

Michael Cohen Makes Serious charges against Trump during Testimony before Congressional committee



"My loyalty to Mr Trump has cost me everything: my family's happiness, friendships, my law license, my company, my livelihood, my honor, my reputation, and soon my freedom", Michael Cohen said in his testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Committee on Oversight and Reform on Feb 27 held a hearing with Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney and one of his most trusted advisors. During his testimony Cohen made serious charges against the US President.

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'Sometimes you have to walk', says President Trump

Talks between Trump and Kim Jong Un end abruptly

HANOI, VIETNAM (TIP): President Donald Trump's talks with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, ended abruptly on Thursday, February 27 reportedly after Kim insisted that he wanted international sanctions lifted in exchange for dismantling only his Yongbyon nuclear-facilities hub. "Sometimes you have to walk," Trump said in a press conference. May be, the dealmaker Trump thought. No deal is better than a bad deal.

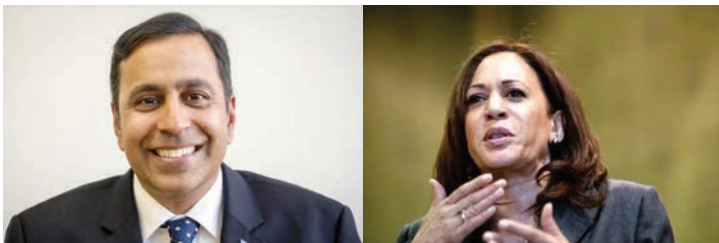
President Donald Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un abruptly broke off their nuclear summit here Thursday, February 27, canceling a planned signing ceremony.

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No deal for now

Indian American Lawmakers jubilant as House passes the Most Significant Gun Control Bill in Decades



Two Indian American lawmakers- Rep Raja Krishnamoorthi and Sen Kamala Harris have strongly advocated for common sense gun laws.

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): The House Democrats, on Feb 27, approved the first of two bills aimed at broadening the federal background check system for firearms purchases. The House passed the bill, called the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, on a 240 to 190 vote. According to advocates for gun laws, it is the most significant gun control measure in more than two decades.

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Senators urge Trump to pursue resolution to India-Pak conflict

WASHINGTON (TIP): Two influential American Senators have asked US President Donald Trump to pursue a peaceful resolution to the conflict between India and Pakistan and ensure that Islamabad does more against the terrorist groups. In a letter to Trump, Senators Jerry Moran from Kansas and Jeanne Shaheen from New Hampshire said there is an urgency surrounding the dangerous situation between India and Pakistan in Kashmir.

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Senators Jerry Moran and Jeanne Shaheen have said, "As in the past, the United States should continue to take a hands-on approach, and, when appropriate, should work with other interested regional actors to apply appropriate pressure on Islamabad and New Delhi to address the underlying causes of the conflict".

Israel's Attorney General plans to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on corruption charges



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in for trouble in view of the Attorney General's statement that he plans to indict Netanyahu on corruption charges

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel's attorney general announced his intention on Thursday, February 28 to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, imperiling Mr. Netanyahu's political future just 40 days before he is to stand for re-election.

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Indian Student drowned while kayaking on Lake Ray Hubbard in Dallas



Philip was an international student from India who had been earning a master's degree at the University of Texas at Dallas

DALLAS (TIP): Linto Philip, an international student from India who had been earning a master's degree at the University of Texas at Dallas, drowned while he was kayaking with friends Saturday, Feb 23 afternoon on Lake Ray Hubbard.

The 23 years old 'drifted into troubled waters and capsized' before he went

underwater, police said.

Dallas police, Dallas Fire-Rescue and the Texas Game Warden arrived at the scene and recovered Philip's body, according to Dallas News. He was pronounced dead at an area hospital.

Indian American Doctor and Hospital Owner Convicted in \$20 Million Healthcare Fraud Scheme

HOUSTON (TIP): A federal jury on Feb 22 has convicted a 50-year-old internal medicine doctor and 47-year-old hospital owner of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, 17 counts of health care fraud and three counts of money laundering, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick and Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benzckowski of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division. The jury deliberated for less than four hours following a two-week trial before convicting Dr. Harcharan Narang and Dayakar Moparty - both of Indian origin.

Narang, a doctor who owned and practiced at North Cypress Clinical Associates, and Dayakar Moparty, who managed and operated Red Oak Hospital, conspired to commit health care fraud. During trial, the jury heard evidence that Narang and Moparty unlawfully enriched themselves by submitting false and fraudulent claims for medical tests that were not medically necessary, not provided or both and then billed at Red Oak Hospital at a higher reimbursement rate.

Additionally, Narang and his co-



conspirators falsified home health patient assessment form documents to make the beneficiaries appear sicker on paper to receive higher reimbursement rates from health care benefit programs such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna and Aetna. Moparty also instructed his employees to falsely bill the medical services at Red Oak Hospital and other entities associated with Moparty, when in fact, the patients never received services from Red Oak and the other entities.

At trial, patients consistently testified that they had merely but a Groupon for weight loss

Narang and Moparty's co-conspirator, Dr. Gurnaib Sidhu, 67, of Houston, had previously pleaded to conspiracy to commit to health care fraud and is awaiting sentencing.

shots. However, after meeting with Narang, they all received the same battery of medical tests that were not needed or provided. Health care benefit programs paid Red Oak Hospital approximately \$3.2 million. Moparty then covertly paid Narang approximately \$3 million to various corporate entities Narang owned.

Narang and Moparty's co-conspirator, Dr. Gurnaib Sidhu, 67, of Houston, had previously pleaded to conspiracy to commit to health care fraud and is awaiting sentencing.

Narang and Moparty face up to 10 years in federal prison for each count of health care fraud and up to 20 years for each count of money laundering. Their sentencing hearing is set for June 20, 2019.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is an event that is observed across the globe with the motive of women empowerment. The battle may be old wherein women are fighting for their due space in every industry, for equal rights and for gender equality. However, the war is yet to be won. Keeping this in mind, 8th March is observed as International Women's Day every year. The day is observed with a different theme each year and this year, the theme is to #PressforProgress.

Be it the political arena, the social landscape or the domestic space, International Women's Day seeks to give women equality at all fronts. The day started being observed since the early 1900s and has now become a recognized event.

The beauty of International Women's Day lies in the fact that it is not limited to any particular group or any one cause. It is observed across the globe by people from different walks of life, from governments, charitable organizations, women groups, corporations and what not. It is celebrated by dedicating discussions, marches, events, art, performances and conferences to the cause. However, if you want to trace back the history of the day, there are certain things you must know.

International Women's Day, or IWD as it is shortened, can be traced back to the time when about 15,000 women in New York marched the city asking for suffrage rights, shorter work hours and a better pay. This occurred in the year 1908. Post that, in 1909, National Women's Day was observed on February 28 in the United States. It was declared and organized by the Socialist Party of America by the suggestion of Theresa Malkiel.

In August 1910, it was proposed in the 'women's office' of the Socialist Democratic party of Germany that every year, International Women's Day be observed. The idea was proposed by Clara Zetkin, who was the leader of the office. The main objective of the day was to further women rights, suffrage rights in particular. The proposal got unanimous support by over 100 women across 17 countries. These women included the first three women who were elected in the Finnish Parliament. However, no specific date was decided to observe the day.

In 1911, the day was observed for the first time by over a million of men and women who attended rallies. The day was observed on 19 March in Switzerland, Denmark, Austria and Germany. However, the demands in question were not only limited to suffrage rights but also included women's rights to work, to end discrimination at the workplace and to vocational training.

In the years around the World War I, IWD became a means to protest against the war. The women in Russia observed the day on the last Sunday of February. However, in the following year in Europe, women held protests and rallies around or on 8 March.

It was in 1917 that women were finally allowed the right to vote. When the war was still on, Russian women protested against it and for 'Bread and Peace'. They held the protest on the last Sunday of February again but as per Gregorian Calendar, the day fell on 8th of March. Just four days post the protest, the provisional government granted suffrage rights to women. In February 1918 in UK, women over 30 and who owned property were allowed to vote.

1975 was a red-letter year in the history of IWD as the year was observed as the International Women's Year by the United Nations. This Year, United Nations started observing March 8 as International Women's Day. Also, the following ten years from 1976 to 1985 were observed as International Women's



Decade. In 2011, Barack Obama proclaimed March as the 'Women's History Month'.

History

1909: The first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on 28 February. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honour of the

1908: Garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions.

1910: The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to build support for achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish Parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

1911: As a result of the Copenhagen initiative, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded women's rights to work, to vocational training and to end

discrimination in the job.

1913-1914: International Women's Day also became a mechanism for protesting World War I. As part of the peace movement, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with other activists.

1917: Against the backdrop of the war, women in Russia again chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace" on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar). Four days later, the Czar abdicated and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.

1975: On 8th March United Nation started celebrating UN International Women's Year in 1975.

2011: Former US President Barack Obama proclaimed March as Women's History Month to show their extraordinary achievements and their role in shaping the history of nation.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United

Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The UN and Gender Equality

The Charter of the United Nations, signed in 1945, was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men. Since then, the UN has helped create a historic legacy of internationally-agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

Over the years, the UN and its technical agencies have promoted the participation of women as equal partners with men in achieving sustainable development, peace, security, and full respect for human rights. The empowerment of women continues to be a central feature of the UN's efforts to address social, economic and political challenges across the globe.

It is rightly said that "Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother".

Indian American to be the Next President of University of Vermont

BURLINGTON, VT (TIP): The University of Vermont Board of Trustees announced Feb 22 that Dr. Suresh Garimella would become the University's 27th president. His appointment will be effective July 1, 2019.

"The Board is very excited about Dr. Garimella becoming our next president," said Board Chair David Daigle. "He clearly emerged as the most capable candidate for this position. We are confident that we have selected an exceptional individual who will inspire our University to reach even greater levels of excellence."

Garimella, who is currently Executive Vice President for Research and Partnerships and the Goodson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University, said, "I am deeply honored to be selected the University of Vermont's next president. I appreciate the Board's confidence and trust, and am eager to begin our important work



Dr. Suresh Garimella has been named the University's 27th president

together.

"I am impressed by UVM's academic profile and the high quality of its students, faculty and staff. The University is well positioned to compete in a rapidly changing

higher education environment, while fulfilling its important land-grant mission and positively impacting the lives of students and Vermonters. I look forward to listening to and engaging with the entire campus community, as well as the state and region, as we collectively identify the vision, strategies and creative approaches that will propel UVM into the next decade and beyond", said the Indian American.

As Purdue's executive vice president, Garimella leads a world-changing, \$660 million per year research enterprise and oversees Discovery Park, a unique set of facilities and institutes, where disciplines converge to solve global challenges related to health and life sciences, sustainability, food, energy and defense and security. He is responsible for Purdue's international programs and its global and corporate partnership endeavors, focused on strengthening relationships to advance innovation, research, and education.

Indian American Professor Named Interim Director of New Centre of Excellence at North Carolina A&T



Ajit D. Kelkar, is a professor and chair of the Department of Nanoengineering in the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering shared between

GREENSBORO, NC(TIP): Ajit D. Kelkar, a professor and chair of the Department of Nanoengineering in the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering shared between, has been named one of the three new interim directors by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University for their newly created centers for excellence. For the past 25 years, Kelkar has been working in the area of low-cost fabrication, processing and performance evaluation and modeling of polymeric and ceramic matrix composites. He will serve as interim director of the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing.

Kelkar has worked with several federal laboratories in the areas of fatigue, impact and finite element modeling of woven composites, including the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, NASA-Langley Research Center, National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, Federal Aviation Administration and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He is currently involved in the development of nano-engineered multifunctional materials and electro-spun fiber materials for aerospace and automotive applications. He has published over 250 papers and edited two books in the area of nanotechnology. He has been awarded three patents and has filed for 12 invention disclosures. Kelkar is the recipient of numerous awards including the Senior Researcher Award and the Intellectual Property Award at A&T, and the BEYA STEM Innovation Award. He is a fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Science in India. He serves on editorial board of three journals in nanotechnology disciplines and is a member of several professional societies.

Indian Man Pleads Guilty to Multi-Million Dollar Immigration Fraud Scheme



Hardev Panesar, an Indian origin man pleaded guilty in federal court Feb 21, to immigration fraud. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 10, 2019. Photo / Courtesy Twitter

SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): Hardev Panesar, an Indian origin man pleaded guilty in federal court Feb 21, admitting that he orchestrated a long-running immigration-fraud scheme that tricked more than 100 victims out of millions of dollars based on false claims that they could secure immigration status in the United States.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Impact names Aruna Miller as New Executive Director



Indian American Aruna Miller served in the Maryland State House from 2010 to 2018

WASHINGTON (TIP): On Feb 25, the Indian American Impact Project and Impact Fund (collectively "IMPACT") announced the appointment of former Maryland State Delegate and former 2018 Congressional candidate Aruna Miller as Executive Director.

"After conducting a national search, the Boards of IMPACT have selected Aruna Miller to serve as our Executive Director," said Deepak Raj, co-founder of Impact and chair of the Impact Fund. "Aruna shares our passion for building political power in the Indian American community. With her leadership, will continue building IMPACT into an organization that will be extraordinarily helpful to future generations."

"IMPACT is positioned to harness the energy, excitement, and success of a historic 2018 election cycle in which an unprecedented number of Indian Americans ran for office

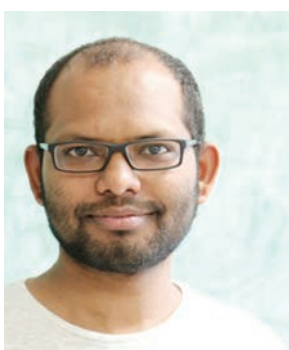
across the country. In the coming months, we look forward to recruiting and training candidates, broadening our reach and support, and shaping the 2020 political landscape,"

"As a former candidate and elected official who has campaigned, won votes, and served in office, Aruna is the ideal person to lead IMPACT. She has the perfect combination of skills and personal experience to take this organization to the next level," said Raj Goyle, co-founder of Impact and a former member of the Kansas House of Representatives. "Anyone who has met, worked with, or voted for Aruna knows her future is bright. We are excited to have her at the helm of IMPACT." An engineer by training, Miller served in the Maryland State House from 2010 to 2018, where she worked to invest in STEM education, streamline the regulatory process for small businesses, and bring 21st century jobs to Maryland. In her 2018 bid for Congress, Miller came in second out of eight candidates and earned endorsements from the Impact Fund, EMILY's List, 314 Action, National Education Association, and the Sierra Club as well as all four Indian American members of the House of Representatives.

"I am honored and excited to work with IMPACT," Miller said. "I am particularly gratified to be part of an organization dedicated to engaging Indian Americans, one of the fastest growing populations in the United States. I hope to further IMPACT's mission to develop and support talented individuals have the desire to become influential leaders in our democracy."

Co-founded by Raj Goyle, CEO of Bodhala and former member of the Kansas State House, and Deepak Raj, Chairman of Pratham USA and founder of the Raj Center on Indian Economic Policies at Columbia University, IMPACT's mission is to help talented and patriotic Indian Americans run for office, win, and lead.

INDIAN GRADUATE STUDENT AT URI DIES IN POOL ACCIDENT



Suhail Habeeb was a graduate student in physics who enrolled in fall 2016

KINGSTON (TIP): An Indian student at University of Rhode Island died in the swimming pool at the Tootell Physical Education Center on the Kingston campus on Feb 24. Suhail Habeeb, a graduate student in physics who enrolled in fall 2016, was rushed to South County Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The University of Rhode Island in a statement said: "The University of Rhode Island is saddened to report that one of its international students, Suhail Habeeb, a graduate student in physics from India, died Sunday, Feb. 24, following an incident that occurred in a Tootell Physical Education Center pool on the Kingston Campus. Staff from Campus Recreation, URI Police Department, and URI Emergency Medical Services responded to Tootell at about 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Ameya Pawar to face run off election for Chicago City Treasurer

CHICAGO (TIP): Indian American Ameya Pawar, candidate for treasurer of Chicago city, faces a run off on April 2, as none of the three candidates could get more than 50 percent votes in Feb 26 election.

Alderman Pawar, 38, who is representing his

North Side ward since 2011, will face State Rep. Melissa Conyears-Ervin, who got 44.3 percent votes (210,61744.) Pawar got 41.6 percent (197,895) and third candidate Peter Garipey got 14.1 percent only.

In 2011, Ameya Pawar was elected Alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward. Pawar is the first Asian American elected to Chicago City Council. While running for office, Ald. Pawar discussed the need for aldermen legislate on city-wide issues in addition to ensuring City services are delivered efficiently. Since taking office, Ald. Pawar has sponsored and passed eight pieces of city-wide legislation.

Pawar also led the effort to implement participatory budgeting in the 47th ward. Residents and business owners of the ward began voting in 2012 to help inform \$1.3 million in annual infrastructure spending. Additionally, Pawar has created numerous community councils to address neighbourhood issues. Pawar is currently overseeing over \$300 million in public and private projects in the 47th Ward.

In addition to his work in the 47th Ward and Chicago, Pawar was appointed by Governor Patrick Quinn to serve on the Illinois Innovation Council (IIC) where he has been working with IIC members and the Governor to help jump-start innovation and job creation in Illinois. Pawar was also appointed by Gov. Quinn to serve on the State of Illinois Asian American Employment Plan Council.



Pawar is the first Asian American elected to Chicago City Council

AAPI thanks US Administration & Lawmakers for supporting India; condemns terrorist attack on Indian Jawans in Kashmir

"American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI), wants to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the United States Administration, the Lawmakers and the public, who have overwhelmingly expressed their deep concerns of the ongoing terrorist activities, particularly the most recent heinous terrorist attack on CRPF personnel in Kashmir," said Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of AAPI in a statement released here on Feb 25.

A Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the bus they were travelling in. At least 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Jawans were killed and dozens of others injured in a blast in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, February 14th. The blast was triggered by militants who had targeted vehicles carrying the CRPF Jawans in the north Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, President-Elect of AAPI, said, "Attack on the CRPF personnel in Kashmir is despicable. We at AAPI strongly condemn this dastardly attack. Sacrifices of our brave security personnel shall not go in vain. We strongly urge all members of the international community to support India's efforts to root out terrorism."

Almost all major countries from all the continents, including the European, African, Asian and Australian countries have strongly condemned the attack. "The United States condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack by a Pakistan-based terrorist group that killed over 40 Indian paramilitary forces and wounded at least 44 others," the White House said. Expressing "deep condolences" to the victims' families, the Indian government, and the Indian people for the loss of life, the White House hauled up Pakistan.

"The United States calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil, whose only goal is to sow chaos, violence, and terror in the region. This attack only strengthens our resolve to bolster counterterrorism cooperation and coordination between the United States and India," the Trump administration asserted.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee (@HouseForeign) tweeted the response of its Chairman Rep. Eliot Engel, D-NY, saying, "I strongly condemn the terrorist attack in India's Jammu and Kashmir state today and send my condolences to the families of the victims. Countries must not allow terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed to operate with impunity. #kashmirterrorattack." Numerous other members of Congress from both parties, took to social media expressing unequivocal condemnation. Democratic Party leader Chuck Schumer, Sen. John Cornyn, Republican co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, Sen. Mark Warner, D-Virginia, co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu woman to be in the U.S. Congress, were among the dozens of others who have condemned the deadliest terror attack by a radical Islamist terrorist group.

(Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

AAPI mourns the death of Dilip G. Shah, Founder of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance

Photo caption: Dilip G. Shah, 77, founder of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) an organization that represented the interests of Indian pharma industry passed away in Mumbai on Friday, February 22nd, 2019

ATLANTA (TIP): "We are shocked and deeply saddened by a strong supporter and long-time personal friend of AAPI, Mr. Dilip G. Shah's sudden passing away," said Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of AAPI. "Mr. Shah has been very closely associated with AAPI and has been regular at AAPI's Global Health Summit, leading the CEO Forums, for the past several years. His loss has left us with a huge void," Dr. Parikh said.

"Very big loss for Indian Pharma and his friendship and warm hospitality will always be cherished. A personal and longtime confidant and beacon for US India AAPI engagement strategy," said Anwar Feroz Siddiqi, Chief Strategy Adviser AAPI. "Our heartfelt sympathies and prayers are with Mrs. Smita Shah and family."

Dilip G. Shah, 77, founder of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) an organization that represented the interests of Indian pharma industry passed away in Mumbai on Friday, February 22nd, 2019. Known in the industry as "DG", Mr Shah started the IPA when the Indian pharma companies were trying to find their feet in the global pharma landscape that was dominated by the multinational pharma companies predominantly based out of Europe and USA.

Shah who himself spent most of his career with the MNC drug companies Shah and the IPA became the body that resisted the Intellectual Property Rights that lower income countries like India were forced to sign under the World Trade Organization's TRIPS agreement.

Under his able leadership, The IPA positioned itself as the voice of generic drug companies that claimed to represent the



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As per media reports, Shah and the IPA became the body that resisted the Intellectual Property Rights that lower income countries like India were forced to sign under the World Trade Organization's TRIPS agreement. The IPA positioned itself as the voice of generic drug companies that claimed to represent the interests of Indian drug companies who were bullied under these TRIPS agreement. Shah few pharma industry veterans recall was at times even more powerful than the Indian CEO's whose interests he represented to the end of his long-cherished career.

In the last two decades since Shah took charge of the IPA, the Indian generic drug industry has grown to become a \$5 billion industry, as some of the local companies have gone on to establish their names in the global

pharma scene, predominantly the United States. In the last two years, Shah and IPA were involved with the Indian pricing drug regulator, NPPA over regulating prices of medicines in India. The IPA has also been working with the US drug regulators on addressing the quality.

The IPA has also been working with the US drug regulators on addressing the quality issues of Indian drug makers that has halted the industry's growth in the last three years.

Dilip G. Shah graduated from the premier business school in India, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He has 50 years of varied experience in the pharmaceutical industry. He has addressed several WTO workshops on TRIPS, WIPO seminars on IPRs and Public Health, WHO meetings on Access to Medicines and several other international meetings and conferences. He was a Member of the official Indian Delegation to WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancun. He also appeared before the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) and testified in Investigation No.332-543 Hearing in Washington DC in 2014. One of the senior-most top pharmaceutical professionals in the country, 'DG' as fondly called among the pharma fraternity, had over 52 years (1966 onwards) of varied experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

Describing Mr. Shah, known as a one-man army of the Indian pharma industry, Dr. Naresh Parikh said, "This fast-growing Indian industry has lost its voice. He was one among the mantle bearers who spearheaded India's transformation to become one of the top generic drug producers in the world. It is a great loss to the entire pharmaceutical industry and his contributions in the areas of advocacy, strategic planning, advisory and knowledge sharing have been invaluable."

(Based on a Press release issued by Ajay Ghosh)

AAPI's 13th Global Healthcare Summit in Hyderabad to focus on Women's Health, Childhood Obesity, Rural Health Education

CHICAGO (TIP): AAPI continues its focus on women's education, especially in rural India. A major theme and focus of the 13th annual Global Healthcare Summit to be held from July 21st -24th 2019 in Hyderabad, India, organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in collaboration with Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO), will be on Women's Health," declared Dr. Suresh Reddy, President-Elect and Chairman of the GHS 2019.

A team of physicians, consisting of women leaders of AAPI, including Drs. Sangeeta Agrawal; Uma Jonnalagadda; Saumya Neravelta; Stella Gandhi; Kusum Punjabi; Radhika Chimats; Swati Yalamnchi; Pooja Kinkhabawala will lead the sessions on Women's Healthcare Needs. In addition, a day-long session on Rural Health Education will be held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Hyderabad on July 22nd.

The much-awaited Women's Forum at the



GHS will be led by a panel consisting of inspiring women leaders who have been in the forefront, and have shown resiliency, confidence, leadership, determination, and dedication, and have withered all obstacles

in life, and have become women leaders, and are recognized to be an inspiration to all.

(Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

House Democrats to interview those Cohen named in his testimony

WASHINGTON (TIP): House Democrats moved quickly Thursday, Feb 27 to investigate a host of fresh allegations made this week by President Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, including potentially calling top Trump business associates and family members as witnesses on Capitol Hill.

A House Intelligence Committee aide said that the panel anticipates bringing in for an interview Allen Weisselberg, Trump Organization's chief financial officer, but did not name a date for when they planned to make that happen.

And House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Elijah E. Cummings said Thursday that any person Cohen named during public testimony the day before will "have a good chance of hearing from us" for "at least an interview."

"All you have to do is follow the transcript," the Maryland Democrat said. "If there were names that were mentioned, or records that were mentioned during the hearing, we want to take a look at all of that. We'll go through, we'll figure out who we want to talk to, and we'll bring them in."

Cohen, who worked as Trump's fixer for more than a decade, testified Wednesday about a number of key players, including Weisselberg; Trump's children, Donald Trump Jr., and Ivanka Trump; and his longtime secretary, Rhona Graff.

Multiple House Democrats echoed Cummings's vow to pursue witnesses, from senior Oversight members such as Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.) to newly elected progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.). The chairmen of other committees also said they were exploring new lines of inquiry in the wake of Cohen's testimony this week.

House Financial Services Chairman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) pointed to new allegations about Trump's use of his now-defunct foundation to avoid tax obligations.

"There's one thing that I think should not be



Michael Cohen in his testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee, Feb 27, named a couple of persons who the House Democrats now intend to interview in search of truth (CNN Screenshot)

missed that came out of the hearing. and that is how [Trump] directed payments into the foundation to keep from paying taxes," Waters said. "I think there's more than we know about at this time. I think that's an area that should be looked at because I think the foundation has been used by him to avoid paying taxes on money he's earned."

The Democratic reaction Thursday morning underscores the number of bread crumbs Cohen left for Democrats to follow as they investigate Trump.

"He set a very rich table," Connolly said. "We're now looking at a 10-course meal."

Democrats are talking first and foremost about bringing in Weisselberg and Trump Jr., pointing to their alleged involvement with hush payments during the 2016 election to women alleging sexual affairs with Trump. Cohen presented the panel with a check signed by both men, one of 11 checks he said were reimbursements for purchasing adult-film star Stormy Daniels's silence.

That Weisselberg would be called to the Hill was first reported by the Daily Beast.

Democrats on the Oversight panel have also noted that a March 17, 2017, check listed as

coming from Trump's trust account was written after the president "held a press conference announcing that he was no longer exercising control over the Trump businesses." They are questioning that assertion and intend to explore it.

"Mr. Cohen testified that President Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Mr. Weisselberg were all active participants in this financial conspiracy," Democrats wrote in a series of findings from the hearing released Wednesday evening.

Democrats also want to learn more about what Trump's children, Donald Jr. and Ivanka, knew about the Trump Tower Moscow project, an effort by the Trump Organization to secure a major development in Russia during the 2016 campaign. Cohen testified that he spoke with Trump "at least a half-dozen times" and also kept his children apprised of developments.

"They seem like relevant witnesses," said Rep. Eric Swalwell, (D-Calif.), who sits on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. "They know things."

House Oversight Democrats on Wednesday night also followed up on alleged inconsistencies Trump's lawyers submitted to a government watchdog's office. Just after the hearing, Democratic staff members sent letters to former deputy White House counsel Stefan Passantino and Trump's personal attorney Sheri Dillon requesting that they appear for transcribed interviews on what happened.

The inconsistencies related to the hush-payments made to Daniels. According to House Democrats, Trump's lawyers suggested to the Office of Government Ethics that the payments were actually part of a retainer agreement. Cohen, however, shot that notion down on Wednesday, giving Democrats a new line of inquiry.

"We did get some new information, and so we'll parse it out," Cummings vowed.

(Based on agency reports)

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi named Assistant Whip for the 116th Congress

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois' 8th district on Feb 25 was appointed to serve as an Assistant Whip for the 116th Congress. Krishnamoorthi becomes the first Indian-American to hold that position.



Krishnamoorthi becomes the first Indian-American to hold the position of Assistant Whip for the Congress

"I am honored to be selected for the Assistant Whip position," said Congressman Krishnamoorthi. "This position is integral in rallying my colleagues together to pass important legislation. I look forward to bringing our diverse caucus together so that we can continue to pass legislation that will deliver meaningful results for working families across America."

"I'm pleased that Congressman Krishnamoorthi will be joining my Whip team as an Assistant Whip for the 116th Congress," said Majority Whip James E. Clyburn. "Congressman Krishnamoorthi will play a critical role in my Whip operation, helping us ensure that every voice of the most diverse Caucus ever is heard as we consider legislation to move our country in a positive direction. I look forward to working with Congressman Krishnamoorthi to ensure that Democrats deliver on their promise to advance an agenda that will have a positive impact on Americans' everyday lives." Assistant Whips are responsible for helping the Whip operation get an accurate read on where Members of the Caucus stand on certain pieces of legislation. They work with Members of the Caucus to answer any questions or address any concerns that Members may have with upcoming bills.

Chicago's Indian American community stages a huge protest rally in front of Pakistan and Chinese Consulates

CHICAGO (TIP): With the chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" reverberating on the famed Michigan Avenue corridor, a massive congregation of deeply grieved Indian Americans bearing tricolor Indian and star-spangled American flags with placards denounced Pakistan for promoting terrorism. It was a huge protest rally in front of Pakistan Consulate Office, which shifted to the Chinese Consulate Office in what can be described as the largest rally of the Indian Americans in downtown Chicago on Thursday, February 21, 2019.

For the first time ever, the protest rally marched to the Chinese Consulate office to show displeasure and chastise Chinese government for their explicit support to Pakistan.

More than 400 motivated Indian Americans assembled to show strength of unity and solidarity with the fallen soldiers. Large convoys of remarkable size of Indian Americans arrived in buses, cars and trains to show solidarity with India especially the victims of Pulwama terrorist attack perpetrated with active connivance of Pakistan.

Raising slogans within an earshot of Pakistani Consul General, the crowds continued to raise the protest decibels. In some remarks, emotions were visible, but the resolve was unmistakably firm with each pledging to do their part to awaken the world community of these seemingly frequent murderous assaults on Indians.

Dr. Bharat Barai, a prominent Indian American community leader in his remarks welcomed the outpouring support of the Indian Americans gathered on a cold afternoon and thanked them for their unfailing patriotic spirit. Dr. Bharat Barai chastised Pakistan for their continued mayhem with their repeated murderous rampage in Him outlined 5000 years history of India with Kashmir as an epicenter of Religious, Educational, Cultural heritage. After 1947 partition of India, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir signed an instrument of accession with India, ratified by the elected constituent Assembly. He thanked the



Indian American community protesting terrorist attack on Indian soldiers in Kashmir Photo / Asian Media USA

World powers including USA, UK, France, Russia, many Islamic countries for condemning the Pulwama attack and supporting India.

The protest rally was largely led by among others: Hemant Patel, Nirav Patel, J.D. Digvankar, Shamkanth Sheth, Prasad Yelalmanchi, Amar Upadhyay, Nitin Garg, Pandya, Chirayu Parikh and Amitabh Mittal. Each of them articulated messages that summarized that Pakistan is a hub of terrorism and is constantly manufacturing company of terrorist; while harboring and nurturing them to be dark men of death.

FLA's prominent Trustee Iftekhar Shareef in his remarks expressed outrage and demanded Pakistan cease & desist from perpetrating terrorism mayhem in India.

(Based on a press release issued by Asian Media USA)

Reps. Roybal-Allard and Lee Celebrate release of landmark Child Poverty Study they led the effort to Fund



Reps. Lucille Roybal-Allard and Barbara Lee fought to secure funding for study on child poverty

WASHINGTON (TIP): Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) and Barbara Lee (CA-13) celebrated, Feb 28, the release of a landmark study on child poverty which the congresswomen fought to secure funding for as members of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The study, titled A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty, from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, is a comprehensive, non-partisan analysis of child poverty in the United States. It can be read here. (Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

First aerial dogfight in 48 years escalates India-Pakistan tensions



NEW DELHI (TIP): India shot down a US made F-16 fighter of the Pakistan Air Force on Wednesday, and an Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilot, part of the Combat Air Patrol (CAP) that engaged the in-coming Pakistani fighters, was captured after being shot down in Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

The air battle lasted for about 10 minutes and began at around 10 am Wednesday morning. The engagement over the skies of Nowshera in Rajouri district of Jammu Province is the first aerial dogfight between the two air forces since the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

The US made F-16 was shot down by the Russian made MiG-21, a senior official who didn't want to be named to said. "It is a huge achievement, because the F-16 is considered to be hugely superior," he added.

Pakistan has denied US made F-16 fighters were part of the strike. "The US prohibits the use of fighters in offensive operations," the senior official added, explaining why Islamabad denied the presence of F-16 in the strike force. India is expected to provide evidence of having shot down the Pakistani fighter in the next few days, a second senior official in the government said on condition of anonymity.

"The incoming Pakistani fighters were engaged within two minutes," a third senior security official said on condition of anonymity, adding that "the Pakistani fighters turned back as soon as they were challenged."

"One Pakistan Air Force fighter aircraft was shot down by a Bison MiG-21 of the Indian Air Force. The Pakistan aircraft was seen by ground forces falling from the sky on the Pakistan side," a spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi when briefing reporters.

Islamabad retaliated to the Indian jets bombing the Balakot based Jaish-e-Mohammed camp by sending the fighters to bomb Indian targets on Wednesday. A strike group comprising 12 Pakistan fighters - including four F-16 and four Mirage fighters - struck through the Kalal area in Nowshera sector of Rajouri. The Pakistani fighters took-off from NurKhan and Sargoda air bases. "Even as these fighters took off, Indian radars picked them up," the third official said. The Indian Air Force scrambled a force of Su-30Mki and MiG21 to intercept the attackers. The Pakistani fighters targeted a military installation in the Nangi Tekri area and a forward ammunition depot at the Naria area. Pakistani fighters missed the target. Pakistan, however, said it deliberately did not hit Indian military targets.

"Because we are a responsible state and want peace, PAF this morning decided there would be no military targets, no human casualties or collateral damage. While remaining within our own boundaries, we locked on six selected targets and then carried out strikes on open spaces at a distance from them. This was done to demonstrate we have the capability, will and resolve but don't want to do anything that proves we are irresponsible," Director General of Inter-Service Public Relations Major General Asif Gafoor said.

INDIA PAKISTAN CONFLICT

Jaish camp hit by IAF strike a hub of terror training

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) facility at Balakot in Pakistan, which was targeted by an Indian air strike on Tuesday (February 26), was the venue for a gathering last year during which top JeM leaders extolled the role of the local madrasa in producing jihadi fighters sent to Jammu and Kashmir.

JeM chief Masood Azhar's younger brother Abdul Rauf Asghar and his brother-in-law Yusuf Azhar alias Ustad Ghauri were among jihadi leaders and clerics who attended the annual conference at Madrassa Teleemul-Quran at Jaba Top in April 2018, according to a report in JeM's journal al-Qalam, published around the time.

Asghar, the deputy chief of JeM, accused of playing a key role in planning the 2016 attack on Pathankot airbase, was quoted by the journal as telling the gathering: "The youth who rise from this madrasa have broken the arrogance of the mountains of Kashmir and lit the torch of jihad there, and they will, God willing, continue to keep it alight."

He talked about the importance of jihad in his address and mentioned how jihad had helped repulse those fighting against Islam. Mujahideen across the world, he said, are a living example of the importance of jihad and their efforts to overcome obstacles as big as the mountains shows their love for the religion.

The conference was also attended by Mufti Asghar Khan Kashmiri, considered to be one



Satellite imagery of the 50 hectare terror camp.

of Masood Azhar's most trusted aides, and Mufti Mansoor Ahmad.

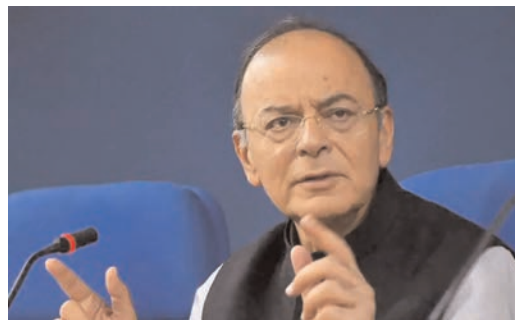
After the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the JeM had moved its training camps to Balakot area of Pakistan's KhyberPakhtunkhwa province, located about 40 km by road from Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistanoccupied Kashmir. The JeM facility at Jaba Top near Balakot is believed to be one of the largest and oldest run by the group that has been banned by the US and the UN.

A secret US department of defence

document on Guantanamo detainee Hafez K Rahman, leaked by WikiLeaks, said he was moved to the detention camp in Cuba in February 2002 "because of his knowledge of the Moaskar training camp in Balakot, (Pakistan)". This is an apparent reference to the same JeM facility that was targeted in the strike on Tuesday.

Rahman, a Pakistani national, was trained at JeM camps and then fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan before he was captured by the Northern Alliance, the document said. *Source: HT*

If US can kill Osama, we can do something similar: Jaitley on IAF strikes



NEW DELHI (TIP): Referring to the 2011 operation to capture and kill Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan's Abbottabad, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Wednesday said if the US can do it, "why not India".

"If the United States Navy Sea, Air, and Land Teams (SEALs) can kill Osama bin Laden in Pakistan's Abbottabad, then why can't India," he said in a press conference. His remarks come at a time when tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated following a suicide attack in Kashmir's Pulwama on February 14 in which 40 CRPF men were killed by a Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist.

After that, in a pre-dawn attack, India Tuesday struck a terror camp at Balakot in Pakistan in what it termed was a "non-military pre-emptive action" after intelligence inputs reported of another fidayeen attack in India.

Earlier Wednesday, Pakistan claimed "strikes across LoC from within Pakistani airspace", and released a video in which an IAF pilot is seen identifying himself as Wing Commander Abhinandan. However, a defence source had told news agency PTI that there was no damage to any IAF jets today.

HOW WE GOT HERE: THE DEVELOPMENTS OF 2019

- On February 14, a convoy of Indian paramilitary forces in Indian Kashmir was attacked by a car bomb, killing 46 troops. The terror group held responsible for the attack, Jaish-e-Mohammed ("Army of Mohammed) is considered a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. government and has openly declared war against the United States. India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of supporting Jaish-e-Mohammed and other groups as proxies to undermine Indian control of Kashmir.
- On February 25, India struck back. Twelve French-made Mirage 2000 fighter bombers from the 1st "Tigers" and 7th "Battle Axes" fighter squadrons took off from bases in India. Armed with 2,000 pound laser-guided bombs and escorted by Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter bombers, the Mirages flew at low level forty miles into Pakistani territory and bombed what India claims was a JeM training camp outside the town of Balakot. Like all modern, preplanned air strikes, the strike took place late at night (3 a.m. local time) and was conducted with tanker and unmanned surveillance aircraft support.
- India claims that around 300 JeM militants were killed in the bombing raid, while Pakistan claims the air strike dropped munitions on a patch of empty land. Meanwhile on the ground, the two sides are shelling one another with artillery.
- On February 26th an Indian Mil-17 military transport helicopter crashed and was possibly shot down. Pakistani forces also shot down at least one, and maybe two, Indian Air Force MiG-21bis fighter jets. Pakistan claims to have at least one Indian pilot in custody. For their part, Indian forces claim to have shot down a Pakistani F-16 Fighting Falcon, as well.



INDIA PAKISTAN CONFLICT

US, UK and France ask UN Security Council to ban Masood Azhar

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The US, the UK and France have moved a fresh proposal in the UN Security Council to designate Pakistan-based terror group JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, a listing that will subject him to global travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo.

The fresh proposal was moved on Wednesday by the three permanent veto-wielding members of the 15-nation Security Council. The Security Council Sanctions Committee will have 10 working days to consider the fresh proposal submitted by the three members.

The proposal is the fourth such bid at the UN in the last 10 years to list Azhar as a global terrorist.

In 2009, India moved a proposal to designate Azhar, whose UN-proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) claimed responsibility for the suicide attack against Indian security forces in Pulwama on February 14 in which over 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed.

In 2016 again, India moved the proposal with the P3—the United States, the United Kingdom and France—in the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee to ban Azhar, also the mastermind of the attack on the air base in Pathankot in January 2016.

In 2017, the P3 nations moved a similar proposal again. However, on all occasions, China, a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, blocked India's proposal from being adopted by the Sanctions Committee.

It remains to be seen how China will vote on the proposal this time.

China, a close ally of Pakistan, has consistently blocked moves, first by India and later by the US, the UK and France, to

PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS JAISH CHIEF AZHAR IS IN THEIR COUNTRY

NEW DELHI (TIP): Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has confirmed that Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar is in the country.

The minister said Masood Azhar is "unwell to an extent that he cannot leave the house" while speaking to CNN.

"According to my information, he is very unwell. He is unwell to the extent that he can't leave his house, because he's really unwell," he said.

The development comes at a time when diplomatic pressure is mounting on Pakistan over terror groups operating on its soil. India and US have been critical of Pakistan's shielding of Azhar.

Terror organisation Jaish has carried out multiple attacks on India in over two decades, including the recent suicide bombing in Pulwama which claimed the life of 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) soldiers. India has been trying hard on the global stage to brand him as a terrorist as the United Nations Security Council but China has been blocking India's attempts.



Masood Azhar

Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi also said that Pakistan is ready to take action against Azhar if there is evidence that can "stand in a court of law".

"If they (India) have solid, inalienable evidence that is acceptable to courts of Pakistan, share it with us so that we can convince the people and we can convince the independent judiciary of Pakistan," he said.

designate Azhar as a global terrorist by the 1267 Committee by putting technical holds.

France assumes the crucial rotating presidency of the UN Security Council in March.

At least 40 CRPF personnel were killed and many injured on February 14 in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a JeM suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives

into their bus in Pulwama district.

India has strongly reiterated its appeal to all members of the international community to support the proposal to list terrorists, including Azhar, as designated terrorists under the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council, and to ban terrorist organizations operating from territories controlled by Pakistan.

Source: PTI

'Over in 90 seconds': Officers detail India, Pakistan air duel along border

NEW DELHI (TIP): The dogfight between Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, flying a Russian made MiG-21 and a Pakistan Air Force US made F-16 over the skies of the Nowshera in Rajouri District of Jammu Province on Wednesday lasted just 90 seconds, a senior Indian Air Force (IAF) officer said on condition of anonymity.

The 90 seconds will perhaps go down in the history of aircraft encounters.

In the 90 seconds, the Pakistani fighter fired two US AMRAAM missiles and an aging MiG-21 shot down a fourth generation F-16 fighter — a feat that will go into the history books considering the asymmetry between the two fighters. Soon after, the MiG, piloted by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was shot down.

The AMRAAM missiles are beyond visual range missiles, which means they can be fired from a stand-off distance. They are also all-weather and day and night capable missiles. Parts of the AMRAAM missile were recovered by India and made public in a press conference in New Delhi.

"Only F-16 aircraft can fire AMRAAM missiles. These have been used in violation of conditions imposed on Pakistan by the United States when these were sold," a second senior



IAF officers show sections of an exploded AMRAAM missile, said to be fired by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) F-16s which were found in Rajouri district.

IAF official who did not want to be named said.

Those conditions state that the fighters can't be used in offensive actions but only defensive ones.

On Wednesday, the incoming pack of 12 Pakistani fighters, comprising US-made F-16, French-made Mirages and JF-17 fighters made in Pakistan were detected by an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWAC) hovering inside India. Pakistan was

responding to air strikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Immediately, fighters from Avantipora, Srinagar and other airfields were scrambled. The MiG-21 being the closest, approached the PAF fighters, a senior official in the security establishment who did not want to be named said. From a distance, the entire dogfight was picked up by the AWAC and also other Indian fighters.

The MiG-21 locked on to the F-16 when it was flying at about 15000ft and the F-16 at about 9000 ft. The MiG-21 started diving to get a better shot at the F-16. The F-16 took evasive measures. It went into a steep climb," a second senior official in the security establishment said and added that "the F-16 climbed to about 26000 ft."

By this time the MiG-21's pilot had skillfully manoeuvred his aircraft behind the PAF fighter, positioning itself at a sixty-degree angle for maximum impact. It fired a Russian made Vypel R-73 (NATO name AA-11 Archer) missile hitting the F-16. Even as R-73 missile was closing into its target, the wingman of the F-16 now in the crosshairs moved in. He fired his weapon and hit the MiG-21.

Kartarpur: India ready to go ahead with meet with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is ready to go ahead with the March 14 meeting with Pakistan to finalise the modalities of the Kartarpur corridor, sources said on Thursday amid tense bilateral ties between the two neighbours.

India and Pakistan were scheduled to meet on March 14 to finalise the modalities of the much-awaited corridor, particularly its coordinates, but the Pulwama terror attack and the escalating tensions in the last few days raised serious doubts about the possibility of the meet.

Sources said India is still ready for the discussion on the Kartarpur issue as it affects a sizeable number of Indians. The proposal for talks came from the Pakistani side and was accepted by India, they added.

The proposed corridor will provide easy access to Sikh pilgrims to Guru Nanak's final resting place Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan's Punjab province.

India and Pakistan agreed to give access to Sikh pilgrims from the Indian side to Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib. Both laid foundation stones for the project in November last year.

Pakistani minister boycotts Islamic council meeting over Indian presence

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's foreign minister said on Friday that he would not attend a meeting of foreign ministers from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Abu Dhabi this weekend because his Indian counterpart had been invited to the event.

"I will not go to the council of foreign ministers," Shah Mahmood Qureshi told parliament, adding that lower-ranking officials would attend to represent Pakistan's interests. Source: Reuters

Samjhauta Express train suspended



AMRITSAR (TIP): Amid tension between India and Pakistan, the bi-weekly Samjhauta Express train service between the two nations has been temporarily suspended.

The train with 42 passengers on board left the Old Delhi station on Wednesday at 11.10 pm and arrived at Attari at 6.45 am on Thursday.

The passengers were to be shifted to another train coming from the Wagah side to be ferried to their final destination, Lahore. Much to their disappointment, the train service was suspended.

Attari Railway Station Superintendent Arvind Kumar Gupta said a message by the Pakistani authorities on aborting the train service was received at 8.45 am.


**GUEST
COMMENT**

Time for diplomacy

Ensure world leaders
are on Indian side

The events of the past few weeks have added another insalubrious chapter in the subcontinent's history. Pakistan, while claiming to offer the olive branch, also abetted the killing of over 40 paramilitary personnel in Pulwama in a suicide attack. Such a situation was unpalatable for any self-respecting nation. For over three years, the Modi government had drawn a red line on dialogue with Pakistan. It has been resisting talks till the terror issue was first put on the table. This, in diplomatic language, is like walking into a cul de sac, leaving no room for maneuvering so essential in the world of inter-state relations. This may have left South Block's practitioners of muscular statecraft little option but to deliver a riposte with military overtones.

The chicken may have come home to roost. What seemed to be the perfect 'non-military strike' against a terrorist camp is now showing indications of escalation. If statesmen do not retrieve the situation, both countries could well slide down the slope of an armed conflict which will spell economic destitution for Pakistan and a relatively better, but still unenviable, situation for India. War is not an option for nuclear-armed neighbors and those who start a war do not know how it will end.

Narendra Modi and Imran Khan have often spoken past each other. Modi had reminded Khan about his assurance of being a man of his word and Khan now needs to walk the talk. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, too, has said India does not wish to see further escalation and will continue to act with responsibility and restraint. Friendly nations, from the US to Russia and France, have supported India, which can retain their empathy if it does not step up the escalation. The testosterone-laden serenading of muscularity from the sidelines does not account for the devastation that is written into the DNA of conflicts. A step back and dialogue is the need of the hour.

(Tribune, India)

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AS I SEE IT

Coalition of the concerned



By Suhasini Haidar

In the wake of the Pulwama attack on February 14, the government has iterated once again its plan for the "diplomatic isolation" of Pakistan. The idea, which was first articulated after the 2016 Uri attacks, is a non-starter, as was underlined by the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman to both countries earlier this month, just a few days after Pulwama. In Pakistan, the Prince called himself "Pakistan's Ambassador" in his country, and issued a joint statement praising Pakistan for its fight against terrorism. Clearly, a more considered diplomatic strategy, less full of rhetoric, must be chalked out by the government in response to cross-border terrorism.

Beyond isolation

To begin with, the government would do better to repackage its idea of "isolating Pakistan" into one of building a more inclusive 'coalition against terrorism emanating from Pakistan'. In the past couple of weeks alone, Iran and Afghanistan have faced terror attacks on their security forces along the border with Pakistan - and several other countries, which have also faced such attacks or see the presence of Pakistan-based groups on their soil, would be willing to join ranks on this. The truth is, in today's interconnected world, it is vainglorious to expect countries to join a unilateral plan for isolation.

Despite the U.S.'s considerable might, it has been unable to get most countries, including India, to sever ties with Iran and North Korea, for example. The impact of such a campaign is also doubtful: after years of trying to isolate North Korea, the U.S. is pursuing talks with its leader. While isolation might work as a campaign slogan for domestic audiences, it is quickly rebuffed each time a country engages with the nation one is trying to isolate. An inclusive coalition is more likely to move nations at the global stage as well. The success of the efforts led by the U.S. and other countries to 'grey list' Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force or of French efforts for a United Nations Security Council statement on Pulwama points to that.

Second, India must focus on the case against Masood Azhar, which pre-dates the case against 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. In a first, the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack in a suicide bomber video that has not thus far been disputed by its leader Masood Azhar. Azhar has been on the U.S.'s radar since 1992, when he was a leader of the banned terror group Harkat ul-Ansar and worked with jihadi groups in Sudan and Bangladesh. His release after years in Indian prisons in exchange for hostages on board the IC-814 flight should on its own merit his banning and prosecution - not just in Pakistan, but in all the countries whose nationals were on board that Indian Airlines flight, as well as the stops that flight made in Nepal, the United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan.

Third, India must prepare for a pushback from Pakistan, most likely in terms of internationalizing the Kashmir issue, and linking it to progress in Afghanistan. This is what Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Zahid Nasrullah, did when he said that any attack by India would "impact the

Multi-pronged diplomacy is vital to compel Pakistan to end its support for terrorist groups

It is puzzling that the U.S. has been able to carry out drone strikes on a whole host of terror group leaders on Pakistan's western front, but never once targeted camps and infrastructure belonging to the JeM and the LeT, despite their well-established links to al-Qaeda. India must also press the U.S. to place travel sanctions on specific entities in the Pakistani military establishment unless visible action is taken against the JeM, whose leaders hold public rallies and issue videos threatening India.

momentum" of the peace talks in Afghanistan. His words were heard beyond Kabul, in Washington and Moscow. On February 18, members of the Taliban negotiating team were due to meet U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in Islamabad. The talks were called off after Afghanistan objected to the Taliban team's travel to Pakistan and rescheduled for February 25 in Doha. It remains to be seen how much countries trying to negotiate with the Taliban will need Pakistan's leverage to make progress on those talks. U.S. President Donald Trump sees them as the precursor for plans to pull out most troops in combat in Afghanistan before his re-election bid for 2020.

The American angle

Next, the government must prioritize action over words, when it comes to moves against Pakistan's sponsorship and hosting of the JeM. The measures taken thus far - cancelling Most Favored Nation status, maximizing use of Indus waters, denying visas to Pakistani sportspersons, etc. - have little real impact on Pakistan and certainly none on the military establishment. Instead of priding itself on extracting statements of condemnation from various governments in the world, it is better for New Delhi to use India's considerable diplomatic leverage to ensure action that would shut down the JeM and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) permanently and bring their leaders to justice. In this regard, mere statements and bans have not worked for more than two decades, and the government must consider other options, especially with the countries that carry the most leverage and access in Pakistan: China, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

It is puzzling that the U.S. has been able to carry out drone strikes on a whole host of terror group leaders on Pakistan's western front, but never once targeted camps and infrastructure belonging to the JeM and the LeT, despite their well-established links to al-Qaeda. India must also press the U.S. to place travel sanctions on specific entities in the Pakistani military establishment unless visible action is taken against the JeM, whose leaders hold public rallies and issue videos threatening India.

Contrary to popular perception, the Trump administration's moves to cancel funds to

Pakistan last year is not the toughest action the U.S. has contemplated: in May 1992, then U.S. President George H.W. Bush had directed his Secretary of State James Baker to send a stern letter to then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif threatening to designate Pakistan as a "State sponsor of Terror" for its support to Kashmiri and Sikh militant groups.

A similar line of talks must be pursued by New Delhi with Riyadh - which once was a donor to Pakistan's Islamist institutions, but now is wary of funding extremism - to withhold any funds that may trickle down to charitable wings run by the JeM and LeT. With China, it is surprising that the issue of a simple ban at the UN Security Council has not been made India's chief demand from Beijing. It is hoped that this will be rectified soon when the next proposal to ban Azhar is brought to the UNSC, and during Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to China this week for the trilateral Russia-India-China meeting. More than the ban, however, India must ask China for action against any entities dealing with the JeM in Pakistan, given that China is the partner with the most influence in Pakistan today, and one with the most to lose from terror groups in Punjab operating along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Steady dialogue

Finally, India must look to its own actions on the diplomatic front with Pakistan. Calling off a formal dialogue process for more than a decade has clearly yielded no desired outcome. South Asia as a region, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) process too have suffered the consequences of this disengagement, without yielding any desired outcomes. A measured, steady and non-political level of dialogue is a more effective way of impressing India's determination to root out terrorism than the present on-again, off-again policy. As the nation prepares for a possible military response to the Pulwama attack, it is important that New Delhi consider its diplomatic response carefully, particularly taking into account both the historical and regional context of its moves.

(The author can be reached at
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Why Punjab cannot make progress



By Harjap Singh Aujla

“

In America it is mandatory for the state governments to balance their budgets by imposing new taxes or enhancing old taxes, only the federal government can borrow from outside to manage the national economy. If this type of fiscal discipline would have been made a part and parcel of the budgeting process of all Indian states too, Punjab state government would have been a lot more responsible spender. This unbridled expenditure of the past few decades on wasteful populist schemes has multiplied exponentially and that has crippled the state financially.

”

Harjap Singh Aujla's special article on Punjab's shameful fall from being the numero uno State of India to a hopelessly wrecked State is being carried in two parts. Readers may please revisit March 8 issue for part two of the story.- EDITOR

It saddens me to think how Punjab has degenerated into a heavily indebted and perpetual beggar state from one of the leading economic powers of India. Prior to 1947, it was effectively administered by the British appointed governors, assisted by officers of the Indian Civil Service (ICS), Provincial Civil Service (PCS), Indian Police (IP) and Punjab Police (PP) cadres. On the revenue side the field officials were the Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Kanoongos and Patwaris. Our province was not under debt. No administrator knew the art of borrowing to expend.

A few years before independence, there were indirectly elected governments too, which had virtually no powers. They were dependent on their personal rapport with the governors and the deputy commissioners or collectors. Though the British were at times brutal, but law and order was in check and there was a definite administrative system. Strict British laws of governance were in vogue and law and order was better. Compliance of rules was by and large enforced.

The first time the law and order collapsed thoroughly on a gigantic scale, was in the year 1947, when one community decided to start violence on a massive scale to ethnically cleanse some areas of all minorities and the other community in its own citadels retaliated on a larger scale.

Order could be restored when the ethnic cleansing was over and a government in newly formed East Punjab was established. The first two chief ministers were Gopi Chand Bhargava (a Congress politician from Sirsa in Hissar district) and Bhim Sen Sachar (a popular freedom fighter Congress politician from Gujranwala in Pakistan). They took turns in governing Punjab for more than eight years. They were grappling with the rehabilitation of newly arriving displaced people.

Political class, born out of freedom struggle, during those days was by and large honest. There were no complaints of corruption about these two politicians. In spite of the massive task of rehabilitation of impoverished humanity from Pakistan, no freebies were promised to the newly arrived refugees. Most of them came from former well off families and they had to work hard to get out of their abject poverty by toiling toughly in the fields, factories and businesses.

In 1956, East Punjab got its first dynamic chief minister in Partap Singh Kairon. Kairon hailed from village Kairon near Patti, in the then Amritsar district. He was educated in addition to Khalsa College Amritsar in Michigan and California states of the USA. His foreign education and work ethics of an alien land made him a no non-sense pragmatic. The first three chief ministers did nothing special for their own areas. They were loyal to entire Punjab. During eight-year term of Partap Singh Kairon, Chandigarh took a quantum leap forward in development as the capital of East Punjab. The Capitol Complex of Chandigarh was constructed, consisting of the state secretariat, the state assembly and the present Punjab and Haryana High Court. The Panjab University and the government colleges were built for boys and girls. Punjab was progressing.

My late father told me about a significant incident. Kairon wanted to have a discussion with the vice chancellor of Panjab University



Amritsar may not be the capital of Punjab, but Punjab is better known for Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), the Sikh Vatican



Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab- Open Hand symbol



The Wagah Border beating the retreat is a spectacle to watch



Khanna Grain Market- the largest grain market in Asia

Mr. A.C. Joshi. Kairon made a phone call requesting time to see him. Joshi offered to come to the civil secretariat, but Kairon replied back telling that he does not want to waste the VC's precious time and he will himself drop in to see him in the latter's office. This shows how much respect he used to accord to the academic authorities.

Kairon was personally supervising the construction of prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh. For doing this he sacrificed the interests of one of India's top medical colleges, the Government Medical College Amritsar, which was located in his home city. Entire top ranking staff for the PGI came from Amritsar. The affiliated Victoria Jubilee Hospital also suffered due to shortage of high quality specialist doctors. Even the Ram Lal, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital suffered in Amritsar, because staff was taken from there too. A brand new building was constructed during his tenure as the chief minister for the PGI. World famous Bhakra Dam was built during his time in 1963 and work started on Pong Dam in 1961.

The Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh was completed during Partap Singh Kairon regime. Sacrificing the interests of the agricultural wing of the famous Khalsa College Amritsar, Kairon established the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana. Now crippled by fund shortages, this university at one time had become one of the leading most agricultural research institutions in India. It was primarily responsible for ushering in the Green Revolution in Punjab Agriculture.

One fact which hardly any one remembers today is regarding the radio broadcasting in Punjab. Kairon was impressed by the proliferation of broadcasting in America. As told by my late father, medium-wave broadcasting was expanding rapidly during the 1960s all over India. U.P. was getting a number of radio stations. Partap Singh Kairon requested the centre for at least two more radio stations for Punjab. The transmitter of the only existing radio station All India Radio Jullundur was located at Goraya in Jullundur district. It was 19 miles away from Ludhiana and 18 miles from Jullundur. It had a 50 kilowatt transmitter

with a range of 60 miles. Thus it was local to both Jullundur and Ludhiana, but the political capital Chandigarh was 80 miles away and the industrial and business capital Amritsar was 68 miles away, also Amritsar was well within the local range of Radio Pakistan Lahore, only 35 miles away. Both important cities falling outside the day time range of All India Radio Jullundur were approved to receive new radio stations.

Partap Singh Kairon was made to resign in 1964, following his indictment by the centrally appointed Das Commission of some minor charges of corruption. However equipment for both these radio stations reached their destinations prior to his resignation. Chandigarh station was inaugurated on 27th of December in 1964. Amritsar was lagging behind. In 1965, Indo-Pakistan War started and the equipment for All India Radio Amritsar was shifted to Jullundur, where it was commissioned in 1966 as the second channel exclusively for Vividh Bharati Service.

Partap Singh Kairon had a special corner in his heart for Karnal and Gurgaon districts. In Karnal, he took keen interest to expand the National Dairy Research Institute into a great temple of learning. During his time Delhi was a Punjabi refugee majority city. The industrialists of Amritsar and Batala wanted an industrial township within Punjab, but close to New Delhi, from where they could tap the potential of NCR Delhi and U.P. for marketing of their industrial products. He planned and oversaw the construction of a new industrial hub in Faridabad in Gurgaon district. Kairon desired merger of Punjab and Rajasthan, if that was not possible, he wanted at least Sri Ganganagar to be a part of Punjab. He always resisted the demand for creation of Haryana and the merger of Punjab's hill districts into Himachal Pradesh. Some people say that had Kairon not been assassinated, there would have been no division of Punjab. Punjab would have been a large diverse state with lush green hills, industrial hubs and highly fertile agricultural fields. Punjab was virtually under no debt in the period of Partap Singh Kairon as the chief minister.

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE ON MARCH 8)

Dozens of Australian journalists face charges over sex trial

MELBOURNE (TIP): An Australian state prosecutor has sent letters threatening to charge media organisations and dozens of journalists with breaching a gag order that banned reporting of Cardinal George Pell's convictions on charges of sexually molesting two choirboys, lawyers said Feb 28.

Reporting in any format accessible from Australia of details of the former Vatican economy chief's convictions in a Melbourne court in December was banned by a judge's suppression order that was only lifted this week.

Such suppression orders are commonplace in the Australian and British judicial systems, and breaches can result in jail terms.

But the enormous international interest in a criminal trial with global ramifications has highlighted the difficulty in enforcing such orders in the digital world.

Victoria state Director of Public Prosecutions Kerri Judd has written more than 100 letters to journalists and media organisations advising that she intends to charge them with offenses relating to reporting on the Pell case, said Jason Bosland, the deputy director of the Center for Media and Communications Law at Melbourne University.

Bosland, a leading expert on suppression orders, said he was told the number by media sources.

A lawyer involved in several cases, who declined to be identified because he was not authorised to speak to the media, confirmed that more than 100 letters were sent.

Some individuals received two or three letters, so the number of media employees facing charges could be fewer than 100, the lawyer said.

He and Bosland said the charges were aiding and abetting breaches of the suppression order by international media, breaching the suppression order, scandalising the court and sub judice contempt.

Anthony Loncaric, a spokesman for the Office of Public Prosecutions, declined to comment.

Two of Australia's largest media organisations, Nine and Australian Broadcasting Corp., confirmed that they had received letters.

News Corp., another major media organisation that was criticised by a Pell lawyer for running a headline saying "CENSORED" following the conviction, declined to comment.

Nine spokeswoman Miranda Ward said the company had received a letter accusing it of breaching the suppression order. Australian Broadcasting Corp. confirmed the public broadcaster had received a letter from Judd. The ABC declined to provide details of the content of the letter, except to say it was related to ABC's coverage of the Pell trial.

"We stand by all of our coverage and our actions in this matter," the broadcaster said in a statement.

"We have responded to the DPP strongly contesting any suggestion of wrongdoing on our part." Boland said the number of journalists facing prosecution was unprecedented.

"I've never seen a situation where such a huge number of people have been shown show-cause notices," Boland said.

Boland said he had never heard of a charge of aiding and abetting being used to enforce a suppression order. (AP)

Venezuela's Guaido to visit Brazil in bid to keep pressure on Maduro

BRASILIA/GENEVA (TIP): Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido was due to arrive in Brazil on February 27 night to meet with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro as part of a tour of several nations to ratchet up international pressure on President Nicolas Maduro to step down.

Guaido last month invoked constitutional provisions to assume an interim presidency, arguing Maduro's re-election was fraudulent. He has since been recognized by most Western nations - including Brazil - as Venezuela's rightful leader.

The congress chief has organized nationwide protests over the past month while the United States has imposed crippling sanctions on Venezuela's key oil industry and government officials. Yet Maduro retains control of state institutions, leaving the two sides locked in a stalemate.

Guaido will travel to Brasilia for a two-day visit from Bogota, where he attended a meeting with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and the regional Lima group about how to resolve the political and economic crisis in Venezuela.

"The interim president of Venezuela will meet on Feb 28 afternoon with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at the Planalto Palace," said Maria Teresa Blandria, appointed by Guaido as his ambassador to Brazil and recognized as such by the far-right Bolsonaro government.

After the meeting on 2 pm (1700 GMT) on Thursday, Guaido will hold a news conference, the envoy said.

Guaido over the weekend called for the international community to make clear all options were on the table to oust Maduro, after security forces loyal to him violently drove back the opposition's attempts to bring humanitarian aid into the country.

Brazil, whose northern state of Roraima depends on Venezuela for electrical power, this week played down the possibility of military intervention.

While in the Brazilian capital, Guaido will also meet with diplomats of other countries that have recognised him as Venezuela's interim leader, pending new presidential elections, Blandria said.

Options on the table

Brazil is hosting one of the Venezuelan opposition's collection points for aid and



together with the United States has funded the 200 tonnes of food and medicine being stockpiled in the northern city of Boa Vista.

The opposition failed to get that aid across the border as planned last weekend after Maduro closed it, and 25 Venezuelans who were wounded by gunfire in protests across the frontier were treated in a Brazilian hospital.

Roraima state said on Wednesday a Venezuelan man who had suffered a gunshot wound died of multiple organ failure. That raised the death toll from protests on Friday and Saturday to five, Venezuelan rights group Penal Forum said. Maduro denies there is a crisis in Venezuela despite overseeing a hyperinflationary meltdown that has resulted in sharp increases in malnutrition and the spread of preventable disease, as well as an exodus of 3.4 million Venezuelans since 2015.

The socialist leader and his allies, like Russia and Cuba, have accused the opposition of using aid as an excuse for foreign intervention, and the United States of preparing for a military incursion.

The U.S. special envoy for Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, denied those accusations on Tuesday but said Washington would impose more

sanctions on "high-ranking members of the regime and their financial affairs" this week and next.

In the latest sign of Maduro's desperation to raise hard currency amid tightening sanctions, at least 8 tons of gold were removed from the Venezuelan central bank's vaults last week, an opposition legislator and three government sources told Reuters.

Venezuela's foreign minister on Wednesday suggested talks between Maduro and U.S. President Donald Trump over the crisis - an idea the Trump administration immediately rejected. Jorge Arreaza, addressing the U.N. Human Rights Council, suggested that Maduro and Trump meet to "try to find common ground and explain their differences." He also said his country had lost \$30 billion in assets "confiscated" since November 2017 under sanctions.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence ruled out the idea of talks.

"The only thing to discuss with Maduro at this point is the time and date for his departure," he said on Twitter.

"For democracy to return and for Venezuela to rebuild — Maduro must go," Pence said. Reuters

Singer Shakira to face tax fraud accusation in Spanish court in June

MADRID (TIP): Colombian singer Shakira has been called to appear in a Spanish court on June 12 to face accusations of failing to pay 14.5 million euros (\$16.5 million) in tax, the court in the Catalonia region said on Feb 25.

A court statement dated January 22 summoning her was published on Tuesday.

Prosecutors filed charges in December claiming Shakira had failed to pay tax on income earned between 2012 and 2014, during which time they say she lived in the region.

Shakira's representatives said in a statement after the accusation was filed that the singer did not live in Spain until 2015 and had met all of her tax obligations.

The singer of "Hips Don't Lie" and



"Clandestino" regularly attends football matches of her partner, Gerard Pique, who plays for Barcelona. Pique and Shakira, a couple since the start of the decade, have two children. Spanish authorities have pursued other major celebrities over tax. Pique's Argentinian Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi was found guilty, along with his father, of a 4.1 million euro tax fraud in 2016 and was fined 250,000 euros as well as paying back the missing tax plus interest. On January 22, Portuguese international Cristiano Ronaldo, who left Real Madrid for Juventus this year, was fined a total of almost 19 million euros for tax fraud. — Reuters

Iran President rejects Foreign Minister's resignation

DUBAI/LONDON (TIP): Iranian President Hassan Rouhani rejected the resignation of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Feb 27, standing by a moderate ally long targeted by hardliners in factional struggles over a 2015 nuclear deal with the West.

Zarif — a US-educated veteran diplomat who helped craft the pact that curbed Iran's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief — announced his resignation on Instagram on Feb 20.

"As the Supreme Leader has described you as a 'trustworthy, brave and religious' person in the forefront of resistance against widespread US pressures, I consider accepting your resignation against national interests and reject it," Rouhani said. Zarif's departure would have deprived Iran of its most skilled diplomat and a patient negotiator. — Reuters

North Korea leader Kim says ready to denuclearise

HANOI (TIP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Feb 28 he was willing to give up his nuclear weapons and he would not be holding a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Vietnam if he were not.

Kim and Trump began a second day of talks earlier on Feb 28 in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, with both expressing hope for progress on improving relations and the key issue of denuclearisation.

"If I'm not willing to do that, I won't be here right now," Kim told reporters through an interpreter, when asked if he was ready to give up his nuclear weapons.

Trump, responding to that, said: "That might be the best answer you've ever heard."

The two leaders were sitting across from each other at a conference table, with their aides.

Kim did not elaborate on what "denuclearisation" would entail, but asked if he was ready to take concrete steps, Kim said they had just been talking about that.

"Hope you give us more time to talk. Even a minute is precious," he told reporters.

While the United States is demanding North Korea give up all of its nuclear and missile programmes, the North wants to see the removal of a US nuclear umbrella for its Asian allies such as South Korea and Japan.

No rush

The two leaders' summit in Singapore in June, the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader, produced a vague statement in which Kim pledged to work toward denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. But there has been little progress since.

Kicking off the second day of talks at the French-colonial-era Metropole hotel earlier, Trump again stressed the talks aimed at tackling North Korea's nuclear threat should not be rushed.

"I've been saying very much from the beginning that speed is not that important to me. I very much appreciate no testing of nuclear rockets, missiles, any of it, very much appreciate it," Trump told reporters before his session with Kim.

"Chairman Kim and myself, we want to do the right deal." North Korea has conducted no nuclear or intercontinental ballistic missile tests since late 2017.

Kim, asked by a reporter if he was confident about a deal, said, through an interpreter:



"It's too early to tell, but I wouldn't say I'm pessimistic. For what I feel right now, I do have a feeling that good results will come out," he said, in what was believed to be his first ever response to a foreign journalist.

"There must be people who watch us having a wonderful time, like a scene from a fantasy movie. We have so far made lots of efforts, and it's time to show them," Kim said.

Trump reiterated North Korea's potential, if a deal can be done, saying the isolated country could be an "economic powerhouse".

Asked if they were discussing human rights, Trump said they were discussing everything. The two leaders took a brief break from their talks after about half an hour to stroll in the leafy hotel courtyard, by a swimming pool. Trump and Kim have a series of meetings scheduled at the Metropole and will later hold a "joint agreement signing ceremony", the White House said.

After, Trump plans a news conference at 3:50 p.m. (0850 GMT).

Pressure

The White House has given no indication of what the signing ceremony might involve, although the two sides' discussions have included the possibility of a political statement to declare the 1950-53 Korean War over.

They have also discussed partial denuclearisation measures, such as allowing

inspectors to observe the dismantling of North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear reactor, US and South Korean officials say.

US concessions to North Korea could include opening liaison offices or clearing the way for inter-Korean projects, but critics say Trump risks squandering vital leverage if he gives away too much, too quickly.

Kim said he would welcome the US opening a liaison office in Pyongyang, while Trump said: "Not a bad idea." US intelligence officials have said there is no sign North Korea will give up its entire arsenal of nuclear weapons, which Kim's ruling family sees as vital to its survival, and analysts say Pyongyang is unlikely to commit to significant steps without an easing of punishing US-led sanctions.

Facing mounting pressure at home over investigations into Russian meddling in the election, Trump has sought a big win by trying to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for promises of peace and development, a foreign policy goal that has confounded multiple predecessors.

In the United States on Wednesday, his former personal lawyer Michael Cohen testified at a congressional hearing in Washington, calling Trump a "conman" who knew in advance about the release of stolen emails aimed at hurting his Democratic rival in the 2016 election campaign. Reuters

Trudeau refuses to resign

OTTAWA (TIP): Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, rejecting an opposition call for his resignation, disputed allegations on Feb 27 by his former justice minister that government officials inappropriately pressured her to help a major company avoid a corruption trial.

The remarks by Jody Wilson-Raybould, made during a testimony to the House of Commons justice committee, deepened the worst crisis of Trudeau's tenure months before an October election.

Wilson-Raybould said she had confronted Trudeau over what she said were persistent efforts by officials to help construction firm SNC-Lavalin Group Inc evade trial on charges of bribing Libyan officials. "I strongly maintain that I and my staff always acted appropriately and professionally," Trudeau told a televised news conference in Montreal.

"I, therefore, completely disagree with (Wilson-Raybould's) characterisation of events," he added, brushing off a demand from Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer that he step down. The case forced the resignation of Trudeau's principal private secretary, Gerald Butts, earlier this month. — Reuters

DR Congo child soldiers surrender arms and amulets

KANANGA (DR CONGO)(TIP): "For me, the war is now over." If words alone carry weight, there are hopes that a brutal conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo may draw to an end.

The words were spoken by Mado, a hard-eyed child fighter all of 12-years-old from the deeply-feared Kamuina Nsapu militia in central Kasai region.

Along with several dozen adults, the young girl marched out of the brush and into the town of Kananga, some 700 kilometres (450 miles) east of Kinshasa, where they surrendered their weapons.

There they laid down old rifles, machetes and good-luck charms at the governor's feet following the surprising victory of Felix Tshisekedi who was elected president after December's elections.

Like most of the Kamwina Nsapu fighters, Tshisekedi comes from the Luba tribe.

With them were two other children—one aged about 10 who had a red bandana around his head and a large hunting knife in his hand.

Red is the colour of the militia, which mixes politics with mysticism and took up arms against Kinshasa in August 2016 after its tribal chief, known as the Kamwina Nsapu, was killed by troops.

Since then, the uprising has claimed at least 3,000 lives and displaced another 1.4 million people.

The conflict eased off in 2017 and the situation has further improved since Tshisekedi took office in January, ending the 18-year iron-fisted rule of Joseph Kabila.

Dressed in a filthy skirt and tattered vest, her feed bare, Mado lays down her amulet alongside a small knife and a red bandana. She was a "Yamama", she explains, a girl fighter who had been encouraged to join the militia by her father. "There were 10 young people. One of us is dead," she said.

"Our job was to save our country. Before heading off to war, we went to a tshiota (initiation site) to call on our ancestors for help." -AFP

Nigeria's Buhari wins second term as President

ABUJA (NIGERIA) (TIP): Nigeria's President was declared the clear winner of a second term in Africa's largest democracy early Feb 27, after a campaign in which he urged voters to give him another chance to tackle gaping corruption, widespread insecurity and an economy limping back from a rare recession.

While many frustrated Nigerians had said they wanted to give someone new a try, President Muhammadu Buhari, a former military dictator, profited from his upright reputation in an oil-rich nation weary of politicians enriching themselves instead of the people.

Speaking shortly after the announcement of the official results, Buhari told colleagues that he was "deeply humbled" by the win.

Supporters began dancing in the streets of the capital, Abuja, on Tuesday night as vote counting stretched his lead from the

weekend election to nearly 4 million votes over top opposition challenger Atiku Abubakar, a billionaire former vice president who made sweeping campaign promises to "make Nigeria work again."

Buhari received 15.1 million votes, or 55 per cent, the electoral commission said in making its official declaration before dawn Wednesday. Abubakar received 11.2 million, or 41 per cent. The average national turnout was 35.6 percent, continuing a downward trend. In a failed last-ditch effort to stop the official declaration, Abubakar's party claimed that election data had been manipulated and demanded fresh elections in four of Nigeria's 36 states.

Buhari's party rejected the accusations. It also called on Abubakar, who hasn't made a public appearance since Saturday's election, to accept his loss gracefully and concede.

"Let this nation move forward,"

campaign spokesman Babatunde Fashola said.

"There's no opposition that will roll over and play dead. Anybody that lost an election will always complain," Hameed Ali, the ruling party agent attending the vote declaration, told reporters.

The election, once described as too close to call, suffered from a surprise weeklong postponement and significant delays in the opening of polling stations.

While election observers called the process generally peaceful, at least 53 people were killed in an attack claimed by the Islamic State West Africa Province extremist group and other violence, analysis unit SBM Intelligence said.

"Accept defeat in the spirit of sportsmanship. This is a critical vehicle for democratic consolidation." Nigerians were praised for their patience and resilience in this bumpy vote. — AP



VARUN DHAWAN COSIES UP TO GIRLFRIEND NATASHA DALAL IN LONDON

Even with rumours of their wedding gaining steam, actor Varun Dhawan and his girlfriend Natasha Dalal are not backing down on the PDA. The two were seen cosying up to each other in the streets of London on a chilly night in a new pic.

Varun's several fan clubs on social media have been sharing the adorable picture. In it, Varun is seen in a chunky and long silver parka while Natasha is seen in a beige overcoat and a cute hat.

Varun confirmed his relationship with Natasha on an episode of Koffee With Karan a couple of months ago. Host Karan Johar asked Varun about his relationship status with his long-time rumoured girlfriend, Natasha. Varun gave Karan the permission to talk about his meetings with Natasha and also blushingly confirmed that the two were indeed in a relationship. When asked if he plans to marry her someday, Varun said he does.

Natasha is a fashion designer and is often spotted on dates with Varun. He has previously said, "My first love is films and everyone in my life knows that. After that comes Natasha, my family, and my friends. I just don't make relationships to let go of them."

I AM HAPPY WITH THE WAY MY CAREER IS SHAPING UP: KRITI

Kriti Sanon is now a household name all across the country and is geared up for the release of her upcoming movie *Luka Chuppi* alongside Kartik Aaryan. The leggy lass has slowly yet steadily built her career in Bollywood and most of her movies have fared pretty well at the box office. During a recent interview, Kriti Sanon stated that she's happy with the way her career has shaped up.

"I am definitely happy with the way my career is shaping up. However, there is still a lot more to do and explore as an actor. I want to work with directors, who probably can push me," said Kriti Sanon to TOI.

"I always feel the need to step out of my comfort zone and do things differently... like play an angst-driven character or someone who is nothing like me. From my days of struggle, I have learnt that one shouldn't take success or failure seriously as neither lasts too long."

"For me, the journey of a film is more important than the result. I have no regrets if a film like *Raabta* didn't connect with the audience, because I learnt a lot from the experience. People couldn't imagine that I could do a film like *Bareilly Ki Barfi*."

"I have been perceived as this glamorous and urban chick, and that's a perception I broke with the character of Bitti. Now, I am way more confident about taking risks. I would like to play a role where people say I've been wrongly cast so that I can shock them again," she summed it up.



DIA MIRZA TO PLAY 'DELICIOUS PART' IN WEB SERIES



Actress Dia Mirza has two "very interesting shows" lined up in the web space. Apart from Nikkhil Advani's historical show, she says she has another web series in which she will play a "delicious part".

Dia was last seen on the big screen in "Sanju" as Manyata Dutt.

Her fans will soon see her in "two very interesting shows".

"One is being directed by Nikkhil Advani. It's an epic. It's been a dream to be a part of a historical. I will be working with Shabana Azmi again as well as Ronit Roy whom I have admired as an artiste and of course, working with Nikkhil is going to be great fun," Dia told IANS in a telephonic interview from Bengaluru where she mentored young women for fbb Colors Femina Miss India 2019.

Without giving away much about her second web series, she shared: "The second one is a drama and is based on a true story. I get to play a female protagonist and it's a delicious part." Hailing the digital platform, the

"*Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*" actress said: "I think it's really an exciting time for women in films and just female artistes because I think where cinema is not writing enough female parts, digital platforms are making up for that.

"Exciting and enterprising work is being written for women and I am going to make the most of it." As a producer, she has another web series titled "Mind The Malhotras" in her kitty.

"When we set up Born Free Entertainment, we wanted to tell fun, engaging, socially relevant and relatable stories," she said about the production house that has backed films "Bobby Jasoos" and "Love Breakups Zindagi". "Whether it is through cinematic or digital experience... it's really about telling stories that excite us," she added.

The sitcom genre was exciting enough for her.

"Mind The Malhotras" is a sitcom. It's a space that we haven't really explored too much of in India. It's a digital

format and that makes it even more exciting. We will be launching the show very soon," said Dia. Starring Mini Mathur and Cyrus Sahukar, the show is based on the Israeli comedy "La Famiglia".

Talking about the current trend of remakes and adaptations in Indian showbiz, she said: "It is interesting to draw (inspiration) from different cultures and see what other people are doing.

"The idea of an official adaptation is three-fold. One is that you have to stick with the format of the original, the second is you aim to make it better and the third is to bring it to Indian context. That's why it is exciting. America and Europe also adapt... It is a great time for exchange for the flow of culture and art." But there are some who feel that Indian filmmakers are probably running out of original ideas hence, they are looking elsewhere for content.

She thinks it is equally, if not more challenging, to adapt content as it would be to create an original one.



MILEY CYRUS COMPLIMENTS PRIYANKA CHOPRA

Actress Priyanka Chopra's appearance at the 2019 Vanity Fair Oscars after party has left not only fans but also singer-actress Miley Cyrus, who was once romantically linked to Priyanka's husband Nick Jonas, in awe of her. When celebrity make-up artist Pati Dubroff on Monday posted a photograph of Priyanka's party look on Instagram, Miley's comment on it set tongues wagging.

Miley complimented Priyanka saying, "pretty love". Priyanka walked the Oscars after party red carpet in a black shimmer dress, while Nick sported a blue suit. After the event, they took to social media to share photographs of themselves as they shared some fun and cosy moments together. "Black Panther" actress Lupita Nyong'o also took to Instagram story to share her happiness after meeting the newlyweds.

BRIE LARSON HUGE FAN OF INDIA, INDIAN FOOD



Oscar-winning actress Brie Larson is a huge fan of India, and said she loves all the colors of the country.

"I loved India. I got to travel a little bit. Kerala has a lot of fish and coconut chutney, so good. And pickle, I can eat a lot of pickle," Larson said.

"There's just a lot of colour and brightness and a lot of dancing," added the actress, who had earlier shot romantic comedy musical film 'Basmati Blues' in India.

She had previously shared her admiration for the country through Instagram back in 2016.

She opened about her India trip in an interview read a statement.

On the film front, Larson is excited for 'Captain Marvel'. The film introduces the MCU's first stand-alone, female-franchise title character, Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel, essayed by Larson.

Set in the 1990s, 'Captain Marvel' follows Danvers's journey as she becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes. Based on the comic book series, first published in 1967, 'Captain Marvel' is produced by Kevin Feige and directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. It also stars Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn with Annette Bening and Jude Law.

'Captain Marvel' will release in India on March 8 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Source: IANS

Ellen Page says she was told to refrain from revealing her sexuality



Ellen Page has revealed that after she found fame, she was asked by people in Hollywood to hide her sexuality.

The 32-year-old actor, who is married to Emma Portner, became a known face in Hollywood after she starred in films such as "Juno", "Inception" and "X-Men: The Last Stand". She came out a homosexual in 2014.

In an interview with Net-A-Porter, Page said she was initially directed by the people in the industry to never talk about her sexual orientation in public domain.

"I was distinctly told, by people in the

industry, when I started to become known: 'People cannot know you're gay'. And I was pressured – forced, in many cases – to always wear dresses and heels for events and photo shoots.

"As if lesbians don't wear dresses and heels. But I will never let anyone put me in anything I feel uncomfortable in ever again," she said.

Page is a vocal advocate for LGBTQ issues and had most recently called out Chris Pratt for following an "infamously anti-LGBTQ church". Source: PTI



ARIANA GRANDE BEATS SELENA GOMEZ ON INSTAGRAM

Pop star Ariana Grande is now the most-followed woman on the photo-sharing platform Instagram.

The "7 Rings" singer dethroned Gomez, 26, on Monday, Billboard reported. As of Tuesday morning, Grande, 25, had 148,391,669 followers compared to Gomez's 146,303,811.

Grande's new title comes after she's apparently gained more than 13 million new followers in the last four months, according to Billboard. Previously, Gomez replaced Taylor Swift as the most popular Instagram user with more than 103 million followers back in December 2016.

While Grande is known for her presence on Instagram, using it to connect with her fans, Gomez recently took a break from the social

media platform from roughly September to January. On Sept. 23, Gomez posted a selfie on Instagram, announcing to fans that she planned to take another "social media break."

"Again. As much as I am grateful for the voice that social media gives each of us, I am equally grateful to be able to step back and live my life present to the moment I have been given," she captioned the post. "Kindness and encouragement only for a bit! Just remember – negative comments can hurt anybody's feelings. Obvi," she wrote at the time.

The following month, a source told Fox News that Gomez was reportedly seeking treatment at an East Coast facility to tackle "emotional issues head-on."

Malala Yousafzai asks Narendra Modi, Imran Khan to shake hands and settle conflict

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Amid the rising tension between India and Pakistan since the February 14 Pulwama attack, Pakistani activist and Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai has urged the Prime Ministers of the two countries to show “true leadership” by shaking hands to settle the current stand-off.

Malala, in a statement released on Twitter, said that “retaliation and revenge” is never the right response and the world doesn’t need another war. “As a Nobel Laureate, UN Messenger of Peace, a citizen of Pakistan and a student, I am alarmed by the escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan – and concerned for people living on both sides of the border. Everyone aware of the horrors of war would agree that retaliation and revenge is never the right response – once started, it rarely ends. Millions of people are suffering today because of existing wars – we don’t need another. Our world cannot even care for all the people currently in peril,” she said.

“I ask the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi to show true leadership in this difficult time: to sit down, shake hands and settle the current conflict and long-standing issue of Kashmir through dialogue. I ask the international community to support talks between India and Pakistan and to help prevent loss of lives and homes,” Malala added.

The Pakistani activist also said the citizens of both countries know that the “true enemies are terrorism, poverty, illiteracy and health crisis – not each other”.

Tensions between the neighbouring countries escalated further in the last 48 hours. On Wednesday, Pakistan fighter jets entered Indian airspace to target military installations near Line of Control (LoC) but were repelled by the Indian Air Force. However, IAF Wing Commander Abhinandhan Varthaman was taken into custody by Pakistani troops after his MiG Bison was shot down by Pakistani air defence. Hours after, New Delhi conveyed to Islamabad that “no harm” should come to the pilot, and it is learnt that the Pakistan Army has indicated it will ensure “humane treatment.”

The incursion was in response to India’s preemptive action on Tuesday, where a major Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) camp was destroyed in air strikes. And the air strikes were in retaliation to the February 14 Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed in a JeM suicide bombing. (PTI)

Kremlin dismisses talk of possible US move to probe Putin’s wealth

MOSCOW (TIP): The Kremlin on February 28 dismissed talk of potential US sanctions targeting President Vladimir Putin’s wealth and called draft sanctions legislation an example of anti-Russian sentiment that should not be taken seriously. A group of US lawmakers have proposed sanctions legislation targeting Russia that, among other things, would require the director of US National Intelligence to report to Congress about Putin’s personal net worth and assets. (Reuters)

Flights across Asia affected after closure of Pakistan air space

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A temporary closure of air space over Pakistan snarled air traffic Thursday, especially between Asia and Europe, though some airlines adjusted by rerouting their flights.

In Bangkok, an important and busy hub for transcontinental flights, thousands of travellers were stranded. The closure of the main route for many flights to the Middle East and Europe was likely to be costly for airlines having to carry extra fuel and take longer journeys than usual.

Bangkok airport officials said over 4,000 travellers were affected. Those needing help were getting access to accommodations and alternative travel arrangements, they said, though some of those stranded complained they were getting no help at all.

The terminal was so crowded that the chief of Thailand’s immigration police, Surachate Hakparn, tweeted a warning to “Please spare your time for your trip!” The disruptions brought a month-long tropical holiday for a group of 25 Danish students unable to board a connecting flight in Bangkok to an unhappy end. “The guard over there just said we have to go down to the basement to sleep. So we can’t get any help or information,” said Sara Bjerregaard Larsen, 21. Thai Airways says it had rerouted flights to Europe outside Pakistani air space. Malaysia Airlines also said in a travel advisory on its web site that it was avoiding air space over Pakistan and northern India “until further notice.”

The first available flight to London on Thai Airways, according to its booking website, was Thursday, March 7.



Following tensions between India and Pakistan, aviation authorities in Pakistan said the country’s air space would reopen as of midnight Thursday (1900 GMT).

India also suspended flights through some of its northern airports on Wednesday. Those facilities were back to normal on Thursday, but flights both to the US and Europe out of New Delhi were affected.

A United flight from Newark, New Jersey, to New Delhi was rerouted through London and later cancelled, and Air Canada cancelled flights from Toronto and Vancouver to the Indian capital. As of mid-morning Thursday, Chinese airlines had changed the routes of seven flights due to the closure of Pakistani airspace while foreign airlines were allowed

to divert 40 flights through Chinese airspace, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said on its website.

Air China cancelled its flight Thursday from Beijing to the Pakistani capital, Islamabad. According to an employee of the airline’s publicity office in Beijing, the status of other flights would be decided later.

The closing of Pakistan’s airspace saw Gulf Arab airlines, which serve as a link between East and West in global travel, rapidly reshuffle their flights.

In the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, civil aviation authorities immediately halted their flights to Pakistan. Airlines in those countries include the long-haul carriers Etihad, Emirates and Gulf Air. (AP)

Bangladesh tells UN Security Council cannot take more Myanmar refugees

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh told the United Nations Security Council on Thursday that it cannot take any more refugees from Myanmar, some 18 months after more than 700,000 mainly Rohingya Muslims started pouring across the border fleeing a military crackdown.

Attacks on security posts by Rohingya insurgents in Myanmar’s Rakhine state triggered the crackdown that the United Nations, the United States, Britain and others describe as ethnic cleansing. Myanmar denies the accusations.

“I regret to inform the council that Bangladesh would no longer be in a position to accommodate more people from Myanmar,” Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said.

Haque accused Myanmar of “hollow promises and various obstructionist approaches” during negotiations on returns.

“Not a single Rohingya has volunteered to return to Rakhine due to the absence of conducive environment there,” Haque said.

Myanmar says it has been ready to accept returning refugees since January, but the United Nations says conditions are not yet right for their return. The Rohingya say they want guarantees over their safety and to be recognized as citizens before returning.

Western powers on the council on Thursday lamented the lack of action from Myanmar’s government.

“We’re very disappointed ... that there hasn’t been more progress on getting the refugees back and that obviously includes



creating the conditions where the refugees feel able to go back,” British U.N. Ambassador Karen Pierce told the council.

Several council members from western countries stressed that the return of refugees needed to be safe, voluntary, dignified and secure, and pushed for the Myanmar government to allow the United Nations widespread and unconditional access to Rakhine. UN envoy to Myanmar Christine Schraner-Burgener told the Security Council that U.N. access was currently “insufficient.”

“The scale of what has been done to the Rohingya Muslims and the allegations of crimes against humanity really mark this out as one of the most terrible events of this century so far,” she said.

The 15-member Security Council has been split over how to deal with the crisis, with western powers pitted against Russia and Myanmar ally China. China’s Deputy U.N. Ambassador Wu Haitao said it was mainly an issue between Myanmar and neighboring Bangladesh “and as such it is up to the two countries to work out a solution.”

Russia’s Deputy U.N. Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy agreed.

In December Britain circulated a draft resolution to council members that diplomats said aims to put a timeline on Myanmar allowing the return of refugees and addressing accountability, but China and Russia have boycotted talks on the draft. (Reuters)

MUSSOORIE HILL STATION

From an altitude of more than 6150 ft, views of Doon Valley, the surrounding hills and greenery could be glimpsed from anywhere one stands in Mussoorie. Mists hanging over Dun Valley and the forests of Pine are just the beginning of the spell that casted over this hill destination. As the 'Baby Sun' opens eyes for the dawn, life in small houses down the slopes and in the hotels and resorts for tourists here starts getting stirred to lovely wakening. The curvy road which resembles to the back of double-humped camel and water falling with all the majesty one can associate with it, are some of the ways to become aware of being in Mussoorie Hill Station, but these are not alone.

Mussoorie tour is like golden amber which keeps spark of rejuvenation kindled in the mortal body and immortal soul. These are some of the features that are instantly recognizable of Mussoorie, yet not the only aspects. Among the crown jewels of tourism in Uttarakhand, Mussoorie has its own charm. Baits of this 'Queen of Hills' attracts everyone coming to this town snuggled in foothills of Garhwal Himalayas; the nearer one gets, more indulgent he becomes.

Although there is a great need to control 'over' in Mussoorie tourism and promote eco-friendly facet of it, the place continues to draw tourists from India and abroad being easily accessible and enchantingly welcoming.

Top Tourist Attractions

Mussoorie is among those places where footprints of the British Past left on Indian Territory could still be seen. However, this is not the only noticeable facet of this place. Visiting temples with their myths and legends and rituals to worship accentuates the feel. That gets even better with all the picnic points in the lap of Nature. Have some idea about the attractions of this place reading the list.

Nag Devta Temple

A great view of Doon Valley and dedication to Lord Shiva is all needed to pay a visit to the temple located on Cart Mackenzie Road.

Jwala Devi Temple

Bengong Tibba is a place with altitude 2240 m where this temple dedicated to Goddess Durga is located at a distance of 9 Km away from Mussoorie.

Tapkeshwar Mahadev Temple

A cave temple located outskirts of the main city around 40 Km away, the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The water is believed to be dripping on shrine naturally. The hot water springs around also make for a great addition.

Shedup Choepelling Temple

It is a Tibetan temple meant for peaceful engagement of population.

Christ Church

Believed to be the oldest church in Himalayan region, constructed in 1836 it has Gothic design architecture.

Surkanda Devi Temple

Only for sturdy legs, the temple demands trek of 2 Km before one gets to see the deity represented by the stone sculpture. 35 Km away from the city it is located at around 10000 ft.

Benog Wildlife Sanctuary

Snow-shrouded peaks like Chaukhamba and Banderpoonch and Pine forests make the natural home for some of the animals and birds of high altitude, which is what found in abundantly in this sanctuary.



Cloud's End

Denoting the geographical end of the Mussoorie the point is becomes a great vantage point for the sights this hill station has to offer.

Tiger View Jungle Camp

Adventure lovers find it a great place in Goolar Khalla village. Camping and jungle safaris are great ways to explore Nature.

Camel's Back Road

Camel's hump is never as evident as in the shape of this road due to which this 3 Km stretch is named. Natural rock formations are something to see while on the route which connects Library and Kulri Bazaar.

The Mall

This remains the iconic point of Mussoorie which tourists look for stepping for the first time in this hill city.

Hathipaon and Park Estate

Sir George Everest lived in the house located inside this premises, which is why it is popular in first place. However, the other reason of being a great picnic spot also adds because of the scenic Nature.

Jaspal Rana Shooting Range

When Olympian Jaspal Rana won medal, it inspired youths enough to become a shooter like him and even better and thus this place came into picture.

Gun Hill

Firing cannon from the hill at a particular time of day was once idea to match the watches by the residents and thus the name of the hill. Rope way and trekking are common mode to reach here.

Lal Tibba

Touted to be the highest point of Mussoorie, the place now has a namesake at a little lower altitude, well known point to picnic.

Tapovan

Trekking to Tapovan (where Guru Dhronacharya did his penance) is not a regular task to be undertaken but adventure buffs and trekker do not let go of such an opportunity.



HOW YOUR DAILY ROUTINE DAMAGES YOUR HAIR

We all have bad hair habits, most likely because we didn't know any better, but after reading some of the common bad habits many are guilty of below, you won't have an excuse to continue doing these any more.

Using Old Combs & Brushes

Don't let your hair pile up in your hair brush, this can be a breeding ground for germs and bacteria. Make sure to clean the hair out every week, and deep clean your hair brush once a month.

Tip: Clean your hair brush or comb with baking soda and water, this will remove oil and product that builds up over time.

Applying Too Many Chemicals

Artificial chemicals are bad for your body, and your hair is no exception. If you're coloring, getting keratin treatments, or relaxing your hair more often than you should, you are probably doing more damage than good. Make sure to keep any chemical processes or treatments down to a minimum, and your hair will begin to look and feel better and stronger.

Tip: If you have to get chemical treatments, establish a routine that involves preemptive care, like applying a hair mask a couple days before your treatment. You can also use a hair cover up on your roots so you don't have to get your hair colored as often!

Going Too Long Without A Haircut

If you want healthy hair, make sure you're getting regular trims to avoid split ends. Split ends can move up the hair shaft until you not only have split ends but a completely damaged hair shaft, which eventually leads to weakened locks



and even hair thinning.

Tip: The right trim is ½ inch each month, or every other month if you are trying to grow your hair longer.

Brushing Wet Hair Incorrectly

This is one that we're sure many people are guilty of, including us! When hair is wet the cuticle scales can lift, causing hair strands to become more delicate and in turn more susceptible to breakage.

Tip: Make sure you always use a wide-tooth comb when brushing through damp or wet hair.

Using Too Many Products

Using too many products on your hair can cause build up and strip your hair of its natural oils. Especially if you have thinning hair, using too many products at once can end up weighing hair down. Even if you have thicker hair, you would be surprised at how little product you actually need.

Tip: If you want to use more product or you're not sure if you're using too much, apply the product to wet hands first to thin the product out before applying to your hair.

TEACH YOUR KIDS TO DECLUTTER THEIR ROOM

If you are parent to a toddler, you must have mastered the art of walking around your house without tripping on toys and stamping on building blocks. You are probably itching to dump all their stuff in one room, lock the door and throw away the key. But before you take such extreme measures and later end up buying the same things all over again, how about decluttering their room and sorting their belongings?

Choose one corner of the room or a cupboard and identify items that your child uses every day and those that haven't been touched in a really long time. For instance, ask your son if he really needs the action figure he used to play with a few years ago or if it can be given away to charity. The best way is to start from the bottom of the cupboard.

Group items into two piles — those that can be given away and those that can be retained. Make this into a game and ask your child to toss things into their respective cartons. This way, even if they are clingy and don't want to give away their crayons and toys, they might just listen to you because shooting baskets is fun!

Neatly arrange items that have been marked 'for keeps' in the room. And the rest of it can either be donated to charity or thrown in the bin.

Kids as young as four are happy to participate in reorganising their room. Also, if they are involved in the activity, they'll be more inclined to keep things tidy. To begin with, ask your child to show you around their room so that you can take stock. When they are going through their pile of



things, they will get a clear idea of what they want. Sometimes, they get possessive about a toy or a piece of clothing. Even if it is in a shoddy state, children don't feel like letting it go. So, you need to reassure them that you will not throw things away without their knowledge.

FOOD CORNER



Darbari Kebab

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup hung curd
- 2 tablespoon ghee
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder
- 1 cup water
- 400 gm soaked green moong dal
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 teaspoon chilli powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic paste

METHOD

- To make this yummy kebab recipe, drain the previously soaked green moong dal and keep aside.
- Heat the 2 tablespoon ghee in a kadahi, and add the cumin.
- When they splutter add the dal and the salt and saute over medium heat till tender but whole. Takes about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.
- Grind the lentils in a food processor or a stone to a fine consistency without adding water. This becomes like a dough. Mix the salt, chilli powder, garam masala and garlic into the ground dal.
- Add the yoghurt and make into a soft pliable dough.
- Divide this into about 12 portions and shape them into round balls, and then flatten them.
- Heat enough ghee in a heavy based frying pan to form a thin layer.
- Fry over low heat, first on one side then the other, till crisp and brown.
- Serve it hot with tomato-garlic sauce and coriander chutney.

MICROWAVE CHOCOLATE CAKE



INGREDIENTS

- Plain Chocolate - 50g, Butter - 50g, Dark Brown Sugar - 50g, Maida - 50g, Egg - 1 (beaten)
- Vanilla Extract - 1/4 tsp
- Cocoa Powder - 1 tsp + extra for sprinkling
- Salt - a small pinch
- Icing Sugar (optional)

METHOD

- Line a microwaveable glass bowl with greaseproof paper.
- Add the chocolate, butter and sugar into it.
- Place it in the microwave and cook on full power for 30 seconds or until melted.
- Add the remaining ingredients and mix well.
- Pour into the bowl and microwave on full power for 3 to 4 minutes or until just set.
- Allow it to cool.
- Sprinkle cocoa powder (or icing sugar) on top.
- Serve.

WORKING LONG HOURS UPS DEPRESSION RISK IN WOMEN: STUDY

Women who work more than 55 hours a week are at a higher risk of depression, according to study which found that the same is not true for men.

The study of over 20,000 adults, published in the BMJ's Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, found that after taking age, income, health and job characteristics into account, women who worked extra-long hours had 7.3 per cent more depressive symptoms than women working a standard 35-40 week.

Weekend working was linked to a higher risk of depression among both sexes, according to the researchers from Queen Mary University of London and University College London in the UK.

Women who worked for all or most weekends had 4.6 per cent more depressive symptoms on average compared to women working only weekdays.

Men who worked all or most weekends had 3.4 per cent more depressive symptoms than men working only weekdays.

"This is an observational study, so although we cannot establish the exact causes, we do know many women face the additional burden of doing a larger share of domestic labour than men, leading to extensive total work hours, added time pressures and overwhelming responsibilities," said Gill Weston, a PhD candidate at UCL.

"Additionally women who work most weekends tend to be concentrated in low-paid service sector jobs, which have been linked to higher levels of depression," said Weston.

The research showed that men tended to work longer hours in paid work than



women, and having children affected men's and women's work patterns in different ways: while mothers tended to work fewer hours than women without children, fathers tended to work more hours than men without children.

Two thirds of men worked weekends, compared with half of women. Those who worked all or most weekends were more likely to be in low skilled work and to be less satisfied with their job and their earnings than those who only worked Monday to Friday or some weekends.

Researchers analysed data from 40,000 households across the UK since 2009. Information about working hours, weekend working, working conditions and psychological distress was collected from 11,215 working men and 12,188 working women between 2010

and 2012.

Depressive symptoms such as feeling worthless or incapable were measured using a self-completed general health questionnaire.

"Women in general are more likely to be depressed than men, and this was no different in the study," Weston said.

"Independent of their working patterns, we also found that workers with the most depressive symptoms were older, on lower incomes, smokers, in physically demanding jobs, and who were dissatisfied at work," she said.

"We hope our findings will encourage employers and policy-makers to think about how to reduce the burdens and increase support for women who work long or irregular hours—without restricting their ability to work when they wish to," she added. *Source: PTI*



Vitamin C may lower BP, sugar levels in diabetics

Taking vitamin C supplements can help diabetics by lowering elevated blood sugar levels throughout the day, a study has found.

The research, published in the journal Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism, also found that vitamin C lowered blood pressure in people with type 2 diabetes, suggesting benefits for heart health too.

According to Glenn Wadley from Deakin University in Australia, the results may help millions currently living with the health condition.

"We found that participants had a significant 36 per cent drop in the blood sugar spike after meals. This also meant that they spent almost three hours less per day living in a state of hyperglycaemia," Wadley said.

"This is extremely positive news as hyperglycaemia is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease in people living with type 2 diabetes," he said.

"We also found that the proportion of people with hypertension halved after taking the vitamin C capsules, with both their systolic and diastolic blood pressure levels dropping significantly," Wadley added.

The dose of vitamin C used in the study was about 10 times the normal dietary intake and readily available from most health food stores, researchers said.

"Vitamin C's antioxidant properties can help counteract the high levels of free radicals found in people with diabetes, and it's encouraging to see this benefits a number of the disease's common comorbidities, such as high blood pressure," he said.

"While physical activity, good nutrition and current diabetes medications are standard care and very important for managing type 2 diabetes, some people can find it tough to manage their blood glucose levels even with medication," he added. *Source: PTI*

Vitamin C is available in abundance in many natural sources, including fresh fruits and vegetables. The richest sources include:

- Indian gooseberry (700 mg/100 g)
- Citrus fruits, such as limes, oranges and lemons
- Tomatoes and tomato juice
- Potatoes
- Green and red peppers
- Kiwifruit, strawberries and cantaloupes
- Green leafy vegetables such as broccoli
- Fortified cereals

New microfluidics device can detect cancer cells in blood

Researchers have now developed a device that can isolate individual cancer cells from patient blood samples. The research was carried out by researchers from the University of Illinois Chicago and Queensland University of Technology of Australia. The microfluidics device works by separating the various cell types found in blood by their size. The device may one day enable rapid, cheap liquid biopsies to help detect cancer and develop targeted treatment plans.

The findings are reported in the journal Microsystems & Nanoengineering. Speaking about it, corresponding author of the study, said, "This new microfluidics chip lets us separate cancer cells from whole blood or minimally-diluted blood," adding, "While devices for detecting cancer cells circulating in the blood are becoming available, most are relatively expensive and are out of reach of many research labs or hospitals. Our device is cheap, and doesn't require much specimen preparation or dilution, making it fast and easy to use."

The ability to successfully isolate cancer cells is a crucial step in enabling liquid biopsy where cancer could be detected through a simple blood draw. This would eliminate the discomfort and cost of tissue biopsies which use needles or surgical procedures as part of cancer diagnosis. According to researchers, liquid biopsy could also be useful in tracking the efficacy of chemotherapy over the course of time, and for detecting cancer



in organs difficult to access through traditional biopsy techniques, including the brain and lungs.

However, isolating circulating tumour cells from the blood is no easy task, since they are present in extremely small quantities. For many cancers, circulating cells are present at levels close to one per 1 billion blood cells. "A 7.5-milliliter tube of blood, which is a typical volume for a blood draw, might have ten cancer cells and 35-40 billion blood cells," said Ian Papautsky, the Richard and Loan Hill Professor of Bioengineering in the UIC College of Engineering.

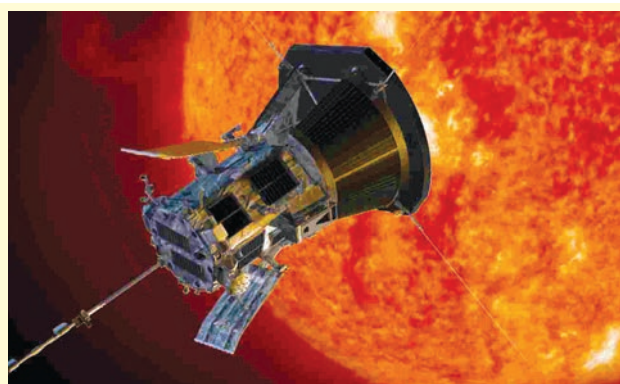
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NEW NASA MISSION TO STUDY, FORECAST SPACE WEATHER SELECTED

NASA has selected a USD 42 million mission that will help scientists understand and, ultimately, forecast the vast space weather system around our planet.

Space weather is important because it can have profound impacts—affecting technology and astronauts in space, disrupting radio communications and, at its most severe, overwhelming power grids.

The new experiment will, for the first time, obtain global observations of an important driver of space weather in a dynamic region of Earth's upper atmosphere that can cause interference with radio and GPS communications, NASA said in a statement.

The Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) mission will cost USD 42 million and is planned to launch in August 2022, attached to the exterior of the Earth-orbiting International Space Station (ISS).

From its space station perch, AWE will focus on colourful bands of light in Earth's atmosphere, called airglow, to determine what combination of forces drive space weather in the upper atmosphere.

Researchers once thought that only the Sun's constant outflow of ultraviolet light and particles, the solar wind, could affect the region.

However, recently they have learned that solar variability is not enough to drive the changes observed, and Earth's weather also must be having an effect.

To help unravel that connection, AWE will investigate how waves in the lower atmosphere, caused by variations in the densities of different packets of air, impact the upper atmosphere.

AWE is a Mission of Opportunity under NASA's Heliophysics Explorers Program, which conducts focused scientific research and develops instrumentation to fill the scientific gaps between the agency's larger missions.

Since the 1958 launch of NASA's first satellite Explorer 1, which discovered Earth's radiation belts, the Explorers Program has supported more than 90 missions. The Uhuru and Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) missions led to Nobel prizes for their investigators. *Source: PTI*



Google rolls out AI grammar checker for G Suite users

US Internet giant Google has said its artificial intelligence (AI)-based grammar checker, corporate web tools and services are available for all users of G Suite, to help them improve writing.

Unlike standard spellcheck in Google Docs, Google applies Machine Learning technology to grammar checker as one of the AI tools that can let software understand complex grammar rules and identify any "tricky" grammatical errors by users in writing, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Using machine translation, we are able to recognize errors and suggest corrections as work is getting done," G Suite product manager Vishnu Sivaji said in a statement on Tuesday. He said that G Suite customers will see inline, contextual grammar suggestions in their documents as they type, just like spellcheck.

SOON, WHATSAPP USERS WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID GETTING ADDED TO GROUPS

WhatsApp will soon let users have more control over groups on the app. The Facebook-owned company is expected to roll out a new feature which will prevent users from being added without their permission.

A new update has been rolled out on WhatsApp beta for Android. First spotted by WABetaInfo, 'Group Invitation' feature comes to WhatsApp beta on Android with the latest update. The feature is currently available on beta but not for all users. This also doesn't guarantee an official rollout but the possibility seems likely. Earlier this month, WhatsApp rolled out the same on its beta app for iOS.

Group Invitation will be available as a privacy feature on WhatsApp. It can be found in the 'Settings' menu under Account > Privacy > Groups. Here, users can select between three options – Everyone, My Contacts and Nobody. 'Everyone' allows just anyone to add a user in a WhatsApp group. My Contacts will allow only saved contacts to add users in a group.

If users don't wish to be added to any group, they can choose 'Nobody'. This



option however sends a request to the user if they wish to be added to a group. The group invitation request expires in 72 hours.

The new feature is an addition to the privacy menu for WhatsApp. Similarly, WhatsApp lets users have the same privacy controls over their last seen, profile photo, about and status.

WhatsApp is the most popular

messaging app with over 1.5 billion users globally. WhatsApp groups have however known to be quite pesky that users have complained about. A present, WhatsApp allows users to mute groups for 8 hours, 1 week or a year and disable notifications as well. Users can also archive group chats, but this new feature will have stricter control over groups on the app.

FB's 'Clear History' feature to release later this year



Facebook's long-awaited privacy tool—"Clear History", which would let users erase their information collected by Facebook from third-party apps and websites, is now scheduled to come out later this year.

The information was announced by David Wehner, Facebook's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media and Telecom Conference being held in Barcelona, the media reported.

"Broadly, (clear history is) going to give us some headwinds in terms of being able to target as effectively as before," CNBC quoted Wehner as saying on Tuesday.

The "Clear History" feature was first announced in May 2018 and was described as "a simple control to clear your browsing history on Facebook—what

you've clicked on, websites you've visited, and so on", by CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

However, Wehner is concerned that the feature would impact Facebook's ability to target ads to audiences since the social networking giant collects data based on the user's location and preference history. "We want to make sure this works the way it should for everyone on Facebook, which is taking longer than expected," BuzzFeed News quoted Facebook as saying last week.

The testing of the tool is being planned to begin somewhere between March and May. "Clear History" was proposed by Zuckerberg in reaction to the company's Cambridge Analytica scandal last March and was announced publicly when it just an idea, the media reported.

Source: IANS

After Samsung and Huawei, Oppo joins foldable phone race

Adding to the line of foldable phones of the future, Oppo has teased its first such model that follows the likes of foldable phones from Royole and Huawei and folds outwards.

As Engadget reports, Oppo VP Brian Shen took to Weibo to share the prototype of the foldable phone. The prototype device features a camera strip on the back that shows up in folded form. Oppo's foldable phone looks pretty similar to Huawei's Mate X with a side panel housing the cameras.

The device was ideally meant to be showcased at the MWC 2019 but the company cancelled it, saying, "it wouldn't have been meaningful".

However, Oppo is not completely rejecting the idea of introducing a foldable device and based on the response of users, it may release a commercial version.



GDP growth 6.6% in Q3, slowest in five quarters

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian economy decelerated at a faster pace than anticipated in the December quarter of 2018-19 to 6.6%—the lowest in five quarters—increasing chances of another round of rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April to support growth.

However, the dismal growth print, the last before the general election due by May, is likely to take some sheen away from the economic record of the Narendra Modi government, which is seeking a second term in office.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Thursday also revised downward its full-year growth forecast for the current fiscal year to 7% from the 7.2% estimated earlier.

The data for the first (June) and second (September) quarters were also revised downward to 8% and 7% respectively. Thus, in the March quarter, the economy is implicitly assumed to decelerate to 6.4%.

The size of the Indian economy estimated through nominal gross domestic product (GDP) was revised upward to ₹190.54 lakh crore (\$2.7 trillion) against ₹188.41 lakh crore (\$2.65 trillion). This will help the government achieve the fiscal deficit target of 3.3% of GDP for 2018-19 as originally estimated in last year's budget against the revised estimate of 3.4%.

While the slowdown in the second half (October-March) of this financial year was expected, CSO now estimates it to be sharper than it earlier estimated. However, most international agencies project India's growth to bounce back in the next fiscal year.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month projected India's growth at 7.5% in 2019-20 amid slower global expansion. Risks to global growth tilt to the downside, with IMF cutting 2019 growth projection by 20 basis points (bps) to 3.5%. India still remains the fastest growing economy as China's economy cooled in the December quarter to a 28-year low of 6.4%.



The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI on February 7 changed its stance from calibrated tightening to neutral and cut the policy rate by 25bps on the back of benign headline retail inflation and slowing global growth. India's retail inflation slowed further to a 19-month low of 2.05% in January while factory output, dragged down by a negative base effect, remained subdued in December, which is expected to open more space for the central bank to cut interest rates.

Former World Bank chief economist Kaushik Basu tweeted: "This growth slowdown is worrying. Its connection to the slowdown in job creation deserves to be analysed quickly and carefully."

During the fiscal year ending March 31, while agriculture growth is projected to sharply slow down to 2.7% from 5% a year ago, manufacturing is estimated to accelerate to 8.1% from 5.9% a year ago.

The labour-intensive construction sector is estimated to pick up pace to grow at 8.9% from 5.6% in the previous year. However, the largest employer in the services sector—trade, hotels and transportation—is set to decelerate to 6.8% from 7.8% a year ago.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at

Care Ratings Ltd, said the lower growth in GDP could prompt RBI to lower interest rates as economic growth has been cited as a concern. "This would, however, be contingent on the inflation reading for the coming months," he said.

Data released separately by the ministry of commerce and industry on Thursday showed that core sector growth of eight infrastructure industries slowed to a 19-month low in January at 1.8% as electricity generation contracted after a gap of 71 months.

The GDP data showed that private consumption continued to propel economic growth while the earlier estimates of a revival in investment demand seemed unlikely with an almost flat growth in 2018-19 at 10%. In the first advance estimates released in January, investment demand as represented by gross fixed capital formation was estimated at 12.2%. However, according to the latest data released by RBI on Thursday, non-food bank credit rose by 13.1% in January 2019 as compared to 9.5% in January 2018. Similarly, credit to industry rose by 5.1% in January 2019 as compared with an increase of 1.1% in January 2018. *Source: HT*

CHANDA KOCHHAR, VIDEOCON'S VENUGOPAL DHOOT'S HOMES SEARCHED IN LOAN CASE

NEW DELHI (TIP): The homes and offices of former ICICI Bank chief executive Chanda Kochhar and Videocon managing director Venugopal Dhoot were searched by the Enforcement Directorate today in a loan case.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has already issued a look-out circular against Ms Kochhar and has revived ones against her husband Deepak Kochhar and Mr Dhoot. Look-out circulars are notices sent to transit points like airports to restrict the movement of people under investigation by probe agencies.

The case is related to a loan given by ICICI Bank to Videocon when Chanda Kochhar was heading it, and the business ties between Venugopal Dhoot and her husband.

Dhoot allegedly invested crores of rupees in NuPower Renewables, a company founded by Ms Kochhar's husband, months after Videocon group was granted a loan by ICICI Bank.

It was part of a Rs. 40,000-crore loan which Videocon got from a consortium of 20 banks led by State Bank of India. The Rs. 3,250 crore loan has become a non-performing asset for ICICI Bank.

The CBI is currently examining evidence collected during searches at the homes and offices of the three accused right after a First Information Report (FIR) was filed against them last month.

Taking note of the FIR filed by the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate also filed a case and is looking at money laundering angle.

Kochhar, 56, had quit as CEO and managing director of ICICI Bank in October last year over allegations that she favoured Videocon group in the bank's lending practices.

A whistleblower alleged that the Kochhars and their family members benefited from the dealings.

Kochhar worked at India's third-biggest lender for over three decades, rising through the ranks to become one of the most influential women bankers. She has said she was "utterly disappointed, hurt and shocked."



BOEING WINS \$15.7 BILLION VIETNAM ORDERS

HANOI (TIP): Vietnam's Bamboo Airways and VietJet Aviation JSC signed deals to buy 110 aircraft from Boeing Co. during President Donald Trump's visit to Hanoi for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un.

Bamboo agreed to purchase 10 787-9 Dreamliners worth about \$3 billion, while VietJet's order is for 100 737 Max planes valued at \$12.7 billion, Boeing said Wednesday. VietJet's 100-plane commitment was unveiled at the Farnborough air show last year.

The agreements were signed in the presence of Trump and Vietnam's President Nguyen Phu Trong.

Vietnam's airlines are expanding their fleets as rising incomes and the region's growing economies are spurring many to fly for the first time, boosting demand in the Asia Pacific, whose air-travel market is projected to surpass that of North America and Europe combined. Demand in Vietnam is also expected to climb after U.S. regulators last month gave their approval to the nation's air-safety system, making its airlines eligible to begin direct flights to the U.S. and codeshare with American carriers.

Vietnam's jet-shopping spree is outsized for a country with a population of 95 million people, George Ferguson, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, said before Wednesday's announcement. While the main Vietnamese airlines only have 187 aircraft in service, there are another 245 planes on order, according to FlightGlobal data analyzed by Bloomberg Intelligence.

Trump delays tariff hike on Chinese goods, citing trade talk progress

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would delay an increase in U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods thanks to "productive" trade talks and that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping would meet to seal a deal if progress continued.

The announcement was the clearest sign yet that China and the United States are closing in on a deal to end a months-long trade war that has slowed global growth and disrupted markets.

Trump had planned to raise tariffs to 25 percent from 10 percent on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports into the United States if an agreement between the world's two largest economies were not reached by Friday.

After a week of talks that extended into the weekend, Trump said those tariffs would not go up for now. In a tweet,



he said progress had been made in divisive areas including intellectual property protection, technology transfers, agriculture, services and currency. As a result, he said: "I will be delaying the U.S. increase in tariffs now scheduled for March 1. Assuming both sides make additional progress, we will be planning a Summit for President Xi and myself, at Mar-a-Lago, to conclude an

agreement. A very good weekend for U.S. & China!"

Mar-a-Lago is the president's property in Florida, where the two men have met before. The president did not set a new deadline for the talks to conclude, but he told U.S. state governors gathered at the White House that there could be "very big news over the next week or two" if all went well in the negotiations.

The White House did not provide specific details on the kind of progress that had been made.

The Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, told a forum in Beijing on Monday that the talks had made "substantive progress", providing positive expectations for the stability of bilateral ties and global economic development, China's Foreign Ministry said. *Source: Reuters*

contd from page 1

'Sometimes you have to walk...

"Sometimes you have to walk and I think that was one of these times," Trump said at a press conference that was moved forward by almost two hours after the talks collapsed. He added: "We had some options. At this time we decided not to do any of the options. We'll see where that goes."

The president indicated that the discussions stalled due to Kim's demand that all sanctions be lifted in exchange for concessions on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. "We couldn't do that," Trump said. "They were willing to give us areas but not the ones we wanted."

The summit ended with a handshake, according to Trump who characterized the talks as "very friendly." "We didn't get all the way. We asked him to do more, he was unprepared to that."

Trump said Kim has a "certain vision, it's not exactly our vision but it's a lot closer than it was a year ago." Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the news conference that he hopes a deal will be reached "in the weeks ahead."

He added: "We didn't get all the way. We asked him to do more, he was unprepared to that. I'm still optimistic." Earlier, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders released a statement confirming that no agreement had been reached, but the "respective teams look forward to meeting in the future."

While Trump has said he was not in a hurry to make a comprehensive pact with Kim, the president touted a "very strong partnership" with the North Korean leader before departing Vietnam for Washington empty-handed. The president also said that Kim had pledged that "testing will not start" of rockets or missiles "or anything having to do with nuclear."

The apparent breakdown in talks is sure to come as a relief to many North Korea experts - including some Democratic and Republican lawmakers - who worried Trump was ready to make concessions to Kim without securing a firm and verifiable disarmament commitment from the dictator. The two leaders had a number of other issues to discuss, including a possible declaration of the end of the nearly 70-year-old Korean War, the eventual removal of U.S. forces from the Korean Peninsula, and the lifting of the crippling American and international economic sanctions designed to force Pyongyang to give up its weapons programs.

But it is the full, verifiable disarmament of North Korea's nuclear program that the American side ultimately wants. Before the summit's unexpected ending, Kim was asked whether he was confident he could strike a deal with Trump.

"It's too early to say," Kim replied. "I would not say I'm pessimistic." Trump said he was willing to take his time - a necessity, it appears, if he is going to eventually persuade Kim to disarm.

"Chairman Kim and myself, we want to do the right deal," Trump said. "Speed is not important." Trump also said that he would "take [Kim Jong Un] at his word" that he knew nothing about Otto Warmbier, the American student detained in North Korea who died shortly after being returned to the U.S. Some Republican lawmakers have subsequently pushed back on Trump's remarks.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said Thursday, February 27 that "Americans know the cruelty" that North Korea's government inflicted on Otto Warmbier, hours after President Trump said he took Kim Jong Un at his word that the leader was not responsible for Warmbier's death. "Americans know the cruelty that was placed on Otto Warmbier by the North Korean regime," Haley tweeted. "Our hearts are with the Warmbier family for their strength and courage. We will never forget Otto." Americans know the cruelty that was placed on Otto Warmbier by the North Korean regime. Our hearts are with the Warmbier family for their strength and courage. We will never forget Otto. ?? Nikki Haley (@NikkiHaley) February 28, 2019

Michael Cohen Makes Serious...

Cohen's statements-many supported by corroborating documents-revealed new information that raises serious legal and ethical concerns about the conduct of President Trump and the accuracy of his statements.

(For statement log on to www.theindianpanorama.news)

Next Steps in the Investigation: After the testimony, Chairman Elijah Cummings sent a letter to former Deputy White

Counsel Stefan Passantino and a letter to President Trump's personal attorney Sheri Dillon requesting that they appear for transcribed interviews. On February 15, the Committee released new documents showing that both attorneys were involved in a call in which Ms. Dillon appeared to provide inaccurate information to the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) relating to the President's hush money payments to Stormy Daniels. Chairman Cummings also sent a letter to Ranking Member Jim Jordan in response to his letters last week objecting to the Committee's efforts to investigate the Cohen payments.

Indian American Lawmakers...

"I'm proud to stand with my colleagues today and help advance a bipartisan bill that will save lives and make our communities safer: #HR8", tweeted Indian American Democrat Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi.

Krishnamoorthi also introduced the Choosing Our Own Lives Over Fast Firearms (COOL OFF) Act on Feb 28, which would require a waiting period of three business days for all handgun sales. "Gun violence occurs in many tragic forms in our country, so Congress needs to advance a range of common-sense safety solutions, including waiting periods. I am proud of the COOL OFF Act, and I am proud of my colleagues' continued efforts to fight for the safety and security of all our constituents." "A long overdue move by my colleagues in the House. It's just common sense to support strengthening universal background checks and I look forward to voting in favor of this bill in the Senate. We can't wait any longer to act" tweeted Indian American Senator Kamala Harris who is running for the President in 2020.

Under current federal law, licensed dealers are required to run a background check to make sure a buyer doesn't have a criminal record, history of mental illness, or any other factor that legally bars him from purchasing a gun. But the law has a big ambiguity: unlicensed sellers don't have to run a background check. So, someone who doesn't run a licensed gun shop can sell or gift a firearm at a gun show, over the Internet, or to friends and family without verifying through a background check that the buyer isn't legally prohibited from purchasing the weapon. The new bill, HR 8, would close this loophole, although it would leave some exemptions for gun transfers among family and temporary transfers (like lending a gun) while hunting. But The background checks legislation faces firm opposition in the GOP-controlled Senate, and President Donald Trump - who has strong support from the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups - has vowed to veto the bill if it ever comes to him.

Senators urge Trump to pursue...

"We affirm India's right to self-defense in response to attacks planned and executed by Pakistani-based terrorist groups designated by the United States and United Nations and welcome Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent decision to release a captured Air Force officer from India," the two Senators wrote. They also urged Trump to ensure that Pakistan did more against the terrorist groups.

Tensions between India and Pakistan rose following the February 14 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district in which 40 CRPF soldiers were killed. Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror group claimed responsibility for the attack. Following the attack, India bombed and destroyed JeM's biggest training camp in Balakot in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, about 80 km from the Line of Control (LoC) early on Tuesday, killing a "very large number" of terrorists, trainers and senior commanders.

Pakistan detained Indian Air Force Pilot, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, on Wednesday following a fierce engagement between air forces of the two sides along the Line of Control when his MiG 21 fighter jet was downed.

However, in a surprise announcement during a joint session of Parliament, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Thursday, February 28, that the captured IAF pilot would be released on Friday as a gesture of peace. The two American Senators said they were concerned that the crisis might scale into an all-out war given the thousands of troops amassed along the countries' border, heavy artillery barrages and gunfire recorded in the area and tank columns taking formation.

"We share your position that Pakistan must do more to combat these anti-India extremist groups that destabilise the region and urge you to use your authority to pursue a peaceful resolution to

this conflict before it grows," Moran from the ruling Republican Party and Shaheen from the Democratic Party said. "In light of recent events, and the specter of the use of nuclear weapons should Pakistan and India continue to escalate hostilities, we strongly implore the direct and sustained engagement of the highest levels of your administration," they said.

Noting that the US historically has conducted essential diplomacy to defuse previous crises in South Asia, the two Senators said they are heartened by the Secretary of State's engagement and his recent statement that "We've been in the middle" to calm heightened tensions in Kashmir.

"As in the past, the United States should continue to take a hands-on approach, and, when appropriate, should work with other interested regional actors to apply appropriate pressure on Islamabad and New Delhi to address the underlying causes of the conflict," the two senators said. (Source: PTI)

Israel's Attorney General...

The decision by Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit was the culmination of a two-year investigation into Mr. Netanyahu's dealings with wealthy businessmen, including a Hollywood movie producer, Israeli newspaper publishers and the head of the country's largest telecommunications conglomerate.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is running for his fourth consecutive term as prime minister, is now entitled to a hearing to challenge the charges. If the case proceeds, he would be the first sitting prime minister to be indicted.

The attorney general accused Mr. Netanyahu, 69, of trading lucrative official favors for gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars including cigars, Champagne and jewelry, and for flattering news coverage whose value was incalculable.

The attorney general's decision immediately prompted calls from the left and center for Mr. Netanyahu to resign.

Mr. Netanyahu insisted the prosecution was politically motivated, a scheme cooked up by his left-wing opponents and the news media.

"I tell you, citizens of Israel, this whole tower of cards will collapse," he said on national television Thursday night. "I intend to serve as your prime minister for many years. But it depends on you. Not on the commentators and TV studios and articles. It depends only on you."

Mr. Netanyahu, who held office for three years in the late 1990s before reclaiming power a decade ago, was already facing a surprisingly stiff challenge from a popular former army chief, Benny Gantz, heading into the April 9 election.

The charges stem from three separate cases. While all three involve trading official favors, only one case brought the most serious charge, bribery.

In that case, Mr. Netanyahu is accused of aiding the owner of Walla, a leading Israeli news website, in return for the site's suppressing or softening coverage about the prime minister and his family and treating his opponents roughly.

In one example, Mr. Mandelblit said, Mr. Netanyahu demanded that Walla publish prominently, on Election Day in 2015, his now-notorious video warning to right-wing supporters that Arabs were heading to the polls "in droves" - an appeal for which the prime minister later apologized.

Mr. Mandelblit said that the evidence showed that Mr. Netanyahu had gone out of his way to aid the company's principal owner, Shaul Elovitch, as "compensation" for the favorable coverage, and that this warranted the charge of bribery, along with charges of fraud and breach of trust.

In the second case, the prosecution said that the Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan, an expatriate Israeli, aided by the Australian billionaire James Packer, sent gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, and that Mr. Netanyahu in return promoted legislation that could benefit Mr. Milchan, though it was blocked by the Finance Ministry.

In the third, Mr. Netanyahu was accused of discussing with the publisher of Yediot Ahronot, one of Israel's biggest newspapers, the possibility of a deal for favorable coverage: He would press a competing newspaper, Israel Hayom, to curtail its free circulation, and in return Yediot Ahronot would treat Mr. Netanyahu more kindly. Israel Hayom is owned by Sheldon Adelson, the American billionaire casino owner who is a devoted supporter of Mr. Netanyahu's.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

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MAHASHIVRATRI: CELEBRATING SHIVA'S HOLY NIGHT

Shivaratri is celebrated on the 6th night of the dark Phalgun (Feb or March) every year. On the auspicious day, devotees observe fast and keep vigil all night. Mahashivaratri marks the night when Lord Shiva performed the 'Tandava'. It is also believed that on this day Lord Shiva was married to Parvati Ma. On this day Shiva devotees observe fast and offer fruits, flowers and bel leaves on Shiva Linga. Shivaratri is also spelled as Shivratri, Shivarathri and Sivaratri. Maha Shivaratri is a popular Hindu festival. It is celebrated every year in reverence of the Lord Shiva. Maha Shivaratri festival is also widely known as 'Shivaratri'. It means the 'Great Night of Shiva'. This auspicious day is believed to be the day of convergence of divine powers of Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti. It is believed that on this day the planetary position in universe evokes the spiritual energies very easily. Religious penances are carried out to gain boons through the practice of medication and yoga. People worship Lord Shiva whole day and chants "Om Namah Shiva". Some devotees also perform Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra to seek divine blessings of Lord Shiva.

Shivaratri Rituals

Devotees of Lord Shiva observe the Shivaratri Festival by following the prescribed rituals with sincerity and devotion. All through the day, devotees abstain from eating food and break their fast only the next morning, after the nightlong worship. Ritual baths of Shivalinga in the numerous Shiva temples by Shiva worshipper, mainly women, is another significant feature of Shivratri customs and traditions. Devotees strongly believe that ritual worship of Lord Shiva on the auspicious day of Shivaratri absolves them of past sins and they are blessed with Moksha.

RITUALS ON A SHIVARATRI MORNING

As a tradition devotees wake up early in the morning of the Mahashivratri day and take a ritual sunrise bath, preferably in the holy waters of river Ganga. They also offer prayers to the Sun God, Vishnu and Shiva as a part of a purification rite observed on all-important Hindu festivals. After wearing fresh new clothes devotees visit the nearest Shiva Temple to give the customary bath to the Shivalinga.

On a Shivratri day, Shiva temples are thronged by devotees, mainly women, who come to perform the traditional Shivalinga pooja and seek blessings from the god. At times there is so much rush in the temples that devotees have to wait for their turn to observe pooja. At their turn for worship, devotees circumambulate the Shivalinga, three or seven times, and then pour water over it. Some also pour milk. Sounds of bell and shouts of 'Shankarji ki Jai' or (Hail Shiva) reverberate in the temple premises.

RITUAL BATH OF SHIVALINGA

Shivratri Rituals Following the rituals prescribed in the Shiva Purana, every three hours, Shivalinga is given a special bath with milk, yoghurt, honey, sandalwood paste and rose water. Puja, meditation and chanting of 'Om Namah Shivaya' accompany the ritual bath. Following the bath, vermilion paste is applied on the linga. Traditionally, leaves of a forest tree Aegle marmelos (bilwa, maredu, wood apple) are used for Shiva puja. Thereafter, Bilwa leaves, which have to be a stalk with three leaves, is kept on top of the



Shivalinga. Ber or jujube fruit is a special offering to the god on this day. Beetle leaves are also offered by some. Some also offer bilwa leaves in the belief that the Goddess Lakshmi resides in them. Others believe it is offered for its cooling effects on the hot-tempered deity. Many devotees also decorate the linga with flowers and garlands and offer incense sticks and fruit.

ALL-NIGHT SHIVA WORSHIP

Worship of Lord Shiva continues all through the night on Shivaratri Festival. Devotees stay awake all night and spend the night in Shiva temples in worship of Lord Shiva. Singing of hymns and verses in praise and devotion of Lord Shiva besides the intense chanting of Om Namah Shivay, the mantra that is said free people from all their sins, continue through the night on Shivaratri.

Special worship of Shiva by priests continues through the nightlong prayer vigil. During this ritual worship, Lord Shiva is offered special food made from the fruits of the season, root vegetables and coconuts. Those observing the Shivaratri Fast break their fast the next morning by consuming the prasada offered to Shiva.

Shivaratri Fast

Shivaratri Fast is considered to be the most important fast for the devotees of Lord Shiva. Shiva Purana goes on to say that if a devotee observes Shivaratri Vrata with sincerity, pure devotion and love he is blessed with the divine grace of Lord Shiva. Every year devotees observe Maha Shivaratri fast with devotion

and sincerity. Though many go on a diet of fruits and milk, some do not consume even a drop of water all through the day and night of Shivaratri Festival.

and sincerity. Though many go on a diet of fruits and milk, some do not consume even a drop of water all through the day and night of Shivaratri Festival.

Customs and Traditions

Shivratri Fast As a tradition, devotees who are on a strict fast on Shivaratri take bath with the water that is boiled with black sesame seeds to wash away bodily impurities. After putting on fresh new clothes, a devotee visit the nearest Lord Shiva temple to perform the ritual Shiva Linga bath with milk, honey etc. While bathing the Lingam a devotee prays, "O Lord ! I will bathe Thee with water, milk, etc. Do Thou kindly bathe me with the milk of wisdom. Do Thou kindly wash me of all my sins, so that the fire of worldliness which is scorching me may be put out once for all, so that I may be one with Thee-the One alone without a second."

Following the sacred bath, devotee applies haldi-kumkum on the lingum and place a garland of white and pink lotus flowers on it. Bel leaves are also placed at the top of the Lingum. Aarthi and bhajans in praise of Lord Shiva are also sung to invoke his blessings. Devotee also light incense stick and ring temple bell to invoke the blessing of the large-hearted Lord Shiva.

It may be noted that unlike most other festivals, where after performing the Puja of the deity a feast follows, a Shivratri fast continues all through the day and night. Devotees observe an all night vigil while chanting the mantra, "Om Namah Shivaya" and singing devotional hymns and songs. Even during the night, Shiva Lings is given the holy bath every three hours. An offering of fruits is also made to the deity. There is also the tradition to listen to the recital of various legends and stories related to Shivaratri and Lord Shiva and to understand its deeper meanings. It is only in the following morning that a devotee breaks the fast by consuming the prasada offered to Lord Shankar.

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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 vs Australia: Marauding Maxwell powers Australia to series win

BENGALURU (TIP): There was just one bad shot Glenn Maxwell played all evening. It was a full toss from Siddharth Kaul and the 30-year-old holed it to Vijay Shankar at long on. The crowd was on its feet only to be deflated on realizing that it was a free-hit for no ball and Maxwell was there to stay. Minutes later, they were up all over again but to applaud the sheer class Maxwell had demonstrated to reach his third T20I century.

India had scored 190/4, a commendable total, which could have been bigger had the batsmen not checked their shots and waited too long to open their arms. Besides, being a small ground India could have done well scoring a few more. Australia chased it down with two balls to spare, reaching 194/4. Quite like the first T20I in Visakhapatnam, this too went to the wire, but India never looked like reining in Maxwell.

Maxwell was named Man-of-the-Match and Player-of-the-Series, reward for the 2-0 series sweep.

With 14 required off the last two overs, Jasprit Bumrah once again was tasked with somehow keeping India in the fight, and even though he did, lack of bowling options meant Siddharth Kaul, who had conceded 18 runs in his previous over, would bowl the final over to a player who finished the day with 113 not out off just 55 deliveries. Maxwell wrapped up the match with six and four — shots that were the hallmark of his knock at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

When he swept Yuzvendra Chahal for six over fine leg in the 16th over, a bit of a movement near the sight screen



stopped play for a bit. Chahal bowled the next one wide of off-stump and Maxwell dispatched it with a reverse sweep over third man. He took on so much that all Peter Handscomb (20 off 18) had to do was hang around while Australia chased things down.

The start wasn't bad for India though. KL Rahul started things well with a brilliant 26-ball 47 but the hosts lost their set openers in the space of 14 deliveries, and when young Rishabh Pant headed back following a brilliant catch in the 11th over, the scoreboard read 74/3. Given India had dropped a frontline bowler in leggie Mayank Markande for batting all-rounder Vijay Shankar — one of the three changes — the scoring rate wouldn't have even made for a competitive total. However, India finished at 190, including 91 off the last six overs.

Virat Kohli led the show, with an innings studded with six sixes and two boundaries; but more than the numbers, it was the manner in which he dismantled the bowling attack that had Australia on the back foot at the halfway stage. If Rahul's knock had set the tone, Kohli only ensured it isn't lost once again like in the first T20I. Despite coming in to bat in the eighth over, Kohli waited until the 15th over — batting on 20 off 17 balls — to free his arms. And then, such was the carnage that barring Jhye Richardson, no Australian bowler was brought back a second time in the last six overs. Nathan Coulter-Nile, hero of the Australian attack in the first T20I, bore the brunt of Kohli's exquisite shots — being hit for three consecutive sixes, over long-on, long-off and mid-wicket in the 16th over.

Source: HT



WOMEN CRICKETERS TO GET RECOGNITION ON LORD'S HONOURS BOARD

LONDON (TIP): Women cricketers will finally feature on the Lord's honour board as the 135-year-old Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has decided to recognise centuries and five-wicket hauls in ODI cricket too.

Earlier, only centuries and five-wicket hauls in Test matches were mentioned on the boards at home and away dressing rooms at Lord's. The change is a part of MCC's refurbishment drive at the "Home of Cricket" ahead of 2019 season. "We are delighted to now be able to recognise the same achievements for One-Day Internationals as we have done for Test Matches for many years. This is a landmark moment for Lord's, with women's cricket now documented in the dressing rooms for the first time," ESPNcricinfo quoted MCC chief executive and secretary Guy Lavender, as saying.

The Honours Boards are amongst the most popular attractions for the many visitors to the Home of Cricket. There is a huge amount of prestige for players to see their name inscribed in history, so it is appropriate for a new installation of the boards to take place ahead of what will be such a busy year of cricket at Lord's," he added.

This new change will mean that Sarah Taylor, Claire Taylor and Caroline Atkins of England Women's team will have their names immortalised for scoring centuries at Lords. Katherine Brunt and Anya Shrubsole will also feature on the honours board for taking five-wicket hauls.

Among men cricketers, players like Ricky Ponting, Michael Atherton, and Muttiah Muralitharan will have their names mentioned on the honours board after missing out for so many years. Interestingly, world's highest run-getter in both the formats Sachin Tendulkar has the highest scores of 37 in five tests and 30 in three ODIs at Lords. Consequently, he continued to miss out on his name going on the honour board.

Source: ANI

Bryce Harper signs record \$330M contract with the Philadelphia Phillies

WASHINGTON (TIP): Bryce Harper, widely regarded as the most prized free agent in baseball history, agreed to a record-breaking, 13-year \$330 million deal with the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday, February 27.

The MLB Network first reported the deal and The Associated Press, NBC Philadelphia and ESPN also confirmed Harper's contract.

Harper's signing ended an unexpectedly long negotiation that stretched into Major League Baseball's spring training, with the regular season scheduled to start in about four weeks.

There are no opt-outs in the deal.

He becomes the third slugger in baseball to sign a \$300 million contract. New York Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton is currently in the midst of a 13-year, \$325 million contract extension he signed with the Miami Marlins, which had been the highest contract in baseball.

Two weeks ago, the San Diego Padres reached a 10-year, \$300 million deal with Manny Machado.

The 26-year-old Harper was considered a remarkably rare commodity because he accumulated the necessary six years of



The free agent outfielder jumps ship from the Washington Nationals to their National League East rivals. (Twitter image)

MLB service before a player becomes a free agent by such a young age. It meant he could ask for a lucrative, long-term deal that would cover prime-of-career years.

But the bidding for Harper appeared lukewarm as owners continued shying away from long, big-money contracts this past winter. Harper reportedly turned

down about \$300 million to stay in Washington, before he defected to the division-rival Phillies.

Harper had been planning for this big payday since he was a teenager, with unprecedented hype for such a young baseball player.

In 2009, Sports Illustrated put him on its

cover, calling him the "Chosen One" and "Baseball's LeBron," comparing him to LeBron James, this generation's best basketball player who also lived up to over-the-top predictions of greatness beginning as a teen.

Harper left high school with a GED after just two years and played one season of junior college baseball in 2010.

As a 17-year-old at the College of Southern Nevada, Harper was able to showcase his skills against much older, and presumably, stronger players.

His junior college plays in one of the leagues that use wooden bats, giving scouts an even better look at how Harper's raw skill could translate to pro ball.

All the gambles paid off big for the Las Vegas native, as he was the No. 1 overall pick of the 2010 MLB draft by the Nationals.

He rocketed through the minor leagues and debuted on April 28, 2012, winning the National League Rookie of the Year award and setting his six-year clock ticking toward this winter's free agent market. Harper's best season, so far, was in 2015 when the outfielder belted a National League-high 42 home runs and took home the league's Most Valuable Player award.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE MARCH 4 - MARCH 10, 2019

Aries:

Ganesha says your sojourn with fantasy is short lived; you are back to the material world. You will look at money and its joys and grab all financial openings with both hands like a fielder at first slip in cricket. You also do up your home and office and refurbish your personal wardrobe. You could indulge in major shopping and I dare say that it is not window shopping. Expenses will mount, naturally but you are in that sort of mood.

Taurus:

You fuse work and pleasure and there is no letting up. You tap all avenues and are all geared up for fun and work if you can balance that out somehow. You will find time for hobbies, other interests, sports and leisure activities. You will also accompany the family on happy outings. It is an enjoyable time. You love the planning and preparation, and the hope of gains and advance in whatever you do. You think big and look at the larger picture of life.

Gemini:

You set a scorching pace in this period. There is the successful completion of projects and a flurry of activity at all levels. You are in total communication mode, and are on the go with intensity and purpose. You are also very emotional, at this juncture and work a lot with your heart which is not a good thing, if I may add. You see infinite possibilities in whatever you aim to do and your attitude undergoes a transformation.

Cancer:

You will get more philosophical. Several personal issues come to the fore. You are called upon to solve family matters, which can get tricky. You may be mired in quicksand and don't know how to proceed; sometimes it can be a lose - lose situation in life and this can well be how it is for you, if you're not careful right now. You look within for answers, re-examine options, and search deep within your psyche. Relationships and people will hold centerstage.

Leo:

There will be a flurry of relationships; you will be reaching out to all corners. There will be indiscretion and errors but that is the mood you are in. Although money issues play at the back of your mind, you will be drawn to nothing in particular but to people as a whole. Your affections are diluted, and you could get into a mess. You also look at various money - making opportunities but it may be getting you nowhere, right now. This is not the right time for it, says Ganesha.

Virgo:

You are a bit steadier and more focused now. There is some work and housekeeping to do which is good in a way as it keeps you occupied. Your mind needs to be tethered now to something or the other and this preoccupation will help a lot. You spend on the good things of life whenever you are at a loose end and this is one of those times. You may thus renovate and refurbish, acquire a new wardrobe and accessories. You also look for new love.

Libra:

The permutations are endless with interactions, conferences, meetings, collaborations, travel and meetings and doing new things one after another as though it is all a roller coaster ride. New studies, research, new techniques, new discoveries will all lead you to faraway explorations. If America hadn't been discovered, you are in the mood to do it. Since you will be meeting new people, there will also be forgiving of new bonds, warmth, good times and interpersonal relationships.

Scorpio:

Your ego is pumped up and you work with new energy. Now says Ganesha, the time is right for you to make a fresh start. You overcome all obstacles and embark on new ventures which will take off and proceed smoothly. You are filled with enthusiasm and are on the go throughout this period. The mood is upbeat, and nothing can get you down, but put safeguards in place because such speed needs caution. Luck is on your side.

Sagittarius:

Once again, your emotions will dominate your activities. You will try to initiate happy, supportive relationships. You will also look at grooming, beauty treatments and couture wear to look physically and emotionally ravishing. You are much more friendly, outgoing, giving and generous. Bonds and ties can never be far from your mind and loved ones will again dominate your attention and time. They will crowd you and make demands and you will love every moment of the cuddling and pander of their desires.

Capricorn:

Ganesha gives you a lot to do this period. You shuttle between work / business / love / family and you also look at home best to balance both achievement and happiness - not always possible. You also continue with your shopping, and the desire for goodies doesn't seem to lessen. Watch out or you may be overreaching yourself financially. But work will be good and productive and that is a great help. Love will also blossom and, on the other end of the spectrum, i.e money, you will be deeply involved with insurance, joint finances, mutual funds.

Aquarius:

Once again, this period is all about ambition and money. You find the energy to live big. You reach out and are full of plans, life, zeal and gusto and go unabashedly for whatever you feel is your due in life. There will be once again be money issues like loans, legacies, legal matters and inheritance to deal with. You are also a big draw at parties, seminars, gatherings. It is an exciting time for you socially. You meet new people and are drawn out of your customary shell.

Pisces:

Once again, you are losing track of expenses and they will mount hugely. You are on a buying spree and will have to check yourself before your bank accounts run out the last rupee. On the other hand, you are making new associations with promises of more rewarding work. So, finally, it may all balance out. There is desire for action and or the genuine expansion of your interests. The work and play areas will be enticing and you make the most of the opportunities that come your way.

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