



We wish Readers a Happy Holi and a Happy Holi Mohalla

Norway MPs want Nobel Peace prize for student climate campaigner Greta



Greta Thunberg has launched a mass climate campaign
Photo / Courtesy Twitter
Ovstegard told AFP.

OSLO (TIP): Greta Thunberg, the Swedish schoolgirl climate campaigner who has inspired worldwide protests, should be awarded this year's Nobel Peace prize, Norwegian lawmakers said on Thursday, March 14. "We have proposed Greta Thunberg because if we do nothing to halt climate change it will be the cause of wars, conflict and refugees," Norwegian Socialist MP Freddy Andre MP Freddy Andre told AFP.

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Trump's Former Campaign Chief Manafort Sentenced to a total of 90 months

Faces Fresh Indictment by New York Prosecutors



Manafort's combined prison time in the Mueller cases totals 7½ year

NEW YORK (TIP): Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chief, was indicted March 13 for a year-long residential mortgage fraud scheme through which Manafort and others falsified business records to illegally obtain millions of dollars, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. announced. New York prosecutors announced the criminal charges against him only minutes after his sentencing in a federal case to 43 months of additional prison time.

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Democrat Beto O'Rourke Announces 2020 Presidential Run

EL PASO (TIP): Beto O'Rourke, former El Paso Congressman, joined the 2020 presidential race on March 14 with a sweeping call to action -- to combat climate change, income inequality, a lack of affordable health care and more.

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"I am running to serve you as the next president".

Senate Rejects by a 59-41 Vote Trump's emergency declaration

Trump tweets: Look "forward to VETOING the just passed Democrat inspired Resolution"

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Senate passed a resolution March 14 to overturn President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border. Twelve Republicans joined 47 Democrats in voting to pass the resolution. By a 59-41 votes, the Senate passed the resolution disapproving the president's February national emergency declaration over the "border crisis." The House earlier passed the resolution by a 245-182 margin (13 Republicans abandoned the president on that vote).

The 12 GOP Senators who voted for the resolution blocking Trump's emergency declaration are Lamar Alexander, Susan Collins, Mike Lee, Lisa Murkowski, Roy Blunt, Rand Paul, Pat Toomey, Rob Portman, Jerry Moran, Marco Rubio, Roger Wicker, and Mitt Romney.

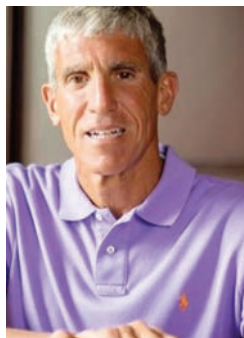
"A vote for today's resolution by Republican Senators is a vote for Nancy Pelosi, Crime, and the Open Border Democrats", Trump took to his Twitter account to rebuke potential defector. When the bill moves to his desk, Trump will likely issue his first veto of his presidency.

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March 14 Senate vote disapproving Trump's declaration of a national emergency on Southern border with Mexico is a big blow to President Trump

CEOs, Actresses among others arrested in Nationwide College Admissions Scam



William Rick Singer - the architect of cheating scam

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Dozens of individuals involved in a nationwide conspiracy that facilitated cheating on college entrance exams and the admission of students to elite universities as purported athletic recruits were arrested by federal agents in multiple states on March 12 and charged in federal court in Boston. Athletic coaches from Yale, Stanford, USC, Wake Forest and Georgetown, among others, are implicated, as well as parents and exam administrators.

William "Rick" Singer, 58, of Newport Beach, Calif., was charged with racketeering conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy and obstruction of justice. Singer owned and operated the Edge College & Career Network LLC ("The Key") - a for-profit college counselling and preparation business.

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University of Texas named in Suit following College Admissions Bribery Scandal

The university fired its men's tennis coach, who was indicted in the case

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): In the wake of a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal, parents and students are now suing some of the schools and people involved.

The University of Texas at Austin is among the schools named in that lawsuit. Former applicants like Rutgers student Nicholas Johnson are seeking damages for admissions fees and the time spent applying.

Johnson was rejected by Texas despite a 4.65 GPA and a 1500 SAT score.

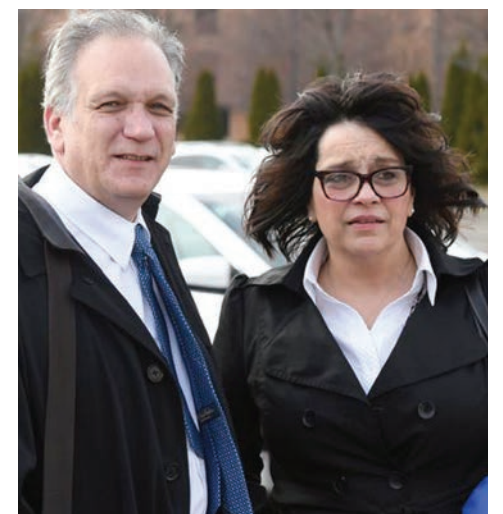
In the lawsuit, lawyers argued the rejections were "tainted by bribes and school officials who failed to assure an honest application process."

In a statement released Thursday, March 14, the University of Texas defended what it calls a "thorough, holistic admissions process."

The statement went on to say, "The actions alleged by federal prosecutors against one UT employee were not in line with that policy... They do not reflect our admissions process."



Former Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and wife Linda convicted in Bribery case



Edward Mangano and wife Linda Mangano each face up to 20 years' imprisonment for each obstruction of justice charge (File photo)

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): A federal jury convicted former Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and his wife Linda on March 8 of corruption charges. Following a seven-week trial, the jury in Central Islip, New York, returned guilty verdicts against Mangano on multiple counts of accepting bribes and kickbacks in exchange for official government action, and for conspiracy to obstruct justice. Linda Mangano was also convicted of conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice and making false statements to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in connection with her employment.

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REMEMBERING BHAGAT SINGH, RAJGURU, SUKHDEV ON THEIR MARTYRDOM DAY

The nation pays tributes to freedom fighters on March 23 who made the supreme sacrifice so that generations after them could breathe the air of freedom. It was on this day that Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were executed, a few hours ahead of schedule, after the trio were sentenced to death in the Lahore conspiracy case

On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev attained martyrdom. One example of the resoluteness of Bhagat Singh and his associates remains inspirational even today. In order to disgrace Bhagat Singh and his associates, the then British Government informed them, 'If you feel that you should be spared from being hanged, then you must apply for mercy.' The spirited answer to that advice, as given by Bhagat Singh, was: "The government says that we should apply for mercy. But why should we do so? Are we thieves or dacoits or goondas? We are political prisoners in this war for freedom. The blood of complete freedom is circulating in every blood vessel of ours. Whatever bold action we did was for the sake of freedom alone! We may not be worshippers of non-violence; our path may not be devoid of atrocities but is it not true that we are freedom-fighters? If the government has even a fraction of justice left within it, it has to treat us as political prisoners. We will never beg for mercy.

We do not intend to face this death sentence by saying 'Do whatever you like but spare us from being hanged'. We dislike even climbing on the foot board meant for hanging. We are brave soldiers and true men! Hence treat us like that by either shooting us with bullets or blast us with cannons. Who wants to face such a feeble sentence as hanging? We request you to respect this last wish of ours!"

Bhagat Singh

As a freedom fighter, he was considered to be one of the most famous revolutionaries of Indian Independence movement. For this reason, he is often referred to as Martyr Bhagat Singh. At such a young age, if anyone was smiling just before being hanged to death, it was Martyr Bhagat Singh. His uncle, Sardar Ajit Singh as well as his father, were both great freedom fighters, so Bhagat Singh grew up in a patriotic atmosphere.

At an early age, Bhagat Singh started dreaming of uprooting the British Empire. Never afraid of fighting during his childhood, he thought of 'growing guns in the fields', so that he could fight the British. The Ghadar Movement left a deep imprint on his mind. Kartar Singh Sarabha, hanged at the age of 19, became his hero. The massacre at Jallianwala Bagh on 13th April, 1919 drove him to Amritsar, where he kissed the earth sanctified by the martyrs' blood and brought back home a little of the soaked soil. At the age of 16, he used to wonder why so many Indians could not drive away a fistful of invaders.

In search of revolutionary groups and ideas, he met Sukhdev and Rajguru. Bhagat Singh, along with the help of Chandrashekhar Azad, formed the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA). The aim of this Indian revolutionary movement was now defined as not only to make Bharat independent, but also to create a socialist Bharat.

A brutal attack by the police on veteran freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai at an anti-British procession caused his death on 17th November 1928, in Lahore. Bhagat Singh was determined to avenge Lajpat Rai's death by shooting the British official responsible for the killing, Deputy Inspector General Scott. However he shot down Assistant Superintendent Saunders instead, mistaking



him for Scott. Then he made a dramatic escape from Lahore to Calcutta and from there to Agra, where he established a bomb factory.

The British Government responded to the act by imposing severe measures like the Trades Disputes Bill. It was to protest against the passing of the Bill that he threw bombs in the Central Assembly Hall (now our Lok Sabha) while the Assembly was in session. The bombs did not hurt anyone, but the noise they made was loud enough to wake up an enslaved Nation from a long sleep.

After throwing the bombs, Bhagat Singh and his friend deliberately courted arrest by refusing to run away from the scene. During his trial, Bhagat Singh refused to employ any defense counsel.

Despite great popular pressure and numerous appeals by political leaders of Bharat, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were accorded the death sentence and hanged in the early hours of 23rd March 1931. Their bodies were cremated on the bank of the Sutlej in Ferozpur. Bhagat Singh was just 23 years old at that time. Old timers say that in many places, not a single hearth fire burned that day.

The last paragraph of the leaflet that he distributed (and wrote) in the Assembly Hall said: "We are sorry that we who attach such great sanctity to human life, we who dream of a very glorious future when man will be enjoying perfect peace and full liberty, have been forced to shed human blood. But sacrifice of individuals at the altar of the Revolution will bring freedom to all, rendering exploitation of man by man impossible. Inquilab Zindabad (Long live the Revolution)."

Sukhdev Thapar

He was an active member of the HSRA, being one of its senior most leaders. He is known to have started study circles at the National College (Lahore), in order to delve



into Bharat's past as well as to scrutinize the finer aspects of the world's revolutionary literature. Along with Bhagat Singh and others he started the 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha' at Lahore. The main aims of this organization were to activate the youth for the freedom struggle, inculcate a rational scientific attitude, fight communalism and end the practice of untouchability.

His letter to Mahatma Gandhi written just prior to his hanging, protesting against the latter's disapproval of revolutionary tactics, throws light on the disparities between the two major schools of thought among Indian freedom fighters at that time.

Shivram Rajguru

He was born in an average middle-class Hindu Brahmin family at Khed in Pune District in 1908. He came to Varanasi at a very early age where he learnt Sanskrit and read the Hindu religious scriptures. He had a great admiration for Shivaji and his guerrilla tactics.

At Varanasi, he came in contact with revolutionaries. He joined the movement and became an active member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA). Rajguru had a fearless spirit and indomitable courage. The only object of his adoration and worship was his motherland, for whose liberation, he considered no sacrifice too great. He was a close associate of Chandrashekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh and his field of activity was UP and Punjab, with Kanpur, Agra and Lahore as his headquarters.

Rajguru was a good shot and was regarded as the gunman of the party. He took part in various activities of the revolutionary movement, the most important being Saunders's murder. Chandrashekhar Azad, Shivram Rajguru, Bhagat Singh and Jai Gopal were deputed for the job. On 17th December 1928, while Saunders came out of his office and started his motor-cycle, he was shot dead in front of the police headquarters at Lahore by Rajguru.

Indian American Attorney named San Francisco Public Defender

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): San Francisco Mayor London N. Breed announced March 11 she has selected Deputy Public Defender Manohar Raju to serve as the next San Francisco Public Defender. Raju currently manages the Felony Division in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office.

Raju will serve as San Francisco Public Defender until the next scheduled election in November 2019, when there will be an election to fill out the remaining three years of Public Defender Adachi's term.

"Mano has demonstrated a commitment to justice and equity on behalf of not only his clients, but also the entire community that Public Defender's Office serves," said Mayor Breed. "His advocacy for addressing systemic challenges to help those who need it most demonstrates that he will continue Jeff Adachi's legacy of not only fighting in the courtroom, but also fighting to change policies and support innovative programs that make a difference in the community. I am confident that in Mano our City will have someone who will continue on the mission that Jeff set for the office. I look forward to working with Mano to make San Francisco a more just and equitable city."

"I am honored to accept Mayor Breed's



Manohar Raju currently manages the Felony Division in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office

appointment to carry forward the visionary advocacy of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office. Being a public defender is a spiritual calling for me - a calling inspired by the resilience of our clients and communities. I look forward to further building a vigorous, community-centered public defense office through the collective leadership of our entire staff", said

Manohar Raju.

Raju began his career as a public defender 18 years ago in the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office. He has been with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office for the past eleven years. In addition to trying cases and defending clients, Raju has served as the Director of Training in the Public Defender's Office where he worked with the office's staff to develop and enhance public defender practices. After serving as Director of Training, Raju was promoted to manage the Felony Unit, where he manages the office's felony attorneys while continuing to handle his own complex felony cases.

Raju has been active in working with the California Public Defenders Association and California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. He is one of the founding members of Public Defenders for Racial Justice, a Bay Area organization devoted to race-conscious practices in the courtroom, including working to advance policies to increase African-American representation on juries in order to make juries more reflective of the population. He has testified in Sacramento on behalf of the office to advocate for these policy changes.

Indian American Bela Bajaria to lead International Non-English TV Originals for Netflix



Prior to joining Netflix, Bajaria served as President, Universal Television

LOS GATOS, CA (TIP): Working more than two years as VP Content of Netflix, Indian American Bela Bajaria now will lead international non-English TV originals - scripted, unscripted, comedy - in all international markets where Netflix is available.

She joined Netflix in 2016 as Vice President, Content, leading the team focused on TV and film licensing from major U.S. studios, as well co-production relationships with major U.S. networks. She will also oversee a new team developing original unscripted programs for Netflix.

Prior to joining Netflix, Bajaria served as President, Universal Television, overseeing creative programming for the studio and producing such hit series as *Master of None* and *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* for Netflix; *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* for FOX; *The Mindy Project* for FOX and Hulu; *Superstore* for NBC and *Bates Motel* for A&E, among several others. She developed *Gypsy*, starring Naomi Watts, for Netflix which will premiere in 2017 as well as *Pure Genius* for CBS and *The Good Place* for NBC, which are on the network's 2016 fall schedules.

Earlier, Bajaria held two key posts simultaneously: Senior Vice President, Cable Programming for CBS TV Studios, and Senior Vice President of Movies and Miniseries for the CBS network. Upon creating the cable division at CBS TV Studios in 2007, she shepherded many cable dramas and comedies from prolific writer/directors. Concurrently, she oversaw the CBS Sunday Night Movie -- the #1 TV movie franchise for over 10 years.

Indian American Named National Press Secretary of Presidential Candidate Cory Booker



Sabrina Singh has been named national press secretary of Booker's campaign

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Senator Cory Booker announced March 11 that Former Democratic National Committee Deputy Communications Director Sabrina Singh has been named national press secretary of his campaign. She has worked for the Clinton campaign, the Democratic National Committee, the

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and as communications director for Katie McGinty's Senate race in Pennsylvania.

"I'm so excited to join @CoryBooker and his incredible team," Sabrina Singh tweeted after the announcement. "I have always wanted to work for Senator Booker and I'm so grateful to begin this new journey."

Sabrina's grandfather JJ Singh was instrumental in formulating Luce-Celler Act - a historic legislation in 1946 that enacted a quota of 100 Indians to immigrate to the US per year.

Indian Women Activists Honored by Harvard Law School



Activist Sudha Bharadwaj and lawyer Menaka Guruswamy were among 21 women honored by the Harvard Law School

BOSTON (TIP): Activist Sudha Bharadwaj and lawyer Menaka Guruswamy were among 21 women honored by the Harvard Law School this year through a portrait exhibition on the occasion of International Women's Day. Bharadwaj was arrested in the Bhima

Koregaon case in August and is currently in a prison in Pune. Guruswamy argued in Supreme Court against parts of Section 377 that criminalized homosexual activity. The portrait exhibit showcased the "astounding contributions of women around the world to the areas of law and policy". This year's exhibit had 21 honorees, each of whom were nominated by Harvard Law School students, faculty or staff. The women featured in the exhibit are "powerful voices in their respective fields, whether they are sitting on a high court bench, standing in front of a classroom, or marching in the streets". Bharadwaj is a human rights lawyer who has worked for several decades in Chhattisgarh. She was arrested in connection with an investigation into a public meeting that was organized before caste-related violence erupted at Bhima Koregaon near Pune on January 1, 2018. Guruswamy, a BR Ambedkar Research Scholar and a lecturer at Columbia Law School, was one of the lawyers who argued against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalized "sex against the order of nature". In September 2018, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court decriminalized homosexual activity between consenting adults, which was punishable by up to 10 years in jail according to Section 377.

Indian American Ravi Ahuja named President, Business Operations and CFO of Walt Disney Television



Ahuja currently serves as chief financial officer for the FOX Networks Group

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Ravi Ahuja will join the senior leadership team of Walt Disney Television upon the close of the 21st Century FOX acquisition as president, Business Operations, and chief financial officer. In this role, Ahuja will oversee finance, strategic planning, business development, affiliate sales & distribution, technology, music affairs, consumer insights and labor relations for the division.

Ahuja currently serves as chief financial officer for the FOX Networks Group (FNG). In this position, he has direct management of finance and accounting while also overseeing business development for all FNG business units. Prior to his appointment as CFO at FNG, Ahuja was executive vice president of Business Operations and Development. His group contributed to investments and acquisitions including the National Geographic Partners, YES Network and Sports Time Ohio RSN transactions and in the planning and formulation of Fox Networks' new channel strategy.



Vinod Khosla, who runs Khosla Ventures and was a co-founder of Sun Microsystems, delivered the David J. Rose Lecture at MIT

Indian American Entrepreneur urges bold plans to address global challenges

BOSTON (TIP): Vinod Khosla, the co-founder of Sun Microsystems and chairman of Khosla Ventures, described his thoughts on how to tackle the world's most challenging problems while addressing an MIT audience earlier this month. On March 6, Khosla had a "fireside chat" with Dennis Whyte, the Hitachi America Professor of Engineering, head of the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering, and director of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center. The discussion was the 2019 David J. Rose Lecture, an event dedicated to the memory of a longtime professor of nuclear engineering and pioneer of fusion research. Vinod Khosla feels that when it comes to tackling the really big problems facing the world - providing enough food, water, energy, and meaningful work for a growing population - "some problems are too important not to work on," he said. "Let's not focus on the probability of success, let's focus on the consequences of success." Last year, Khosla became one of the initial investors in a company established to develop MIT's pioneering approach to producing practical fusion power. Source - MIT News

US Democrats Introduce 'Dream and Promise Act' to Protect Immigrant Families



WASHINGTON (TIP): On March 12, Democratic lawmakers in the US House of Representatives introduced Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (H.R. 6) to address the crisis faced by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) beneficiaries and immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) as a result of the Trump Administration's actions.

"It is imperative that we support the more than one million Dreamers in the United States, including more than 75,000 LGBTQ young people," said Human Rights Campaign's Government Affairs Director David Stacy. "The Dream and Promise Act of 2019 will provide a pathway to citizenship for them, permanently protect TPS recipients, and provide a sustainable framework that addresses immigration without allowing this debate to further harm our friends, neighbors, and loved ones. Congress must pass this bill and live up to our nation's human rights obligations."

In 2017, the Trump Administration eviscerated protections for Dreamers when the decision was made to rescind the DACA program. Although court injunctions have so far permitted Dreamers to renew, their status remains in limbo. This bill would provide a pathway to citizenship for eligible Dreamers who entered the U.S. under the age of 18 and who were continuously present in the U.S. for 4 years prior to the date of the bill's enactment. Dreamers would be provided conditional permanent resident status and would need to fulfill an education, employment or military track to adjust to permanent resident status. Additionally, the Dream and Promise Act would secure permanent residency for people with TPS and DED. After 5 years, those permanent residents would be eligible to apply to become citizens. On average, TPS recipients have lived in the United States for 20 years, building a new life for themselves and their families.

The bill also helps make postsecondary education more affordable for low-income undocumented students by giving them eligibility for federal financial assistance—such as work-study and student loans—and making it less burdensome for states to offer in-state tuition.

Indian American Zain Jaffer Files Wrongful Termination Lawsuit against Former Company



Zain Jaffer

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Indian American Zain Jaffer, the founder of leading video adtech company Vungle has filed a lawsuit against the firm, seeking \$100 million in damages.

Jaffer was removed from his role as CEO of the company in 2017. Jaffer said he was wrongfully removed from the position in the wake of his arrest for felony assault, lewd act upon a child, and other related charges. Later, the San Mateo County District Attorney's office dismissed all charges against Jaffer but Vungle did not reinstate him as CEO. His lawsuit alleges that Vungle violated California Labor Code Section 432.7, which prohibits employers from terminating employees because of an arrest that did not result in a conviction.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

US to Establish Six Nuclear Power Plants in India

WASHINGTON (TIP): US and India have agreed to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation, including building six US nuclear power plants in India, according to a joint statement. The agreement came after the 9th round of the India-US Strategic Security Dialogue held in Washington DC on March 13, 2019.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale led the Indian delegation while Andrea Thompson, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, led the U.S. delegation. The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of global security and non-proliferation challenges and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to deny access to such weapons by terrorists and non-state actors. The United States reaffirmed its strong support of India's early membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Vijay Gokhale also called on Ambassador John Bolton, National Security Advisor to the U.S. President on 13 March.

Both underlined the importance of Pakistan taking tangible and irreversible action against terrorist groups based in territories under its control and denial of safe haven for these groups to launch cross-border attacks. Other issues including



India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale held a meeting with Andrea Thompson, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security in Washington, March 13.

Afghanistan and bilateral matters were also discussed.

Foreign Secretary also met Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and leaders of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees.

Earlier, on March 12, Gokhale and the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale held Foreign Office Consultations. They exchanged views on building convergences in the Indo-Pacific and agreed to work with each other and regional partners to promote inclusivity, stability, peace and prosperity in the region.

Both sides called on Pakistan to meaningfully address the concerns of the international community on terrorism, including cross-border terrorism.

On the other hand, Indra Mani Pandey, Additional Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Dr. Yleem D. S. Poblete, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, co-chaired the third round of the India-U.S. Space Dialogue, where they discussed trends in space threats; respective national space priorities; and opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

American Telugu Association Celebrates International Women's Day

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): American Telugu Association, ATA, a 28-year-old Telugu organization serving the interests of Telugu people across North America celebrated Women's day weekend with much fervor & gusto. International Women's Day Celebrations were held on a grandeur scale with events across Washington DC, New Jersey, Delaware, Detroit, Nashville, Austin, Dallas and Raleigh areas.

Women's day theme concept of #BetterforBalance focused primarily on addressing the immediate needs and challenges of modern day Indian women and how to strike a balance between eastern and western cultures. Scores of saree clad Indian women enjoyed the festivities across various cities. Fashion shows and thought provoking discussions enthralled the audiences. Sumptuous lunch with various delicacies from both the Telugu states was served.

International Women's day event in Washington DC included Panel discussions with elite panelists from legal, medical, social, civic engagement and business areas to ignite a sense of awareness amongst women regarding Work-Life Balance, legal rights,



A group picture of celebrations

financial knowledge, Health & Family. ASHA for Women organization explained how women going through domestic violence can get help. Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton was the chief guest of the Event.

Cultural Programs were the highlight of the evening and enthralled the audiences. ATA President elect Bhuvanesh Boojala & Team spearheaded the event in DC Metro. New Jersey Women's day event included seminars on homeopathy, yoga & business entrepreneurship. Immigration Attorney Prashanti Reddy was felicitated for her contribution to the Indian community especially in matters related to the immigration issues. In Dallas International women's day event offered prayers to the fallen and wounded Indian soldiers of Pulwama attack. Panel discussions were held on the causes of depression, addiction in kids and precautionary measures to be taken to avoid such situations. Awareness sessions on financial planning was conducted. Raleigh doctors educated women about breast cancer menace along with statistics and mammograms.

Organizers dedicated time to honor pioneering women and to discuss several serious issues women face on a daily basis.

Prominent Teachers of regional Indian languages were felicitated in Greater Nashville area. Free for Life' international organization shared details about worldwide Human Trafficking and funds were raised via silent auction for helping Women victims.

ATA President Parmesh Bheemreddy Garu along with Lt. Governor of Delaware Bethany Hall Long inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp in Delaware. ATA President congratulated women for their outstanding contributions to the society and quoted that ATA has always been a front runner in protecting women's rights and believes in Women Empowerment. Mr. Bheemreddy was proud to announce that current team has 25 positions held by women in various capacities and some of the past presidents were Women as well. ATA President encouraged & welcomed more participation of women in community related activities. Past President Karunakar Asireddy Reddy garu announced that ATA is raising funds for a Girl empowerment projects in India. ATA executive team recognized the sponsors, appreciated the local organizations & volunteers for their continuous support.

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

India Thanks US for 'Firm Support' after Pulwama Attack

WASHINGTON (TIP): During his meeting with US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo on March 11, India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale conveyed appreciation to the US Government and to Secretary Pompeo personally for the firm support that India received from the US in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pulwama. He apprised Secretary Pompeo about recent developments in this regard.

Both expressed satisfaction over the significant progress and the quality of the India-US Strategic Partnership since Secretary Pompeo's visit to India in September 2018 for the first ever Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue.

Pompeo expressed his understanding of India's concerns regarding cross-border terrorism. They agreed that Pakistan needs to take concerted action to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure and to deny safe haven to all terrorist groups in its territory. They also agreed that those who support or abet terrorism in any form should be held accountable.

Foreign Secretary and Secretary Pompeo also discussed other issues of mutual interest including Afghanistan and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and agreed to closely work together in this regard.

In response to Secretary Pompeo's reference to bilateral trade matters, Foreign Secretary underscored the significant reduction in trade deficit in the last three years and conveyed India's willingness to remain engaged with the U.S. for a meaningful and mutually acceptable package on trade issues.



Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale called on US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo on 11 March 2019 and thanked US Administration for the support it extended to India

Sikh Grandmother in California alleged of drowning newborn grandson



Beant Kaur Dhillon, 43, was arrested February 26 and charged with drowning her newborn grandson

BAKERSFIELD, CA (TIP): A Sikh grandmother has been alleged of drowning her newborn grandson and burying him in the backyard of a Bakersfield home in California.

Beant Kaur Dhillon, 43, was arrested February 26, and has been charged with felony first-degree murder, assault of a child with force causing great bodily injury, resulting in death.

According to Bakersfield Police Department, the shocking crime occurred November 12, 2018. Dhillon and her 23-year-old nephew Bakhshinderpal Singh Mann allegedly found that Dhillon's teenage daughter had given birth to a baby boy in the bathroom of their family home. Dhillon admitted to police that she then drowned the baby to prevent family shame due to the age of her daughter. They buried the baby in the backyard of their home on Shining Crag Avenue, near Stine Road and Panama Lane.

Singh was also arrested and charged with felony accessory to murder and felony child abuse but was released on bail. Dhillon has pleaded not guilty to all charges. She is scheduled for a hearing on March 13.

Indian American Former Cisco Director Charged with \$9.3 million Fraud

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Prithviraj R. Bhikha, a former employee of Cisco Systems, Inc. (Cisco), was charged with defrauding the company out of \$9.3 million, announced United States Attorney David L. Anderson and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge John F. Bennett. The criminal complaint was unsealed March 4 following Bhikha's arrest on Friday, March 1, 2019, at the San Francisco International Airport.



ownership interest in the overseas entities. The affidavit alleges that Cisco wired approximately \$6.5 million to one of these entities and approximately \$2.8 million to another. The affidavit also alleges more than \$8.5 million was wired from bank accounts associated with these two overseas entities to U.S. bank accounts either controlled jointly by Bhikha and his wife or by his wife alone.

According to an affidavit filed by a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bhikha, 50, of San Francisco, was employed until mid-2017 by Cisco as a director in its global supply unit in San Jose, Calif. That unit was in charge of working with suppliers and vendors to obtain parts for Cisco products. In or about 2013, Bhikha is alleged to have begun advocating within Cisco for the approval of a new project, of which he would be in charge, the goal of which was for Cisco to retain third-party vendors to negotiate savings with manufacturers on small parts used in Cisco products. The complaint affidavit alleges that Bhikha devised, participated in, and executed a scheme to defraud Cisco by establishing overseas business entities, then directing and approving Cisco contracts to these entities pursuant to the aforementioned project, and failing to disclose his

The complaint affidavit also alleges that, when Cisco employees became suspicious regarding one of Bhikha's overseas entities in 2016, Bhikha and another Cisco employee worked together to create documentation to send to Cisco employees regarding that company. The other Cisco employee is also alleged to have asked a third party to pose as the CEO of the overseas entity in a meeting with Cisco employees in July 2016. Bhikha is charged with one count of wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

Bhikha made his initial appearance in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph C. Spero. Magistrate Judge Spero released Bhikha on a \$3,000,000 bond and scheduled his next court appearance for March 18, 2019, for preliminary hearing or arraignment. If convicted, Bhikha would face a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000, plus restitution if appropriate.

South-Asian Community from Naperville Showcases Its Strong Commitment to Re-Elect Steve Chirico as Mayor

NAPERVILLE, IL (TIP): Many local South Asian-Americans community leaders from different walks of life assembled at Royal Banquet in Naperville to demonstrate their strong commitment to vote, in huge numbers, for the re-election of Steve Chirico as Mayor of Naperville. Some of the prominent community leaders, who graced the occasion, included Adil Farid, Sanjeev Pandey, Shoaib Khadri, Moin Haq, Krishna Bansal, Sanjiv Singh, Ninad Daftari, Mahfooz Khan, Maqsood Qadri, Anees Rahman, Shalini Gupta, Vinoz Chanamolu and other guests.



Mayor Steve Chirico (center) is proud of Naperville which ranked 25 on a list of best towns for small business

Mayor Steve Chirico, who spoke at the event, said, with a sense of pride that, under his leadership as Mayor, Naperville has been recognized as one of the country's best and safest cities of its size and also ranked in the top 25 on a list of best towns for small businesses.

Continuing his address, Mayor Steve Chirico said that Naperville had many financial challenges when he took over as the mayor in 2015. Once in office, he took bold steps to address all of the budget-related issues through strong financial discipline,

reducing long term debt, holding Naperville's AAA bond rating, creating sustainable revenue, and giving a boost to business development.

"We not only reduced our debt by USD 24 million but also increased our investment in the infrastructure in the amount of 36 million USD for the multidimensional development of our city, its roads, traffic signals, water and electricity supply, safe neighborhoods,

excellent career opportunities, exciting entertainment avenues, multi-cuisine restaurants, great schools, wonderful parks, etc. and at the same time brought down the property taxes by about 15 percent over the past four years," Mayor Steve Chirico stated. Chirico added that being recognized as one of the safest cities in the U.S. is icing on the cake.

The presentation by Mayor Steve Chirico was followed by a Q&A session. He answered

all the questions to the satisfaction of the audience. "Making Naperville a model city in the Midwest is a gigantic task. The hard work of the mayor alone is not enough. Each and every resident of Naperville should put his foot forward in order to realize this dream," he concluded.

Subsequently, Mayor Steve Chirico thanked the host, Mr. Syed Ashfaq Hussain, an eminent member of the Naperville Community, and Ms. Ayeisha Osman for hosting the event.

Earlier, Mr. Syed Ashfaq Hussain welcomed the guests. Miss Juveria Syeda, in her vote of thanks, called upon the youth to also vote for Mayor Steve Chirico for his re-election. The event was followed by a sumptuous lunch which was relished by one and all.

Mayor Steve Chirico and his wife Julie have seven children, three grandchildren and two dogs. He has exceptionally strong family values. He brings these values to his role as Naperville's Mayor and has proven to be a great leader.

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

US renews push for nuclear plants in India

NEW DELHI (TIP): The US is once again pushing ahead with its long-stalled plan for a lucrative business deal with India for setting up six nuclear power plants. The latest thrust came during a visit to Washington of an Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale when the US State Department ensured that the subject remained in the top half of the agenda.

It was in 2005 that India promised six nuclear plants each to the US, France and Russia in exchange for ending India's isolation from mainstream nuclear trade after its 1974 nuclear tests.

Since then, only the Russian project is up and running while the French are grappling with land acquisition headaches in the backyard of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

The Americans were allotted the more conducive Andhra Pradesh but their plans went into a tailspin due to a series of disagreements capped by Toshiba-Westinghouse filing for bankruptcy.

Abhinandan's debriefing over, on sick leave

NEW DELHI (TIP): The debriefing of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured by Pakistan last month and returned to India two days later, has been completed by the Indian Air Force and other agencies and he is going on sick leave for a few weeks now, news agency ANI reported, quoting sources in the Indian Air Force.

The 35-year-old pilot was captured by Pakistani forces on February 27 after an air combat between the Indian Air Force and the Pakistani Air Force, the first in nearly half a century.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated last month after a suicide bombing attack on a CRPF convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group that killed 40 soldiers.

India then carried out "non-military, pre-emptive" air strikes on a Jaish terror training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26.

The next day, after an aerial combat between the two countries, the Indian Force Pilot was captured. His MiG -21 Bison fighter plane was shot down when he was chasing Pak jets in Jammu and Kashmir and crossed over to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He ejected safely and was taken into custody by the Pakistan Army.

ED says middleman can turn approver in Agusta case

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) told a Delhi court today that it has no objection if Rajeev Saxena, an alleged middleman, is allowed to turn approver in the AgustaWestland money-laundering case.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar reserved for March 25 the order on whether to allow him to turn approver and become a witness in the case.

ED's Special Public Prosecutors DP Singh and NK Matta submitted that Saxena's turning approver would be useful for the agency in the case. The court had granted bail to Saxena on a plea moved by his lawyer Shivani Luthra, after the agency did not oppose the application.

6 Dead, 32 injured as foot overbridge collapses near CST railway station in Mumbai

MUMBAI (TIP): At least six people were killed and 32 injured as a major portion of a foot overbridge near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station in Mumbai collapsed on Thursday evening.

An eyewitness said when the bridge collapsed, there was a red light at the nearby signal, and that is why the death toll was not more. Another eyewitness said the overbridge was being used despite repairs being carried out this morning.

The bridge collapse, on the busy Dadabhai Naoroji Road, was the third in less than 18 months in the maximum city. On July 3, 2018, a pedestrian pathway of Gokhale Bridge over Andheri railway station in suburban Mumbai had collapsed, killing two and injuring five others.

Nine months before that, in 2017, 23 people were killed in a stampede when the Elphinstone Bridge had collapsed.

Thursday's collapse happened around 7.30 pm when a major portion of the bridge caved in, officials said. Some motorists who were passing beneath the bridge when it came down, were among those injured.

The six who died include two female nurses from Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital, both of who were heading to work for the night shift. They were identified as Apoorva Prabhu (35) and Ranjana Tambe (40). The others were identified as Zahid Shiraj Khan (32), Bhakti Shinde (40), Tapendra Singh (35) and Mohan Kaygunde (55).

Senior police officials, the fire brigade and a team of the National Disaster Response Force were rushed to the site of the accident. The pedestrian bridge, which was demolished after the collapse, connected the railway station to the Azad Maidan police station, the Times of India building and a school.

Apart from public and private ambulances, people at the spot also helped in rescue operations and were seen carrying the injured



A major portion of the foot overbridge near the CST railway station collapsed on Thursday.

to the hospitals.

A 45-member team from the National Disaster Response Force and the Mumbai Fire Brigade were also sent. Rescue operations went on for over an hour as many were trapped under the debris, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was deeply anguished by the loss of lives due to the accident. "My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Wishing that the injured recover at the earliest. The Maharashtra Government is providing all possible assistance to those affected," he tweeted.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, announced a probe and said the guilty will be punished. He said that the bridge was audited last year and was found to be structurally sound. He has announced a compensation of

Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Vinod Tawde said that the bridge only had "minor defects" and it was not considered "risky". He said it will be probed why the bridge was not closed despite repairs being undertaken.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi offered condolences to the families of those killed in the incident and prayed for speedy recovery to the injured, even as his party demanded the ouster of Railway minister Piyush Goyal, saying he was criminally culpable.

Party leader Murlidhar Deora also held the BJP and Shiv Sena responsible for the collapse, and demanded that the auditors who cleared the bridge be booked for murder.

India seeks visa-free access for 5,000 pilgrims per day to Kartarpur shrine

ATTARI (TIP): India on Thursday sought visa-free access from Pakistan for 5,000 pilgrims per day to the historic Sikh shrine in Kartarpur.

This was conveyed to the Pakistani delegation at a meeting here to discuss the opening of a planned corridor for pilgrims between Punjab's Gurdaspur district and Kartarpur Sahib across the border.

From our side, we have pressed for at least 5,000 pilgrims per day to be allowed to visit the holy Sikh shrine in the initial phase, S C L Das, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, told reporters.

This was the first meeting between an Indian and a Pakistani delegation since tensions between the two countries spiked after the terror attack in Pulwama, followed by retaliatory air strikes.

Das said Delhi wanted access for both Indians and people of Indian origin to the shrine, located where Sikhism's founder Guru Nanak Dev spent the last years of his life.

We have also strongly urged them to allow



the visit of pilgrims for all seven days a week without any break, he said after the meeting.

India emphasised that the corridor should be absolutely visa-free, Das said. There should not be any additional encumbrances in the form of any documentation or procedure, he

added.

India also wants Pakistan to allow devotees who want to travel on foot to the shrine across the border.

A statement earlier said the first meeting between officials of India and Pakistan to discuss the modalities for opening the Kartarpur corridor was held in a "cordial environment".

The Indian delegation was led by S C L Das, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Pakistani team was headed by Mohammad Faisal, Director General (SA & SAARC) of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statement said.

"Both sides held detailed and constructive discussions on various aspects and provisions of the proposed agreement and agreed to work towards expeditiously operationalising the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor," the statement said.

Technical experts from both sides discussed the alignment and other details of the proposed corridor. *Source: PTI*

Rahul taunts Modi as China once again blocks anti-Azhar move



NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday taunted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "brand of diplomacy" after China again blocked the UNSC resolution designating JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist saying the PM is scared of his Chinese counterpart.

"Weak Modi is scared of Xi. Not a word comes out of his mouth when China acts against India. NaMo's China Diplomacy: 1. Swing with Xi in Gujarat 2. Hug Xi in Delhi 3. Bow to Xi in China," Gandhi tweeted accusing the PM of failed outreaches to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Other Congress leaders, too, joined Gandhi in questioning the PM after China's continuing blockade of India's move at the UNSC. Former minister Manish Tewari took a swipe at the PM saying, "This is some muscular diplomacy."

Tewari tweeted "@narendramodi rocked on a swing with President Xi, @narendramodi withdrew Indian forces first in Doklam, @narendramodi travelled to Wuhan to release new spirits-Wuhan spirit & China rebuffs is on Masood Azhar third time 2016, 2017 & 2019. Some Muscular Diplomacy ain't it Timothy!"

Azhar's JeM recently claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attacked leading to the Indian Air Force attacking and destroying its terror bases in Pakistan's Balakot in unprecedented cross-border strikes, the first after 1971. The Pulwama attack had killed 40 CRPF men marking a shift in the Indian policy of strategic restraint in the face of Pakistan-sponsored terror. *Source: The Tribune*

WHY IS RAHUL IN 'CELEBRATORY MOOD' OVER CHINA'S AZHAR DECISION, ASKS BJP

NEW DELHI (TIP): The BJP on Thursday dubbed as "celebratory" Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's remarks in which he attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he was "scared" of Chinese President Xi Jinping after Beijing blocked designation of JeM chief Masood Azhar as global terrorist.

The party also asked why he had not made any comment when China had blocked the move on the same grounds in 2009 when the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government was in power.

"Why is Rahul Gandhi in a celebratory mood when the country stands pained with this attitude of China," BJP leader and Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told a press conference, claiming that Gandhi with his comments is seen to be "in close proximity with Azhar Masood".

The BJP's reaction came after Gandhi questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on China again blocking the UN resolution on Azhar. Gandhi had tweeted, "Weak Modi is scared of Xi. Not a word comes out of his mouth when China acts against India. NoMo's China diplomacy: 1. Swing with Xi in Gujarat. 2. Hug Xi in Delhi. 3. Bow to Xi in China."

Prasad said India has tried to mend fences with China, an apparent reference to Modi's outreach to the country, but it will remain steadfast in its fight against terrorism.

He noted that the proposal to list Masood as a global terrorist for the first time was backed by three permanent members of the UN Security Council and co-sponsored by other members and claimed that it was a big "diplomatic victory" for India as it showed that the world stands with it on its fight against terrorism.



This is the fourth time that such a move was made in the UN and blocked by China on "technical" grounds, he said, adding that similar moves were also made in 2009, 2016 and 2017.

Rahul Gandhi's tweets must be "headline news" in Pakistan be circulated in JeM office with much merry, Prasad said, adding that it will perhaps make him happy.

The Union minister said Gandhi had spoken about meeting Chinese ministers and that the Chinese embassy in India had wanted to see him off- permission for which was denied by the Indian government- when he flew for his Mansarovar pilgrimage last year. "If you enjoy such good relations with China, then you should have used your proximity to persuade the country to back the proposal in the UN," he said, attacking Gandhi. Quoting from a book, Nehru- The invention of India, written by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, Prasad said it has been written that India's first prime minister played a role in China becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

India under Modi will continue to fight a decisive battle against terrorism, he asserted, adding that the BJP is "pained" if the Congress and Gandhi are happy with the Chinese action. *Source: PTI*

'Modi hai to Mumkin Hai': BJP slogan for LS polls

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has chosen "Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai" (Modi makes it possible) as its slogan for the summer's Lok Sabha election on the back of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image as a doer, finance minister Arun Jaitley said.

In a Facebook post, Jaitley added that Modi has demonstrated his indefatigability by working round the clock over the past five years, achieving results that wouldn't otherwise have been possible.

Modi has proved to be a quick learner, adapting easily to foreign policy, economic and strategic issues, Jaitley said in the Facebook post. The Prime Minister's clarity and determination have facilitated quick decisions making even in complicated matters, he added.

"Many India observers across the world have marvelled at India's pace of taking decisions and implementing them. The BJP, therefore, has chosen an effective slogan for the forthcoming elections "Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai" - 'Modi makes it possible', the finance minister said.

The Congress, meanwhile, targeted the PM over the slogan. "The government lies and misleads the Supreme Court — Modi hai to mumkin hai. The PM and his minister hide their degrees — Modi hai to mumkin hai. Economic data is kept away from public — Modi hai to mumkin hai. There are 8 crore unemployed Indians because Modi hai to mumkin hai. Farmers are in distress because Modi hai to mumkin hai. ISI inspects our defence installations because Modi is there. The list is endless. However, this is typical RSS game. Focus the entire campaign on Modi and establish him as the alibi in the sure-shot wipeout that the BJP will face on May 23," Congress spokesperson Pranav Jha said.

Priyanka Gandhi's jeans DP sparks Twitter scrutiny

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's change of display picture on Twitter — from a sari-clad look to one in a pair of jeans — got the social media world talking. Gandhi joined Twitter over a month ago and has 2,56,000 followers. On Wednesday, she changed her Twitter profile picture the one in which she was in a maroon sari with a long-sleeved blouse. Her new avatar flaunted jeans and a blue shirt. The change in the profile picture got Twitterati talking.

"Priyanka Vadraji's make-up for election campaign, change the jeans and wear the sari, leave the English and try to make fool in Hindi. Husband is under investigation for list of scams and herself talks about country. Sheer shameless. All her rallies must be boycotted," a user said. "Gandhiji always wore one type of clothes. But what about you. Sometime jeans and top, other times sari. Not confident about your clothing? Do you think people can be fooled by wearing sari," another added.

Gandhi did not just invite trolls, there were quite a few compliments that came her way, as well. "Finally a woman politician wearing jeans in Twitter DP, in public...Priyanka, takes it a notch higher," one user wrote, while another commented: "A tight slap to all who criticised her for wearing sari only at the time of elections... Plain, simple and just her.... Take that Bhakts?"

Will first decide objection by Centre on Rafale papers: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court today said it would first decide on the preliminary objections raised by the Centre and then go into the facts of the Rafale fighter jet deal case.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi wrapped up the hearing on preliminary objections by the Centre that the review petitioners in the Rafale jet deal case cannot rely on privileged documents obtained illegally.

The top court asked the petitioners seeking a review of its order to focus on the preliminary objections regarding admissibility of the leaked documents.

"Only after we decide the preliminary objection raised by the Centre, we will go into the facts of the case," said the Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph.

At the outset, Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, claimed privilege over documents pertaining to the fighter jet deal with France and told the Supreme Court that no one can produce them in the court without the permission of the department concerned.

Venugopal referred to Section 123 of the Evidence Act and provisions of the RTI Act to buttress his claim. He said no one can publish documents related to national security.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, one of the petitioners seeking a review, opposed the submission and said the Rafale deal documents, which the AG says are privileged, have been published and are already in public domain.

Former Union minister Arun Shourie, one of the review petitioners,



submitted that he was thankful to the Centre and the AG for saying in their affidavit that these are photocopies, proving the genuineness of these documents.

Bhushan said provisions of the RTI Act say public interest outweighs other things and no privilege can be claimed except for documents which pertain to intelligence agencies. There is no government-to-government contract in buying Rafale jets as there is no sovereign guarantee extended to India by France in the Rs 58,000-crore deal, Bhushan said. He also said the Press Council of India Act provides provisions for protecting sources of journalists. *Source: PTI*



COMMENT

Prof I.S. Saluja

India Needs to Legislate Term Limit for Lawmakers

The largest democracy in the world-India- will go to polls for electing 543 members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) in 7 stages, beginning April 11 and concluding on May 19. The counting of votes will take place on May 23, 11 days before the term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 3.

India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. 130 million first time voters have been added to the electorate. However, one finds the older generation has monopolized the elections. The majority of those contesting elections are past 50.

Then there is a large number of the tribe of politicians who just would not retire. They go on "fighting the elections" for decades together. They have made politics their business. No more it is a question of serving the nation.

It is all about making money and leading a princely life. The young hardly ever get an opportunity to get a ticket to contest parliamentary or legislative elections.

It is time that the rules of the game are changed in the interest of the nation and for the sake of fairness. It is strongly recommended that Indian Parliament enact a law restricting an individual to only two terms as a member of Parliament.

Similar legislation may be done in State legislatures. It will provide the younger generation more opportunities to get nomination. And, surely, the nation will benefit from their energy, ideas and initiative. For long has India ignored the younger generation in governance of the country. Not anymore, please.

AS I SEE IT

Media Orchestrated War Hysteria a Danger Signal for Punjab



Harjap Singh Aujla

I am summing up the seven-decade old history of Punjab. The wounds of 1947 partition, during which approximately one million lives were lost and twenty million were made to abandon their homes and hearths and migrate penniless to newer lands, that the 1947-48 Kashmir War started. During those days more than 50% of the Indian Army consisted of Punjabi soldiers from among the Dogras of Pathankot and Kangra, the Jatts of Gurgaon, Rohtak and Hissar and the Sikhs of all districts of Punjab. The commissioned officers included a large chunk of Hindu Khatri of upper strata too. A large number of these soldiers were deployed in Kashmir.

On the industrial front, the woolen mills of Dhariwal and Amritsar were working 24 hours to produce winter uniforms for the soldiers deployed in war. Amritsar aerodrome was busy lifting the soldiers, their uniforms and ammunition to air strips in Kashmir. This war ended with honors for Brigadier Pritam Singh in the Poonch area, Brigadier Atma Singh in the pot belly of Kashmir and Brigadier Kulwant Singh (later Lt. General) in Northern Kashmir and Air Commodore Mehar Singh. It was Mehar Singh, who was India's finest Air Force pilot in the entire theatre of war in 1947-48.

In 1965, once again war broke out in the month of September. Pakistan made minor intrusions into East Punjab in Fazilka, Hussainiwala and Khemkaran sectors, but India, under the superb guidance of Lt. General Harbaksh Singh General Officer Commanding of the Western Army Command pushed relatively deeper into Lahore (G.T. Road), Burki (Lahore district) and Sialkot Sectors. So far so good, but on the last day, when people all over India and Pakistan were celebrating ceasefire, only a few minutes after ceasefire came into effect, bombers of Pakistan Air Force bombed Amritsar's largest industrial area of Chheharta, killing more than three hundred industrial workers. This pressed the panic button and between one hundred to two hundred thousand wealthy industrialists and merchants left Amritsar permanently for Mumbai, Faridabad, New Delhi, Panipat, Ludhiana and other safer places.

Then came the two-decade long insurgency in Punjab from 1978 to 1997. It started slowly in 1978 after bloody gunfire by the Nirankaris on Bhindranwala supporters. But after the

"After the terror attack of February 14, 2019 in Pulwama (Kashmir), a war hysteria is being generated by several TV channels based in New Delhi and Mumbai. The owners and anchors of these channels are perfectly safe in their citadels, but their rhetoric is no music to the people living on the border.

"Since there is no imminent chance of a dialogue between the neighbors, Punjab's border area economy is heading for another downturn. We do not want war to break out in Punjab, but the ground realities are engineered to create war like situation on the border of Punjab.



General Harbaksh Singh, hero of 1965 war with Pakistan



General Jagjit Singh Aurora, hero of 1971 war with Pakistan

Operation Blue Star of June 1984, there was a protracted insurgency up to the end of 1995. The militants dominated at night and the police and the paramilitary forces were in control during the day light hours. The industrialists and the wealthy were feeling insecure and suffocated. This led to the biggest mass exodus of the employment generating business houses of Amritsar, Batala, Ferozepore, Fazilka and Tarn Taran. Pain was felt as far away as Jalandhar and Ludhiana.

After the December 13, 2001, militant attack on the Parliament House in New Delhi, there was a massive troop deployment all along the sensitive border in Punjab. After the terror attack of February 14, 2019 in Pulwama (Kashmir), a war hysteria is being generated by several TV channels based in New Delhi and Mumbai. The owners and anchors of these channels are perfectly safe in their citadels, but their rhetoric is no music to the people living on the border.

Punjab has four districts of Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Pathankot taken out of the erstwhile Lahore division. During the pre-1947 days all these districts plus Ferozepore and Fazilka were very wealthy business and

residential pockets, but now due to their location on the border, they are a part of the theatre of war and all these districts have become underdeveloped. For the past sometime, the crown jewel of this belt Amritsar has been experiencing a boom in Golden Temple driven tourism. Its airport until the last month of 2018 was the fastest growing large airport in India. But the flight disruptions of February 27, 2019, due to the heightened tension on the border, have dealt a severe blow to the freshly developing tourist economy. For one day all flights to Amritsar from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Dubai, Doha, Ashgabat, Tashkent, Birmingham and Manchester were disrupted. Traffic was resumed later. At present hotel occupancy in Amritsar is down by at least 20% (as reported by the Amritsar Tribune). 200% duty imposed on imports from Pakistan has killed all trade at Wagha/Attari border. Since there is no imminent chance of a dialogue between the neighbors, Punjab's border area economy is heading for another downturn. We do not want war to break out in Punjab, but the ground realities are engineered to create war like situation on the border of Punjab.

Readers Write



Attorney Ravi Batra

On Paul Manafort

"Justice rendered, and Cy Vance makes it Pardon-Proof

Judge Amy Berman Jackson adds 43 months to prior 47 months

Today, March 13, Paul Manafort is sentenced to a total of 90 months in federal prison for conspiracy and fraud. Sad, tragic and a wakeup call that we allow too many "Benedict Arnolds" to blossom and then undermine our Republic much too easily. Globalization seems to raise FARA-issues.

1 hour after J. Jackson, Paul Manafort is indicted by Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr.

Well, Manhattan District Attorney just checkmated any POTUS pardon. That the Grand Jury did so opens new possible state law attacks.

To nations who dare toy with us, remember we are 51 sovereigns! SDNY & ManhattanDA are our front line."

China blocks Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" designation by the UN Security Council

"China's obsession with One Belt One Road and Pakistan's vital role in that initiative, itself troubling as it is China's superstructure for global domination, is a breakdown of the United Nations Security Council's core mission: enhance peace and security.

Preventing UNSC to designate a self-professed proud terrorist chief Masood Azhar, as a "global terrorist," when PM Imran Khan honorably returned Indian Pilot Abhinandan

Varthaman, is beyond shameful. It is elevating the evil of state-sponsored Terrorism to now becoming worthy of a Patron Saint's protection. If P5 members become protectors of terror, it's only time before a new Thomas Jefferson will declare independence and create a new world body that renders UNSC useless at best, or hold a P5 member vicariously liable for the evil they nurtured and protected.

It is worth remembering that the United Nations Security Council has succeeded in preventing World War III; but that success has come at a very high price: eruption of regional wars all over the place and creating refugees and terrorists galore.

New York

How China can be punished for its Masood Azhar slight



“
This should serve as a wake-up call for all those in the ruling dispensation who were going all gaga over the ephemeral and amorphous 'Wuhan spirit' - while that 'spirit' has now gone up in smoke, Modi should use this opportunity to start turning the screws on China. If he fails to take at least the first few steps - blocking Huawei, cancelling certain contracts, imposing some barriers on Chinese goods - and prefers to lump this slight from China, then India will have no one else to blame but itself for being treated as a pushover by China.

”

On terrorism, there can be no bargaining - no diplomatic quid pro quo of the "You back BRI, we ban Masood Azhar" type. Countries negotiate and make deals on many things - but not on core interests.

If indeed Pulwama has changed India, then let us see some signs of that in India's China policy, in the next few days, not weeks. Soft-peddalling on China is no longer an option. India needs to take some really hard decisions - and fast.

Regardless of the spin Indian diplomats put on it - and no matter how much anyone tries to play down China's veto (for the fourth time) on designating the Pakistani jihadi terrorist, Masood Azhar, as an international terrorist by the UN Security Council - the fact is that this was a blatantly unfriendly act by a country that has proved, once again, that it is anything but a friend of India.

To not put too fine a point on it, China is an openly hostile country which shamelessly supports and defends Pakistani terrorists who attack India, and then, with a forked tongue, speaks of peace and friendly relations with India.

Therefore, India's mealy-mouthed reaction - not naming and shaming China for placing a 'technical hold' and merely expressing 'disappointment' over the bailout given by China to Pakistan and to the terrorist Masood Azhar - is emblematic of the pusillanimity that has allowed China to cock a snook at India.

Until Pulwama, Masood Azhar was a major irritant in the India-China relationship. India didn't like the Chinese obstruction in including Azhar in the UN sanctions list, but in the interest of the larger relationship with China, India was willing to put Azhar on the side. But after Pulwama, Azhar has become an embodiment of the fact that proscribing jihadist terrorism is now a 'core interest' of India. A strong, unambiguous signal needs to be sent that anyone who plays games on this issue will be rubbing India the wrong way because India can no longer afford to look the other way.

On terrorism, there can be no bargaining - no diplomatic quid pro quo of the "You back BRI, we ban Masood Azhar" type. Countries negotiate and make deals on many things - but not on core interests.

The point, however, is that unless India makes it clear that there will be serious consequences for whoever tries to protect Pakistani terrorists, the phrase 'core interest' loses all meaning.

The question is whether India is now ready to acquaint China with these 'consequences' or will carry on with business as usual.

The Chinese are, of course, being disingenuous when they seek more discussions and evidence for sanctioning Azhar. It is indeed quite rich of China, a country which has interned over a million Muslims in concentration camps simply because of how they look, what they wear, whether or not they pray and what they say, to demand evidence against a self-confessed terrorist.

Evidence is not - and never was - an issue. The issue is geo-politics, geo-strategy and geo-economics. And India has failed to leverage its strengths in this domain to force the Chinese hand.

In other words, India has failed to impress on China that the benefit it derives from its economic and strategic relationship with Pakistan is not worth the economic and strategic cost of antagonizing India. Until India does this, it is quite pointless to expect China to deliver on India's concerns.

In a sense, India has not only underplayed its strengths and not exploited opportunities that have come its way to change the Chinese calculus, but worse, it has not even signaled the costs attached to Chinese obduracy on Azhar. For instance, at a time when most Western countries have virtually banned the Chinese telecom giant Huawei from entering the 5G space, what prevents India from keeping the Chinese company out of the 5G trials on security grounds?

Many other Chinese companies linked to the Communist party or the Chinese state can be eased out from a variety of contracts on security or other grounds. Taking a leaf from China's book, India doesn't have to indulge in any bombast while taking these steps - all it needs to do is speak with the same forked tongue that the Chinese use while crossing India's path, but making sure the message is delivered loud and clear.

For decades, India has tended to take the China-Pakistan relationship as being set in stone and therefore assumed that it is a mug's game to expect China to do anything that goes against the interests of its 'Iron Brother'. While it is true that China has strong strategic interests and now, increasingly economic interests in Pakistan, the fact is also that China's economic stakes in India outweigh its interest in Pakistan - and India's strategic options, if it chooses to exercise them, can cause more damage to China than any advantage it hopes to get out of Pakistan.

The total trade between India and China is over five times the trade between China and Pakistan.

India is one of the biggest trading partners of China and the surplus China enjoys in its trade with India surpasses the total investment it seeks to make in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

At a time when China's unfair, restrictive and predatory trade practices are being questioned world over, a trade war with the US



The honeymoon has gone sour

already underway, the Chinese economy slowing down quite fast, and the debt balloon becoming dangerously big, the last thing China would want is losing the Indian market.

Forget about WTO and other international regimes limiting our options; there are a number of ways of staying within the four corners of WTO rules and still placing barriers that make trade with China difficult and unprofitable. This is a leverage that India can use. Of course, it won't be costless for India, but then, there are no costless options anyway if 'core interests' have to be protected and advanced. If India keeps looking for costless options and is not ready to pay a price for its security and stability, then it might as well close shop and go to sleep.

The economy is just one leverage that can be deployed. On the strategic plane, India needs to give up its traditional caution, even reluctance, and move towards aligning itself more closely with the US and its other allies like Japan and Australia, and also rope in some other countries spooked by growing Chinese assertiveness - for instance, Vietnam and Indonesia - to contain China in the entire Indo-Pacific region. Why can't India revise its stand on the Quad and take the lead to energize and formalize this into something substantial? Politically, India can deepen its engagement with Taiwan - and start voicing concerns over the treatment of Muslims in China.

That China will be chary of taking any step that could drive a wedge between it and Pakistan is also an assumption that needs to be re-evaluated. More than anything else, this has become an alibi for China in our minds and the sooner we debunk it, the better it is for us. It might have been true at a time when Pakistan had two suitors - USA and China - vying for its attention and affection. But today, Pakistan's almost total dependence on China, not just for military equipment and strategic support but also for economic bailouts, means that Pakistan cannot and will not do anything that riles China.

After all, concubine states always avoid getting into a tangle with their masters.

To put it plainly, China's backing for Masood Azhar isn't so much a function of wanting to be on Pakistan's right side but more a function of wanting to extract something big from India in exchange for something that China considers trivial.

There is probably also a political angle in the latest move by China. Its 'all-weather friend' Pakistan has a lot invested in seeing the back of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the General Elections - sanctioning Azhar at this time would raise Modi's stock even more in the eyes of the Indian electorate, and that's the last thing Pakistan would want to see.

By vetoing Azhar's designation as a global terrorist, China has tried to influence and interfere in the Indian elections.

This should serve as a wake-up call for all those in the ruling dispensation who were going all gaga over the ephemeral and amorphous 'Wuhan spirit' - while that 'spirit' has now gone up in smoke, Modi should use this opportunity to start turning the screws on China. If he fails to take at least the first few steps - blocking Huawei, cancelling certain contracts, imposing some barriers on Chinese goods - and prefers to lump this slight from China, then India will have no one else to blame but itself for being treated as a pushover by China.

If indeed Pulwama has changed India, then let us see some signs of that in India's China policy, in the next few days, not weeks. Soft-peddalling on China is no longer an option. India needs to take some really hard decisions - and fast.

*(The author is a Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation)
(Courtesy Observer Research Foundation)*

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

The festival of colours is Holi, it is vibrant and filled with beautiful colours. Holi is considered as one of major festival in India. It is celebrated in the month of Phalgun on full moon day according to Hindu calendar.

With the onset of spring, northern India gets into the colourful mood of Holi. This festival also denotes celebration due to good harvests and land fertility. This colourful festival also celebrates the eternal love of Radha and Krishna. This festival is celebrated in a grand style in the city of Mathura and Vrindavan. These are two important cities which are deeply associated to Lord Krishna.

The festival of colours teaches humankind to transcend above the caste and creed. It is a festival to forget old grievances and meeting others with great warmth & high spirit. This festival begins with lightening of bonfire on Holi eve. Next day, people play Holi with different types of colours, abirs and gulals. They greet each other with Shubb Holi i.e. Happy Holi and send warm wishes of the festival.

Kids and adults come out of their house and smear each other with bright shades of gulal. Colourful waters are sprinkled on people and kids are found playing with pichkari and water balloons. People exchange sweets, Thandai and snacks among neighbours and friends. Popular Holi sweets are Gujiya, Ladoo, Burfi and Imarti etc. Indian festive celebration is incomplete without delicious sweets.

People also dance in the beats of Holi songs and popular folk's music. Exchange of holi gifts, snack hampers, dry fruits and greeting cards are also found.

Holi festival has religious and historical significance in Hindu texts. There was very popular mythological legend about king 'Hiranyakashyapu' and his son 'Prahlad'. The devil king used to hate God esp. Lord Vishnu and threatened people in his kingdom to stop worshipping him. But this King's own son was a verdant devotee of Lord Vishnu.

He denied to obey his father command and this infuriated the king. Hiranyakashyapu instructed his sister 'Holika' to pulverize his own son Prahald. Holika had the boon to being immune to fire. She was absolutely sure that she would not get affected by the blazing fire and took seat on the fire with young Prahlad. Lord Vishnu rendered protection of his devotee Prahlad and he was alive but Holika was burnt into death. There of, the festival of Holi signifies the victory of good over evil.

Today, the festival of colour gives us an opportunity to reunite with family, friends and dear ones. This festivity brings colours into the life of people, when they can take a break from their monotonous life and share the joy with loved ones. Everyone plays Holi by chasing each other and throwing bright gulal and coloured water.

Significance of Holi

In spite of being such a colourful and gay festival, there are various aspects of Holi which makes it so significant for our lives. Though they might not be so apparent but a closer look and a little thought will reveal the significance of Holi in more ways than meets the eyes. Ranging from socio-cultural, religious to biological there is every reason why we must heartily enjoy the festival and cherish the reasons for its celebrations. So when, its time for Holi, please don't hold yourself back and enjoy the festival to the hilt by participating with full enthusiasm in every small tradition related to the festival.

Mythological Significance

Holi gets us close to our religion and our mythology as it is essentially the celebration of various legends associated with the festival.

Foremost is the legend of Prahlad and Hiranyakshyap. The legend says there once lived a devil and powerful king, Hiranyakshyap who considered himself a god and wanted everybody to worship him. To his great ire, his son, Prahlad began to worship, Lord Vishnu. To get rid of his son, Hiranyakshyap asked his sister, Holika to enter a



blazing fire with Prahlad in her lap, as she had a boon to enter fire unscathed. Legend has it that Prahlad was saved for his extreme devotion for the lord while Holika paid a price for her sinister desire. The tradition of burning Holika or the 'Holika dahan' comes mainly from this legend.

Holi also celebrates the legend of Radha and Krishna which describes the extreme delight, Krishna took in applying colour on Radha and other gopis. This prank of Krishna later, became a trend and a part of the Holi festivities. Mythology also states that Holi is the celebration of death of Ogress Pootana who tried to kill infant, Krishna by feeding poisonous milk to it.

Another legend of Holi which is extremely popular in Southern India is that of Lord Shiva and Kaamadeva. According to the legend, people in south celebrate the sacrifice of Lord of Passion Kaamadeva who risked his life to revoke Lord Shiva from meditation and save the world.

Also, popular is the legend of Ogress Dhundhi who used to trouble children in the kingdom of Raghu and was ultimately chased away by the pranks of the children on the day of Holi. Showing their belief in the legend,

children till date play pranks and hurl abuses at the time of Holika Dahan.

Cultural Significance

Celebration of the various legends associated with Holi reassure the people of the power of the truth as the moral of all these legends is the ultimate victory of good over evil. The legend of Hiranyakashyap and Prahlad also points to the fact that extreme devotion to god pays as god always takes his true devotee in his shelter.

All these legends help the people to follow a good conduct in their lives and believe in the virtue of being truthful. This is extremely important in the modern day society when so many people resort to evil practices for small gains and torture one who is honest. Holi helps the people to believe in the virtue of being truthful and honest and also to fight away the evil.

Besides, holi is celebrated at a time of the year when the fields are in full bloom and people are expecting a good harvest. This gives a people a good reason to rejoice, make merry and submerge themselves in the spirit of Holi.

Afghan journalist injured in bombing; 10 troops killed

KABUL (TIP): An Afghan journalist, who has long received death threats, was seriously injured in a bombing in the country's south, while in the western province of Farah, the Taliban stormed an army checkpoint and killed 10 soldiers, officials said on March 13.

Also in Farah, a local official was gunned down outside his home on Wednesday, a councilman said.

The attacks were the latest violence in war-torn Afghanistan even as the Taliban and the US concluded another round of negotiations held in Qatar, with both sides reporting progress in the talks.

Radio and TV journalist Nesar Ahmad Ahmadi was wounded when a sticky bomb attached to his car exploded as he was heading to work in Helmand province.

Omar Zwak, the Governor's spokesman, said the attack happened on Tuesday in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

Ahmadi had a leg wound and was transferred to Kabul for further treatment, the spokesman said.

He runs the Sabahoon radio station and is also a reporter for Sabahoon TV in Helmand.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Helmand, the Taliban heartland.

Afghan journalists are often targeted in attacks.

In January, the Afghan Journalist Safety Committee said in its annual report that it had recorded a total of 121 cases of violence against journalists and media workers in 2018.

It also said 17 journalists and media workers were killed last year, once again placing Afghanistan as the world's most dangerous country for journalists.

The International Federation of Journalists and its Afghan affiliate



condemned the attack on Ahmadi in Helmand and called for an immediate investigation.

In the attack in western Farah province, the Taliban stormed an army checkpoint along the main highway in Gulistan district on Tuesday, killing 10 soldiers, said Abdul Samad Salehi, a member of the provincial council.

Reinforcements were sent and the area was retaken and brought under control but five or six other troops remain missing, Salehi added.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in Farah.

On March 13, also in Farah, Mohammad Salim Farahi was shot and killed near his home in the provincial capital, Farah city.

He was an engineer and the head of the public works department, said Salehi.

Despite intensified negotiations between the US and the Taliban to end the 17-year war

in Afghanistan, the insurgents have been carrying out near-daily attacks across the country, mainly targeting the government and security forces and causing staggering casualties.

The nearly two weeks of talks in Qatar produced two draft agreements between the Taliban and the US government on a "withdrawal timeline and effective counterterrorism measures," American envoy Zalmay Khalilzad wrote on Twitter.

The Taliban also issued a statement, saying "progress was achieved" on both of those issues.

However, the Taliban have consistently refused to talk with the government in Kabul, describing it as a US puppet.

The talks concluded late Tuesday. It wasn't immediately clear when the next round of talks would take place. — AP

Graft: Zia approaches SC against doubling jail term

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's jailed former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on March 14 filed a plea in the Supreme Court, challenging a High Court verdict that enhanced her punishment to 10 years imprisonment from five years in a corruption case.

In the petition, Zia, 73, prayed to the SC to suspend her punishment and grant her bail in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. The Appellate Division is yet to fix any date for hearing the petition.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief is serving a 10-year term in a special structure of the old Dhaka Central Jail. Her party suffered a miserable defeat in the December 30 elections bagging only six seats in 300-seat Parliament. The ex-premier's conviction on a charge of "moral turpitude" debarred her from contesting the polls.

"The lower court sentenced Zia to five years in jail in the case, but the High Court passed an order doubling the jail term in the case (and) therefore we filed the appeal seeking stay order on effectiveness of her punishment and her bail," Zia's lawyer Kaisar Kamal said. He claimed that the HC "unfairly, unjustly and unreasonably" enhanced Zia's punishment while she did not commit any corruption. — PTI

Radical Maoist party workers hold protest against govt's ban; torch bus in Nepal

KATHMANDU (TIP): A passenger bus carrying a wedding procession was torched by the workers of a radical Maoist party in Western Nepal protesting against the government's move to ban their party.

The cadres of CPN-Maoist led by Netra Bikram Chand, a faction of the previous Maoist party, torched the bus after the passengers were taken out of the vehicle in Badaipur of Kailali district, police said.

The bus was completely damaged in the incident. Three persons were taken into police custody while they were trying to stop vehicles.

Major cities of Nepal were partially affected as the CPN-Maoist enforced a nation-wide strike after the government decided to put a ban on the party.

The Nepal Communist Party was formed after the then Maoist Party broke-off into groups.

The government after a Cabinet meeting on March 10 banned the radical Maoist party after it carried out a series of bomb attacks in the capital Kathmandu.

The government said that the Chand-led group was engaged in criminal activities by detonating bombs at infrastructure projects and disturbing peace and security.

The announcement was made after the government's efforts to hold talks with the party failed.

One person was killed and two others injured last month when the Communist Party of Nepal, led by the former Maoist guerrilla, detonated a bomb outside the office of a telecom company in Kathmandu.

Maoist rebels fought an armed insurgency against state security forces between 1996 and 2006 that killed more than 16,000 people. A peace accord was signed in November 2006. PTI

Over 100 Malaysian schools shut after toxic waste dump

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): Over 100 schools in Malaysia have been closed after the dumping of toxic waste into a river caused hundreds of people to fall ill, including many children, authorities said.

A lorry is believed to have dumped the waste in southern Johor state last week, sending hazardous fumes across a wide area and causing those affected to display symptoms of poisoning such as nausea and vomiting.

Over 500 people, many of them school pupils, have received medical treatment after inhaling the fumes, with over 160 admitted to hospital, according to official news agency Bernama.

It was unclear what type of poisonous gas had been emitted near the industrial town of Pasir Gudang.

Education Minister Maszlee Malik initially ordered the closure of 43 schools in the area Wednesday, but later announced that figure had more than doubled.

"The ministry of education has decided to close all 111 schools in the Pasir Gudang area immediately," he said in a statement.

"The education ministry is requesting that all parties take precautions."

Three men were arrested earlier this week over the toxic waste dumping. One is expected to be charged in court soon and could face up to five years in jail if found guilty of breaking environmental protection laws. — AFP

Pak elected by chairman of OIC body

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan has been elected deputy chairman of the general body of the Parliamentary Union of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an influential grouping of 57 countries, majority of which are Muslim-dominated.

According to an official announcement, Pakistan was elected deputy chairman of the general body of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member States (PUIC) on Monday in Rabat, Morocco, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The PUIC is composed of parliaments of member states of the OIC and was established in Iran on June 17, 1999, with its head office situated in Tehran. The PUIC conference also adopted two resolutions presented by Pakistan related to Kashmir.

The election of Pakistan to the forum comes after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the inaugural plenary of the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the OIC in Abu Dhabi on March 1. She was the first Indian minister to address the OIC meeting. — PTI

Two terrorists arrested in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (TIP): Two terrorists and three accomplices were arrested by the security forces on March 11 during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's northwest region, an official statement said. The forces conducted operation in Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during which the terrorists were arrested, Pakistani military's media wing the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The terrorists arrested were wanted in cases of targeting police, military convoys, target killings of law enforcers and attack on Imambargahs, the statement said. — PTI

Malaysia Airlines could be sold or shut down: PM

Kuala Lumpur (TIP): Malaysia Airlines may be sold or shut down, Malaysia's leader said on Tuesday, the latest bad news for a carrier that has been in crisis since suffering the loss of two planes. The 71-year-old airline has been on the ropes since 2014 when Flight MH370 disappeared and MH17 was shot down by a Russian-made missile over war-torn Ukraine. With the carrier teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, sovereign wealth fund Khazanah stepped in to take it over several years ago and major reforms were instituted, including cutting thousands of staff. But it has continued to fare poorly and its performance was blamed in large part for a set of poor financial results released by Khazanah last week. Responding to questions about the airline's future, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told reporters in parliament: "I think it is a very serious matter, to shut down the national airline. -AFP



ALIA PLANS A HUSH-HUSH BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH BOYFRIEND RANBIR



MS DHONI IS SUNNY LEONE'S FAVOURITE CRICKETER

Actress Sunny Leone has said that Mahendra Singh Dhoni is her favourite cricketer, as he is a family man. Sunny was interacting at the launch of a website, 11wickets.com, in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Asked about her favourite Indian cricket player, she said: 'My favourite is Dhoni. I think he has the cutest child, doesn't he? I see him post pictures of him with his child (daughter Ziva Dhoni) and it just looks so cute. Therefore, he is my favourite cricketer as he is a family man.' On her upcoming projects, Sunny said: "I have two television shows. I am also working in a Hindi film which is being produced under my production house. We will start working on it this year. I am also a part of two South Indian films, so there is a lot of exciting work."

Alia Bhatt who is turning 26 years-old on March 15 has a special plan to celebrate her birthday. The actress has not revealed anything as of now but if the reports are to be believed, Alia will take a day off to be with boyfriend Ranbir Kapoor. The actress has not planned anything for her 26th but it looks like Ranbir is all set to make the day special with her ladylove.

According to the latest reports in DNA, Alia who will turn 26th on March 15 will be

ringing her special day with beau Ranbir. However, her mentor and friend Karan Johar and Ayan Mukerji too will be part of the celebration. The reports further mention that the plan has been kept hush-hush for now and there are no reports about the same.

Apart from her birthday, it is a big year for Alia, with films like Brahmastra, Kalank and Takht being in her kitty, Alia is all set to take over the silver screen with her incredible performance. The actress

was last seen in Gully Boy where she portrayed the role of Ranveer Singh's ladylove Safeena Firdausi.

She not only impressed her fans with her brilliant skills of acting but also swiftly made her way in the hearts of her fans. Her next film Kalank is all set to release on April 19th and recently at the trailer launch event, the actress was snapped having a gala time with Varun Dhawan.

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN HAS EPIC REPLY FOR TROLL SLAMMING SAIF ALI KHAN FOR LETTING HER WEAR A BIKINI



Kareena Kapoor Khan has always been comfortable in her skin, whether she has been size zero or double-sized. Though the actress looks stunning when she wears a bikini, her sultry avatar is not very well received by the moral police.

Recently, when Kareena was on Arbaaz Khan's chat show, she read out a comment from a troll who slammed her husband Saif Ali Khan for letting her wear a bikini. "Go to hell Saif Ali Khan, you not a shame to let your f***ing wife wearing bikini (sic)," the comment read. Of course, Kareena shut the troll down with an epic reply. "Who is Saif but to stop me from wearing a bikini? I don't think my relationship is such that Saif would ever tell me why are you wearing a bikini or why are you doing such things or what? I don't think so at all. I think we share a very responsible relationship. He trusts me," she said.

"If I am wearing a bikini, then obviously there's a reason I am wearing it. I am taking a dip," she added.

Saif and Kareena have been setting indomitable couple goals for a while now. After being in a steady relationship for five years, they tied the knot on October 16, 2012.

On the season finale of Koffee With Karan, Kareena spilled the beans on how Saif proposed to her. She revealed that he popped the question in Greece during the shooting of their film, Tashan.

"We were shooting for Chhaliya Chhaliya. He stayed back for the shoot because it was my song. He just woke up one morning and he was like, 'Listen, let's get married. I want to marry you. Let's just go to a church and do it right here.' I was like, 'Are you mad?' He said, 'I don't care. Let's do it. I want to marry you and spend my life with you. And I can't see it any other way.' And I just realised that this is it," she said.

On the work front, Kareena has been busy shooting for Raj Mehta's directorial debut Good News, in which she will be paired opposite Akshay Kumar. The film, which also features Diljit Dosanjh and Kiara Advani in key roles, will release on September 6.



DEMI MOORE PUTS RELATIONSHIPS OVER WORK

Actress Demi Moore says she has changed her life and shifted her priorities over the last seven years.

The 56-year-old actress opened up about it while speaking to Gwyneth Paltrow and Arianna Huffington at the 2019 In Goop Health summit.

Moore said she has shifted her priorities to refocus on her health and the people around her in the 'last seven years'. "My relationships are more important, and what I do comes second," she said.

She no longer looks outwards for validation. "What does it matter what anyone thinks?" she said. "Nothing is that bad." This new outlook came after "my health took me down", Moore said, referencing her 2012 collapse at her home. The mother of three was hospitalised after the incident and entered a rehab treatment for addiction and an eating disorder.

LADY GAGA IS 'PREGNANT' WITH NEW ALBUM

Lady Gaga has shut down rumors that she's expecting a child by revealing that she has a new album on the way. In a tweet, the singer confirmed that she is at work on her sixth album. "Rumors I'm pregnant?" she wrote on Twitter. "Yeah, I'm pregnant with #LG6." The "LG6" is, of course, in reference to "Lady Gaga 6," the highly anticipated follow-up to 2016's *Joanne*.

The pregnancy rumors started after Gaga split with fiancé Christian Carino and fans began to speculate that she was actually in love with *A Star Is Born* collaborator Bradley Cooper. Lady Gaga previously addressed the reports that she and Cooper were in a relationship on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* following the Oscars, where she won for Best Original Song for "Shallow." The duo performed an intimate rendition of "Shallow" during the awards broadcast, prompting speculation that their love was for real. "First of all... social media, quite frankly, is the toilet of the internet and what it's done to pop culture is abysmal," Gaga told *Kimmel* in response to the gossip. "People saw love and, guess what, that's what we wanted to you to see. This is a love song."

She also said that the performance followed a vision from Cooper, who shares a



child with girlfriend Irina Shayk. "From a performance perspective, it was so important to both of us that we were connected the entire time," Gaga told *Kimmel*. "I've had my arms wrapped

around Tony Bennett for three years touring the world. When you're singing love songs, that's how you want people to feel." She added, "I'm an artist and I guess we did a good job. Fooled ya!"

Alyssa Milano gets bipartisan backlash for tweeting she's 'trans, lesbian, gay'



Actress Alyssa Milano is one of Hollywood's more outspoken celebrities for liberal causes, a tendency that backfired Friday with two tweets meant to express solidarity with "transgender" women on International Women's Day.

"My transgender sisters! I am celebrating YOU this #NationalWomensDay," Milano tweeted. Asked if she was transgendered, she responded by claiming, "I'm trans. I'm a person of color. I'm an immigrant. I'm a lesbian. I'm a gay man. I'm the disabled. I'm everything. And so are you."

Milano is a straight, white, able-bodied, native-born woman, so her tweets received significant pushback from conservatives who reject the concept of "fluid" identities, as well as liberals who resented the implication that the actress was

"appropriating" their experiences from a position of "privilege".

Following the backlash, Milano tweeted that she was "happy people are voicing concerns here," "ok being made the example," and "glad this tweet invoked conversation."

"I'm so sorry it offended some," she said. "I see you and hear you. But just a reminder, empathy is not a bad thing. Nuance is important and literal interpretation is not always intended. And I can identify with and not identify as. Both are powerful."

Despite having been raised nominally Catholic, Milano is now a pro-abortion activist who joined the Left's chorus of outrage against Supreme Court justice Brett Kavanaugh and the Covington Catholic High School students who attended this year's March for Life.



EVAN RACHEL WOOD OPENS ABOUT FACING DOMESTIC ABUSE IN TWITTER

Evan Rachel Wood has revealed that she used to self harm when she was involved in an "abusive relationship".

The *Westworld* star opened up about the abuse on Twitter Monday, using the #IAmNotOk hashtag in an attempt to raise awareness about domestic violence.

"Two years into my abusive relationship. I resorted to self harm. When my abuser would threaten or attack me, I cut my wrist as a way to disarm him. It only made the abuse stop temporarily. At that point I was desperate to stop the abuse and I was too terrified to leave," Rachel Wood tweeted, alongside a picture of

herself with scars on her arm.

The 31-year-old actor also shared photographs from a shoot which she attended during her time in the relationship, adding she "fell into a pool of tears" on the job and had to go home. "The day of this photoshoot, I was so weakened by an abusive relationship. I was emaciated, severely depressed, and could barely stand. I fell into a pool of tears and was sent home for the day," she said.

Rachel Wood recently opened up about her experience with domestic abuse during an interview with Dax Shepard for his *Armchair Expert* podcast.

Ethiopian crash: black boxes arrive in Paris for analysis

PARIS/ADDIS ABABA (TIP): Two black boxes from the Boeing 737 MAX airplane that crashed in Ethiopia arrived on March 14 in Paris for expert analysis, officials said, as regulators around the world awaited word on whether it was safe to resume flying the jets.

A spokesman for France's BEA air accident investigation agency said the flight data and cockpit voice recorders would be handed over to the agency later in the day.

Their data are critical to finding out what caused the brand new aircraft to plunge to the ground shortly after taking off from Addis Ababa on Sunday.

Following the lead of other global aviation regulators unnerved by the second crash involving a 737 MAX in less than five months, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued orders on Wednesday for the planes to be grounded.

Boeing, which maintained that its planes were safe to fly, said in a statement that it supported the FAA move.

"Boeing has determined - out of an abundance of caution and in order to reassure the flying public of the aircraft's safety - to recommend to the FAA the temporary suspension of operations of the entire global fleet of 371 737 MAX aircraft." The FAA along with the National Transportation Safety Board, the Ethiopian civil aviation authority, and Boeing, have been investigating the crash at the site, some 60 km (around 40 miles) outside the Ethiopian capital.

On Thursday morning in Addis Ababa, grieving relatives of some of the 157 victims of Sunday's air disaster boarded buses for a three-hour journey to the crash site. Others described their visit on Wednesday to the arid farmland where the passenger jet crashed. (Reuters)

Venezuela seeks to restore power amid looting; China offers help

CARACAS/MARACAIBO, VENEZUELA (TIP): President Nicolas Maduro's government scrambled on Wednesday to return power to western Venezuela following heavy looting in the country's second largest city, while China offered to help the OPEC-member nation end its worst blackout on record.

Power had returned to many parts of Venezuela after a nationwide outage last week, with the country's main port terminal of Jose, which is crucial for oil exports, resuming operations. The government said people could return to work on Thursday, following several consecutive public holidays due to the lack of electricity.

School will remain suspended for 24 more hours, Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez said in a state television broadcast on Wednesday, adding that power supply had been broadly restored but problems remained in some areas with transformers that had been "sabotaged."

The ruling Socialist Party blamed the outage on U.S. sabotage, accusing President Donald Trump of being responsible for several cyber attacks on Venezuela's main dam. "Our position is the same: the conditions are not ripe for mediation or dialogue," said opposition legislator Fernando Sucre, adding that there had not been talks with Norway. "The agony of the Venezuelan people has increased because of the electricity disaster, and it cannot keep being extended." Reuters

Indian origin Women on All-Women Panel to judge Annual UK-India Awards 2019

LONDON (TIP): An all-women panel will judge the third annual UK-India Awards 2019, India Inc. announced, March 8- International Women's Day 2019. India Inc. is a London-based media house that produces incisive content and events on investment, trade and policy matters relating to India's increasingly globalised economic and strategic agenda. Its flagship publication is the fortnightly 'India Global Business'. In addition, India Inc. also organises several high impact events.

A panel of experts and Influential figures will judge the UK-India Awards 2019 with leading roles in the UK-India international partnership.

The full panel includes:

- Shalni Arora, CEO of Savannah Wisdom, a private family charitable foundation and winner of the Beacon Award for Philanthropy
- Deborah D'Aubney, Director and Chief Counsel, Rolls Royce plc
- Ruth Davidson, Leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist party, and Member Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Central
- Rt Hon. Patricia Hewitt, Chair of the Advisory Board for the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, former Chair of the UK India Business Council and long-serving UK Cabinet Minister
- Gina Miller, Co-Founder of Lead Not Leave, an organisation campaigning for the UK to take the lead in reforming the European Union from within, and Founder of True & Fair Foundation
- Falguni Nayar, Founder of Nykaa, Founding Member of the Asia Society in India and one of Fortune India's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business in 2018

The Awards will be presented at a glittering showcase in London on 28 June to conclude UK-India Week 2019, a week of celebrations of the partnership between global Britain and



An all-women panel will judge the third annual UK-India Awards 2019

India. The UK-India Awards is an exclusive event celebrating the winning partnership with a star-studded cast of VIP guests, celebrated entertainers and influential figures from business and the public sphere. Now in its third year, the UK-India Awards 2019 promises another glamorous evening bringing together over 400 senior global leaders and changemakers from the world of business, technology, innovation, politics, diplomacy, media, arts & culture around the world. The UK-India Awards celebrates special talents and recognises individuals and organisations who use their worldwide influence to strengthen the countries' bond, create a truly global partnership, and inspire the next generation of leaders.

India Inc. Founder and CEO Manoj Ladwa, the Founder of UK-India Week, said:

"As bold partners on the world stage, the UK and India are leaders in tackling global issues, driving change and innovation and excelling in business and leadership."

"This is the first ever all-women panel

judging panel for the UK-India Awards. Women are setting the pace in global ties between the UK and India and making enormous contributions to the global influence of these two partners. Our all-star panel of judges will ensure they are duly recognised." UK-India Week sets the pace for the two global nations' bold, winning partnership, showcasing the potential for collaboration between the two countries.

UK-India Week launches with 'India Day', a day of broad discussion and valuable debate tackling issues central to the future of the global partnership. UK-India Week's cornerstone event is India Inc. Leaders' Summit, a two-day exchange of enterprise, innovation and opportunity which convenes international business leaders, change-makers and entrepreneurs to enhance collaboration. It concludes with the UK-India Awards, a star-studded show celebrating people and organisations who, with their worldwide influence, are creating new frontiers for the UK-India partnership.

British lawmakers back Brexit delay

LONDON (TIP) : British lawmakers voted overwhelmingly on March 14 to seek a delay in Britain's exit from the European Union, setting the stage for Prime Minister Theresa May to renew efforts to get her divorce deal approved by parliament next week.

Lawmakers approved by 412 votes to 202 a motion setting out the option to ask the EU for a short delay if parliament can agree on a Brexit deal by March 20 — or a longer delay if no deal can be agreed in time.

The vote makes it likely that the March 29 departure date set down in law, which May has repeatedly emphasised, is likely to be missed, although it is unclear by how long. The short delay envisaged in the motion could last until June 30, but the longer extension is not currently time-limited.

It would require unanimous approval from the other 27 EU members, whose leaders meet in a summit next Thursday. May hopes the threat of a long delay will push Brexit supporters in her Conservative Party and members of the Democratic Unionists, the small Northern Irish party that props up her minority government in parliament, to back her deal at the third attempt.

A new vote on May's deal is likely next week, when those lawmakers must decide whether to back a deal they feel does not offer a clean break from the EU, or reject it and accept that Brexit could be watered down or even thwarted by a long delay.

Her spokesman said ministers had agreed to "redouble their resolve" to secure a deal.

Earlier on Thursday, lawmakers voted by 334 to 85 against a second referendum on EU membership. Few opposition lawmakers backed the measure and even campaigners for a "People's Vote" said the time was not yet right for parliament to vote on it.

The government narrowly averted an attempt by lawmakers to seize the agenda on March 20 with the aim of forcing a discussion of alternative Brexit options — possibly limiting May's options when she takes her case for delay to the EU.

Thursday's vote does not mean a delay is guaranteed; EU consent is needed, and the default date for Britain to leave if there is no agreement is still March 29. May's spokesman said the government was still making preparations for a no-deal exit.

Her authority hit an all-time low this week after a series of parliamentary defeats and rebellions. But she has made clear her deal remains her priority, despite twice being overwhelmingly rejected, in January and again on Tuesday.

May's spokesman said earlier on Thursday that she would put that deal, struck after two-and-a-half years of talks with the EU, to another vote "if it was felt that it were worthwhile". — Reuters

Hit by an arrow, mobile phone dies saving Australian man

MELBOURNE (TIP): An Australian man had a lucky escape while confronting a man armed with a bow outside his home, as a loosed arrow pierced the mobile telephone he was holding to take a photograph of the incident, Australian police said on March 14.

The 43-year old man had returned on Wednesday to find the man, who was known to him, waiting outside his home in Nimbin, a small east coast town around 150 kilometres (93 miles) south of Brisbane.

"The resident held up his mobile phone to take a photo of the armed man who then engaged the bow and was ready to fire," a police statement said.

"It's alleged the man fired the arrow at the resident, which pierced through the man's mobile phone causing the phone to hit him in the chin. It left a small laceration that didn't require medical treatment."

A 39-year old man was arrested at the scene and charged, police said. Reuters

LATHMAAR HOLI

In what is known as the hub of holi in India - Barsana, Holi is known as Lathmaar Holi. Sounds violence?? There is more violence than the name signals off. The stick is in the hands of the women on this day and the men need to work a lot to save themselves from the immensely charged up womenfolk.

The birth place of Lord Krishna's beloved Radha, Barsana celebrates Holi with extreme enthusiasm as Krishna was famous for playing pranks on Radha and gopis. In fact, it was Krishna who started the tradition of colours by first applying colour on Radha's face.

Womenfolk, of Barsana it seems, after thousands of centuries want to take a sweet revenge of that prank of Krishna. Even men have not left their mischief and are still eager to apply colour on the women of Barsana.

Following the tradition, men of Nandgaon, the birthplace of Krishna, come to play Holi with the girls of Barsana, but instead of colours they are greeted with sticks.

Completely aware of what welcome awaits them in Barsana, men come fully padded and try their best to escape from the spirited women. Men are not supposed to retaliate on the day. The unlucky ones are forcefully led away and get a good thrashing from the women. Further, they are made to wear a female attire and dance in public. All in the spirit of Holi.

The next day, it is the turn of men of Barsana. They reciprocate by invading Nandgaon and drench the womenfolk of Nandgaon in colours of kesudo, naturally occurring orange-red dye and palash. This day, women of Nadagow beat the invaders from Barsana. It is a colourful site.

Hola Mohalla

Holi gets this joyful name in the state of Punjab. The festival is celebrated in an entirely different manner, its meaning and significance also shifts a little here.

Hola Mohalla is actually an annual fair that is organised in a large scale at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab on the day following the festival of Holi. Practise of holding a fair of this kind was initiated by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru. Purpose of the fair was to physically strengthen the Sikh community by holding military exercises and mock battles. The festival is celebrated for three consecutive days, in which members of Sikh community display their physical strength by performing dare-devil acts like bareback horse-riding, standing erect on two speeding horses, Gatka (mock encounters), tent pegging etc. This is followed by music and poetry competition to lighten the charged up atmosphere.

A number of durbars are also held where Sri Guru Granth Sahib is present and kirtan and religious lectures take place. This helps strengthening the soul of community. On the last day a long procession, led by Panj Pyaras, starts from Takth Keshgarh Sahib, one of the five Sikh religious seats, and passes through various important gurdwaras like Qila Anandgarh, Lohgarh Sahib, Mata Jitoji and terminates at the Takth.

For people visiting Anandpur Sahib, langars (voluntary community kitchens) are organized by the local people as a part of sewa (community service). Raw materials like wheat flour, rice, vegetables, milk and sugar is provided by the villagers living nearby. Women volunteer to cook and others take part in cleaning the utensils. Traditional cuisine is served to the pilgrims who eat while sitting in rows on the ground.

Dulandi Holi

Holi receives this name in the state of Haryana. Here, bhabhi - the brothers wife gets an upper hand on the day of holi. And, devar's - husband's younger brothers need to watchout. The bhabhi's on this day get a social sanction on Holi to beat their devars and make them pay the price of all the pranks they played on them for the entire year. Bhabhi's roll up their saris in the form of a rope in a mock rage, and give a good run to their devars.

In the evening, devars are supposed to bring sweets for their dear bhabhi. Besides, there is also a tradition of breaking the pot of buttermilk hung high in the street by forming a human pyramid.



Rangpanchami

People of Maharashtra commonly know this festival of colours by the name of Rangpanchami as the play of colours is reserved for the fifth day here. Locals of Maharashtra also know Holi as Shimga or Shimgo.

The festival is particularly popular amongst fisher folk. They celebrate it in on a large scale and revel in the festivities by singing, dancing and merry-making. This special dance provide them means to release all their repressed feelings, needs and desires. People also utter sound through their mouths in a peculiar fashion by striking their mouths with the back of their hands.

Basant Utsav

Holi by the name of Basant Utsav is celebrated with fervour in the state of West Bengal. The tradition of Vasantotsav, meaning Spring Festival was started by poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Shantiniketan, the University he founded. What is appreciated is the grace and dignified manner in which Vasant Utsav is celebrated in West Bengal as compared to boisterous Holi witnessed in most parts of India. Boys and girls joyfully welcome Spring, the season of hope not just with colours but with songs, dance, chanting of hymns in the serene ambiance of

Shantiniketan. Anybody who got a chance to witness this elegant way of celebrating Holi in Bengal remembers it with fond memory for the rest of his life.

Phagu Purnima

Phagu Purnima is another name for Holi where Phagu means the sacred red powder and Purnima or Pune is the full moon day, on which the festival ends.

At some places like Bihar, Holi is also known as Phagwa as it is celebrated in the later part of the month of Phalgun and the early part of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar. This corresponds to the English months of March-April. The concept of New Year (Samvatsar) varies in the different provinces of our country. In some provinces, the month commences from the 'Krishna-Paksha' on the other hand in some provinces it commences from 'Shukla-Paksha'. For the former, the year ends on 'Purnima' of the month of Phalgun. The new years begins next day - Chaitra, 1st day of the Krishna Paksha. For them on this day the last year has died. For this reason in some provinces like Bihar and UP. Holika dahan is also called 'Samvatsar Dahan'. On this day all the bitterness and evil memories of the last year are burnt in the fire and the New Year is begun with a celebration.

HOW CELLPHONE USE CAN DISCONNECT YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Cell phones are an invaluable technology that has fundamentally changed the way we communicate and get information. But as with anything good, too much of it can lead to problems. A growing body of research is highlighting the various drawbacks of overusing cell phones and other mobile devices, including—ironically—the fact that all this communication technology is actually pulling us farther apart and negatively affecting our interpersonal relationships.

One increasingly-talked-about downside to constantly being attached to a cell phone is phubbing, or "phone snubbing," a trend that is unfortunately on the rise. Phubbing is basically defined as looking at a cell phone rather than interacting with the person you are with, and research shows that it can damage your relationship with your romantic partner and may also harm your bond with your kids.

Overusing cell phones and cell phone addiction are the compulsive companions to phubbing, and like phubbing, they are increasingly becoming problems for more and more people. Being constantly attached to our cell phones is taking a toll, not just on our relationships but on our mental and emotional well-being, affecting our overall health.

Signs that your partner is addicted to their Smartphone

YOU GET IGNORED: Talking to them is like talking to a wall as they are so zoned out in their phone that they ignore



you. And it's not like they purposely do it, it's just the extent of their Smartphone addiction.

YOUR PARTNER IS EASILY DISTRACTED: It's tough to get your partner's attention as they are always distracted: they can't properly pay attention to you. As a result, intimacy in the relationship suffers.

YOUR PARTNER GETS ANXIOUS WITHOUT THEIR PHONE: Without their phone, they are like a fish without water; they get anxious.

Ways to deal with the problem

A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL

CONVERSATION: By being confrontational or judgmental towards partner, you will worsen the situation. Empathize and try to make them self-aware about how their Smartphone addiction is ruining the relationship.

CREATE GADGET FREE ZONE AND TIME: Addiction doesn't go away in an instant, it takes time. Therefore, creating gadget free zones in the house and gadget free time, where you and your partner converse in the absence of cell phone is imperative.

GET HELP: If the above two don't help then your partner has got a serious problem and needs professional help.

Millennial women are letting men take care of the money

Marielle Schurig spoke to a group of women at a wellness event at Lululemon Athletica Inc.'s store in New York's Flatiron district, after they'd sweat it out together in a yoga and circuit-training class. Following her remarks, attendees lined up for an hour to talk to her about their finances.

The women told Schurig, 31, an account vice president at UBS Financial Services Inc., that they let their spouses or partners decide on money matters. Despite investing hours in self-care, many of the self-proclaimed feminists admitted that they had taken a back seat in their own financial affairs.

That's not uncommon: 59% of women age 20 to 34 defer investing and financial planning to spouses, according to a survey by UBS Group AG that was released Wednesday. The Swiss bank found that younger women are more likely than earlier generations to give such leeway to their partners.

"I was really surprised to see that," Schurig said in an interview at UBS's office in New York. "You see women fighting for equal rights and equal opportunities, for respect in the workplace and at home. There's all these women running for political office. We continue talking about breaking glass ceilings. But once we make the money and get those positions, what are we doing with it?"

UBS Global Wealth Management polled 3,652 women globally with a minimum of \$250,000 in investable assets. Millennial women cite other responsibilities as being more urgent than investing and financial planning, according to the



study. And younger women often don't include financial health as a factor in their well-being, said Schurig, a regular at SoulCycle.

"Women will spend a lot of time researching the best skin care, makeup product - they're not sitting down and examining their financial life," she said. "It'll be hard for us to be fully equal with men if we're not on the same financial page as them."

FOOD CORNER



CHEESE AND GARLIC PITA WEDGES

Ingredients

- 1 whole wheat pita bread or 1 pizza base
- 6 tbsp melted butter
- 2 flakes of garlic - crushed (½ tsp)
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh basil or 1 tsp oregano
- ½ cup grated mozzarella or pizza cheese
- A pinch of salt & pepper

Method

- Slit pita bread/pizza base horizontally from the centre to get 2 thin rounds.
- Cut each pita bread/pizza base round equally into 8 wedges (triangular pieces). This way you have 16 pieces in all.
- Combine butter, garlic, basil, salt and pepper, brush over inner/cut side of bread wedges, then sprinkle with mozzarella cheese.
- Place in single layer on oven trays.
- Bake in a hot oven for 5-6 minutes at 200°C or until crisp.



KEEMA SAMOSA

Ingredients

- Mutton mince ½ kg, ginger 1" piece, garlic - a few flakes
- Garam masala 1 ½ tsp, coriander leaves chopped 2 tbsps, Mint leaves chopped 2 tbsps, Onion finely chopped 1 no, Green chilies cut fine 4 nos, Thick curd 1 tbsp, Maida 300 gms, Oil for frying, Salt to taste To taste

Preparation

- Make a stiff dough with the maida, 4 tablespoons oil and salt. Make 20 medium sized balls of this dough.
- Roll thin round chappatis of the balls. Heat a tava and roast the chappatis on one side only.
- Make all the chappatis in the same way.
- Now cut each chappati into two pieces and keep them covered.
- Using a little water make a thick paste of 2 tablespoons maida and keep aside. Make a paste of ginger and garlic
- Heat oil in a frying pan and fry the onions, chilies and ginger and garlic paste.
- Now add the mince meat, salt and cook on a low flame till done.
- Add the garam masala, curd, coriander and mint leaves and cook for some more time.
- Remove from the flame and let it cool.
- Make a cone of each half chappati and fill with the mince.
- Then seal the edges with the flour paste.
- Make samosas with the rest of the chappatis in the above manner.
- Heat oil well and deep fry the samosas till golden brown.
- Serve hot with pudina chutney.

SOON, NANO-BOTS MAY HELP DIAGNOSE, TREAT CANCER

Scientists have designed a nanorobotics system that may be used to study the properties of cancer, and help improve diagnosis and treatment of the deadly disease.

The nano-bot, described in the journal *Science Robotics*, is a set of magnetic 'tweezers' that can position a nano-scale bead inside a human cell in three dimensions with unprecedented precision.

"Optical tweezers—using lasers to probe cells—is a popular approach," said Xian Wang, a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto in Canada.

The technology was honoured with 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics, but Wang said the force that it can generate is not large enough for mechanical manipulation and measurement he wanted to do.

The system Wang designed uses six magnetic coils placed in different planes around a microscope coverslip seeded with live cancer cells.

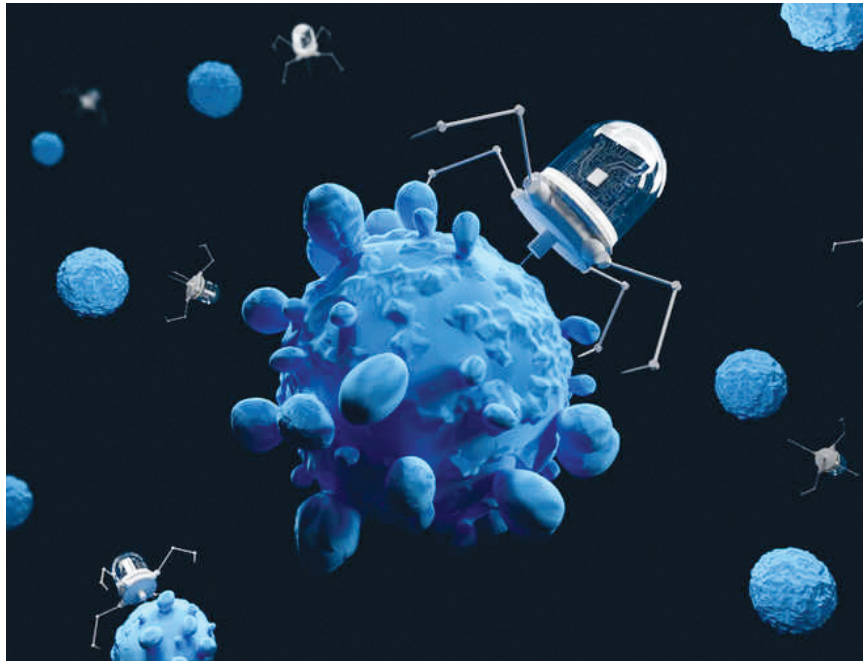
A magnetic iron bead about 700 nanometres in diameter—about 100 times smaller than the thickness of a human hair—is placed on the coverslip, where the cancer cells easily take it up inside their membranes.

Once the bead is inside, Wang controls its position using real-time feedback from confocal microscopy imaging.

He uses a computer-controlled algorithm to vary the electrical current through each of the coils, shaping the magnetic field in three dimensions and coaxing the bead into any desired position within the cell.

"We can exert forces an order of magnitude higher than would be possible with lasers," said Wang.

In collaboration with Helen McNeil and Yonit Tsatskis at Mount Sinai



Hospital in the US and colleagues, the team used the robotic system to study early-stage and later-stage bladder cancer cells.

Previous studies on cell nuclei required their extraction from cells. The researchers measured cell nuclei in intact cells without the need to break apart the cell membrane or cytoskeleton. They were able to show that the nucleus is not equally stiff in all directions.

The researchers also measured exactly how much stiffer the nucleus got when prodded repeatedly, and determine which cell protein or proteins may play a role in controlling this response.

This knowledge could point the way toward new methods of diagnosing cancer, researchers said.

"We know that in the later-stage cells, the stiffening response is not as strong," said Wang.

"In situations where early-stage cancer cells and later-stage cells don't look very different morphologically, this provides another way of telling them apart," he said.

"You could imagine bringing in whole swarms of these nano-bots, and using them to either starve a tumour by blocking the blood vessels into the tumour, or destroy it directly via mechanical ablation," said Professor Yu Sun from the University of Toronto.

"This would offer a way to treat cancers that are resistant to chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy," Sun said.

Source: PTI



Green tea may cut obesity risk, other health disorders: Study

Green tea may reduce the risk of obesity and a number of inflammatory biomarkers linked with poor health, a study conducted in mice suggests.

Mice fed a diet of two per cent green tea extract fared far better than those that ate a diet without it, according to the study published in the *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*.

The finding has prompted an upcoming study of green tea's potential benefits in people at high risk of diabetes and heart disease.

The benefits seen in the study appear to stem from improved gut health, including more beneficial microbes in the intestines of the mice and less permeability in the intestinal wall—a condition typically called "leaky gut" in people.

"This study provides evidence that green tea encourages the growth of good gut bacteria, and that leads to a series of benefits that significantly lower the risk of obesity," said Richard Bruno, the study's lead author and a professor at The Ohio State University in the US.

Negative changes in the gut microbiome have been previously linked to obesity, and green tea has been shown to promote healthy bacteria.

The team wanted to explore whether there was an argument for green tea preventing obesity, inflammation and other factors connected to poor metabolic health, Bruno said in a statement.

The results of studies looking at obesity management so far have been a real mixed bag.

"Some seem to support green tea for weight loss, but a lot of other research has shown no effect, likely due to the complexity of the diet relative to a number of lifestyle factors. Our goal is to figure out how it prevents weight gain," Bruno said. "This will lead to better health recommendations," he added.

Green tea has a rich history in Asian countries and has been increasingly embraced in the West, in part for its potential health benefits.

Catechins, anti-inflammatory polyphenols found in green tea, have been linked to anti-cancer activity and lower risk of heart and liver disease.

The researchers devised an experiment that examined green tea's effects in male mice fed a normal diet and a high-fat diet designed to cause obesity.

Female mice are resistant to diet-induced obesity and insulin resistance, a precursor to diabetes, so they were not included.

Blood holds key to liver regeneration, study suggests

The liver is the only organ in the body that can regenerate. A recent study shows that the blood-clotting protein fibrinogen may hold the key as to why some patients who undergo a liver resection, a surgery that removes a diseased portion of the organ, end up needing a transplant because the renewal process doesn't work.

"We discovered that fibrinogen accumulates within the remaining liver quickly after surgery and tells platelets to act as first responders, triggering the earliest phase of regeneration. But if fibrinogen or platelets are inhibited, then regeneration is delayed," said James Luyendyk, lead author of the study published in the *Journal Blood*.

Platelets are blood cells that help form clots and stop bleeding. When they receive information from fibrinogen, they go into action and accumulate in the remaining part of the liver to help restore it, increasing the chances of a fully functional liver and successful recovery.

Using samples from patients undergoing liver resection and a comparable model in mice, Luyendyk and his team noticed that when fibrinogen was low, the number of platelets in the liver decreased.

"This shows that fibrinogen deposits are extremely important and directly impact regeneration in both mice and humans," Luyendyk said.

According to Dafna Groeneveld, co-author of the study, their finding demonstrates that fibrinogen levels could be a predictive marker for doctors, too.



"Measuring this protein in liver resection patients may help us determine in advance whether the organ will regenerate successfully or if it will become dysfunctional," she said.

Researchers suggest that these findings could lead to new treatments that would help doctors correct low levels of the protein by using fibrinogen concentrates that can be administered during surgery.

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NASA MIGHT USE COMMERCIAL ROCKETS FOR MOON MISSION

NASA is likely to use a commercial rocket to launch its Orion crew capsule around the Moon next year, instead of the agency's future multibillion-dollar Space Launch System (SLS), administrator Jim Bridenstine said.

The change may occur, as it becomes increasingly likely that the SLS may not be ready to fly the crew capsule by June 2020, the Verge reported on Wednesday.

During a Senate hearing on Wednesday, Bridenstine said that "we need to consider, as an agency, all options to accomplish the objective", of sending the Orion crew capsule around the Moon.

"Some of those options would include launching the Orion crew capsule... on a commercial rocket," he said.

NASA has long planned to send the Orion crew capsule on a three-week trip around the Moon on a mission dubbed Exploration Mission 1, or EM-1. The flight is meant to serve as the debut launch of the SLS, which has been in development for the last decade and will be the most powerful rocket available when it's ready.

83 supermassive black holes found in early universe

Astronomers have discovered 83 quasars powered by supermassive black holes 13 billion light-years away from the Earth, from a time when the universe was less than 10 per cent of its present age.

"It is remarkable that such massive dense objects were able to form so soon after the Big Bang," said Michael Strauss, a professor at Princeton University in the US.

"Understanding how black holes can form in the early universe, and just how common they are, is a challenge for our cosmological models," Strauss said in a statement.

This finding, published in *The Astrophysical Journal*, increases the number of black holes known at that epoch considerably, and reveals, for the first time, how common they are early in the universe's history.

In addition, it provides new insight into the effect of black holes on the physical state of gas in the early universe in its first billion years.

Twitter rolling out redesigned camera on its app

Microblogging site Twitter is rolling out the redesign of its camera feature that would now allow users to capture media and overlay location, hashtag or some words on a coloured label.

The app would now show media in a larger, more immersive format in the feed with the imagery appearing before the text in tweets, TechCrunch reported on Wednesday.

The redesign reflects on the company's plans on focusing on offering more visual content clicked on real-time lens.

"Tweet it! Our updated camera is just a swipe away, so you get the shot fast. Rolling out to all of you over the next few days," the app tweeted.

For now, no stickers, filters, light enhancements or other creative tools have been added on the Twitter Camera app and it remains unclear whether or not would such features would be included on the micro-blogging site's camera.



FACEBOOK DENIES CYBER ATTACK AS WHATSAPP, INSTAGRAM SUFFER OUTAGE

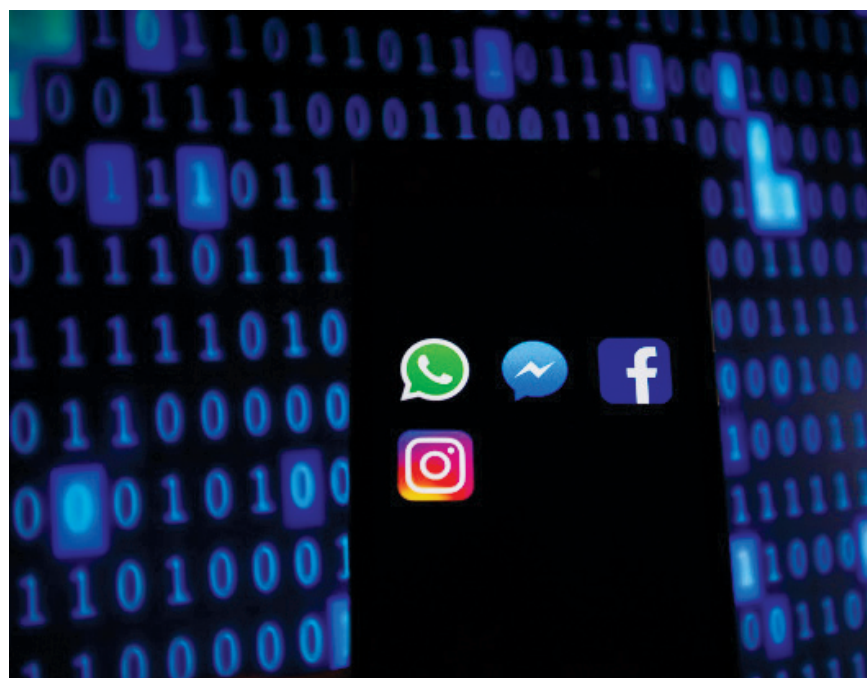
Facebook ruled out a cyber attack on its products Whatsapp, Instagram and Messenger, which suffered service outage for hours on Wednesday.

Users across the globe experienced problems sending messages on Facebook's messaging apps Messenger and Whatsapp. The social networking giant's image-sharing website Instagram also suffered service disruptions.

After users reported about the inconvenience faced by them on the websites and mobile apps, Facebook took to Twitter to respond, "We're aware that some people are currently having trouble accessing the Facebook family of apps. We're working to resolve the issue as soon as possible." The tech major confirmed that the problem was not related to a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) cyber attack.

"We're focused on working to resolve the issue as soon as possible, but can confirm that the issue is not related to a DDoS attack," Facebook informed the users, who believed the service disruption could be a "cyber attack".

Although the users could open Facebook and Instagram mobile apps,



they experienced troubles uploading posts, say reports. Internet users made their way to Twitter to complain about the hours-long service disruption with hashtags such as "#FacebookDown", "#InstagramDown" and "#Whatsapp".

Meanwhile, the social media outage became the butt of jokes on Twitter. Several Facebook users took to the micro-blogging website to tickle their funny bone with satirical comments, jokes and memes. *Source: IANS*

Google's Gboard gets offline AI dictation feature



Google is adding an Artificially Intelligent (AI) offline dictation feature on its Gboard keyboard for Pixel smartphones that would allow users to speak out emails and texts even without an Internet connection.

"We're happy to announce the rollout of an end-to-end, all-neural, on-device speech recognizer to power speech input in Gboard which is always available, even when you are offline," Johan Schalkwyk, Speech Team, Google wrote in a blog post on Tuesday.

Google has designed the feature to work at the character level.

"As you speak, it outputs words character-by-character, just as if someone

was typing out what you say in real-time. It is exactly as you'd expect from a keyboard dictation system," Schalkwyk said. To increase use-parameters of the speech recognition feature, Google said it has hosted the new model on device in order to avoid the latency and inherent unreliability of communication networks. For now, the on-device Gboard speech recogniser has been made available in American English language on all Pixel devices.

"We are hopeful that the techniques presented here can soon be adopted in more languages and across broader domains of application," Schalkwyk added.

Instagram adds option to turn off notifications

Facebook-owned photo-messaging app Instagram is giving users more control over their notifications by rolling out an option that would mute app notifications for a chosen period of time—much like WhatsApp's mute feature.

Called 'Pause All', the feature would switch off notifications for anywhere up to eight hours, Social Media Today reported on Wednesday.

"The option was spotted by social media expert Matt Navarra who initially spotted the same in testing last month. Given the amount of time we now spend on social media, it's good to have an option to shut it down completely every now and then," the report said.

The feature has so far been rolled out on iOS and the beta app on Android.

"Instagram is particularly well-known for driving obsessive behaviour among younger users. Being able to shut it off for periods will help people distance themselves from the online world," the report added. *Source: IANS*



BOEING WORKS TO MANAGE A CRISIS WITH UNKNOWN COSTS

When Boeing's Dreamliner was grounded in 2013, it took more than \$20 million and three months to fix the problem. The crisis over its 737 Max jet could be even harder to manage, given the incalculable reputational risk after two fatal crashes.

The short-term costs such as a software fix to the plane are likely to be manageable for Boeing, but the bigger financial unknown is whether airlines lose confidence in the Max, the company's best-selling jet. Some 4,600 planes are on order, accounting for around \$550 billion in future revenue.

Since the second crash, in Ethiopia on Sunday, shares of Boeing have dropped nearly 11 percent.

"Reputationally and financially, this is painful," said Richard Aboulafia, vice president of analysis at Teal Group Corp., a consulting firm.

With all of the Max planes now grounded around the world, Boeing's first priority is developing a fix. Boeing has been working with American regulators to roll out a software update and new training guidelines in the months since the first crash, off Indonesia in October. The update is expected by April, but a final solution could take more time depending on what investigators determine happened in the Ethiopia disaster.

The longer it takes to find a solution, the higher the price tag. The battery fix for the Dreamliner jets amounted to \$465,000 per plane, according to Carter Copeland, an analyst at Melius Research. Based on those costs, he estimates that Boeing could spend nearly \$1 billion to resolve issues with the 737 Max fleet. Airlines, which have 350 of the planes in their fleets, have also begun to demand compensation for their losses during the grounding. It costs an



GROUNDING OF BOEING PLANES MAY DRIVE INDIAN AIRFARES UP BY 20%

A pilot shortage for one. A cash crunch for another. And now the Boeing Max crisis. As Indian airlines ground plane after plane, passengers can expect to pay a lot more.

Airfares for domestic travel may rise by 20 percent heading into the annual school break, a prime time for families to travel, according to an online booking firm. "At least 50 planes are out of action owing to multiple reasons," said Sharat Dhall, chief operating officer of the business-to-consumer segment at Yatra Online Pvt Ltd. "That's an eight percent reduction of domestic airline capacity."

Meanwhile, Indians just keep flying more. The sector recorded 46 straight months of double-digit growth through to June 2018, according to International Air Transport Association, keeping it on course to becoming the third-largest domestic aviation market by 2024.

estimated \$1 million to lease a replacement jet for three months.

"It's quite obvious that we will not take the cost related to the new aircraft that we have to park temporarily," said Bjorn Kjos, the chief executive of Norwegian Air, which had to take 18 of the planes out of service after an order

from European regulators on Tuesday. "We will send this bill to those who produce this aircraft."

Boeing could also face lawsuits from the families of passengers who died in the disasters. The Dreamliner had battery problems but never crashed.

Source: NYT



Industrial output growth of China falls to 17-year low

BEIJING (TIP): Growth in China's industrial output fell to a 17-year low in the first two months of the year and the jobless rate rose, pointing to further weakness in the world's second-biggest economy that is likely to trigger more support measures from Beijing.

But a mixed bag of major data on Thursday also showed property investment was picking up, while overall retail sales were sluggish but steady, suggesting the economy is not in the midst of a sharper slowdown.

China is ramping up assistance for the economy as 2019 growth looks set to plumb 29-year lows, but support measures are taking time to kick in. Most analysts believe activity may not convincingly stabilise until the middle of the year.

Premier Li Keqiang last week announced hundreds of billions of dollars in additional tax cuts and infrastructure spending, even as officials vowed they would not resort to massive stimulus like in the past, which produced swift recoveries in China and strong reflationary pulses worldwide.

Source: Reuters

Merger of Radiant, Max Healthcare gets CCI nod

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared the proposed deal between KKR-backed Radiant Life Care and Max Healthcare.

The companies announced the proposed merger in a joint statement in December 2018. The combined entity will be valued at Rs 7,242 crore, according to the statement.

In a tweet on Tuesday, the fair trade regulator said it "approves proposed combination of Max Healthcare Institute Limited, Radiant Life Care Private Limited and Kayak Investments Holding Private Limited (affiliate of KKR & Co. Inc.)."

According to the joint statement, the deal will see KKR becoming the majority shareholder, while Radiant Life Care promoter Abhay Soi will lead the combined company as chairman. Max Healthcare promoters led by Anajit Singh would step down, it added.

Source: PTI

Premji pledges 34% Wipro shares for philanthropy

BENGALURU (TIP): IT czar and Wipro chairman Azim Premji has earmarked 34% of Wipro shares worth Rs 52,750 crore (\$7.5 billion) for his philanthropic activities, a statement said on Wednesday.

"Azim Premji has increased his commitment to philanthropy, by irrevocably renouncing more of his personal assets and earmarking them to the endowment, which supports Azim Premji Foundation's philanthropic activities," the city-based Foundation said.

With his new commitment, Premji's total contribution to the philanthropic endowment corpus is Rs 145,000 crore (\$21 billion), which includes 67% of economic ownership of Wipro Ltd, it said.

The Foundation works in the education sector, aiming to improve the quality of public schooling system, and supports other non-profit organisations working in the field through multi-year financial grants.

"Currently the field work in education is spread across Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Puducherry, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh, along with some work in the northeastern states," the statement said.

As many as 150 not-for-profit organisations working for the marginalised sections across the country have received the grants from the Foundation over the past five years.



US aims to cut Iran oil exports to under 1 mn bpd from May

WASHINGTON (TIP): The United States aims to cut Iran's crude exports by about 20 per cent to below 1 million barrels per day (bpd) from May by requiring importing countries to reduce purchases to avoid US sanctions, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

US President Donald Trump eventually aims to halt Iranian oil exports and thereby choke off Tehran's main source of revenue. Washington is pressuring Iran to curtail its nuclear program and stop backing militant proxies across the Middle East.

The United States will likely renew waivers to sanctions for most countries buying Iranian crude, including the biggest buyers China and India, in exchange for pledges to cut combined imports to below 1 million bpd. That would be around 2,50,000 bpd below Iran's current exports of 1.25 million bpd.

"The goal right now is to reduce Iranian oil exports to under 1 million barrels per day," one of the sources said, adding the Trump administration was concerned that pressing for a complete shutdown of Iran's oil in the short-term would trigger a global oil price spike.

Washington may also deny waivers to some countries that have not bought Iranian crude recently, the sources said.

The US reimposed sanctions in November after pulling out of a 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and six world powers.



Those sanctions have already halved Iranian oil exports.

To give time to importers to find alternatives and prevent a jump in oil prices, the US granted Iran's main oil buyers waivers to sanctions on the condition they buy less in the future. The waivers are due for renewal every six months.

"Zeroing out could prove difficult" one of the sources said, adding a price of around \$65 a barrel for international benchmark Brent crude was "the high end of Trump's crude price comfort zone."

contd from page 1

Senate Rejects by a 59-41 Vote...

"I look forward to vetoing" the resolution, he tweeted. Trump plans to reject the bill, which the Democratic-held House has already passed. In one tweet after the vote, he simply said, "VETO!" In a subsequent message, he said he looks "forward to VETOING the just passed Democrat inspired Resolution," thanking Republicans "who voted to support Border Security and our desperately needed WALL!"

Trump publicly lobbied the GOP to support his declaration in recent days. Republican lawmakers who voted to terminate Trump's action voiced concerns not only about presidents circumventing Congress' appropriations power, but also the prospect of Democratic administrations declaring emergencies on other topics in the future.

Here are the GOP senators who voted to block the emergency declaration: Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Roy Blunt of Missouri, Susan Collins of Maine, Mike Lee of Utah, Jerry Moran of Kansas, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Rob Portman of Ohio, Mitt Romney of Utah, Marco Rubio of Florida, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, Roger Wicker of Mississippi

Trump declared a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border last month to divert \$3.6 billion from military construction funds to build his proposed border wall. The move followed Trump's frustration with lawmakers' decision to allocate only \$1.4 billion of the \$5.7 billion Trump wanted for border barriers in a measure to fund the government through September.

With Trump's expected veto, Congress will not stop the emergency declaration. His administration will still have to defend its legality in court. More than a dozen states and several other groups have challenged the executive action.

Trump has repeatedly argued he has the authority to declare a national emergency. In recent days, he tried to frame it as a vote on whether to support his immigration policies - not on whether he overreached his authority.

Building a border wall was one of Trump's primary promises to voters in his 2016 presidential campaign. Trump repeatedly stated that Mexico, not the United States, would pay for it. Congress has not funded Trump's border wall requests, including during the first two years of the president's term in office when the Republican Party controlled the legislature. Earlier this year, a politically divided Congress provided limited funds to erect new fencing along small sections of the U.S.-Mexico border. Aside from congressional action, the national emergency declaration is being challenged in the federal court system as well.

Norway MPs want Nobel...

"Greta Thunberg has launched a mass movement which I see as a major contribution to peace," he added. Six months ago no one knew who Thunberg was when, as a 15-year-old, she camped outside Sweden's parliament next to a hand-written sign: "SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE". Since then she has gone global, striking a chord with younger people disillusioned by the slow progress of the adult world in halting climate change.

On Friday, thousands of students are expected to demonstrate in more than 100 countries in what activists say could be a milestone moment in a grassroots campaign to push world leaders into doing more. "We are only seeing the beginning," Thunberg, now 16, tweeted recently. "I think that change is on the horizon and the people will stand up for their future." (Source: AFP)

Trump's Former Campaign Chief...

Manafort is charged in a New York State Supreme Court indictment filed on March 7, 2019, with Residential Mortgage Fraud in the First Degree, Attempted Residential Mortgage Fraud in the First Degree, Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree.[1]

"No one is beyond the law in New York," said District Attorney Vance. "Following an investigation commenced by our Office in March 2017, a Manhattan grand jury has charged Mr. Manafort with state criminal violations which strike at the heart of New York's sovereign interests, including the integrity of our residential mortgage market. I thank our prosecutors for their meticulous investigation, which has yielded serious criminal

charges for which the defendant has not been held accountable."

Earlier Wednesday, a federal judge sentenced Manafort, who is 69 years old, to 43 months of additional prison time on conspiracy charges lodged by Mueller as part of his probe of Russian election meddling and possible Trump campaign collusion. Less than a week earlier, Manafort had received a 47-month prison sentence in another federal case lodged by Mueller. Manafort's combined prison time in the Mueller cases totals 7½ years.

CEOs, Actresses among others...

- and served as the CEO of the Key Worldwide Foundation (KWF) - a non-profit corporation that he established as a purported charity. Between approximately 2011 and February 2019, Singer allegedly conspired with dozens of parents, athletic coaches, a university athletics administrator, and others, to use bribery and other forms of fraud to secure the admission of students to colleges and universities including Yale University, Georgetown University, Stanford University, the University of Southern California, and Wake Forest University, among others. Also charged for their involvement in the scheme are 33 parents and 13 coaches and associates of Singer's businesses, including two SAT and ACT test administrators.

Also charged is John Vandemoer, the head sailing coach at Stanford University, Rudolph "Rudy" Meredith, the former head soccer coach at Yale University, and Mark Riddell, a counsellor at a private school in Bradenton, Fla.

The conspiracy involved 1) bribing SAT and ACT exam administrators to allow a test taker, typically Riddell, to secretly take college entrance exams in place of students or to correct the students' answers after they had taken the exam; 2) bribing university athletic coaches and administrators-including coaches at Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, the University of Southern California, and the University of Texas-to facilitate the admission of students to elite universities under the guise of being recruited as athletes; and (3) using the façade of Singer's charitable organization to conceal the nature and source of the bribes.

According to the charging documents, Singer facilitated cheating on the SAT and ACT exams for his clients by instructing them to seek extended time for their children on college entrance exams, which included having the children purport to have learning disabilities in order to obtain the required medical documentation. Once the extended time was granted, Singer allegedly instructed the clients to change the location of the exams to one of two test centers: a public high school in Houston, Texas, or a private college preparatory school in West Hollywood, Calif. At those test centers, Singer had established relationships with test administrators Niki Williams and Igor Dvorskiy, respectively, who accepted bribes of as much as \$10,000 per test in order to facilitate the cheating scheme. Specifically, Williams and Dvorskiy allowed a third individual, typically Riddell, to take the exams in place of the students, to give the students the correct answers during the exams, or to correct the students' answers after they completed the exams. Singer typically paid Riddell \$10,000 for each student's test. Singer's clients paid him between \$15,000 and \$75,000 per test, with the payments structured as purported donations to the KWF charity. In many instances, the students taking the exams were unaware that their parents had arranged for the cheating.

It is further alleged that throughout the conspiracy, parents paid Singer approximately \$25 million to bribe coaches and university administrators to designate their children as purported athletic recruits, thereby facilitating the children's admission to those universities. Singer allegedly described the scheme to his customers as a "side door," in which the parents paid Singer under the guise of charitable donations to KWF. In turn, Singer funnelled those payments to programs controlled by the athletic coaches, who then designated the children as recruited athletes - regardless of their athletic experience and abilities. Singer also made bribe payments to most of the coaches personally. Actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman are the high profile parents to be charged in the alleged scam.

Democrat Beto O'Rourke...

"I am running to serve you as the next president. The challenges we face are the greatest in living memory. No one person can meet them on their own. Only this country can do that, and only if we build a movement that includes all of us", the former Texas Rep tweeted. O'Rourke served on the El Paso City Council from 2005 to

2011. O'Rourke was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012 after defeating incumbent Silvestre Reyes in a Democratic primary. Instead of seeking re-election in 2018, he ran for U.S. Senate and was narrowly defeated by Republican incumbent Senator Ted Cruz.

O'Rourke drew national attention and broke fundraising records with his losing campaign against Cruz last year. O'Rourke raised \$80 million in the Senate bid, nearly all of it from small-dollar donors -- a record for any Senate candidate in any state, ever. He'll need as many as possible to stick by him now that he's competing with the likes of Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris.

Former Nassau County...

by Long Island based Indian restaurateur Harendra Singh. When they are sentenced by United States District Judge Joan M. Azrack, Edward Mangano faces up to 20 years' imprisonment on honest services wire fraud charges and conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud, up to 10 years' imprisonment for federal program bribery, and up to five years' imprisonment for conspiracy to commit federal program bribery. Edward Mangano and Linda Mangano each face up to 20 years' imprisonment for each obstruction of justice charge, and up to five years' imprisonment for each false statement charge.

Richard P. Donoghue, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, William F. Sweeney, Jr., Assistant Director-in-Charge, FBI, New York Field Office, and Jonathan D. Larsen, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, New York (IRS-CI), announced the verdict.

"As found by the jury, Edward Mangano abused his power as a public official by taking bribes and kickbacks from a businessman in exchange for helping him obtain loans worth millions of taxpayer dollars," stated U.S. Attorney Donoghue. "Among the personal benefits received was a lucrative no-show job for Linda Mangano. The defendants tried and failed to cover up their crimes by lying to the FBI and federal prosecutors and will now be held responsible for these crimes. No one is above the law. The Eastern District and the FBI will be relentless in our efforts to root out corruption at all levels of government in New York."

"In a quid-pro-quo wheeling and dealing, Edward Mangano effectively opened the door that unjustly benefitted restaurateur Harendra Singh, sat idly by while public funds were exchanged for favors, and waited patiently in the wings to accept a payout for the plan he put in motion," stated FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Sweeney. "In Linda Mangano's case, she kept up the ruse with a bogus job as food taster and menu planner at one of Singh's restaurants. Whether they believe it or not, today we've proven they bit off more than they could chew." "Serving the public is an honor, especially when that position is the result of being elected by the people," stated IRS-Criminal Investigation Acting Special Agent-in-Charge Larsen. "Mr. Mangano abused his elected office and the trust of his constituents. Our agents from IRS-CI diligently utilized their investigative expertise to prove these complex financial transactions."

The evidence at trial established that between January 2010 and February 2015, Edward Mangano engaged in schemes to solicit and receive bribes and kickbacks from Singh. In return for the cash and personal benefits he received, Mangano, who served as Nassau County Executive from January 2010 to December 2017, performed official actions to benefit Singh in connection with his businesses. Several weeks after Edward Mangano took office as Nassau County Executive in January 2010, he urged the TOB Supervisor to help Singh obtain financing in order to make required capital improvements at TOBAY Beach and The Woodlands at the TOB golf course, by authorizing the TOB to indirectly guarantee four bank loans totaling approximately \$20 million. Mangano used his official position to ensure that the TOB backed the loans. In April 2010, Singh hired Linda Mangano for a sham job as the purported Director of Marketing for Singh's businesses. On June 8, 2010, the TOB board voted to authorize the town to back Singh's personal loans for the beach and the golf course. Singh paid for five vacations, hardwood flooring, a custom-made office chair, a massage chair and a watch for the Manganos, as well as over \$450,000 in total for Linda Mangano's no-show job.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

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HINDU DEITIES & THEIR MEANING

Hindus acknowledge that, at the most fundamental level, God is the One without a second — the absolute, formless, and only Reality known as Brahman, the Supreme, Universal Soul. Brahman is the universe and everything in it. Brahman has no form and no limits; it is Reality and Truth.

Thus Hinduism is a pantheistic religion: It equates God with the universe. Yet Hindu religion is also polytheistic: populated with myriad gods and goddesses who personify aspects of the one true God, allowing individuals an infinite number of ways to worship based on family tradition, community and regional practices, and other considerations.

Here are just some of the many Hindu gods and goddesses:

Brahma, the Creator

Brahma is the first member of the Hindu Trinity and is “the Creator” because he periodically creates everything in the universe. (The word periodically here refers to the Hindu belief that time is cyclical; everything in the universe — except for Brahman and certain Hindu scriptures — is created, maintained for a certain amount of time, and then destroyed in order to be renewed in ideal form again.)

Vishnu, the Preserver

Vishnu is the second member of the Hindu Trinity. He maintains the order and harmony of the universe, which is periodically created by Brahma and periodically destroyed by Shiva to prepare for the next creation.

Vishnu is worshipped in many forms and in several avatars (incarnations). Vishnu is an important, somewhat mysterious god. Less visible than nature gods that preside over elements (such as fire and rain), Vishnu is the pervader — the divine essence that pervades the universe. He is usually worshipped in the form of an avatar (see below).

Shiva, the Destroyer

Shiva is the third member of the Hindu Trinity, tasked with destroying the universe in order to prepare for its renewal at the end of each cycle of time. Shiva’s destructive power is regenerative: It’s the necessary step that makes renewal possible.

Hindus customarily invoke Shiva before the beginning of any religious or spiritual endeavor; they believe that any bad vibrations in the immediate vicinity of worship are eliminated by the mere utterance of his praise or name.

Ganapati, the Remover of Obstacles

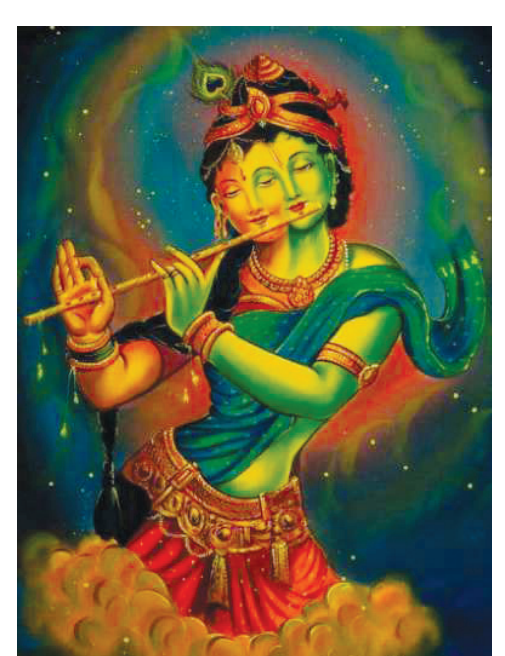
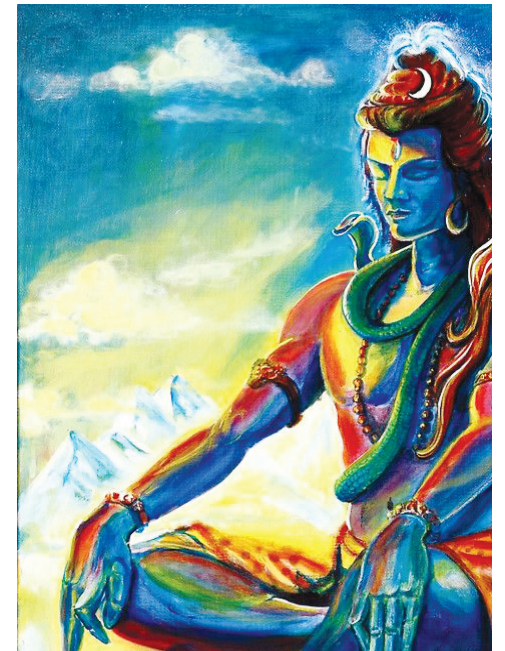
Ganapati, also known as Ganesha, is Shiva’s first son. Lord Ganapati, who has an elephant head, occupies a very special place in the hearts of Hindus because they consider him the Remover of Obstacles. Most Hindu households have a picture or statue of this godhead, and it’s not uncommon to see small replicas of Ganapati hanging from rearview mirrors of cars and trucks!

Avatars of Vishnu

The literal meaning of the word avatar is “descent,” and it’s usually understood to mean divine descent. Avatars are savior forms of a god that descend to earth to intervene whenever help is needed to restore dharma (moral order) and peace. Two of Vishnu’s ten avatars are Rama and Krishna.

Rama

Rama is one of the most beloved Hindu gods and is the hero of the Hindu epic called the Ramayana. He is portrayed as an ideal son,



brother, husband, and king and as a strict adherent to dharma. Millions of Hindus derive satisfaction from reading and recalling Rama’s trials and tribulations as a young prince who was exiled from his kingdom for 14 years.

Krishna

If one Hindu god’s name is known and recognized throughout the world, it is Krishna. Hindus identify Krishna as the teacher of the sacred scripture called the Bhagavad Gita and as the friend and mentor of prince Arjuna in the epic the Mahabharata.

For his devotees, Krishna is a delight, full of playful pranks. But most of all, Lord Krishna’s promise to humanity that he will manifest himself and descend to earth whenever dharma declines has sustained Hindu belief in the Supreme Being over thousands of years.

Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning

Saraswati is the consort of Brahma the Creator and is worshipped as the goddess of learning, wisdom, speech, and music. Hindus offer prayer to Saraswati before beginning any intellectual pursuit, and Hindu students are encouraged to offer prayers to her during the school/college term and especially before and during examinations.

Lakshmi

Lakshmi is the goddess of good fortune, wealth, and well-being. As the consort of Vishnu, she plays a role in every incarnation. (She is Sita, wife of Rama; Rukmini, wife of

Krishna; and Dharani, wife of Parashu Rama, another avatar of Vishnu.)

Durga Devi

Durga Devi is a powerful, even frightening goddess who fights fiercely in order to restore dharma (moral order). Yet, while Durga is terrifying to her adversaries, she is full of compassion and love for her devotees.

Indra, the lord of the gods

Indra wields a thunderbolt and is a protector and provider of rain.

Surya, the sun

Surya is a golden warrior arriving on a

chariot pulled by seven white horses.

Agni, the fire god

Agni holds a special place in Hindu fire ritual to this day as the sacrificer (the priest who performs the ceremony); the sacrifice (the ritual fire and the offerings made into it); and the witness to all rites.

Hanuman, the monkey king

Hanuman is featured in the great Hindu epic the Ramayana. He earned his path to deification by performing feats of strength, devotion, and courage while helping Rama (an avatar of Vishnu) in countless exciting incidents.

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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 suffer 35-run defeat in fifth ODI against Australia, lose series

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's quest to find the right combinations for the upcoming World Cup ended with a 35-run defeat in the decisive fifth ODI against Australia as they lost the series 2-3 here on Wednesday (March 13).

In what was their last game before the showpiece event in United Kingdom, the Indian innings folded for 237, exactly in 50 overs while chasing a 273-run target.

Australia had put on board 272 for nine, built around Usman Khawaja's (100) second hundred of the series.

It was India's first ODI series defeat at home since losing to South Africa in 2015 as their big guns fell silent on the day when the series was on line.

India also became the only side in the world to lose an ODI series twice after leading 2-0.

The home side dropped KL Rahul from the game, tried Rishabh Pant at number four and Vijay Shankar at five in the last-ditch effort to find right batting order.

However, chasing a challenging target on a tricky Feroz Shah Kotla wicket, India were strangled in the middle overs by the Australian spinners.

History too was against India since the hosts have not successfully chased a 250-plus total at the Kotla in the last 37 years. It was way back in September 1982 against Sri Lanka when they overhauled a 278-run target.

On the other hand, Australia, who were trailing 0-2 initially, made a remarkable comeback to grab their first ODI series win in India since 2009.

It is only the fifth instance that a team has won a series after being down 0-2.

The Australian spin trio of Adam Zampa (3/46), Nathan Lyon (1/34) and part-timer Glenn Maxwell (0/34) kept the Indian batsmen on a tight leash.

Only Rohit Sharma (56) could score a half-century, which included two reprieves.

India could not make a flying start, losing last match's centurion Shikhar Dhawan (12) early and managed just 43 runs in the 10 Powerplay overs.

Rohit was again slow off the blocks, hardly rotating the strike but found some elegant boundaries off the pacers.

The assuring presence of skipper Virat Kohli (20) did not last long as he too departed early, caught behind while attempting a cut off Marcus Stoinis. He added 53 runs for the second wicket with Rohit.

India threw Pant (16) in the line of fire by promoting him to number four but the local boy, who desperately required a substantial performance to back his claim for a spot in the World Cup squad, lasted only 16 balls.

He smashed leg-spinner Zampa for a six but was undone by Lyon, who had the left-hander caught at first slip.

Rotating the strike was key on this Kotla wicket but the Australian spinners kept the pressure on India with dot balls.

The extravagance cost both Pant and Vijay Shankar (16) their wickets as they went after Lyon and Zampa respectively.

Reduced to 132 for six inside 30 overs, India were out of the contest and Kedar



Australian bowler Marcus Stoinis celebrates after he dismissed Virat Kohli during the fifth ODI.

Virat Kohli's record is insane, I won't bowl to him: Shane Warne

The debate on whether India skipper Virat Kohli is as good as or better than the legendary Sachin Tendulkar shall not die down any time soon. But former Australia leg-spinner and current Rajasthan Royals brand ambassador Shane Warne has a fun take on this. Asked on and off about the two and who he considers best, Warne says he "would not wish to bowl to either of the Indian batsmen".

Speaking to IANS even as the Royals prepare for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League, Warne said while Viv Richards was the best ODI batsman he had seen, he would like to judge Kohli once his career is done.

Going back to who he would bowl to, Warne joked that he would rather bowl to someone like former South Africa batsman Daryl Cullinan, known to have been his bunny during their playing days.

Jadhav (44) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (46) just reduced the defeat margin.

Their 91-run stand off 103 balls, however, showed that there were no demons in the wicket.

Earlier, opener Usman Khawaja, who had not scored a century before arriving to India for this series, hit an exact 100 off 106 balls as he shared two big partnerships at the top of the order to set platform for the visiting side.

Australia were placed comfortably at 175 for one and set for a kill in slog overs, but India came back when Bhuneshwar got rid of Khawaja in the last ball of the 33rd over.

The visitors added only 97 runs in last 17 overs for the loss of seven wickets.

The left-handed Khawaja first raised a 76-run stand with Aaron Finch (27) after his skipper elected to bat in hazy and overcast conditions and followed it up with a 99-run partnership with Peter Handscomb (52).

Khawaja was yet again impressive

"Sachin in the mid '90s and also Brian Lara in the mid '90s were a class above everyone else. Not so much in the later half of their careers, but in that phase of four to five years from 1994-95 they were just a class above.

"Virat and Sachin are two completely different players altogether, but they are great. None (I would wish to bowl to) actually (Warne laughs). To me both are terrific players, I couldn't choose one," he said. "To me we all know Don Bradman was the best batsman and that is unanimous. Outside that, to me Viv Richards was the best player I saw. I would rather bowl to someone else. Bring me Cullinan to bowl to, he is easy.

"To me the best ODI batsman I have seen would be Viv and Virat. Virat's record is just insane--that how good he is. It is just so hard to judge a player when he is playing," he added.

with his footwork, handling the Indian spinners nicely before being caught at shot extra cover by Kohli off Bhuvneshwar.

The left-hander hit 10 fours and two sixes before driving straight to Kohli.

Jadeja then got rid of Glenn Maxwell (1) and Shami sent back Handscomb as Australia lost three wickets in the space of 14 balls.

Jadeja, who replaced Yuzvendra Chahal, made a strong case for himself for inclusion in the World Cup squad with figures of 10-0-45-2.

Jasprit Bumrah was exceptional in his first eight overs giving just 14 runs but Jhye Richradson (29) spoil his figures by creaming off four boundaries from his ninth over, providing one last push to Australian innings.

It turned out to be a forgettable day for chinaman Kuldeep Yadav who bled 74 runs in his 10 overs but he dismissed dangerous Ashton Turner (20) cheaply.

Source: PTI



GAVASKAR SLAMS MCC ONE BALL PROPOSAL IN TESTS

MUMBAI (TIP): Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar slammed the MCC's recommendation that single-make balls be used in Test cricket, saying that it would be "unfortunate" if the suggestion, which will take away the challenge of playing in overseas conditions, is considered seriously.

The World Cricket Committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), called the custodian of the game's laws, has proposed the use of a standard ball in the inaugural World Test Championship, which takes place after the World Cup in May-July. "Now we are hearing that they (MCC) are taking about standardising the ball, you might as well standardise the pitches, you might as well standardise the bat, you might as well standardise everything... What's the big deal in playing cricket... (there is this) whole idea of going overseas and winning... because you are playing in different conditions," said Gavaskar.

"The (MCC) World Committee is like Cricket Club of India or the National Cricket Club in Kolkata or Madras Cricket Club in Chennai. It is pretty similar to that, the MCC is saying our committee should (be) listened to (more than the) ICC Committee. And unfortunately a lot of people take them seriously," he added. Currently the SG brand ball is used in India, the Dukes brand in England and the West Indies, and Kookaburra in other countries including Australia and South Africa.

Source: PTI

SC asks Narasimha to play mediator

The Supreme Court has asked PS Narasimha, amicus curiae in BCCI matters, to also act as mediator for the state associations. The Bench of Justices SA Bobde and AM Sapre asked Narasimha to hear the state associations' concerns and suggest the way forward to the Committee of Administrators. A senior BCCI official said the move has come as a huge relief for the state associations, which now have the option of getting their issues heard. It will also bring to an end the generic affidavits being filed by the CEO in violation of the newly-registered constitution, he added.

Source: IANS

New Zealand-Bangladesh Test called off after shootings

NEW DELHI (TIP): The third Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh in Christchurch has been called off on Friday after gunmen opened fire at two mosques in the city, with the police saying there were "multiple fatalities".

The decision was made after discussions between New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). "Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of those affected by the shocking situation in Christchurch. A joint decision between NZC and the @BCBTigers has been made to cancel the Hagley Oval Test. Again both teams and support staff groups are safe," NZC said in a tweet.

The Bangladesh team had a narrow escape on Friday morning as they were in the vicinity of one of the two mosques where the shootings took place.

The players took to social media to inform fans and family that they were safe and also asked them to pray for the cricketers. Senior batsman Tamim Iqbal tweeted: "Entire team got saved from active shooters!!! Frightening experience and please keep us in your prayers #christchurchMosqueAttack".

Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim wrote: "Alhamdulillah Allah save us today while shooting in Christchurch in the mosque...We r extremely lucky ...never want to see this things happen again....pray for us."

The shootings took place at the Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Masjid. Police Commissioner Mike Bush said they had arrested four people so far but refused to give the number of fatalities.

Source: IANS



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE MARCH 18 - MARCH 24, 2019

Aries:-

Ganesha says from expertise and performance at work you shift these qualities and skills to all your interactions. Both friends and lovers fulfil all your needs and that's much to be grateful for. It is not seen to happen too often in these days. It is your own behavior, attitude and gentle handling that achieves this professionally, too. You will pay great attention particularly to the work front. You'll therefore find that it is much easier to get work done. To accomplish/achieve targets, deadlines, make presentations - you name it.

Taurus:-

This is as time of genuine achievements, progress, success in the eyes of the world. Even though expenses will soar, money will fly in equal case, so that you can both afford and enjoy the good things of life, and comforts and necessities for the quality of life that you're targeting. This will be in the areas of both leisure and pleasure, of home and work. Both family life and personal interactions, as well as professional ones, will not only blossom but bear fruit, too. You will make all the right moves in both sectors.

Gemini:-

You are smart enough to know what is required and know that now your skill at handling people that will be vital. You will be undertaking, or doing a lot of public relations work, and interacting with distinguished or influential people those in the hot seat, or in positions of power. This will be an important new trend and your work, projects, plans will check smoothly. The focus and concentration will, however, be equally on work and social activities, You're in the mood to be really good giver, now Pets and dependents will also need attention and care, along with children, extended family, relatives who look to you for guidance and support.

Cancer:-

You're taken on a lot, both in terms of work and of social and family commitments. You realize the need for both effort and ingenious thought, to make a success of it all. Money, too, will be vital. You'll be willing to take audacious risks and chances, both in money matters and in matters of the heart, in order to get, in order to get the results your heart desires. These will center around a happy mix of fun and work. There will be hectic activity, much hustle and bustle, but you'll feel it's well worth it.

Leo:-

You might even feel that you've bitten off more than you can chew, and there, could be both overt and hidden stresses to cope with, as well. A kind of rebellion, or some hidden resentment might make you take unusual activities. Sly movements, hidden and secret transactions, hush-hush deals, surreptitious meetings, and tie-ups. Even romance and love will be a bit of a "walk on the wild side". You could also feel at least a strong desire, if not a compulsion to float social worms in your desire to taste new thrills and experience.

Virgo:-

You're back to your usual self - committed, sober and respectable. You're had your thrills and now want to settle down to a more regular way of life. You realize that this what you really wish to do. It will lead to joy and fame, and yet centers you more in the home, the family your debts to society and the world. With this line of thought coming to you, you will naturally turn to house and home, family and property matters. Happy makeovers will definitely be the theme in all spheres of activity. Buying/selling, shopping for goods and chattels and assets, even investments on the stock market will all be successful and profitable.

Libra:-

You feel you've got the knack of accomplishing what you want to a certain confidence, even a sense of daring or bravado enter your psyche now, and influences your activities and total approach to life. The area that will be influenced most will be your financial dealings, activities. You will have to deal with funds, Joint-finances and loans, and a fair amount of buying and selling, too. This buying and selling may also include acquiring property, perhaps a house shift or move, or renovation of property to upgrade it, enhance its value. All round gains will be seen now.

Scorpio:-

This is a phase in which you really shine at the workplace. There will be truly be no stopping you now. Inspiration coupled with steady work makes an unbeatable combination. Your work hard and play hard. That, essentially, is the period in brief. It should need no further explanation, actually. You will not only look for ways and means, to ensure progress but now you will also try to identify, improve, in fact, streamline your own contribution to your progress.

Sagittarius:-

Recognition of your worth and efforts comes, with all the benefits and add-ons that this implies. It's not going to be a walk-over, though. You will have to resolve some personal matters of your own, align fresh priorities, and reassess your own values. You decided to put in the same effort, at domestic joy and success as you've done for your profession/business. Family matters will be such that a long spell of hard work required and will be the issues on the home front will have also to have time and effort, also a lot of attention. You will handle financial matters skillfully, and above all, luckily, and all matters will ease since pleasing fallouts, will make you able to spend well.

Capricorn:-

You've worked hard and long and also very sincerely to get your professional commitments and personal and family ones balanced well. All your efforts, you work and inputs now start to yield dividends in terms of success, happiness, and achievements. You'll be successful at the work place and contented, fulfilled happy, at home. All the deals that you make now and in July will pan out beautifully, as well. Thus this monetary security coming this period firmly sets the trend. Monetary gains are not all you get, in addition you will love and laughter, good times and romance, marriage, friends, good partnerships, companionship, collaborations.

Aquarius:-

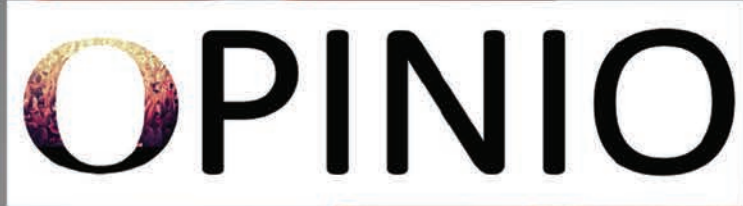
A time to look ahead at the final or ultimate gains, even as your work steadily now. All your future ambitions, plans and projects will necessitate a load of work to make them happen. Your activities will involve you heavily with collaborations and ties, (may be even romantic and/or marital ties) a fair amount of risk-taking and also travelling, or short trips possibly with a stopover, or just period ends out. However says Ganesha, your profession and your earning power are what you will concentrate on.

Pisces:-

Ganesha likes to reward genuine effort. He therefore makes this phase truly a pleasing one. This theme will have the 3 P's of power, position and pelf (money, in poetic language!) and also wealth, true gains and advancement socially and at work. You're raking in all kinds of benefits, and going from strength to strength. It reflects on family and personal life, very positively and pleasantly and also spurs you on not only in your ideas, true inventiveness but your creative talents and inspired moves, too.

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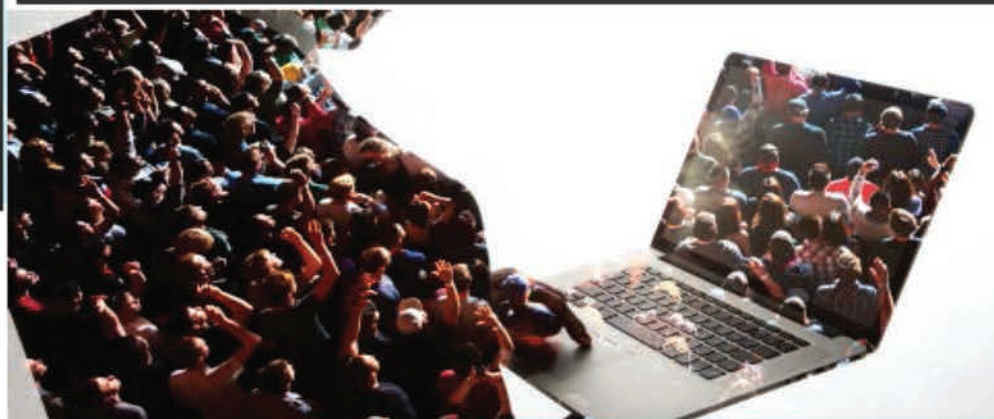
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