and peace on the devotees.

The Third Eye

In the great Hindu epic Mahabharata, Lord Shiva is depicted as a three-eyed God. Hence, he is often referred to as Tryambaka Deva, meaning "three-eyed Lord". The sun is said to be his right eye, the moon the left eye while fire is his third eye. While his other two eyes indicate his activity in the physical world, his third eye in the center of his forehead looks beyond the obvious. It stands for spiritual knowledge and power, and is thus called the eye of wisdom or knowledge. Like fire, the powerful gaze of Shiva's third eye can search evil from anywhere and annihilate it completely. This is the reason why evil-doers fear his third eye.

Half-Open Eyes

The half-open eyes of Lord Shiva convey the idea that the cycle of universe is in process. When the Lord opens His eyes a new cycle of creation begins and when He closes them it signifies the destruction of the universe for creation of the next cycle. The half-open eyes signify that creation is going through an eternal cyclic process, with no beginning and no end.

Crescent

Lord Shiva is typically pictured as wearing a crescent-shaped ornament on one side of his head. This is why he is often called 'Chandrasekhara' meaning "Having the moon as his crest". The Crescent is actually the



moon in its fifth day phase and symbolizes the time cycle through which creation evolves from the beginning to the end. The moon is a measure of time, and thus the Crescent on Lord Shiva's head signifies his control over time. The Lord is the Eternal Reality and He is beyond time. Thus, the crescent moon is only one of His ornaments, and not an integral part of Him.

The Snake around the neck

Lord Shiva is often shown with a snake curled three times around His neck and looking towards His right side. The three coils of the snake symbolize the past, present and future - time in cycles. The snake looking in the right direction of Lord Shiva signifies that the Lord's perpetual laws of reason and justice preserve natural order in the universe. The snake is believed to be the Vasuki Naga, a deadly cobra. The Lord wearing the deadly snake like an ornament signifies that He is independent of time and death. It also suggests the dormant energy, called Kundalini Shakti, that resides within him.

Vibhuti

The three line of ashes drawn on the forehead of the Lord is known as the Vibhuti. It signifies the Immortality of the Lord and his manifested glory.

Tiger Skin

Hindu mythology states that the tiger is the vehicle of Shakti, the Goddess of power and force. Lord Shiva is often shown seated upon or wearing a tiger skin, which emphasizes the fact that he is the master of Shakti and is beyond and above any kind of force. Tiger is also the emblem of lust. The Lord's sitting on Tiger skin indicates that he has conquered lust. Tiger also represents energy. Lord Shiva is the source of the creative energy that remains in potential form during the dissolution state of the universe. He activates this energy using his own Divine Will to project the universe in endless cycles.

different states of existence, unmanifest and manifest. When a damaru is shaken, it produces Nada, the cosmic sound of AUM, which can be heard during deep meditation. According to Hindu scriptures, Nada is the source of creation. This is one of the attributes of Shiva in his famous dancing representation known as Nataraja.

Trishul (Trident)

The trident, or the spear with three prongs, is one of the accessories of the Lord and symbolizes His three fundamental powers iccha(will), kriya(action) and jnana(knowledge). It also signifies His power to destroy evil and ignorance. As His weapon and instrument of punishment the trident represents Lord Shiva's manner of punishing the evil doers on all the three planes - spiritual, subtle and physical.

Kamandalu

The water pot (Kamandalu) often shown adjacent to the Lord is another of his accessories. It is said to be made from a dry pumpkin and containing amrit (nectar). Indian Yogis and sages are seen to carry the Kamandalu as an item of basic necessity. The carrying of the Kamandalu shows the yogic nature of the Lord. But it has a deeper significance. As a ripe pumpkin has been plucked from a plant, its fruit removed and shell cleaned for containing the nectar, an individual too must give up his attachment to the physical world and clean his inner self of egoistic desires to experience the bliss of the Self, symbolized by the nectar in the Kamandalu.

Kundalas

The Kundalas refer to the two ear rings, Alakshya (meaning "which cannot be shown by any sign") and Niranjan (meaning "which cannot be seen by mortal eyes"), worn by the Lord. The ornaments in the ears of the Lord signify that He is beyond ordinary perception. It is noteworthy that the kundala in the left ear of the Lord is of the type used by women and the one in His right ear is of the type used by men. The dual type of Kundalas represent the Shiva and Shakti (male and female) principle of creation.

Mount Kailash

Lord Shiva is most often shown to be seated with the beautiful Himalayas serving as his backdrop. Mount Kailash in the Himalayas is said to be His traditional abode. In Hindu mythology, Mount Kailasha is said to represent the center of the universe. This denotes that Lord Shiva is 'Kailas' - the bestower of peace and also 'Kailashadhipati' meaning "Lord Of Mount Kailash".

The Elephant and Deer Skin

The Lord also wears elephant and deer skins. Elephants stand in for pride while deer represent the flickering mind. Wearing elephant and deer skin shows that Lord Shiva has conquered both these vices.

Rudraksha Necklace

He is almost always shown as wearing a necklace having 108 beads made with seeds of the Rudraksha tree. The beads represent the elements used in the creation of the world. The Rudraksha necklace points to the 'Rudra' aspect of the Lord, which is also His other name. The word 'Rudra' means "strict or uncompromising" and aksha means "eye." It illustrates the fact that Lord Shiva is firm about His cosmic laws and strictly maintains law and order in the universe.

Damaru (Drum)

It is the small hourglass-shaped drum that the Lord holds in one of his hands in a specific gesture called 'damaru-hasta'. The two sides of the drum separated from each other by a thin neck-like structure represents the two utterly

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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."

India beat NZ in first ODI

NAPIER (TIP): India's bowlers laid the foundation before Shikhar Dhawan anchored a straightforward chase to secure comprehensive eight-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first ODI here today. Opener Dhawan made 75 not out and his 91-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli helped India overwhelm the revised 156-run target with 14.1 overs to spare -- the Duckworth-Lewis method employed after the setting sun stopped the play for a while.

On a high after having just won Test and ODI series in Australia, India looked determined to extend their domination across the Tasman Sea as they dismissed their hosts for 157 in 38 overs.

Shami strikes

Paceman Mohammed Shami and wrist-spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal shared nine wickets among them as New Zealand failed to post a competitive total with only Kane Williamson (64) offering some resistance with the bat. "150-odd on that kind of wicket was quite an easy total to chase down and it all boils down to the effort of the bowlers," Kohli said.

"The pitch got slower in the second half of the innings but in the first half the spinners cramped the batsmen really well, and got those crucial breakthroughs in the middle overs for us."

Chasing 158 to win, India got off to a steady start before Doug Bracewell dismissed Rohit Sharma (11) to end the 41-run opening stand. Kohli joined Dhawan in the middle before the play came to a halt in extraordinary circumstances as the rays from the setting sun were beaming right into the eyes of the batsmen.

India were set a revised target of 156 from 49 overs when play resumed and the tourists made steady progress with Dhawan and Kohli cruising in the middle. Kohli, then on 37, was adjudged lbw to Tim Southee but the India captain reviewed it and got the decision overturned after snickometer suggested a faint edge.

Lockie Ferguson eventually dismissed him for 45, a day after the India captain



swept the annual International Cricket Council (ICC) awards.

Quick blows

Earlier, Williamson was left to rue his decision to bat first in the first ODI of the five-match series at Napier's McLean Park. Shami (3/19) made early inroads, dismissing Martin Guptill and Colin Munro in successive overs, bolstering his claim for a place in India's World Cup squad later this year.

Williamson and Ross Taylor (24) embarked on rebuilding the innings but Yadav (4/39) and Chahal (2-43) had other ideas. Williamson hit seven boundaries in his fluent 64 but wickets kept tumbling at the other end as the spinners struck at regular intervals.

At 107/5 at the mid-innings mark, the hosts' hopes of lasting their full quota of 50 overs rested on Williamson batting through the innings but the Kiwi skipper perished at long-on, playing a premeditated shot against Yadav.

Shami fastest Indian to reach 100 ODI wickets

Mohammed Shami has just carried on the good form in New Zealand and become the fastest Indian bowler to complete 100 wickets in one-day internationals.

Shami on Wednesday removed New Zealand opener Martin Guptill in the

very first over he bowled in the match to achieve the feat.

The Bengal pacer beat the Indian record which was previously held by left-arm swing bowler Irfan Pathan. Shami got to the landmark in his 56th ODI while Pathan had done it in 59 matches.

Zaheer Khan (65 ODIs), Ajit Agarkar (67) and Javagal Srinath (68 ODIs) complete the top five fastest bowlers from India to complete 100 wickets.

Overall, Shami is tied with Kiwi speedster Trent Boult as the sixth fastest to the landmark in terms of matches played. Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan leads the list, having set the record in 44 ODIs followed by Mitchell Starc (52 ODIs), Saqlain Mushtaq (53 ODIs), Shane Bond (54 ODIs) and Brett Lee (55 ODIs).

Shami has been in terrific form for India ever since he made a comeback in the one-day side in Australia earlier this month. He got just 5 wickets in the series in the three ODIs but was impressive with the line and lengths he bowled throughout the series.

Shami, after picking up the wicket of Guptill in the ongoing ODI in Napier, removed the second Kiwi opener Colin Munro, with the third ball of his second over for 8 to give India the perfect start after Kane

SUSPENSION SUSPENDED, HARDIK PANDYA IN SQUAD FOR NEW ZEALAND SERIES

Pandya and Rahul have been allowed to play pending an inquiry by a BCCI ombudsman; Rahul to play against England Lions in last 3 One-dayers



NEW DELHI (TIP): The suspension of Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul was revoked on Thursday by the Committee of Administrators (CoA), two weeks after they were sent home from the tour of Australia following a furore over their sexist comments on a TV show. The senior selection committee has decided to include Pandya in the squad for the series against New Zealand. Rahul will join the India A squad for the last three One-day games against England Lions in Thiruvananthapuram.

However, the matter is far from closed as the duo has been allowed to play pending an inquiry by a BCCI ombudsman, who will be appointed by the Supreme Court. The apex court has listed the matter tentatively for February 5. "The decision has been taken with the concurrence of the learned amicus curiae, PS Narasimha. The suspension order is immediately lifted pending the appointment and adjudication of the allegations by the BCCI ombudsman," read a statement from CoA.

Pandya's and Rahul's crass comments on Koffee with Karan, a chat show, came in for severe criticism and led to a storm on the social media. While CoA member Diana Edulji wanted the BCCI office-bearers to be involved in deciding the fate of the two cricketers, CoA chief Vinod Rai had dismissed the suggestion as it would have been in violation of the board constitution. CoA said the decision to suspend the two was taken under "rule 46 of the approved BCCI Constitution", which covers players' conduct that can bring the board into disrepute.

Source: PTI

Kuldeep to Chahal: Miss you when you aren't at the other end

NAPIER (TIP): Like pacers, spinners too hunt in pairs. Maybe that's why Kuldeep Yadav feels the "pangs of separation" when spin twin Yuzvendra Chahal isn't operating from the other end. The wrist-spinners have so far played 36 ODIs each and will be key to India's chances in the upcoming World Cup. Of late, India have resisted the temptation to field both of them together, with Ravindra Jadeja pairing up with either of them in Australia.

In the first ODI against New Zealand, they were reunited, and responded with six wickets between them. "When you don't play, I miss a lot of aspects," Kuldeep told Chahal during an interview for the fun segment of bcci.tv.

"We understand each other's bowling and also the track. It's not always that we are bowling in tandem. There are times when you bowl earlier and I come in later, but we talk a lot about how the pitch is behaving and how the batsman is playing," said Yadav, who picked up four wickets in India's comprehensive win in the first ODI."



Women team too hammers Kiwis

NAPIER (TIP): The in-form Smriti Mandhana and teen sensation Jemimah Rodrigues hammered New Zealand's clueless bowling attack to steer India to an emphatic nine-wicket triumph in the opening ODI of a three-match series here today. The 22-year-old Smriti (105) and the 18-year-old Jemimah (81 not out) put together a batting masterclass after the bowlers did the job for India by bundling out New Zealand for a below-par 192.

Competing in their first series after the furore that followed the team's T20 World Cup exit in the semifinals last year, the Indians produced a thoroughly clinical performance to eke out a comfortable victory.

While Smriti, fresh from winning the ICC women's Cricketer of the Year award, slammed her fourth ODI hundred, Rodrigues notched up her maiden international half-century. "I think it's great to start the series and wonderful to see openers get an over 100-run partnership. I think a lot of girls do look up to Mandhana. She had a great 2018 and she is continuing and it gives a lot of confidence to the dressing room," said India captain Mithali Raj. "But easy catches should have been taken. We are definitely not overconfident," she added, referring to the shortcomings she noticed.

Smriti and Jemimah stitched together the highest ever opening-wicket stand against New Zealand — a 190-run partnership that stood for 32.2 overs. Smriti's 104-ball knock



included nine fours and three sixes, while Jemimah struck nine fours.

Earlier, put in to bat, New Zealand wasted a good start and crumbled against the spin of Poonam Yadav and Ekta Ekta Bisht. Poonam and Ekta snared three wickets each to put the visiting side on top. Ekta ripped through the White Ferns' middle-order, claiming the scalps of skipper Amy Satterthwaite (31), Lauren Down (0) and Amelia Kerr (28).

Source: PTI



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Aries:

Peace and calm now descend on you and yours. It had to come. There was nothing left for Ganesha to give you, and He had a mind to be generous. Work, strife, confrontations are all handled with this new mind - set and nothing can upset you. Success comes to you no matter what you turn to. A truly enviable state of being, and richly deserved. Once again, what more can I add?

Taurus:

"All people matter to you now," as Kipling said - and highly. Family, children, loved ones, spouse / partner, parents, in-laws, extended family, neighbors, colleagues - receive help, love, support in your new, caring avatar. New ventures, projects, proposals, partnerships (fine P's, all of them) take off smoothly and existing ones are revamped or speeded up, in turn, you yourself feel cherished, loved, cared for, as never before.

Gemini:

Power and glory, not only from your inner strengths, but in this material world we live in - from money! And this trend will last through the year and spill over into this period as well. Joint - funds, loans, capital, trusts, family income, even domestic expenses - you attend to all and seek to improve and enhance them. Likewise, leases, legal matters and issues. If you are to reckon the profits, accruals, benefits, they are emotional as well as financial. Greater contentment, great spirituality, too.

Cancer:

Contacts, communications, reaching out by all possible means and media - that's the theme now. Opportunities for travel, too, in this theme, naturally. If you work in the arts, the media, in publicity related fields, you now excel at what you're doing, and gain well - deserved plaudits, glory recognition. Ganesha's generosity knows no bounds, does it?

Leo:

It's back to money matters once again. You really need to swing back and forth, coping with the cornucopia of plenty that Ganesha sends you! And that means hard work, but you're not shy of that. Stocks, shares, mutual and marital funds, profits, capital formation - the possibilities are endless. So also, almost the rewards that come your way thick and fast. Esteem, respect, social standing and status, above all, your own greatly enhanced self - image. But some caution will be necessary, too.

Virgo:

Once again, hard work and matching rewards. So, says Ganesha, you really have no cause to complain. Exciting possibilities, equally exciting success in your ventures. Once again, though, Ganesha advises caution, restraint, care in negotiations. Don't make rash or hasty commitments or investments. Read the fine print, study the hidden clauses. You may be riding the crest of a wave, but you have to ensure you don't come crashing down.

Libra:

Accomplishments, targets, achievements, success by whatever name you choose to call it. And lots of possessions, acquisitions, luxuries, assets that are objects of beauty as well as wise investments. The rewards come in all shapes, sizes, hues and textures. The details I can only leave to your imagination, and your individual horoscope. All I can say is, you've worked hard for them.

Scorpio:

Glory, growth, and of course, Ganesha. Nothing could be more awesome in splendor than these great G's. Your cup of happiness, fulfilment, joy, truly, runneth over, as it says in the Bible. Truly, the Good Book has it all in terms of expression. At least for you, Scorpios, as you stand on the threshold of this period.

Sagittarius:

The vital role that relationships and good communication play will be very obvious to you now. Interactions in the family circle with friends, and also with colleagues and superiors may see a few clashes/stand-offs, though they are cordial and pleasant for the most part. Travel, for work/interviews/inspection of sites or locations, too, adds Ganesha. Also, a desire to enhance your skills/expertise/knowledge, acquire greater learning both as an asset and for the sheer joy and satisfaction of it!

Capricorn:-

Targets and goals are what you will be focused on, in a very big way, as you go into over-drive in the work scenario. Some really hard work is foretold - it may be linked to a new or changed job, a promotion, or even a more profitable line of work. Property and home issues, too, along with loans, funds, enhancement of these two, and your other assets, on the financial scene, all come together to keep you busy indeed. I can foresee your determination and dedication!

Aquarius:-

In your own birth sign, you surge ahead in the 2 D's I've mentioned last period, along with the 3 D's of demands - that you make on yourself, and those that others make on you, so that you are more than ever aware of the need to earn more, to provide more, to invest more. The material plane is the all-important one now, and you gear up to face the challenges head-on, in true your sign bull-like fashion, says Ganesha.

Pisces:-

The kind of flat-out slogging you've embarked on since the new moon phase is difficult to sustain indefinitely, so you decide to relax, have a bit of fun. It's not complacency but a sense of satisfaction that work is going very smoothly - and it's going your way. Love and romance, parties, the social circuit, all these and leisure pursuits/hobbies/recreation, too, acquire a touch of glamour and glitz. To round it all off, Ganesha's luck at wins, windfalls, legacies, clever investments, too, comes your way.



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