

US WILL NOT BACK DOWN UNTIL CHINA STOPS CHEATING WORKERS, STEALING JOBS: TRUMP



US President Donald Trump has said : "The era of economic surrender is over."(Screen shot)

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US will "not back down" until China stops cheating American workers and stealing its jobs, President Donald Trump said, May 9, as a top Chinese official started talks with his American counterparts on a trade deal.

contd on Page 20

U.S. businesses face significant market access barriers in India, says Secretary of Commerce

NEW DELHI (TIP): Pointing out that trade relationships should be based on fairness and reciprocity, US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross alleged that currently US businesses face significant market access barriers in India including tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as multiple practices and regulations that disadvantage foreign companies.

Ross was speaking at the Trade Winds Conference in New Delhi, India, May 7 where he said that their 'goal is to eliminate barriers to U.S. companies, operating here, including data-localization restrictions that weaken data security, and increase the cost of doing business.'

"India has the world's third largest economy, and by 2030, it is expected to become the world's largest consumer market because of the rapid growth of the middle class.

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US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation co-chaired the bilateral trade meeting in New Delhi, May 6



The **INDIAN**  **PANORAMA**

Future of Democracy in India - TIP Survey

India is going through the process of general elections to elect 542 Lok Sabha members and members to Legislative Assemblies in some States. The seventh and the last phase of voting will be completed on May 19, with counting of votes taking place on May 23.

The present election has raised many issues, the most important being whether or not Democracy in India will survive if the religion-centric BJP is back in power.

NRIs are a wide-awake class and have evinced keen interest in the political goings on in India. They may be citizens of any country, but they carry India in their hearts.

The Indian Panorama is conducting a survey on this single issue whether or not Democracy will survive in India if religion-centric BJP comes back in power.

Readers may please send in their comments (not exceeding 300 words) with their photograph and email / phone no. by May 12. Their comments will be published in May 17 issue of the newspaper. Please email to salujaindra@gmail.com. Mail to P.O. Box 190067 South Richmond Hill, NY 11419.

Ambassador Shringla gives message of solidarity to Indian community of Kentucky



Ambassador Harsh V Shringla with Governor of Kentucky Matt Bevin

LOUISVILLE, KY (TIP): On his trip to Louisville, Kentucky on 6 May 2019, India's Ambassador to the US Harsh V Shringla delivered a message of solidarity to the Indian community when he visited the Shri Maninagar Swaminarayan Temple which had witnessed an incident of vandalism in January 2019. Officials of the Temple showed him the place where vandalism took place. In his address, the envoy gave the message of peace and harmony. Earlier, Governor of Kentucky Matt Bevin hosted him.

contd on Page 5

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA JUNKS PLEA TO DEBAR RAHUL ON CITIZENSHIP ISSUE

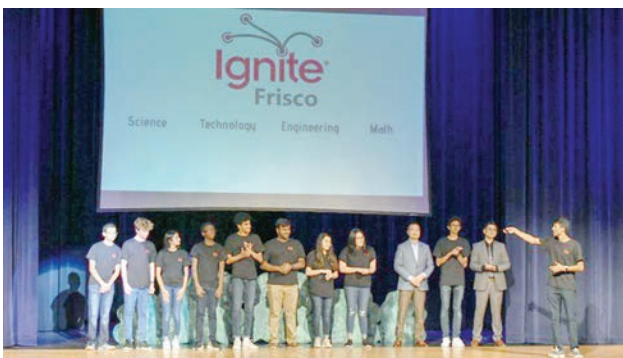
NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court, on May 9, dismissed a plea seeking directions to the Centre and the Election Commission to debar Congress president Rahul Gandhi



The Supreme Court dismissed, on May 9, a plea to debar Rahul on citizenship issue.

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Indian American High Schooler Introduces STEAM to Frisco, Texas, Community Via Fairs



DALLAS, TX (TIP): An Indian American teenager in Frisco, Texas, had a vision to hold an event to educate the community of the importance of STEAM, and he was able to execute it at a recent event.

Ritvik Ramakrishnan, a junior at Frisco's Memorial High School, held a citywide STEAM Fair, with coordination from his friend Harsha Kolachina, a senior at Lone Star

High School, according to a news release.

"My friend Harsha and I moved to Frisco at the same time. There were things in the Northeast that we wish we had here," Ramakrishnan explained, which included STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) fairs.

They put their heads together and decided to host a STEAM fair, which

they did in February.

"To execute this idea, Harsha and I recruited 16 people, including a social media team, sponsorship team, event outreach team and volunteer coordinating team," the young Indian American said.

Ramakrishnan and Kolachina acquired sponsors and also applied for an Ignite license.

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to the
Point



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Dhruv Patel creates history as first Indian Origin Chairman of London's Largest Charity

LONDON (TIP): Dhruv Patel, who founded the City Hindus Network, has become the first ever BAME (Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic) Chairman of London's largest independent grant giver. Mr Patel, an Elected Member of the City of London Corporation since 2013, was elected as Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee. He replaces Alison Gowman, who has served her full three-year term, and now becomes Deputy Chair of the Committee. "It is a great privilege to be in the leadership role of one of the UK's most important supporters of civil society. Together we will continue to help give all London's communities the opportunity to thrive, and give young people, in particular, the best possible start in life", said Patel.

Formerly the Committee's deputy Chairman, he will lead City Bridge Trust's Elected Members in delivering Bridging Divides, its five-year funding programme, which will see £100 million distributed to the capital's charities to help Londoners most in need.

City Bridge Trust is the funding arm of the City of London Corporation's charity, Bridge House Estates, making charity grants of £20 million a year to tackle disadvantaged communities across the capital.

In February 2019, Dhruv Patel received an OBE (order of the British empire) from Prince William, Duke of Cambridge for voluntary service to the British Hindu community and to Social Cohesion. Mr Patel, who is a



In February 2019, Dhruv Patel received an OBE (Order of the British Empire) from Prince William, Duke of Cambridge for voluntary service to the British Hindu community and to Social Cohesion

businessman with interests in property, retail pharmacy, and the London insurance market, became the first chairman of the City Hindus Network when it was established in 2005, and he held the position until 2010. He now serves as one of its three directors.

Since 2013, he has served as an elected member (Common Councilman) of the City of London Corporation.

With a keen interest in the community and helping others, in 2015 Mr Patel, became the City of London Corporation's first ever chair of a committee from a BAME background

when he was elected Chairman of Community & Children's Services.

The London born 35-year-old also serves as a director of the City of London Academies Trust, and is Deputy Chairman of the City Bridge Trust.

Mr Patel has been a Trustee of The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust since 2015. He is a Liveryman of The Clothworkers' Company and has sat on their Property Committee since 2016. He is also Chair of the Local Governing Body of the Avanti Court Primary School in Redbridge, a role he was appointed to in 2017.

Engineering Building at University of Houston renamed after Indian American Couple



*Durga Agrawal with wife, Sushila at their Houston area home.
Photo / courtesy University of Houston*

HOUSTON, TX (TIP): On April 26, 2019 an engineering building at the University of Houston was renamed the Durga D. and Sushila Agrawal Engineering Research Building in recognition of a gift from the Indian American couple that will provide ongoing support for faculty, students, research and building operations.

Indian American chancellor and president of the university Renu Khator, Consul General of India in Houston Dr Anupam Ray, members of the Indian community, students and faculty were present at the building dedication ceremony.

The \$51 million building, which opened in 2017, had earlier named a floor for the couple. Durga D. Agrawal, founder of Piping Technology & Products Inc., is a member of the UH System Board of Regents and a former member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

After arriving in Houston from India in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Delhi College of Engineering, Agrawal earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in industrial engineering from the UH Cullen College of Engineering.

Durga Agrawal was appointed to the University of Houston System Board of Regents in 2013 by Governor Rick Perry and will serve through August 31, 2019. For fiscal year 2018-2019, he will serve as chair of the Endowment Management Committee, vice chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee, a member of the Academic and Student Success Committee, and Board liaison for the Medical School.

Agrawal is also a member of the National and Texas Societies of Professional Engineers and is an advisor to the University of Houston Department of Industrial Engineering. He serves on the Cullen College of Engineering Leadership board and is also a past member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Agrawal is a member of the Board of Advisors and past president of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston, board member of Friedman Industries, and past president and current trustee of India House Houston. He currently serves on the board of directors of Asia Society Texas, and on the board of visitors at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Indian Origin ICE detainee passes away at Arizona's La Paz County Jail

PARKER, AZ (TIP): An Indian national in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the La Paz County Jail (LPCJ) passed away Friday, May 3 morning after efforts by medical staff to revive him were unsuccessful, according to an ICE release. An autopsy is pending to determine the official cause of death.

After posting bond on charges of assault and sexual assault, Simratpal Singh, 21, was transferred to ICE custody on May 2, 2019 at the LPCJ while he awaited transfer to an ICE facility. On the same date, LPCJ personnel found Mr. Singh unresponsive and not breathing. Local paramedics were called, and Singh was transported via ambulance to the La Paz Regional Hospital in Parker, AZ, and subsequently airlifted to the Abrazo West Campus Hospital (AWCH) in Goodyear, AZ. On May 3, 2019, at 1:58 a.m., AWCH declared Mr. Singh deceased. Consistent with the agency's protocols, the appropriate state health and local law enforcement agencies have been advised about the death, as have the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General and the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility. Additionally, ICE has notified the Indian Consulate of Mr. Singh's death.

India's Candidate Re-elected to UN International Narcotics Board

NEW YORK (TIP): In a significant victory, India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held elections by secret ballot May 7, with 15 candidates in the fray for five seats. Pavadia, who has been a member of the INCB since 2015, posted the highest number of votes at 44. Her current term is set to expire in 2020 and five-year term will begin 2nd March 2020.

Jagjit Pavadia has held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service for 35 years in the Government of India, including Narcotics Commissioner of India, Central Bureau of Narcotics (2006-2012); Commissioner, Legal Affairs (2001-2005); Chief Vigilance Officer, Power Finance Corporation (1996-2001); Customs Training Adviser Maldives, deputed by the Commonwealth Secretariat (1994-1995); Deputy Director, Narcotics Control Bureau (1990-1994); and retired as Chief Commissioner, Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax, Nagpur, in 2014.



Jagjit Pavadia has held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service for 35 years

She is Recipient of Presidential Appreciation Certificate for Specially Distinguished Record of Service on the occasion of Republic Day (2005),

INCB consists of 13 members who are elected by the ECOSOC and who serve in their personal capacity. Established in 1968, the INCB is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions.

INDIAN AMERICAN JAGRUTI PANWALA TAKES OVER AS NEW CHAIRWOMAN OF AAHOA



Jagruti is the first woman to lead the association in its thirty-year old history

SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): Indian American hotelier Jagruti Panwala took over as the new chairwoman of Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), the world's largest hotel owners association, during the association's 2019 Convention and Trade Show held at the San Diego Convention Center last month. She is the first woman to lead the association in its thirty-year old history since its founding in 1989.

Panwala already made history within AAHOA in 2016 when she became the association's first female officer and was named vice-chair two years later-again, the first woman to hold the position.

After studying finance and economics at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, she came into hospitality business. Today she owns several hotels including a Ramada Inn in Allentown, Pa., a Holiday Inn in Warrington, Pa., and a Best Western Plus in the Bronx, N.Y., which opened past September.

Jagruti is the driving force behind Wealth Protection Strategies. For almost twenty years she has been providing direction to individuals and businesses on asset protection and wealth transfer strategies, disability insurance, business succession planning, and life insurance options. She and her team also specialize in asset management and offer full advisory services. Jagruti has proudly been recognized as a top producer in the country.

Jagruti has been the recipient of numerous industry and company awards. Among them, she has qualified for her previous broker dealer Signator's Platinum Level ACE (Achieving Client Excellence) award and been named a lifetime member of the industry's Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Jagruti has also received Keystone's Associate of the Year & Leading Life Producer Awards for 18 years straight years.

Most notably, as an Investment Advisor Representative of Royal Alliance, she became the youngest inductee into her previous broker dealer Signator's "Hall of Fame" in 2014.

Richard Burr holds firm despite GOP anger over Don Jr. subpoena

THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE CHAIRMAN HAS NO PLANS TO WITHDRAW THE SUBPOENA FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SON

WASHINGTON (TIP): Richard Burr faces intense pressure from Republicans to drop his subpoena of President Donald Trump's eldest son and quickly wrap up the Senate Intelligence Committee's Russia probe.

But despite a day facing attacks from the highest rungs of party leadership, Burr is unmoved, according to colleagues in both parties.

The North Carolina Republican declined to address the criticism or the subpoena to reporters, but there is no talk yet of withdrawing the subpoena, according to Republican senators. Burr gave a brief update on the status of his Russia investigation at a Senate GOP lunch on Thursday, attendees said.

Burr, known for his independent streak, appeared happy to ignore the political storm he had fueled.

"I told you I'm not going to chat right now. I'm in the middle of something," Burr said as he made his way to lunch in the Senate dining room. Afterward, he posed for pictures with his lunch guests, then



Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr is fighting intense backlash from his own party for subpoenaing the president's son

walked into the Capitol and kept his public silence. Some of Burr's GOP colleagues, however, were eager to offer complaints that the Intelligence Committee is still working its probe weeks after special counsel Robert Mueller's report was released.

"The subpoenas can't happen without a Republican being for it, and I would hope that Republicans would stand firm and say enough's enough," said Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who is close to Donald Trump Jr. "This is a great sort of assault on someone, in the sense that you put yourself in jeopardy anytime you come in and testify."

"This is one great big politicized, political football," said Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), another Trump Jr. ally. He described broad GOP "frustration on what's going on at the moment. It's time to move on from these investigations."

Some Intelligence Committee members said the panel would need to address the controversial subpoena, which was issued by Burr and the Democratic vice chairman of the committee, Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia. The subpoena was sent days ago, but news of it leaked just one day after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) declared the Mueller investigation "case closed."

**(Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Indian American Consultants from California and Texas Charged with Visa Fraud and Conspiracy

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP): A federal grand jury indicted Kishore Dattapuram, Kumar Aswapathi, and Santosh Giri, charging the defendants in a visa fraud scheme on May 2, announced United States Attorney David L. Anderson and Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge Ryan L. Spradlin.

According to the indictment, Dattapuram, 49, of Santa Clara, Aswapathi, 49, of Austin, Texas, and Giri, 42, of San Jose, operated Nanosemantics, Inc., a Santa Clara-based consulting firm whose services included placing skilled foreign workers at software and technology companies in the Bay Area. According to the indictment, the defendants worked together to submit fraudulent H-1B visa applications on behalf of foreign workers in order to gain a competitive advantage over competing firms.

The H-1B visa program allows foreign workers to obtain temporary authorization to live and work for employers in the United States. In order to secure an H-1B visa, an employer or other sponsor must submit an "I-129" petition to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A petition and associated documentation must confirm the existence and duration of the job waiting for the worker, and describe key details including the wages associated with the position.

In this case, the defendants allegedly used Nanosemantics to submit fraudulent I-129 petitions and obtain H-1B visas for workers that the defendants could later place at local companies. By maintaining a group of available workers, the defendants would gain a competitive advantage over consultants that properly applied for paperwork only after matching a qualified worker to an available job. According to the indictment, several of the I-129 petitions submitted by defendants stated that particular workers had specific jobs waiting for them at designated companies when, in reality, the defendants knew that these jobs did not exist. Further, the defendants allegedly sought the cooperation of third parties to conceal their fraud. For example, defendants allegedly orchestrated payments by Nanosemantics to at least one individual for permission to list his company as the employer for foreign workers even though Nanosemantics actually intended to place the workers elsewhere. Further, defendants allegedly coached foreign workers and others, to respond to government inquiries in a way that would prevent the government from discovering the fraud.

In sum, the defendants all were charged with one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, and ten counts of substantive visa fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1546(a).

Indian American joins UH Cullen College of Engineering's Industry Advisory Board



Vidya "Sagar" Asalapuram is a solution architect at Kalypso LP, an innovation consulting company

HOUSTON, TX (TIP): An Indian American has been named one of the seven new members to Industry Advisory Board (IAB) of UH (University of Houston) Cullen College of Engineering's electrical and computer engineering (ECE) department. The IAB's newest member - Vidya "Sagar" Asalapuram is a solution architect at Kalypso LP, an innovation consulting company.

**(Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Ambassador Shringla gives message of solidarity to Indian community of Kentucky

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Ambassador's message of strengthening business and people-to-people ties between India and Kentucky found full resonance from the Governor and other interlocutors.

He also had extensive business engagements with UPS World port, GE Appliances, and Beam Suntory. Ambassador was welcomed at UPS Airlines by President Brendan Canavan. President of USIBC Nisha Biswal was also present. Ambassador Shringla toured UPS Worldport facility of over 5.2 million sq.ft that handles 4,16,000 parcels per hour. UPS considers India a priority investment area and has a hub in Mumbai with over 1000 employees. He also visited GE Appliance Park and met Kevin Nolan, CEO & Melanie Cook, COO.

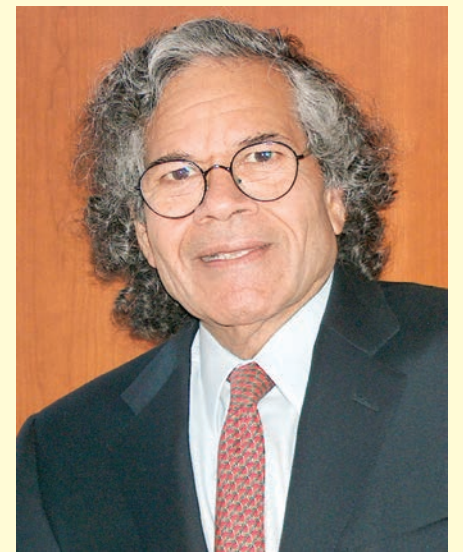
Later he attended a USIBC business round table event with Kentucky business



Ambassador Harsh V Shringla addressing the members of the Indian community at Shri Maninagar Swaminarayan Temple

leaders, including the President and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. The envoy also interacted with the Directors of the Western Kentucky University and University of Louisville and Indian students in Kentucky.

Indian American Pharmaceutical Entrepreneur Convicted of Racketeering Conspiracy



In 2017, Kapoor was arrested and charged with RICO conspiracy, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and other crimes

BOSTON (TIP): Insys founder and former Executive Chairman John N. Kapoor, 76, an Indian American billionaire pharmaceutical entrepreneur, and four former executives of Insys Therapeutics Inc. were convicted May 2 by a federal jury in Boston in connection with bribing medical practitioners to prescribe Subsys, a highly-addictive sublingual fentanyl spray intended for cancer patients experiencing breakthrough pain, and for defrauding Medicare and private insurance carriers.

From May 2012 to December 2015, the defendants conspired to bribe practitioners, many of whom operated pain clinics, in order to induce them to prescribe Insys' fentanyl-based pain medication, Subsys, to patients often when medically unnecessary. Subsys is a powerful, rapid-onset opioid intended to treat cancer patients suffering intense breakthrough pain.

The defendants used pharmacy data to identify practitioners who either prescribed unusually high volumes of rapid-onset opioids, or had demonstrated a capacity to do so, and bribed and provided kickbacks to the practitioners to increase the number of new Subsys prescriptions, and to increase the dosage and number of units of Subsys. The defendants also measured the success of their criminal enterprise by comparing the net revenue earned from targeted practitioners with the total value of bribes and kickbacks paid. The defendants used this information to reduce or eliminate bribes paid to practitioners who failed to meet satisfactory prescribing requirements, which they determined to be the net revenue equal to at least twice the amount of bribes paid to the practitioner. The bribes and kickbacks took multiple forms. In March 2012, Insys began using "speaker programs" purportedly intended to increase brand awareness of Subsys through peer-to-peer educational lunches and dinners. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

INDIAN AMERICAN INDICTED IN INVESTMENT FRAUD SCHEME

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (TIP): Ramesh Kris Nathan, an Indian American, was indicted on charges related to an alleged investment fraud scheme, announced United States Attorney David L. Anderson and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge John F. Bennett. In an indictment filed January 17, 2019, and unsealed today, a federal grand jury charged Nathan with fraudulently obtaining investors for a company with no legitimate underlying business activities by promising their money would be used to fund research and develop prototype spacecraft, space-related propulsion systems, and related technologies.

According to the indictment, between June 2016 and August 2017, Nathan, 37, a U.S. national whose last known address is in Chennai, India, created a Nevada corporation called Relativity Research Fund, Inc. (Relativity). Relativity had no legitimate underlying business activities. Instead, Nathan allegedly used the corporation to induce potential investors to provide funds for non-existent business enterprises. Further, Nathan allegedly opened and maintained a bank account using the name and personal identification of an investor who did not authorize Nathan to do so.

The indictment further describes how Nathan allegedly induced potential investors to provide funds by making false and misleading statements on Relativity's website and in emails to potential investors. For example, Nathan held out the company as being involved in the development of numerous technology-related enterprises including advanced robotics, space travel technology, and combustion-free propulsion systems. Nathan also represented that the company had a \$10,000,000 capital investment, had seven worldwide offices, employed 15,456 employees. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago celebrates 25 years of community service

Punjabi Culture showcased by next generation in Chicago at "Rangla Punjab 2019"



CHICAGO, IL (TIP): One of the most awaited cultural programs of the year, "Rangla Punjab 2019" organized by the Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago (PCS), was recently celebrated with great success. The local community, primarily those born and raised here, came together to celebrate the Punjabi festival of Vaisakhi. The event electrified the audience for

nearly five hours at College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, a suburb of Chicago. More than 1,000 people were in attendance at this sold out event, with about 300 participants, more than 25 acts, 10 merchandise vendors in the lobby, and about 50 PCS organizers and volunteers at the show.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

BJP LIKELY TO FALL SHORT OF MAJORITY: SAD MP GUJRAL

JALANDHAR (TIP): With just 10 days to go for the last leg of the Lok Sabha polls, Naresh Gujral, the Rajya Sabha MP of Shiromani Akali Dal — one of the oldest allies of the Bharatiya Janata Party — on Thursday said the saffron party is likely to fall short of absolute majority.

"The BJP may fall short of absolute majority but a stable coalition government will be formed by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in which all allies will get a true representation in the cabinet as per their seat number," said Gujral, who is camping in Jalandhar to supervise the ongoing election campaign of the party.

"I am not only one who is saying it, even BJP's senior leader Ram Madhav has predicted that party won't get a full majority," added Gujral. In the 543-member House, 272 is the number required to form the government. In 2014 elections, the BJP had scored a landslide win by bagging 282 seats.

Recently, Madhav, the BJP national general secretary, had said the saffron party will require support of its allies to form the next government.

Earlier, Gujral had warned the BJP over the issue of security of minorities and told it to respect the alliance partners, especially the regional parties.

"The Shiromani Akali Dal represents the farmers. So we will demand plum portfolios related to agriculture in the cabinet. We want implementation of the Swaminathan commission report so that farmers get their due share," he said.

On the statement of Subramanian Swamy that Modi will not be next PM if the party gets 220-230 seats, Gujral said: "Whosoever the BJP elects its leader, will be acceptable to us." On whether Punjab Lok Sabha results will be a verdict on party president Sukhbir Singh Badal leadership, Gujral said the leader is responsible for the victory or loss. "Sukhbir has always remained at the forefront for the party. That's why he is contesting in these elections," he added.

Source: HT

Abuses will help lotus bloom: Amit Shah

SANT KABIRNAGAR (TIP): Hitting out at the Congress and other opposition parties, BJP chief Amit Shah Thursday said the more their leaders hurl abuses at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the more the lotus will bloom.

Shah also asserted that nobody except Modi can make the country feel secure and no one can take away Kashmir from India as long as the BJP exists.

Referring to the airstrike on terror camps in Balakot in Pakistan, he claimed that Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders sulked after the operation and asked whether the terrorists killed were their "maternal-paternal brothers".

"The security of the country is of top priority to us. If a bullet (goli) comes to us from Pakistan, our people will retaliate with a shell (golaa)," Shah said amidst applause from the crowd at his rallies. The BJP chief was addressing rallies in Sant Kabirnagar, Siddharthnagar and Balrampur in UP.

Shah claimed that the Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have not spared Modi from any abuse since he hails from a poor family.

Be wary of 'khichdi' govt: PM Modi to voters

AZAMGARH (TIP): Mounting a blistering attack on the opposition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the voters on Thursday not to vote for a "khichdi" (coalition) government.

"Be wary of a 'khichdi' government," he told an election rally here. Stating that voting for the opposition alliance was fraught with danger, the Prime Minister said, "The 'mahagathbandhan' can only lead to anarchy and instability and make the country insecure." Azamgarh had become synonymous with terrorism, Modi said, adding that however, the scenario had changed since 2014, when the BJP-led government was formed at the Centre.

"Earlier, all terror activities had links to Azamgarh. But what happened after 2014 is for all of you to see," he said.

"How were bomb blasts brought under control in all the cities after 2014? How have terror activities been restricted only to Jammu and Kashmir now? It is because our government prioritised national interest. We entered Pakistan and attacked terrorists," he said amid applause from the audience.

Rahul talks about love and Congress calls me bandar, bichchu, Hitler: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hit out at Rahul Gandhi saying while he speaks of love, Congress leaders insult and abuse him by calling him "bandar", "chooha", "saanp" and "bichchu". Speaking at a rally in Kurukshetra, PM Modi on Wednesday said, "Some of their leaders call me Hitler; Mussolini while the others call me indecent, ill-mannered. Others call me rabies-infected monkey, rat, snake and scorpion."

"So many times have they crossed all limits of decency by abusing me. This shows in their dictionary of love. They have called me a stupid Prime Minister, called me maut ka saudagar. This is how they show love," said PM Modi at the rally. He then hit out at Rahul Gandhi who recently said that he only has love to shower on PM Modi after the latter said that Rajiv Gandhi died "bhrashtrachari number 1" of the country.

TALK ABOUT RAJIVJI AND ME, BUT ALSO TALK ABOUT RAFALE, SAYS RAHUL GANDHI



NEW DELHI (TIP): In the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attacks on the Gandhi family in his election rallies, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on May 9 said Mr. Modi was free to talk about him and his father Rajiv Gandhi, a former Prime Minister, but he must also tell the people of this country about the Rafale fighter aircraft deal and his promise to give employment to two crore youth.

"Mr. Modi, you may talk about Rajivji and me, if you want to. Speak about it with an open heart. But you must also explain to the people about what you did in the Rafale deal. You must also talk about your promise of two crore jobs," said Mr. Gandhi, at an election rally in Haryana's Sirsa in support of Congress candidate and party's State unit chief Ashok Tanwar, who is pitted against the BJP's Suneeta Duggal, a former IRS

officer.

With the crowd loudly replying, "chor hai", to him saying "chowkidar", Gandhi looked at the media people around and said it was the people of the country who were saying "chowkidar chor hai".

Gandhi also took a dig at Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" programme. The Congress chief highlighted the various schemes promised in the Congress's manifesto and asserted that they did not believe in talking their heart out, but in listening to what the masses wanted to say.

Accusing Modi of spreading "hatred", Gandhi said the former pitted one caste against another in Haryana and the people of Maharashtra against those from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He also made people of one religion fight against the other, Gandhi alleged.

Former Navy chief refutes Modi's claim that Rajiv Gandhi used warship INS Viraat for family vacation

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Chief of Navy Retired Admiral L Ramdas has refuted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claims that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi misused the warship INS Viraat for a family vacation in 1987.

Ramdas said he was on board the INS Viraat at the time as the flag officer commanding-in-chief of Southern Naval Command. The former prime minister and his wife Sonia Gandhi were on board the warship to visit Lakshadweep to chair a meeting of the Islands Development Authority in December 1987. "No ships were specially diverted for the personal use of the Gandhi family," Ramdas said in a statement, according to The Indian Express. "Only one small helicopter was left at Kavratti to meet any emergency medical requirements of the PM and his wife."

Ramdas said there were no foreigners with the Gandhi family and he had hosted a dinner for them on the ship. "There were no other parties held on board INS Viraat or for that matter any other ship in our fleet during that time," he said.

On Wednesday, Modi had said that INS Viraat had been deployed for maritime security when it was recalled for Rajiv Gandhi's use. Modi had claimed that Rajiv Gandhi's in-laws were also on vacation with him. The prime minister also alleged that an Indian Air Force helicopter was also put at the service of the Rajiv Gandhi family.

Ramdas pointed to written responses from retired Vice Admiral Vinod Pasricha, who was then captain and commanding officer of INS Viraat; retired Admiral Arun Prakash, then the commanding officer of INS Vindhyagiri, which was accompanying INS Viraat; and retired



Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on board the INS Viraat.

Vice Admiral Madanjit Singh, then the commanding officer of INS Ganga. Pasricha told Mirror Now that Modi's claim was "completely false". Pasricha said the former prime minister was on board the warship for three days during an official trip to Lakshadweep, but denied that there were any foreigners on the ship. "They never had any guests, they did not enjoy any hospitality on board Viraat other than routine eating and drinking," he said. "Not a single penny was spent by Mr Rajiv Gandhi or his wife."

Supreme Court, govt in fresh face-off on judges' appointments

NEW DELHI (TIP): For the second time in 12 months, the Supreme Court collegium has asserted itself against the executive on matters of judicial appointments and insisted on the elevation to the top court of two high court judges it has recommended, and proposed two more names, including the first Scheduled Caste nominee to the bench in a decade.

The collegium, which comprises the five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court led by the Chief Justice of India, reiterated its April recommendation that Jharkhand high court chief justice Aniruddha Bose and Gauhati chief justice AS Bopanna be appointed to the apex court.

The collegium, which met on Wednesday, recommended two more names, of Bombay high court judge BR Gavai and Himachal Pradesh high court chief justice Surya Kant, for elevation as Supreme Court judges, according to a statement posted on the Supreme Court website.

The reiteration of its recommendation of justices Bose and Bopanna came after the department of justice, under the ministry of law and justice, sent back the recommendations to the collegium for its reconsideration. It is believed that the ministry's decision may have been driven by the fact that the two high courts to which the judges were first named (their parent high courts), Karnataka and Calcutta, are already well represented in the apex court.

Brushing aside government's objection to the names, the collegium said in a resolution that it had kept in mind the twin parameters of seniority among judges and merit while recommending the names.

"... the Collegium resolves to reiterate the afore-mentioned recommendation dated 12th April, 2019, especially since nothing adverse regarding competence, conduct or integrity of Mr. Justices (1) Aniruddha Bose, and (2) A.S. Bopanna, has been pointed out," a resolution passed on Wednesday said.

A law ministry official did not respond to requests for a comment.



This is the second time in a year that the government and judiciary have locked horns over the appointment of judges. In April 2018, the government objected to the appointment of then Uttarakhand high court chief justice KM Joseph as a Supreme Court judge.

But then too, the collegium stood its ground and the appointment of justice Joseph came through, albeit after a delay.

Once the Collegium reiterates its recommendation, the government has to accept it, although there is no prescribed time-frame within which this needs to be done.

Clearing the names of justices Gavai and Kant for appointment, the collegium said: "While recommending the names of Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai and Mr. Justice Surya Kant, the Collegium has taken into consideration combined seniority on all-India basis of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of High Courts, apart from their competence, conduct and integrity. The Collegium has also kept in mind the desirability of giving due representation on the Bench of the Supreme Court, as far as

possible, to all the High Courts as well as to all sections of the society including those belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories, women and minorities."

With the recommendation of justice Gavai to the Supreme Court, the top court has a Scheduled Caste judge on the bench after a gap of a decade. ST and OBC are short for Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class, respectively.

Clearing the air that the recommendation of justice Gavai — he happens to be fourth with respect to seniority among judges from the Bombay high court — the collegium said: "His recommendation, in no way, is to be misconstrued to mean that three senior-most Judges from Bombay High Court (two of whom are serving as chief justices) are less suitable than Mr. Justice Gavai."

Senior advocate Vikas Singh said, "The legal position on the issue is very clear. The government can only object to it once and if the collegium reasserts its recommendation, the government has to go by the recommendation. And this position is very important for the independence of the judiciary." *Source: HT*

BJP, SAD slam Cong for Sam Pitroda's '84 remarks



NEW DELHI (TIP): Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on May 9 attacked the Congress and its leader Sam Pitroda for the latter's remarks on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Earlier, Indian Overseas Congress chief Pitroda brushed off the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, saying, "84 mein hua to hua" (It happened in 1984, so what?) Reacting to the comment, SAD leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa said that Congress' anti-Sikh mentality was clearly visible in Pitroda's remark.

BJP leader Prakash Javadekar demanded that Congress President Rahul Gandhi and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi should apologise for Pitroda's remarks.

Javdekar said: "Today Pitroda said a shocking thing which nobody could expect. It is absolutely unacceptable and we, as a country, can not accept it. Sonia and Rahul should apologise for his remarks." Sirsa, on the other hand, said that Congress' mentality has not changed even after 35 years.

"The Congress has yet again proved that its mentality against the Sikhs has not changed.

Today Pitroda said '1984 has happened, so what?' He must have not lost anyone from his family." Sirsa further said, "He (Rahul Gandhi) keeps on saying that his father (Rajiv Gandhi) and grandmother (Indira Gandhi) were assassinated.

And Pitroda is saying so what if the riots happened. Six thousand people were killed in the anti-Sikh riots. Our daughters and sisters were raped. And now, instead of giving us justice, you have kept the culprits with you. Pitroda has proved today that Gandhi family's heart is full of hatred against the Sikhs."

Source: IANS

SIT clean chit to Pragya in Gauri murder link



BENGALURU (TIP): The SIT probing the journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh murder case today denied a media report about BJP MP candidate from Bhopal Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur's involvement in the crime.

An English daily today reported that there was a possibility of Sadhvi's link with the murder. The SIT issued an official statement, saying it did not find her involvement at any stage nor find her name mentioned in the chargesheet.

"The SIT has not found in its investigation or mentioned in the chargesheet any link to Sadhvi Pragya, Malegaon blasts and Abhinav Bharat. There is no evidence to suggest the same. No documents purporting the same have been submitted to the court," the statement read. The SIT has so far arrested 16 people while two are still at large in connection with the murder of Gauri Lankesh, who was shot outside her house in Bengaluru on September 5, 2017.

Rafale perjury plea: No facts hidden, negotiating team's concerns addressed, says govt

NEW DELHI (TIP): Rejecting allegations that it suppressed material facts and misled the Supreme Court in the Rafale jet purchase matter, the Centre Thursday said that the application for perjury filed by the review petitioners was "completely misconceived" and that their stand was "vacillating and self-contradictory".

In a fresh affidavit filed in the apex court in response to the perjury application by former Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and advocate Prashant Bhushan, the government "denied" that it "had told untruths regarding decision-making process and suppressed crucial information".

It added that "on facts as well, the contention of the petitioners" that government officials "have made false statements and suppressed evidence while submitting information on 'decision-making process', 'offsets' and 'pricing' pursuant to orders passed by this court, is completely false, baseless and an attempt to intimidate government servants from performing their duty... on this ground alone, the application is liable to be dismissed".

The court is due to hear Friday petitions



seeking review of its December 14, 2018 judgment upholding the deal for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets from France.

The affidavit, filed by the Director General (Acquisition) in the Ministry of Defence, said that "there is no act of perjury involved in the submissions made before the Supreme Court as the submissions are based on records".

And that "all the averments made before the Supreme Court were based on (a) the final decisions taken by the Cabinet

Committee on Security (CCS) and the CCS note which formed the basis of this decision, (b) final decisions by the Raksha Mantri (RM) and Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), (c) provisions in defence procurement procedure and (d) inputs received from the Indian Air Force and other constituent offices of the Ministry of Defence".

The affidavit alleged that petitioners were "deliberately providing incomplete and selective information" and altering the sequence of events of procurement process to misled the apex court and the public.

On the "vacillating" stand of the petitioners, the affidavit said they had earlier told the court that "the CAG (Comptroller and Audit General) ought to examine the whole issue, and now that the CAG has examined the latter in great detail by going into voluminous files and records made available by the Ministry of Defence and ruled out any irregularity in various aspects of the deal and has submitted its report...the petitioners have now taken a different stand that the information/material provided by the answering respondent is untrue and material facts have been suppressed".

GUEST COMMENT

*Loud and clear: on India-U.S.
discord on market access***New Delhi must snap out of its denial on the
discord with the U.S. on market access**

After a scathing speech by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in New Delhi this week, it is no longer possible for the government to brush under the carpet its differences with Washington. Speaking to Indian and U.S. businesspersons, Mr. Ross lashed out at what he called India's unfair trade practices and "overly restrictive market access barriers". His comments followed a series of measures by the U.S. that have affected India. These include a refusal to revoke or waive tariff increases made last year on

steel and aluminum, an ultimatum that India "zero out" oil imports from Iran by May 2 even without securing comparable alternatives, and the decision to withdraw India's GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) trade status. Mr. Ross repeated President Donald Trump's accusation that India is a "tariff king", and threatened India with "consequences" if it responded to U.S. tariffs with counter-tariffs, something New Delhi had threatened but not yet implemented in the hope of hammering out a comprehensive trade package.

Despite rounds of talks, however, a package has remained elusive, and it is time for the government to articulate the problem on its hands.

In the face of growing U.S. aggression on the issue, the government that takes office after the election will have to urgently consider its options ahead. Clearly, the strategy of the past year, to ignore the differences in the hope that the problems would be resolved or that the U.S.'s trade war with China would occupy the Trump administration more, has not worked. New Delhi and Washington need to make a more determined attempt to sort out issues, starting from scratch if required, with tariffs. While the 50-60% duties on motorcycles and cars and 150% duties on American liquor that India imposes need a second look, the U.S. must see that average tariffs imposed by India (13.8%) are not much higher than those levied by economies such as South Korea and

Brazil. In addition, the government will need to revisit some of its decisions like data localization requirements and new e-commerce regulations, which were declared suddenly, while the U.S. must show some flexibility on India's price caps on coronary stents and other medical devices. The U.S. must understand the cultural differences over the labelling of non-vegetarian dairy products. It is unlikely that the Trump administration will temper its "my way or the highway" approach to Iranian oil sales, and New Delhi will have to work closely with other countries to build alternative financial structures to avoid U.S. sanctions. Where a compromise is not possible, the government should be ready to push back on unreasonable demands. Perhaps the most worrying signal from Mr. Ross's outburst was that Washington may not be willing to meet India halfway on trade issues. New Delhi must prepare accordingly. *(The Hindu)*

AS I SEE IT - OPEN LETTER TO THE ECONOMIST



by Jagdish Sewhani

**A strong India under Prime Minister Modi
is a guarantor of global peace and stability****Dear Mr Editor,**

The Economist

I am writing to you with regard to the op-ed published by your publication "Under Narendra Modi, India's ruling party poses a threat to democracy." As an avid reader of The Economist I have experienced a deep decline in the journalistic standards and ethical values, which once was considered a prestigious publication.

As a person of Indian origin, living in New York for the past several years, I have closely followed the political, economic and social developments in India. The progress made by India in the last five years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unparalleled and historic. Facts speaks for itself.

The op-ed published by you is a fiction, rather than based on facts. I firmly believe that by writing such a fictitious article and asking people of India to vote against Modi, is a direct interference in India's election. I demand that The Economic must tender an apology and reveal under whose influence it has done so.

Let's talk about some facts.

India as per the latest figures from all major international financial institutions including the IMF and the World Bank under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the world's fastest growing economy. Not denying that India has a long way to go achieve the high level of living for the common people, Prime Minister Modi India has laid a strong foundation in that regard: from various social security measures, to providing health insurance programs to a significantly large segment of the population, to making basic necessities like electricity, housing, affordable food, banking and internet accessible to all.

India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made remarkable improvement in the business environment. Hope before publishing this fictitious and one-sided op-ed you would have looked at the annual

Ease of Doing Business report of the World Bank. Can you name one single country of the size of India that has jumped the rankings of Ease of Doing Business as much as India has done in the last five years. And what about the amount foreign direct investment that India has attracted under Prime Minister Modi. Here is a homework for you. Please prepare a list of top emerging economies on FDIs in the last five years. Let me know, what you find.

Let's talk about freedom of press and the baseless and slanderous allegation of him being non-democratic and intolerant to criticism. Even these are relative terms and contextual in nature, can you find out one leader in modern history wherein the leader has been denied Visa by one big country - here I am talking about the visa denial by the US - and after coming to power, India under him has developed a strongest ever relationship with the United States. This is primarily because he strongly believes this is in the best interest of India, the United States and the world. I hope you must be aware of Nixon-Indira Gandhi relationship and how then India drifted fast into the Soviet Camps.

But for the ego clash of two leaders, had India and US joined hand together, world would have been a much safer and peaceful place now.

And BTW, if anything Prime Minister Narendra Modi is intolerant to it is corruption and terrorism.

I hope you have the resources at your disposal to conduct research on the articles critical of Sonia Gandhi - the most powerful leader of India during the 10 years if UPA regime in major Indian publications. I guess you can count them on your fingertips or at the most list them on a page. Sitting in New York, every day I can find at least a dozen news articles, op-eds and television shows in major Indian media outlets critical of the policies and views of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

I will bring to your notice another example. Two senior leaders of BJP - Yashwant Sinha and Shatrughan Sinha -- for the last five years have openly talked against the Prime Minister and his policies. They have joined the platforms of the opposition leaders. Still, they were never dismissed or expelled from the party. Can you name one political party in India, including the Congress wherein a senior leader critical of say Rahul Gandhi or Sonia Gandhi or party president would be allowed to stay in the party even for one single day.

On news media outlet. I will ask you one question. If an on-line publication like The Wire - which is small in terms of financial capacity - can run an open campaign against Prime Minister Modi, nothing stops other publications to do so. India, dear editor of The Economist has a free and strong vibrant press, wherein everyone has the freedom to write what they feel like. Your article tries to say that major publications like The Time of India, The Hindustan Times, India Today, NDTV are scared of Prime Minister Modi. Flatly wrong. They are writing and publishing what they believe in. By saying so, you are simply trying to demean the prestige and work ethics of these major Indian publications. I think, The Economist should be ashamed of this.

I would like to bring to your attention, a few aspects of his foreign policy and national security aspect, as India under him has emerged as a strong power which is not afraid of bullying any longer. Doklam is one such example. Today, when India talks, world listens with attention and acts. Look at the global position of Pakistan, the nerve center of terrorism. It's because of his diplomatic policies, Pakistan has never been as globally isolated as it is today. Not even after OBL raid. Before PM Modi came to power, please have a look at the global opinion towards One Belt One

Road project of China. It's India, under him, which took the lead in telling the world about the predatory economics of China. I know, it would be very tough for you to acknowledge this and the west today is taking the credit for this. But these are the facts.

His guiding principle of foreign policy is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or the world is one family. And he has persistently worked on this aspect, be it his steps on climate change, solar alliance, international yoga day or free satellites to third-world countries. Within all its economic constraints, India under him has merged as a major donor - both in terms of financial and technical knowhow.

Dear Mr Editor, I am amazed at the last two paragraphs of your op-ed. You might be favoring a corrupt government, but people of India, under the 10 years if UPA rule, were bitter sufferers of a corrupt and inefficient government. Your biased mentality is reflected on the very fact that you have put Congress in Capital letter and BJP in small letters. Why?

Look at the audacity with which you are interfering in Indian elections. Are you an Indian publication? What is your interest in asking people of India to vote against BJP? You very well know that the BJP is coming to power. So you are asking Indians to at least vote for a coalition government, which will definitely result in a weaker India.

I am sure, you very well know, who will benefit from a weak India. It is very sad state of affairs.

The world needs a strong India. In 2019, it's only Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has the capability of leading a strong India. And I am hundred percent sure, people of India have already made up their mind. You will see the results on May 23. They will not be influenced by your blatant interference in Indian elections.

Jagdish Sewhani
New York
jsewhani@gmail.com

A vote for the sake of Parliament



By Neera Chandhoke

In his last address to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, B.R. Ambedkar remarked presciently that the working of the Constitution does not depend wholly upon the Constitution. It depends on the people and the political parties they set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics. How will the people of India and their parties, he asked, behave? Will they uphold constitutional methods of achieving their aim? It is futile to say, he concluded, the Constitution has failed without taking into consideration the role of the people and their parties. We would do well to recollect his words. We have to insist on the restoration of the dignity of Parliament. It is a condensate of popular sovereignty.

When political historians write of a government that came to power in 2014 on an impressive majority, what will they write? Will they write of a Prime Minister who had promised to set right everything that had gone wrong in India? Will they chronicle the political biography of a man who sadly frittered away the colossal mandate Indian citizens gave him? Will political satirists compare the Narendra Modi government to Sanjay Leela Bhansali's movies, all spectacle and din but little substance? Might political historians write of a man who refused to be accountable for his government's failure to provide the basic preconditions of a dignified life to citizens? Or might they record his government's refusal to deter criminals who openly bullied, maimed and murdered our own people. Will our historians tell frightening stories of Mr. Modi nearly taking his country to war, threatening the use of nuclear weapons, and using this to garner votes from a bewildered India? Do people in power really not know of the unimaginable death and destruction that nuclear wars bring upon people for generations to come? Historians will wonder.

What story history tells future generations will depend on the historian, her political vision, her interpretive skills and her commitment to the ordinary citizen who ekes out a life in want and misery. Court historians will lavish praises on Mr. Modi. But even they can hardly ignore his contempt for history, for the Prime Ministers that ruled the country before him, and above all his disregard of institutions that his predecessors had built laboriously.

Questions about institutions

Take Mr. Modi's attitude to the august institution of Parliament. India's Constituent Assembly witnessed a rich and informed debate on the virtues of the parliamentary versus the presidential form of government. Members knew of the hijacking of Parliaments by executives, they were aware of dictatorial Prime Ministers, and they were cognizant of the fatal tendency of political parties to serve their own interests more, and those of their constituents less. Yet members of the Constituent Assembly decided on a parliamentary form of government.

They had good reasons for this. In a plural society, citizens hold diverse and sometimes contrary beliefs; they agree on some issues and they disagree on others. It is only a parliamentary system of government that enables the expression of diverse and divergent opinions. In legislative forums, representatives are supposed to give voice to the interests, opinions and needs of their constituents. Sometimes decisions are taken, at other times backdoor negotiations lead to fragile and provisional outcomes. It does not matter that decisions are provisional. In a democracy there can be no notion of a Hobbesian social contract that binds citizens in perpetuity. Times change, public opinion changes, new issues arise on the horizon, older ones have to be



Constituents must weigh their candidate's commitment to restoring the dignity of the legislature

reiterated, and those issues that have become redundant need to be abandoned and replaced by fresh thinking.

Even though observers have been disappointed by the failure of representatives to represent the interests of the people, they agree that in large and complex societies a parliamentary system of government is infinitely preferable to the presidential model. No one man can collect in his own being the wisdom and certitudes of his age. The precondition of good policy is dissent and debate, the willingness to learn from others, the readiness to change one's mind. The Indian Parliament is noisy, known more for the politics of pandemonium than rational debate. But it is only a parliamentary form of government that can prevent one man from hijacking power.

Importance of the Opposition

So when Mr. Modi and BJP president Amit Shah repeatedly state that all they want is a Congress-mukt Bharat, their desperate ambition to rid the country of an Opposition occasions puzzlement and discomfort. An Opposition is central to the working of a parliamentary system of government. Without an Opposition, the system degenerates into one-party rule. Across the postcolonial world, efforts to de-legitimize the Opposition and create a one-party state have inexorably slid into military rule, and subsequently into what western donors and academics call failed states. Pathological states can neither meet the needs of their people nor institutionalize power. A one-party dictatorship can hardly be the answer to din and deadlocks, it is part of the problem. Failed states abdicate sovereignty, they are rendered vulnerable and dependent on transnational financial agencies, upon conditionalities imposed by funders, they are brought to their knees by international human rights organizations, and they are despised by their own people. We should be critical of any call to do away with the Opposition - many a postcolonial country has floundered on the rocks of one-party rule.

There is more. We must never lose sight of the democratic principle that representatives proxy for their constituents. The Lok Sabha is not only a gathering of political parties, each member of Parliament represents the Indian people, even if he does so inadequately and incompetently. Members of the Opposition are in Parliament by the same rationale that

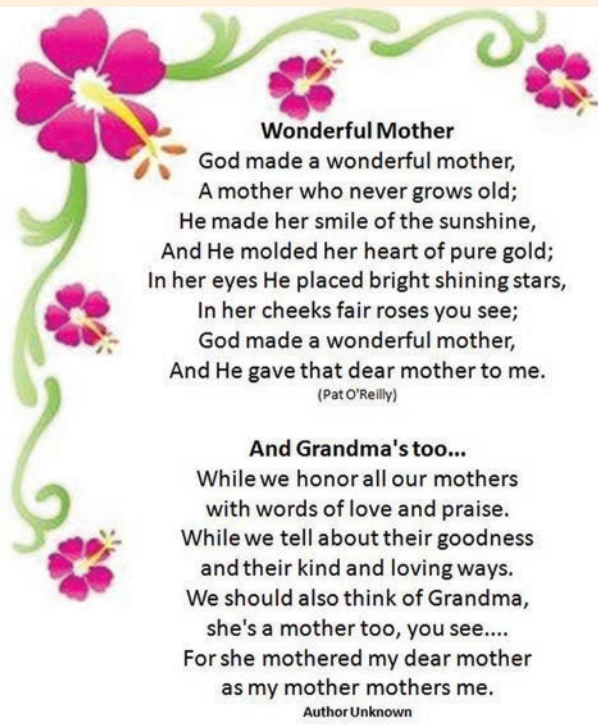
members of the ruling party are. When Prime Minister Modi abuses the leaders of the Opposition, he should be aware that he abuses the people of India who have delegated power to these representatives in the first place.

If the individual is the prime unity of democratic life, and representatives merely a mode of representing her needs and interests in the forum of Parliament, candidates who ask for our vote should be worthy of our confidence. When political parties impose criminals, persons accused of terrorist activities, dealers and fixers upon constituencies, they insult the intelligence of the people who are going to vote. It is time that civil society organizations take this issue up. The moment a party announces a candidate, constituents should take up the task of debating the merit or otherwise of the person. Realists tell us that parties choose candidates who are self-financing and who can deliver votes. This may be so, but it does not follow that contemptible people should be thrust upon constituencies. There is nothing more ignoble than invoking the nation or religion to justify candidates who send shudders down our collective spine. We deserve candidates we consider worthy, men and women of integrity.

Text, and the practice

The system of parliamentary government that India adopted is complex, intricate and frustrating. But the institution represents citizens who are the locus of sovereignty. This is what Parliament is for. That is why it should be respected. Admittedly the Indian Parliament has not worked the way it should, but it is not the system that is flawed. In his last address to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, B.R. Ambedkar remarked presciently that the working of the Constitution does not depend wholly upon the Constitution. It depends on the people and the political parties they set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics. How will the people of India and their parties, he asked, behave? Will they uphold constitutional methods of achieving their aim? It is futile to say, he concluded, the Constitution has failed without taking into consideration the role of the people and their parties. We would do well to recollect his words. We have to insist on the restoration of the dignity of Parliament. It is a condensate of popular sovereignty.

(The author is a former Professor of Political Science at Delhi University)



Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"-the main church in the vicinity of their home-for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

Did you know? More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37 percent.

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children.

These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world, and Mother's Day 2019 occurs on Sunday, May 12, in the United States. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.

Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also



saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had become commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies.

Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

Mother's Day Around the World



While versions of Mother's Day are celebrated worldwide, traditions vary depending on the country. In Thailand, for example, Mother's Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen, Sirikit.

Another alternate observance of Mother's Day can be found in Ethiopia, where families gather each fall to sing songs and eat a large feast as part of Antrosht, a multi-day celebration honoring motherhood.

In the United States, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

At times, Mother's Day has also been a date for launching political or feminist causes. In 1968 Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King Jr., used Mother's Day to host a march in support of underprivileged women and children. In the 1970s women's groups also used the holiday as a time to highlight the need for equal rights and access to childcare. (Source: History.com)



N Korea 'fires' two missiles

Second test in a week, come on a day US envoy visited South



SEOUL (TIP): North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range missiles on May 9, the South's military said, less than a week after its leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the test-firing of multiple rockets and a missile.

The launches came as US special envoy for North Korea Stephen Biegun was in the South Korean capital for talks with Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and his counterpart, nuclear envoy Lee Do-hoon.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the tests seemed to be a protest by the North after its leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump failed to reach agreement on the North's nuclear

weapons and missile arsenal at a February summit. "North Korea seemed to be discontented it could not reach a deal in Hanoi," Moon Jae-in said in an interview.

The two missiles were fired from the northwest area of Kusong, in east, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. They covered distances of 420 km and 270 km and reached an altitude of about 50 km before falling into the sea, they said.

After the launch, South Korea's military said it had stepped up monitoring and security in case of another launch, and was working with the US to get additional information on

NO SCALE DOWN IN MILITARY POWER

North Korea is believed to have missiles capable of striking long-range targets, including potentially the US mainland. Despite the thaw with South and the talks with the US, there is no indication Pyongyang has scaled down its military power

US SEIZES CARGO SHIP

The US authorities have seized one of North Korea's largest cargo ships in connection with a scheme to illicitly export tonnes of coal in violation of international sanctions, according to court documents filed on Thursday

The 17,061-ton carrier known as the Wise Honest also was used to smuggle heavy machinery into the rogue nation. The civil action taken by the US government involves the first such seizure of a North Korean cargo vessel linked to sanction violations.

the missiles involved. South Korea's presidential Blue House called the missile launches "very worrisome" and unhelpful for efforts to reduce tension on the peninsula. Japan said it had not detected any missile in its waters or EEZ. Reuters

MAGNITUDE 6.3 EARTHQUAKE HITS CITY IN SOUTHWEST JAPAN

MIYAZAKI (TIP): The US Geological Survey says a magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit near Miyazaki in southwestern Japan.

The agency says the earthquake struck at 8.48 am local time on Friday and had an epicentre 39 kilometres (24 miles) southeast of Miyazaki, a city of about 400,000. The earthquake had a depth of 23 kilometres (14 miles.)

The Japan Times reports that Kyushu Electric Power Co says no abnormalities were reported at the nearby Sendai nuclear power plant in Kagoshima Prefecture.

The Times also reports that the nation's weather agency did not issue a tsunami warning. AP

MADURO REGIME KIDNAPPED MY DEPUTY : GUAIDO

CARACAS (TIP): Venezuelan intelligence agents has detained a National Assembly leader, the first arrest of a lawmaker since the failed uprising against President Nicolas Maduro last week.

Edgar Zambrano said agents had towed him and his car to prison after he refused to get out of it. Zambrano is deputy to National Assembly speaker Juan Guaido, who is recognised as the country's leader by more than 50 states. "We warn the people of Venezuela and the global community: the regime has kidnapped the first vice-president" of the National Assembly, Guaido said. — AFP

TYPO ON AUSSIE \$50 NOTE BRINGS BLUSHES

SYDNEY (TIP): Red-faced bank bosses in Australia admitted to an embarrassing error on Thursday, revealing their state-of-the-art \$50 note had a typo. The yellow and green note came into circulation last October. It has multiple security features. But the technology seemingly did not include a spellchecker. It took seven months for the public to notice "responsibility" was repeatedly misspelt. But there are no plans to pull the notes from circulation. AFP

BBC PRESENTER FIRED OVER RACIST ROYAL BABY TWEET

LONDON (TIP): British broadcaster Danny Baker was fired on May 9 by the BBC over his "stupid unthinking gag" on Twitter about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's newborn baby boy, Archie. The now deleted tweet showed a black and white photo of a couple holding hands with a chimpanzee dressed in clothes with the caption: "Royal Baby leaves hospital". The presenter was accused of mocking the Duchess of Sussex's racial heritage. PTI

FIRST BROWN BEAR SIGHTING IN PORTUGAL IN OVER A CENTURY

LISBON (TIP): The first brown bear sighting in Portugal in more than a century was confirmed by wildlife experts on May 9, after reports of an animal in the northeast of the country.

The bear, which most likely belongs to a population living in the western Cantabrian Mountains in northern Spain, is thought to have wandered across the border. "The reappearance of individuals from this species in Portugal... has now been confirmed by the ICNF," the Portuguese Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF) said. Brown bears have been extinct in Portugal since the 19th century.

"The last reports of a stable presence of brown bears in Portugal are between the 18th and the end of the 19th century. They then died out," the ICNF said.

The animal was spotted in the Montesinho Natural Park and Braganca commune in north-eastern Portugal.

The town of Braganca is about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Spanish border. Media reports say the last living bear in Portugal was killed in 1843 in the northwest mountainous region of Geres. "The fact that a bear has crossed our border does not mean that there is a bear established in Portugal. At the moment we have a stray animal," said Paulo Caetano, an author of a book. AFP

Pope alters Church law, makes reporting sex abuse obligatory

Move follows global clerical paedophilia scandal

VATICAN CITY (TIP): Pope Francis today passed a measure to oblige those who know about sex abuse in the Catholic Church to report it to their superiors, following a global clerical paedophilia scandal.

Every diocese in the world will now be obliged to have a system for the reporting of abuse, under a new law published by the Vatican — but the requirement will not apply to secrets revealed to priests in the confessional. It is time to learn from the "bitter lessons of the past", Francis said in the text of the legal decree.

It follows a series of clerical assault cases in countries ranging from Australia to Chile, Germany and the US.

The "Motu Proprio", a legal document issued under the Pope's personal authority, declares that anyone who has knowledge of abuse, or suspects it, is "obliged to report (it) promptly" to the Church, using "easily accessible systems". "Though this obligation was formerly left up to individual consciences, it now becomes a universally established legal precept" within the Church, said Andrea Tornielli, editorial director of the

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Vatican's communications department.

The law only applies within the Church and has no force to oblige individuals to report abuse to civil authorities.

Under the new measure, every diocese around the world is obliged by June 2020 to create a system for the reporting of sexual abuse by clerics, the use of child pornography and cover-ups of abuse. — AFP



ARJUN KAPOOR REFUTES RUMOURS OF MARRYING MALAIKA

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has dismissed reports of his marriage, adding he will let the world know whenever he ties the knot. He was reacting to persistent rumours that often announce his wedding dates, only to be refuted later. He has been linked with Malaika Arora Khan for some time now.

"I am not getting married. If I am getting married I will speak about it openly. There is no reason for me to hide it. It is not something I can hide from people. If I am not hiding anything now, why will I hide my marriage?" "I am working now, I am not in the zone to get married. I don't care about what the world has to say. I think jumping the gun is silly," Arjun told PTI.

The 33-year-old actor said he is aware of the constant public scrutiny on his personal life but that does not bother him much.

KATRINA: ALIA BHATT AND I USED TO TRAIN TOGETHER MORE OFTEN EARLIER

Katrina Kaif feels she gets to spend less time with Alia Bhatt in the gym these days. On Arbaaz Khan's talk show 'Pinch', Katrina admitted that earlier Alia used to train with her more often.

Katrina was shown a video of the two of them training in a segment of the show, in which the guest is meant to provide a story behind a popular social media post. Reacting to the video, which showed Katrina acting as a trainer to Alia, who was lifting weights, she said, "This was when I and Alia used to train together; we still do sometimes but we used to train together more during this time. We were waiting for Yasmin Karachiwala (fitness trainer) and she was late and in the meantime, I asked Alia to get on with it. Alia had just got into functional training at the time and I told Alia to do 80-90 repetitions and in the end, Alia did around 40. Alia was waiting for Yasmin to come back (laughs)."

Alia and Katrina, who are both trained by Yasmin Karachiwala, used to feature in each other's workout videos a lot more frequently before. The posts decreased after Alia started dating Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina's ex boyfriend. There have been rumours of a growing rift between the two but both the ladies have time and again dismissed such reports.

Earlier at a press event, when Alia was asked if she has realised that Katrina has stopped liking her Instagram posts, Alia had said, "I don't check my Instagram likes. So, I don't know why people are checking that? But I have to admit I have always been very fond of Katrina. I believe that its the same both ways, according to us. So, I don't know why other people feel differently? But now I will send her a message to start liking my pictures because if that's the barometer of friendship then we must start liking everyone's picture."



VIDYA BALAN TO PLAY MATH GENIUS SHAKUNTALA DEVI

Bollywood actor Vidya Balan has been roped in to play the role of math genius Shakuntala Devi in director Anu Menon's next. Set for summer 2020 release, the film will be produced by Vikram Malhotra-led Abundantia Entertainment. Shakuntala Devi, the mathematical wizard, was known for her ability to make incredibly swift calculations. Shakuntala's genius was first discovered at the age of 5, when she solved a math problem for 18-year-old students.

"I am extremely excited to play the 'human computer' Shakuntala Devi on the big screen. She was truly someone who embraced her individuality, had a strong feminist voice and braved many a naysayer to reach the pinnacle of success," Vidya said in a statement. "But what truly fascinates me is that you wouldn't normally associate a fun person with math...and she completely turns that perception on its head." Vidya said the team is proud to bring to life the story of

Vidya Balan, who was recently seen in NT Rama Rao as his first wife Basavatarakam, will now portray the role of mathematician Shakuntala Devi

"one of the most inspiring women of this country." "How incredible that The Math Genius, The Human Computer, was a small-town Indian girl, who took the world by storm," she added. Menon said the Tumhari Sulu actor is an apt choice for the film. "Who else can capture the spirit of a woman like Shakuntala than the incredible Vidya. We have spent months together in script development and it's been nothing short of exhilarating."

Menon has written the story along with Nayanika Mahtani with dialogues penned by Ishita Moitra. The film is scheduled to go on floors later this year.





Charlize Theron was offered to play Wonder Woman's mother

Charlize Theron has revealed she was offered to play mother to Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman in the DC superhero origin story, a pitch she described as a 'slap in the face'. The 43-year-old actor, who is nine years elder to Gadot, shared the incident on a show.

"This is a great example of how Hollywood like slaps you in the face when you start ageing," she said, as quoted by a newspaper.

Theron recalled thinking that she was talking with someone in Hollywood to play the title role of Wonder Woman in the 2017 film.

"And I was like, I'm not familiar with it. What does Wonder Woman really do? And this person said, 'No, it's for Wonder Woman's mom.'

"It was the defining moment when I crossed over. And I wasn't fully aware of it," she added.

BRAD PITT BREAKS SILENCE ON JENNIFER ANISTON DATING RUMOURS

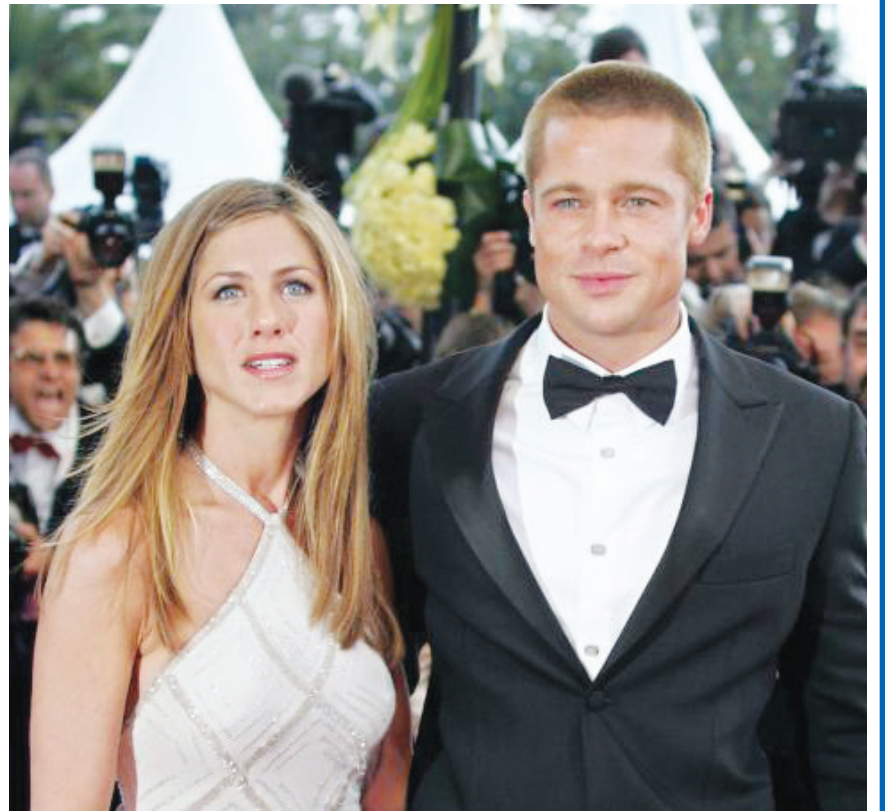
Hollywood star Brad Pitt has laughed off claims that he is dating his former wife Jennifer Aniston. Pitt was asked the question by a paparazzo.

There is buzz that Pitt may have rekindled his love with Aniston after he attended her 50th birthday party in February. But the 55-year-old laughed off the claims when he was directly asked about Jennifer while talking a walk on Tuesday, reports dailymail.co.uk.

A photographer asked, "I gotta ask you, everyone wants to know, are you and Jen getting back?" Pitt giggled and simply said: "Oh my God!" He was pictured walking down the street when the photographer said to him: "You're looking great. It's good to see you happy man."

A source had previously told Entertainment Tonight, "Jen and Brad have remained friends and have spoken with each other quite a few times since they both became single. They are friends and have supported each other through some tough times. They've come so far since their marriage and plan to stay friends for life. There are truly no hard feelings between them."

The actor married Aniston in 2000 and they separated in 2005. Following his split from her, he started dating Angelina Jolie, who he was married to from 2014-2016. They share six children together.



Anne Hathaway initially didn't want to speak in British accent 'The Hustle'



Actor Anne Hathaway says she was initially not sure about the idea that her character in upcoming comedy 'The Hustle' has a British accent. The Chris Addison-directed film features Hathaway and actor Rebel Wilson as two women who seek revenge against men who have tricked them in the past.

It is a remake of 1988 comedy 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels', which was itself inspired by the 1964 film 'Bedtime Story'.

Hathaway, 36, who appeared on TV chat show, said her character is of British origin, something which was done against

her 'will'.

"I didn't want to do it. I just thought, 'God, if I mess this up it could be such a face plant,'" the Oscar winner said, adding the director 'insisted' that she speak with the accent.

Hathaway, however, is 'relieved' that the British press has liked her accent and appreciated her performance in the film.

"I had an amazing dialect coach and I'm really happy because for the first time -- (in my) 20-year-old career -- I've gotten compliments from the British press on my British accent. I'm so relieved," she said.



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle welcome baby boy

Baby Sussex is finally here and it's a boy! We definitely cannot keep calm now. Meghan Markle has given birth to her and Prince Harry's first child, a baby boy. The baby's name has not been announced yet.

Prince Harry made the announcement by giving a statement to the media, "Meghan and myself had a baby boy this morning. It's been the most amazing experience I could ever imagine. How any woman does what they do is beyond comprehension."

The Palace announced in a statement, "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Sussex was safely delivered of a son at 0526hrs (10:56am

IST). The baby weighs 7lbs 3oz. The Duke of Sussex was present for the birth. The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Lady Jane Fellowes, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Earl Spencer have been informed and are delighted with the news. The Duchess's mother, Doria Ragland, who is overjoyed by the arrival of her first grandchild, is with Their Royal Highnesses at Frogmore Cottage. Her Royal Highness and her child are both doing well." The news was also announced on Duke and Duchess of Sussex's official Instagram account.

FINAL COUNT OF 1ST VOTE SINCE COUP LEAVES THAIS DIVIDED

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's Election Commission has announced the final results of the March 24 General Election — the first since a military coup in 2014 — that gave no party an absolute majority and likely will prompt legal challenges.

The EC distributed 150 party list seats in the 500-member House of Representatives under a complicated formula related to each party's nationwide vote total. Twenty-six parties were granted seats, 14 of them one apiece, while one seat was held open pending a revote in one constituency where the winning candidate was disqualified.

The EC's failure to explain its formula had led to suspicions it might fiddle with the total. It has already been flayed for releasing delayed and confusing preliminary votes, and was accused of tilting in favour of the military-backed Palang Pracharath party.

Pracharath was awarded 18 party list seats, while the rival Pheu Thai party associated with fugitive former PM Thaksin Shinawatra received none.

On Tuesday, each party was allocated its share of the 350 constituency seats. Pheu Thai topped the field by winning 136 constituencies, while Palang Pracharath was second with 97 seats, though it received the most votes. Neither party received a majority, and both are attempting to put together coalitions to form a government. Pheu Thai issued a statement saying the EC "deliberately intended to commit wrongdoing and misused its power, violating the constitution. The party will take legal measures". The Future Forward Party has agreed to join it in a coalition and ranks third in seats. — AP

200 CHILDREN LOST FAMILY MEMBERS IN LANKA CARNAGE

COLOMBO (TIP): About 200 children in Sri Lanka have lost their family members, some of them sole breadwinners, in the massive Easter Sunday bombings, according to a leading charity organisation. Some of the families have lost their source of income and might not have sufficient savings to resume their normal life, Colombo-based Sri Lanka Red Cross Society said. Nine suicide bombers carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday, killing more than 250 people. — PTI

Death toll rises to 11 in Lahore suicide attack outside Sufi shrine

LAHORE (TIP): The death toll rose to 11 on May 9 in the powerful suicide blast outside one of Pakistan's oldest and most revered Sufi shrines in Lahore as another policeman succumbed to his injuries, officials said.

The attack, which occurred during the Muslim holy month of Ramazan, was carried out by a teenage Taliban suicide bomber who blew himself up outside the densely-populated 11th century shrine on Wednesday.

So far, 11 people, including six police commandos, have lost their lives, Geo News reported, adding that as many as 26 others have been injured.

The powerful blast took place outside the Data Darbar shrine, the largest Sufi shrine in South Asia, where the elite police personnel were deployed for security.

A CCTV footage showed that a teenage boy wearing black 'shalwar kameez' and a suicide vest came closer to the vehicle of elite force and blew himself up.

"The suicide bomber is about 15 years old and made no suspected movement before blowing himself up," Lahore police spokesperson Syed Mubashir told PTI on May 5.

He said that two suspects have been taken into custody.

The Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JeA), a breakaway faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attack.

Punjab Inspector General Police Arif



Nawaz told reporters that it was a suicide attack and the target was the vehicle of the elite force that was stationed outside the shrine of Sufi saint Ali Hajvari popularly known as Data Darbar.

The blast shattered the windows in nearby vehicles and buildings.

May 5 was the second day of Muslim holy month of Ramazan. The Data Darbar area is thickly populated and the shrine attracts thousands of visitors every day.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has condemned the attack and directed the

Punjab government to provide all assistance to the injured and families of victims. Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has ordered an inquiry.

Educational institutions near the shrine have been closed for Thursday.

The shrine is visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year.

In 2010, the shrine was targeted in a suicide attack that killed more than 40 people. Since then, the area has been increasingly hemmed in by heavy security, with visitors forced to pass through several layers of screening before they can enter the complex. PTI

Nawaz Sharif back in jail after massive show of strength

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan's deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif has returned to prison to serve his sentence in a corruption case after the end of his six-week bail which was granted to him on medical grounds.

On March 26, the Supreme Court suspended Sharif's seven-year sentence in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case and granted him bail for six weeks with a condition that he would not leave Pakistan.

Last month, the 69-year-old three-time prime minister sought the apex court's permission to go abroad for medical treatment. However, the permission was not granted. On May 3, Sharif left his Jati Umra residence here for the Kot Lakhpat Jail with a procession of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers led by his daughter Maryam.

Maryam and his nephew Hamza Shehbaz along with hundreds of PML-N workers accompanied him.

The supporters gathered outside Sharif's Jati Umra residence and accompanied him to jail.

The procession took four hours to reach the Kot Lakhpat Jail, which is otherwise just 30 minutes away.

The bail expired on Tuesday midnight

(May 7) with the apex court rejecting his review petition, seeking permission to go London for further treatment.

After reaching jail, Sharif thanked his party workers for turning up in large numbers. "I do not have words to thank the workers who turned up in thousands to express solidarity. It is midnight but the workers are still here with me. It is an amazing scene," he said in a message.

The massive support for the PML-N leader included a large number of party workers from different parts of Punjab province who turned up for the rally enroute to the jail.

Sharif's daughter Maryam accompanied her father in his car and posted images online of the reception their entourage got from the public.

"The roads to the jail from Jati Umra were jampacked. Only heads and long queues of motorists," Maryam tweeted.

Amidst sloganeering in support of Sharif, party workers were seen showering rose petals at his car.

"The people know why I am being punished. What sin I have committed... they know. But I am optimistic that soon the black night of this oppression will end and I will get released from jail," Sharif said. (PTI)

AASIA BIBI LEAVES PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Aasia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman who was freed from death row by the Pakistan Supreme Court in a blasphemy case last year, has left the country and reached Canada to reunite with her family, according to her lawyer.

The 47-year-old mother of four was convicted in 2010 after being accused of insulting Islam in a row with her neighbours. She always maintained her innocence, but has spent most of the past eight years in solitary confinement. "Aasia Bibi has left the country. She is a free person and travelled on her independent will," a source in the foreign office was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. Bibi's counsel Saiful Malook confirmed that she has reached Canada, the Guardian reported. He said that Bibi's safe arrival in Canada was the result of hard work by activists, foreign diplomats and others, "who stood by Bibi in hard times and worked for her freedom". The Supreme Court had on October 31 last year acquitted her of blasphemy charges. The judgment triggered protests across Pakistan, with protesters led by Islamic political party Tehreek-i-Labaik Pakistan and other groups blocking major highways and roads in different parts of the country. (PTI)

ADVENTURE & TREKKING DESTINATIONS IN HIMACHAL

If you are looking for an adventurous getaway, now would be an ideal time for it. This time around, trek through the lesser travelled areas of the Himalayas, and experience the magic of clear skies, colourful landscapes, and uninterrupted views of the lofty peaks. Take your pick.

KHAJJIAR

At a distance of 21 km from Dalhousie and 20 km from Chamba, Khajjiar is a beautiful hill station located in the Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh. Often known as the Switzerland of India, it is situated at an altitude of 1,951 m in the foothills of the Dhauladhar ranges of the Western Himalayas and is part of the Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary. It is among the popular places to visit in Dalhousie and also one of the top Himachal tourist places.

Khajjiar was a part of the erstwhile state of the Rajput rulers of Chamba. It served as the capital of Chamba rulers. Thereafter, it was taken over by the Mughals, from which the rule passed over to various Sikh kingdoms. Subsequently, it was taken over by the British.

Khajjiar is a picturesque spot with an emerald saucer shaped meadow amidst a dense forest which has a lake with a floating island at its center and a temple with a golden spire. Khajjiar Lake is a small lake covering an area of about 5000 sq. yards. On the lake, some clusters of grasses and weeds have grown that appear like a floating island, and is the major attraction. A little away from the lake is the temple of Khajji Nag belonging to the 12th century AD. This temple is dedicated to the Lord of Serpents. The Nag that is worshipped here has a human form. The stone idol has a mace in one hand and a khanda, a double dagger in the other. In the mandapa of the temple one can see the images of the Pandavas and Kauravas near the roof of the circumambulatory path.

Khajjiar is also called the Gulmarg of Himachal Pradesh and serves as the starting point for treks to Chamba, Dalhousie and Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary among others. Khajjiar to Dainkund is a 3.5 km easy to moderate trek. The trek starts 6 km from Khajjiar on the Dalhousie-Khajjiar road and ends at Pholani Devi Temple at Dainkund. This trek with a well-defined trail and moderate ascent is an excellent trek for beginners and children. The trek offers excellent views and a beautiful camping site. Zorbing is a popular recreational activity during April and May.

RAISON - RIVER RAFTING

At a distance of 13.5 km from Kullu, 14 km from Naggar and 27 km from Manali, Raison is a small cluster of villages on the banks of Beas River which has vast camping grounds maintained by Himachal Pradesh Tourism. It is one of the top adventure destination in Himachal and also a top rafting destination in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Rafting in Raison is one of the top things to do in Kullu & Manali.

Situated at an altitude of 1433 m, Raison is well known for its camping sites and white-water river rafting. Numerous apple orchards and fruit gardens of plums and apricots add to the natural beauty of the place. Apart from the nature, Raison is famous for adventure activities like rafting, trekking, mountain climbing and river crossing etc.

By the end of the winter season, in the month of March, the whole region becomes colorful with blooming flowers. This place is also famous as rural centre of AIIMS where summer camps for various ophthalmological diseases are held every year.

At the camping sites, there are about 14 tourist huts, which require advance booking through the Kullu Tourist Office. These wooden huts are built along the banks of the Beas River.

During winter the temperature falls down to 1-2°C and the summer weather is pleasant



and enjoyable. Summer between March to June is the best season for outdoor activities like Rafting, Trekking and River Crossing. There are several rafting agencies along the Beas river between Khatrain and Kullu. These are approved agencies by HP Tourism and the prices are almost same at all the points.

Rafting charges vary depending on the season and group size. The usual charges for 7 km rafting stretch cost between Rs. 500-800 per person. Additional price is charged for photos and videos. The cost can be bargained, especially if you have a group participating in the activities.

TRIUND HILL

At a distance of 8 km from McLeod Ganj Bus Stand and 13 km from Dharamshala, Triund is a beautiful hill situated in Dhauladhar Mountains in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. It is located at an altitude of about 2842 m. Triund is popular trekking site in McLeod Ganj and attracts a lot of tourist every year. It is also one of the best trails of short treks in Himachal state. Triund offers the perfect view of the Dhauladhar Mountains on one side and Kangra Valley on the other.

Triund is an 8 km trek from the McLeod Ganj Bus Stand. This is a small and an easy trek, which can be done either from McLeodganj or Dharamkot, which is 2 km ahead of McLeodganj. The trail is 6 km from

Dharamkot and passes through Galu Devi temple. From this temple, it takes around 3 hours to reach Triund. The initial half of the trek is a gradual incline and the last 2 km from Snowline Cafe involves a steep climb all the way till Triund. The last 1 km has 22 tiring curves before finally reaching Triund. Along the way there are many small Tea shops where one can refresh during the hike. Trek can also be started from Bhagsu Nag.

There is a Devi Temple located on the top of Triund Hill at the highest point. From here one can have beautiful view of the Moon Peak and Indra Pass. Famous among trekkers and hikers, there is a snowline at Ilaka visited by adventurers which is a further trek from Triund Hill.

There is a Guest House operated by Himachal Pradesh Forest Department and is the only option for night stay at Triund. Advance booking is required and can be done at Dharamshala. The rooms cost around Rs.500 per day. There are plenty of places to camp and is advisable to carry your own tent and sleeping bag. Tourists could even get some provisions at the tea shops here. There is no water facility so one needs to carry enough drinking water.

GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

At a distance of 75 km from Kullu, 63 km from Bhuntar, 113 km from Manali and 14 km

from Gushaini, The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) is spread across Parvati valley, Thirthan valley, Sainj valley & Jiwa Nal valley of Kullu region. In June 2014, the Park was declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Great Himalayan National Park is one of best national parks in India and also one of the best Places to visit in Himachal state. The park was established in 1984 and is spread over an area of 754 sq km at an altitude varying between 1500 to 6000 m. GHNP was formally declared a national park in 1999. The GHNP is situated adjacent Pin Valley National Park, Rupi-Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary and the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, making it one of the biggest areas for wildlife conservation in the whole Himalayan range.

The Park is habitat to numerous flora and more than 375 fauna species including approximately 31 species of mammals and 181 species of birds. More than 15,000 residents of 160 villages in the buffer zone are dependent on GHNP's natural resources. The fauna of the park includes some of the most exotic species of animals like snow leopard, blue sheep, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan tahr, musk deer, goral and many others. The bird species found in GHNP include golden eagles, Himalayan griffon vultures, lammergeyers, raptors, etc.

There are no roads that lead directly to the Park boundary, access is by foot mainly through its western boundary. The park has four main entry points; Gushaini (40 km from Aut) is the road head for trekking in the Tirthan Valley, Neuli (40 km from Aut) is where trekking trails in Sainj valley start. Siund village (30 km from Aut) is the starting point for treks in the Jiwanala Valley and Barshaini is preferred starting point for the trek up to Mantalai and the Pin - Parvati Pass in Parvati valley.

Trekking is the only way to enjoy and explore the Great Himalayan National Park. The park offers hikes and treks, ranging from one day to 8 days. Adventure seekers can also participate in activities like rappelling, river crossing, Rock climbing and fishing. There are many trails within the park. Gushaini - Tinder village, Gushaini - Shilt Hut, Gushaini - Tirthan valley, Neuli - Manu temple, Neuli - Sarangarh loop, Neuli - Sainj valley, Sainj - Tirthan valley, Siund - Pashi villages, Jiwanala - Parvati River valley, and Shamshi - Kaza are some of the famous trails. A major attraction is the Pin - Parvati Pass trek. Three important pilgrimage spots within the GHNP are Raktisar, Hanskund and Srihand Mahadev.

HOME REMEDIES TO DARKEN GREY HAIR

Premature greying is one of the maladies of modern lifestyle. Those dreaded streaks of silver and white pop up even when you are in your 20s. They may say that greying is a sign of wisdom and maturity, but it also tells you that your body is not producing enough melamine, which is an early sign of ageing.

The first step is to learn to eat right. Yes! It does make a difference. Lots of greens, a beet a day, fresh fruits & veggies and lots of yoghurt are what you must eat regularly. Such a diet will not only make your skin smooth and soft but will also result in lustrous long hair.

As far as greying of hair goes, don't open those harmful chemical bottles so soon. Help is right in your kitchen. Here are the top 8 remedies to darker greying hair.

Amla and methi seeds

Add 6-7 pieces to 3 tbsp of an oil of your choice (coconut, olive, almond) and boil for a few minutes. Add 1 tbsp of fenugreek powder. Cool, strain and apply generously all over the scalp at night. Use a mild herbal shampoo to wash off in the morning.

Indian gooseberry or Amla is a rich source of Vitamin C and has been used in Ayurveda for all kinds of hair problems. Fenugreek or Methi seeds are full of several nutrients and the combination of these super ingredients not only prevents premature greying but also promotes hair growth.

Black tea rinse

Boil a cup of water with 2 tbsps of black tea and a tsp of salt. Cool and apply generously on freshly washed hair. Allow to dry. Repeat regularly to darken grey strands.



Black Tea has caffeine which is loaded with anti-oxidants. While adding a natural dark hue to the hair, it stimulates hair growth and strengthens it giving it a shine.

Almond oil and lemon juice

Mix almond oil and lemon juice in the ratio of 2:3. Massage well in the scalp and hair. Wash off after 30 minutes.

Almond oil has Vitamin E which is extremely beneficial for hair. It nourishes the roots and prevents premature greying.

Lemon juice not only adds gloss and volume to hair but also promotes healthy hair growth.

Henna and coffee

Add 1 tbsp of coffee powder to boiling hot water. Cool and make a paste with henna powder. Let it rest covered for a few hours. Mix in 1 tbsp of any oil of your choice and apply liberally covering the

hair completely. Wash off after an hour.

Henna is a natural conditioner and a colorant and when combined with coffee, it gives excellent results.

Curry leaves and oil

Boil a cupful of curry leaves in a cup of oil till they turn black. Cool, strain and store. Massage into hair 2-3 times a week. Leave overnight.

Curry leaves are full of Vitamin B and help to restore the pigment melamine in the hair follicles and prevent further greying. It is a rich source of Beta-Keratin and also prevents hair fall.

Ridge-gourd oil

Place a cupful of sundried ridge-gourd pieces in coconut oil and leave to seep and mature for 3-4 days. Boil the oil for a few minutes. Strain and store. Massage into the scalp and hair at night and wash off with a herbal shampoo of your choice.

FOOD CORNER



Lamb Kofta

Ingredients

Minced lamb - 250 gms, Breadcrumbs - 1/2 cup, Onion - 1, small, finely chopped, Egg - 1, beaten, Mint leaves - handful, finely chopped, Coriander leaves - handful, finely chopped, Cinnamon powder - 1 tsp, Cardamom powder - 1 tsp, Cumin powder - 1 tsp, Red chilli powder - 1/2 tsp, Turmeric powder - 1 tsp, Salt as per taste, Black pepper powder as per taste, Wooden skewers - few, soaked in cold water for 30 minutes, Olive oil - little

Method

- Combine the minced lamb and breadcrumbs in a bowl.
- Mix well.
- Add the onions, mint leaves, coriander leaves, cinnamon powder, cardamom powder, cumin powder, red chilli powder and turmeric powder.
- Sprinkle some salt and pepper powder.
- Mix well.
- Add the egg and mix again until all ingredients are evenly combined.
- Make small balls of the mixture and insert a skewer into the center.
- Gently press the mixture around the skewer and keep aside.
- Heat a grill pan over medium flame.
- Add some olive oil and grill the prepared koftas until golden brown on all sides.
- Remove and serve with naan/parathas and lemon wedges.

HANDI PANEER

Ingredients

200 gms paneer, 2 ginger, grated, 1/2 tsp turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp chilli powder, 1/2 tsp garam masala powder, 1 tomato, 1/2 cup water, 2 stalks coriander leaves, 2 pinches, powdered black pepper, 4 tbsp refined oil, 3 onion, chopped, 1/2 cup beaten curd

Method

- Put oil in a handi, stir fry the chopped onions on medium flame, when done, reduce the flame to low. Then add two pieces of grated ginger, turmeric powder, chilli powder, garam masala and mix well.
- Add the finely chopped tomato and green chilli, and cook on low flame for about 10 minutes.
- Add half cup beaten curd and cook till dry, before adding salt. Add half cup water and bring it to a boil.
- Mix in malai paneer and chopped coriander, cook till the masala dries.
- Add pepper and remove from the flame. Serve in a bowl and sprinkle coriander leaves over the dish.



Stop comparing your relationship to everyone else's

FIND COMFORT WITHIN

When you look to outside relationships to define or validate your own, it can be a sign that you're lacking confidence in your current status. For instance, if you get the sense that everyone but you is suddenly coupled up, you may start to doubt your ability to find love, even when you're not currently looking for it. Similarly, if your friends are getting engaged and you and your partner are still dating, it can make you question the progress of your relationship.

To feel more confident, fight the urge to let other couples' romantic benchmarks dictate your own. Instead, remind yourself of the various desires you have besides romance, and celebrate the areas in which you're finding fulfillment, such as school, work, or time spent with friends and family.

AVOID THE BLAME GAME

When said aloud, feelings of inferiority often sound like "Why aren't we more like Kristen and Rob?" or "If I was with someone like him or her, everything would be great!" But these sentiments place blame on your lover without taking any responsibility for yourself, which can chip away at the positives of—and trust in—your bond. It's also unrealistic to believe that acting like or being with different people will suddenly solve your relationship problems.

Rather than employing blame or shame, focus on what you like about your connection: how much your mate makes you laugh or the way they care for you. Then, actively do more



things to please each other (like playing golf, even if that's not your favorite), and voice your appreciation when they do the same (as in, "I like doing this with you").

GET REAL WITH FRIENDS

Shatter the assumption that your friends are in ecstatic relationships by having more open and honest conversations with them. Share your own love challenges, and ask them if they've ever had a similar experience.

Listening to a pal talk about her personal strife (such as how she coped when her partner began acting odd) can help normalize the way you feel about your current situation. It shifts your inner dialogue from a sense of defeat (Ugh, no one else is going through this) to relief that you're not alone. And once you reveal more, your friends can offer advice and support.

NEW AI METHOD PREDICTS FUTURE RISK OF BREAST CANCER

Researchers have developed a new tool with advanced artificial intelligence (AI) methods to predict a woman's future risk of breast cancer.

For the study, the researchers used almost 90,000 full-resolution screening mammograms from about 40,000 women to train, validate and test the deep learning model.

"There's much more information in a mammogram than just the four categories of breast density," said study lead author Adam Yala from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US.

"By using the deep learning model, we learn subtle cues that are indicative of future cancer," Yala added.

The research team recently compared three different risk assessment approaches. The first model relied on traditional risk factors, the second on deep learning that used the mammogram alone, and the third on a hybrid approach that incorporated both the mammogram and traditional risk factors into the deep learning model.

The deep learning models yielded substantially improved risk discrimination over the Tyrer-Cuzick model, a current clinical standard that uses breast density in factoring risk.

When comparing the hybrid deep learning model against breast density, the researchers found that patients with non-dense breasts and model-assessed high risk had 3.9 times the cancer incidence of patients with dense breasts and model-assessed low risk.



BREAST CANCER PREVENTION: HOW TO REDUCE RISK

LIMIT ALCOHOL: The more alcohol you drink, the greater your risk of developing breast cancer. The general recommendation — based on research on the effect of alcohol on breast cancer risk — is to limit yourself to less than one drink a day, as even small amounts increase risk.

DON'T SMOKE: Evidence suggests a link between smoking and breast cancer risk, particularly in premenopausal women.

CONTROL YOUR WEIGHT: Being overweight or obese increases the risk of breast cancer. This is especially true if obesity occurs later in life, particularly after menopause.

BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE: Physical

activity can help you maintain a healthy weight, which helps prevent breast cancer. Most healthy adults should aim for at least 150 minutes a week of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity weekly, plus strength training at least twice a week.

BREAST-FEED: Breast-feeding might play a role in breast cancer prevention. The longer you breast-feed, the greater the protective effect. Limit dose and duration of hormone therapy. Combination hormone therapy for more than three to five years increases the risk of breast cancer. If you're taking hormone therapy for menopausal symptoms, ask your doctor about other options.



Arsenic in drinking water may change heart structure: Study

Drinking water contaminated with arsenic may lead to thickening of the heart's main pumping chamber in young adults, increasing the risk for future heart problems, a study warns.

People are most frequently exposed to arsenic, a toxic metalloid, through drinking water in areas where groundwater is contaminated.

"People drinking water from private wells, which are not regulated, need to be aware that arsenic may increase the risk for cardiovascular disease," said Gernot Pichler from Hospital Hietzing/Heart Center Clinic Floridsdorf in Austria.

"Testing those wells is a critical first step to take action and prevent exposure," said Pichler, lead author of the study published in the journal *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging*.

Several studies have shown that arsenic exposure raises the risk of heart disease and its risk factors, including high blood pressure and diabetes.

This is the first study to review the question in young American Indians in Oklahoma, Arizona and North and South Dakota.

Researchers reviewed data from the Strong Heart Family Study, a study evaluating cardiovascular risk factors among American Indians.

Arsenic exposure was measured in urine samples from 1,337 adults (average age 30.7 years, 61 per cent female) and the size, shape and function of their hearts were assessed using ultrasound (echocardiography).

None of the participants had diabetes or heart disease at the start of the five-year study.

Arsenic exposure was higher than in the general US population, but lower than that found in other studies conducted in Mexico and Bangladesh.

With a two-fold increase in arsenic in the urine, the researchers found 47 per cent greater chance of thickening of the heart's main pumping chamber (left ventricle) in the group as a whole.

They also found 58 per cent greater chance of thickening of the left ventricle in participants with increased or high blood pressure.

"The stronger association in subjects with elevated blood pressure suggests that individuals with pre-clinical heart disease might be more prone to the toxic effects of arsenic on the heart," Pichler said.

The study is limited by having only one measure of arsenic exposure, and by the lack of long-term follow-up of the participants.

Source: PTI

New blood test may detect Alzheimer's 8 years earlier

Scientists have developed a simple blood test that may help detect Alzheimer's disease eight years before the first clinical symptoms occur.

Using current techniques, Alzheimer's disease, the most frequent cause of dementia, can only be detected once the typical plaques have formed in the brain, said researchers from Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) in Germany.

At this point, therapy seems no longer possible, they said.

However, the first changes caused by Alzheimer's take place on the protein level up to 20 years earlier.

A two-tier method, described in the journal *Alzheimer's and Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment and Disease Monitoring*, can help detect the disease at a much earlier stage.

"This has paved the way for early-stage therapy approaches, where the as yet inefficient drugs on which we had pinned our hopes may prove effective," said Professor Klaus Gerwert from RUB.

In Alzheimer's patients, the amyloid beta protein folds incorrectly due to pathological changes long before the first symptoms occur.

Researchers successfully diagnosed this misfolding using a simple blood test.

As a result, the disease can be detected about eight years before the first clinical symptoms occur, they said.

However, the test was not suitable for clinical applications, according to the researchers.

It detected 71 per cent of Alzheimer's cases in symptomless stages, but provided false positive diagnoses for nine per cent of the study participants, they noted. In order to increase the



number of correctly identified Alzheimer's cases and to reduce the number of false positive diagnoses, the researchers introduced the two-tier diagnostic method.

They used the original blood test to identify high-risk individuals.

They added a dementia-specific biomarker, tau protein, to run further tests with those test participants whose Alzheimer's diagnosis was positive in the first step.

If both biomarkers show a positive result, there is a high likelihood of Alzheimer's disease, researchers said.

"Through the combination of both analyses, 87 of 100 Alzheimer's patients were correctly identified in our study," said Gerwert.

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INSTAGRAM TO GET APPEAL OPTION FOR POST TAKE-DOWNS

Combining human reviewers as well as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Facebook-owned photo-messaging app Instagram is planning to roll out a new feature that would let users appeal to take down controversial content and allow them to request a review of any content that was taken down, all from within the app.

To ensure thorough inspection of the content in question, any appeal for a post take-down would be sent to a completely different reviewer than the one who made the original decision, in order to ensure that the posts are thoroughly inspected, Engadget reported on Tuesday.

According to Instagram, an in-app appeal tool would first launch to report just individual posts starting with nudity and then expand to other areas later on.

Down the road, the feature would also be usable for dormant profiles, or accounts that have already been removed from the app.

The photo-messaging app, with over one billion global users, also said it would make sure to restore any post that could have been taken down on account of wrong reviewing.

Google Assistant gets voice-enabled driving mode

Google has rolled out a voice-enabled driving mode on Assistant that would not only personalise suggestions for navigation, messages, calling and media, but also bring all relevant activities front and centre.

"Coming this summer on android phones, the Google Assistant's new driving mode features a thoughtfully designed dashboard with personalised suggestions for navigation, messaging, calling and media. #io19," Google tweeted on Tuesday.

The search-engine giant announced the feature during its annual developer I/O conference that kick started in Mountain View, California on Tuesday.

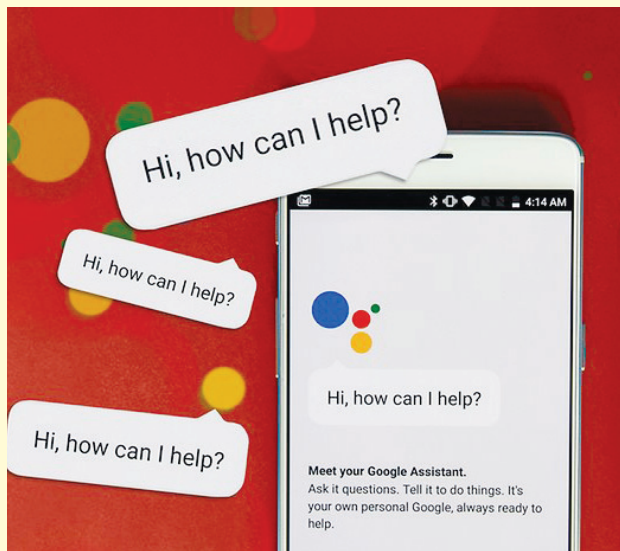
Driving mode would launch on Assistant once the user connects their phone to the car's Bluetooth.

If the user's phone is not connected to the car, they could just say, "Hey Google, let's drive".

In addition to driving mode, Google is making it possible to use Assistant to remotely control cars—like users could ask Google to adjust the car's temperature before the driver gets in, TechCrunch reported.

This feature would be available in "the coming months" to cars compatible with Hyundai's "Blue Link" and Mercedes-Benz's "Mercedes me connect", the report added.

Source: IANS



A MILLION SPECIES RISK EXTINCTION, ARE WE ONE OF THEM?

Humanity is rapidly destroying the natural world upon which our prosperity — and ultimately our survival — depends, according to a landmark UN assessment of the state of nature released on Monday.

Changes wrought by decades of pillaging and poisoning forests, oceans, soil and air threaten society "at least as much as climate change," said Robert Watson, who chaired the 132-nation meeting that validated a Summary for Policymakers forged by 450 experts.

One million animal and plant species face extinction, many within decades, they reported. Alarming, the accelerating pace at which unique life-forms are disappearing — already tens to hundreds of times faster than during the last 10 million years — could tip Earth into the first mass extinction since non-avian dinosaurs died out 66 million years ago.

In the short term, humans are not at risk, said Josef Settele, a professor at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany and co-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and



Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

"Halting and reversing these dire trends will require "transformative change" — a sweeping overhaul of the way we produce and consume almost everything, especially food, the report concluded.

"We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality-of-life worldwide," said Watson. "By transformative change, we mean a

fundamental, system-wide reorganisation." The pushback from "vested interests", he added, is likely to be fierce.

Drawing from 15,000 sources and an underlying 1,800-page report, the executive summary details how our species' growing footprint and appetites have compromised the natural renewal of resources that sustain civilisation, starting with fresh water, breathable air, and productive soil.

Smartwatches can sense if you are chopping veggies



Smartwatches, with a few tweaks, can detect a surprising number of things your hands are doing like helping your spouse with washing dishes, chopping vegetables or petting a dog, say researchers from Carnegie Mellon University.

By making a few changes to the smartwatch's operating system, they were able to use its accelerometer to recognise hand motions and, in some cases, bio-acoustic sounds associated with 25 different hand activities at around 95 percent accuracy.

Those 25 activities (including typing on a keyboard, washing dishes, petting a dog, pouring from a pitcher or cutting with scissors) are just the beginning of what might be possible to detect, the researchers said.

"We envision smartwatches as a unique beachhead on the body for capturing rich, everyday activities," said Chris Harrison, Assistant Professor in Human-Computer Interaction Institute (HCII) at Carnegie.

"A wide variety of apps could be made smarter and more context-sensitive if our devices knew the activity of our bodies and hands," he added.

Just as smartphones now can block text messages while a user is driving, future devices that sense hand activity might learn not to interrupt someone while they are doing certain work with their hands.

Sensing hand activity also lends itself to health-related apps—monitoring activities such as brushing teeth, washing hands or smoking a cigarette.

Google looking to make foldable phones: Report

Tech titan Google is looking into foldable technology even as Samsung's first-ever super premium foldable phone flamed out in embarrassing fashion.

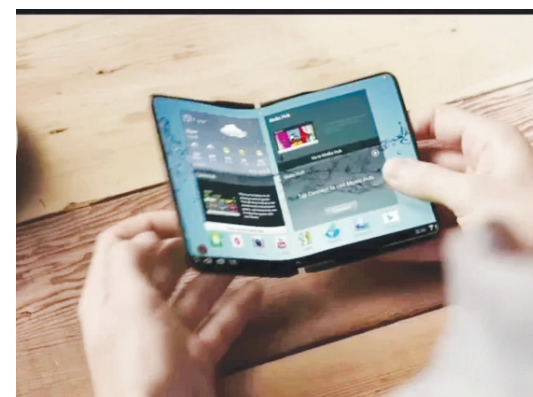
"Google has also experimented with the foldable form, said Mario Queiroz, who leads development of Pixel phones, ahead of the search giant's I/O developer conference. But Google isn't in a rush to get a folding product to market," the CNET reported late on Tuesday.

The tech giant's foray into foldables wouldn't be much of a surprise as Google revealed native Android support for foldable displays in November 2018, ahead of the official Samsung Galaxy Fold reveal that same month.

"But given how closely the Apple playbook is followed, it's rare that tech companies in the mobile hardware game explicitly confirm that they're looking into new, exciting designs," the report added.

It is unclear how the company would develop its foldable prototype or how its screen would operate when opened and closed.

Samsung's foldable device—the Galaxy Fold—has a smaller screen on the front and opens up into a larger one on the inside while Huawei's foldable phone—Mate X—has a different design that puts its eight-inch screen on the outside.



In relief for India, US could delay action on oil, trade sanctions till June

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the US won't immediately escalate vexed trade-related issues and are expected to hold their position on all important matters till a new government is formed in New Delhi by the month-end, officials said.

US commerce secretary Wilbur Ross too hinted the two sides will maintain their positions in his speech at the Trade Winds business forum, while raising the issue of trade imbalance with India.

"We applaud India's commitment to addressing some of these barriers once the government is reformed, probably starting in the month of June," he said.

Election-bound India is expected to form a new government before the tenure of the current Lok Sabha ends on June 3.

India's main concerns include the US decision to enforce sanctions on oil imports from Iran, one of the country's main energy suppliers, and the withdrawal of benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

Washington is concerned by the trade imbalance because of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and regulations that US officials say put foreign companies at a disadvantage.

According to the officials cited above, India has explained to the US that strategic matters, including trade-related issues, can be effectively dealt with after the new government is formed.

They added the US has hinted it might make a final decision on withdrawing incentives under GSP after the new government is formed.

The two sides are also locked in disputes over Indian price caps on imported US medical devices, and e-commerce rules barring companies from selling products through firms in which they have an equity interest.

Ross contended India's push to get foreign firms to store more of their user data locally is a hindrance to trade, and said India's treatment of Walmart after its acquisition of Flipkart was an "important issue".

INDIA, CHINA JOIN HANDS ON OIL



NEW DELHI (TIP): India and China are working closely on common trade concerns, including cooperation in buying oil and gas, against the backdrop of a US squeeze through tariffs and sanctions on Iranian oil imports, officials said.

Efforts have been made by the world's second- and third-largest oil importers to find common ground and energy cooperation is one of the key areas where the two sides can collectively bargain for better prices from producers, the officials added, asking not to be identified.

Following a visit to New Delhi in March by Li Fanrong, deputy chief of China's National Energy Administration, the two sides created a joint working group on oil and gas. This is the first institutionalised arrangement between the two sides to cooperate in energy though they have several groups on issues such as counter-terrorism and the boundary dispute.

"A meeting between petroleum and natural gas secretary MM Kutty and the vice minister of China's National Energy Administration, Li Fanrong, was held on March 26 in New Delhi to discuss cooperation in the oil and gas sector," one of the government officials cited above said.

Both sides are closely discussing cooperation in key areas such as oil purchases, said an official. He confirmed these issues had figured in the meeting between Kutty and Li in March.

"So the American companies are showing very good will and a very cooperative attitude towards 'Make in India' and the other programmes," Ross told CNBC-TV18.

"But there's a limit to how far the discriminatory behaviour can go." Commerce minister Suresh Prabhu said he had "an excellent" meeting with Ross on Monday, during which they discussed

"how to take this relationship to the next level".

Prabhu expanded US President Donald Trump's slogan "Make America great again" to "Let's make America great again by making India-US relationship far better again". Ross rephrased it to "MAGAWIC", or "Make America great again with Indian cooperation".

Source: HT

RBI LIKELY TO CUT INTEREST RATE AGAIN IN JUNE



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to cut interest rates one more time in June before rising inflation pressures and elevated fiscal deficits left little room for further accommodation in rest of the year, IHS Markit said.

The RBI had cut interest rate by 25 basis points each in February and April to boost economic growth.

In a report on the forecast for global monetary policy actions and resulting economic impact, the London-based global information provider said the RBI is likely to tighten its monetary policy stance in early-to-mid 2020.

"With both domestic and global growth slowing and inflation in India remaining below the RBI's inflation target, it is now increasingly likely that the RBI will proceed with another rate cut in June.

"Beyond June, intensifying inflation pressures and elevated fiscal deficits will leave little room for further accommodation, and we expect no additional rate cuts in 2019 with the monetary policy likely to switch to tightening in early-to-mid-2020," it said.

Monetary policy easing, coupled with the relaxation of lending rules and greater election-driven fiscal spending in the first quarter of 2019, would provide some support to growth during the first half of 2019-20 fiscal, it said.

The report noted that food and fuel prices should accelerate in coming months, particularly in the event of a sub-normal monsoon, and headline inflation would cross 5 per cent mark by the second half of 2019, and average 4.2 per cent in 2019 and 5.3 per cent in 2020.

Source: PTI

US-China tensions threat to world economy, says IMF

PARIS (TIP): The head of the International Monetary Fund said fresh trade tensions between the US and China were the main threat to the world economy.

"Clearly the tensions between the US and China are the threat for the world economy," Christine Lagarde told journalists at a conference in Paris, adding that recent "rumours and tweets" made an agreement between the countries less likely.

President Donald Trump jolted global markets on Monday by threatening on Twitter that tariffs already imposed on \$200 billion in Chinese exports to US would more than double to 25% on Friday from their current level of 10%.

Source: AFP

Reliance acquires iconic British toy retailer Hamleys

NEW DELHI (TIP): Reliance Brands, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), on Thursday said it is acquiring UK-based toymaker Hamleys from C.banner International.

In a late Thursday evening statement, the company said that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100 per cent shares of Hamleys Global Holdings, the owner of the Hamleys brand, from C.banner International.

Hamleys has about 167 stores across 18 countries. In India, Reliance has the master franchise for Hamleys, and currently operates 88 stores across 29 cities.

"This acquisition will catapult Reliance Brands to be a dominant player in the global toy retail industry," the company said in a statement.

As is known, Reliance plans to launch an e-commerce marketplace later this year that will sell everything from food, fashion to toys and this acquisition will perfectly fit into its strategy.

Hamleys is currently owned by Chinese fashion conglomerate C.banner International, which had acquired it for £100 million in 2015. C.banner also owns the Chinese units



of marquee consumer retail brands such as Steve Madden and Sundance.

The Chinese company has been looking to cut its losses and sell off Hamleys after logging heavy losses, according to a report in Sky News last year in October.

Hamleys started with a single-store shop, Noah's Ark, in 1760, around the time when the British East India Company was ruling India.

In 2003, Hamleys was delisted from the London stock market by Icelandic investment firm Baugur Group, which had paid \$68.8 million for the company. In 2012, it was sold for \$78.4 million to France's Groupe Ludendo.

Hamleys reported losses of £12 million in 2017, when it last reported its financials.

Commenting on the development, Darshan Mehta, president and CEO of Reliance Brands, said, "Over the last few years, we have built a very significant and profitable business in toy retailing under the Hamleys brand in India. The worldwide acquisition of the iconic Hamleys brand and business, places Reliance into the frontline of global retail. Personally it is a long cherished dream come true".

Broadcaster Danny Baker fired by BBC for royal baby 'chimp' tweet

LONDON (TIP): The BBC has fired broadcaster Danny Baker over his "stupid unthinking gag" on Twitter about UK's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle's newborn son, Prince Archie.

The now deleted tweet, which has been circulated on social media, showed an image of a couple holding

hands with a chimpanzee dressed in clothes with the caption: "Royal Baby leaves hospital".

The 5Live—the BBC's national radio service—presenter was accused of mocking the duchess's racial heritage.

Baker said: "Just got fired from @bbc5live... Sorry my gag pic of the little fella in the posh outfit has

whipped some up. Never occurred to me because, well, mind not diseased.

"Soon as those good enough to point out it's possible connotations got in touch, down it came. And that's it." A BBC spokesperson said on Thursday: "This was a serious error of judgment and goes against the values we as a station aim to embody. Danny's a

brilliant broadcaster but will no longer be presenting a weekly show with us."

Harry and Meghan, whose mother Doria Ragland is African-American, revealed on Wednesday their new son was named Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor. — IANS

contd from page 1

U.S. BUSINESSES FACE SIGNIFICANT MARKET ACCESS BARRIERS IN INDIA, SAYS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

Yet, today, it is only our 13th largest export market, due to overly restrictive market access barriers. Meanwhile, the United States is India's largest export market. There is a real imbalance", Ross said.

For solving the problem, Trump administration is working diligently with the Indian government and US's private-sector partners to address market access issues through the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue, and the recently reconvened U.S.-India CEO Forum, he said.

Earlier, India and the United States held the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade meeting in New Delhi May 6. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation and Wilbur Ross co-chaired the bilateral meeting.

According to a release by Department of Commerce, Government of India, both the co-chairs, Suresh Prabhu and Mr. Wilbur Ross appreciated the strong, robust and growing bilateral ties between India and the U.S. across the entire spectrum of trade and commerce. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress during the year 2018, with bilateral trade in Goods and Services registering a growth of 12.6% from \$ 126 billion in 2017 to \$142 billion in 2018.

Both co-chairs also complimented the new bilateral private sector led Small Business Interaction initiative, the US - India SME Forum, held today in the forenoon in New Delhi. This is the first event of its kind and would pave the way for collaboration and partnership between the U.S. and Indian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the areas of manufacturing and services.

Both sides also discussed various outstanding trade issues. Both sides agreed to engage regularly at various levels to resolve outstanding trade issues by exploring suitable solutions, which are mutually beneficial and promote economic development and prosperity in both countries. Both sides agreed to deepen economic cooperation and

bilateral trade by ensuring greater cooperation amongst stakeholders, including Government, businesses and entrepreneurs.

US WILL NOT BACK DOWN UNTIL CHINA STOPS CHEATING WORKERS, STEALING JOBS: TRUMP

Asserting that the "era of economic surrender is over", Trump on Wednesday night said that he has announced to increase tariff on about USD 200 billion worth of Chinese products from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

"We won't back down until China stops cheating our workers and stealing their jobs and that is what's going to happen. Otherwise, we don't have to do business with them. We don't have to do business. We can make the product right here if we have to like we used to. Remember like we used to," Trump said amidst applause from his supporters in Florida.

Trump had agreed to pause his proposed increase in import tariff from China after he and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping last December agreed to conclude a trade deal in 100 days.

The deadline could not be met, but Trump deferred his decision on imposing new tariffs of Chinese products. But after China allegedly went back on its commitment which he had agreed during the negotiations and was incorporated in the trade deal, Trump announced that he is going ahead with new tariffs on import on Chinese products beginning May 10.

"The era of economic surrender is over," Trump said.

The US has a trade imbalance of more than USD 500 billion with China.

"The last administration signed a disastrous trade deal with South Korea that cost our country nearly 100,000 jobs but it was really 250,000 jobs. And if you remember our secretary of state at the time and our president at the time said this will give 250,000 jobs and he and she were right except it was for South Korea, not for us," he said.

"It's a loser and we totally renegotiated the Korea trade deal to restore these jobs and rescue the American auto industry because that was going to be a tremendous...And that deal is done,"

Trump said.

"Right before I came into office our nation was being signed up for a one-sided single sell out like you've never seen of the American worker and I said it's not going to happen; the Trans-Pacific Partnership was going to destroy our automobile industry like you've never seen before and our automobile industry is pouring back into our country," he said.

The previous administrations, he alleged, allowed China to freely loot US economy, plunder intellectual property and target industries for destruction.

"That is what was happening. And look President Xi is a friend of mine, a great guy but he's for China. I'm for the USA. I'm for the USA," he said.

Trump said he is not worried about the fate of the US-China trade negotiations.

"So we are going to see. They come in tomorrow and whatever happens don't worry about it. It will all work out. You know why? It always does. Don't worry about it. There is no pressure because you know we are the piggy bank that everybody wants to rob, you understand that," he said.

"So, we have the thing that everybody wants, we are now the biggest market in the world by far. I will tell you China was catching us," Trump said. (Source: PTI)

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA JUNKS PLEA TO DEBAR RAHUL ON CITIZENSHIP ISSUE

from contesting Lok Sabha elections till the issue of his citizenship is decided.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi rejected the contention of the petitioners, who said that in a form along with the annual data of a UK-based company in 2005-06, it was allegedly mentioned that Gandhi is a British citizen.

"If some company in some form mentions his nationality as British, does he become a British citizen?" the Bench asked the petitioners.

The plea had said the petitioners were "dissatisfied" with the "inaction" of the Centre and the poll panel in "deciding the question of voluntary acquisition of British citizenship" by Gandhi in spite of a November 2015 communication by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in this

regard.

In a recent letter to Gandhi, the Home Ministry had said it has received a representation that a company named Backops Limited was registered in the UK in 2003 with Gandhi as one of its directors, and that he had declared his nationality as British. (Source: PTI)

INDIAN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLER INTRODUCES STEAM TO FRISCO, TEXAS, COMMUNITY VIA FAIRS

What's more, the event was held exclusively by the students of Lone Star High School and Memorial High School.

This innovative event was well attended by students from K-12 and was held at Lone Star High School.

"It brought two schools together in one place for a common purpose," Ramakrishnan noted.

Ramakrishnan and Kolachina also promoted the Ignite Frisco STEAM Fair at five local elementary schools at their morning meetings. They were invited by five principals to speak at their campuses. Flyers were also sent out to middle schools.

"We had over 1,000 people at our event," says Ramakrishnan, adding the hope is to make the fair an annual event. "We didn't expect that much for our first year."

The first half consisted of Ignite talks followed by STEAM talks. Two guest speakers were present, including one from the Frisco Arts Association and another from Discover STEM, the news release said.

Those in attendance learned all about STEAM through various booths. During the event, students made their own mosaics at one booth from One River. Other booths, such as one from iCode, introduced students to robots as they watched the robots interact with one another. They saw how to build a robot and also maneuvered it, the release said.

Others learned what components go into an iPhone, thanks to T-Mobile.

Going forward, Ramakrishnan said: "I really want to make an impact on the community in whatever way that I can."

He envisions his future plans to be in the STEM field but always with a priority to give back to others, it said.

THE INDIAN PANORAMA

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Buddha Purnima, also known as Buddha Jayanti, is a festival celebrated across the globe to mark the birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Siddhartha Buddha who later also came to be known as Gautam Buddha came from royal lineage but decided to renounce his title after seeing the immense sufferings and pain of mankind. After that, he embarked on a journey of spirituality and abstinence.

Following the traditional Indian calendar to mark the date of Buddha Purnima on the full moon of the month of Vaisakh, the day falls on different dates of the Gregorian calendar every year. Though the exact dates vary, it almost always falls in April or May. The next Mahotsav at Sarnath, i.e. the next occasion of Buddha Purnima is expected to take place on Sunday, May 12th, 2019.

Significance and History of Buddha Purnima

Buddha Purnima falls on the full moon day of Vaisakh (April/May) according to the Hindu calendar. The beauty of this auspicious day is that not only does it mark the birth anniversary of Lord Buddha, but it is also the day he achieved salvation (nirvana) and enlightenment. Since Lord Buddha was deemed an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the festival is celebrated by Buddhists with great enthusiasm. Devotees from across the globe visit the Buddhist temples in Sarnath, Bodh Gaya and various other places to commemorate the occasion. Staunch believers of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Karuna (compassion), Buddhists, the disciple of Lord Buddha come together on this day to educate others on the teachings and life experiences of their great leader.

Transformation of the King

Siddhartha Gautama was born to the King and Queen of Lumbini, Nepal in 563 BC on a full moon night. A naïve young prince, who was raised far from the sufferings of the unfortunate, suddenly came across an old man, a dead body, a sick person and a holy man while travelling in his royal chariot. The young price for the very first time witnessed pain, suffering, and agony so closely. The harsh realities of life struck a cord his heart after which he decided to take a drastic step. He renounced his family, kingdom and all worldly pleasures in the pursuit of finding the true meaning of his life.

Journey to Attain Enlightenment and Nirvana

At the young age of 29, Gautama Buddha began his expedition for enlightenment. Conquering his distractions, Lord Buddha struggled for six years before actually attaining nirvana. He took the middle path, where neither did he push his body to the extreme nor was he in denial. He practised 'Dharmakaya' a kind of meditation where you focus on a single pointed nature of all phenomena.

After this he journeyed to Bodh Gaya, a city in India, where he sat under a Bodhi tree and began Dharmakaya, vowing not to move unless he had attained the true knowledge of life and it's purpose. Eventually, on a full moon night, Lord Buddha attained enlightenment and nirvana. After years of struggle, he had finally achieved salvation and freed himself from the notion of samsara, the cycle of rebirth.

Teachings of Lord Buddha

After his enlightenment, Gautama Buddha undertook the initiative to help others realize the truth in their lives. His sermon generally consists of 'The Four Noble Truths' and 'The Eight Fold Path' of life. Laureates quote his experiences and teachings across the world to help people enlighten themselves. As a leader and teacher, Buddha inculcated wisdom in people regarding non-violence

BUDDHA PURNIMA



and compassion. He brought a new religion for mankind to follow and believe in. His sermons and preaching are etched in the history of time for generations to come.

Celebration of the Buddha Purnima

Like Gautama Buddha, many men and women undertake the same path he had taken to achieve peace of mind. His followers come to be known as Buddhists, who celebrate this auspicious day with fervour and zeal. A fair is held at Sarnath, and the zealous devotees adorn relics of Lord Buddha with incense sticks, fruits, flowers, and sweets. Buddhist Monks who devout their life to Buddhism offer special prayers and preach sermons on the teachings of Buddha to the public. Aroma of the incense sticks, the fragrance of fresh flowers and savour of warm kheer marks the purity and importance of this day.

Buddhism, the religion

To celebrate the day Siddhartha rose and become Lord Buddha, his followers volunteer themselves for charitable activities. The core motive of Buddhists is to follow non-violence and compassion, so on this day especially; they donate clothes, food, and essentials to the less fortunate. As an ode to their great leader Buddhists also refrains from eating any meat, onion, and garlic on this auspicious day. They offer milk sweets like Kheer and sweet porridge to mark the birth anniversary of their chaperone. Buddha Purnima is vehement festival commemorating an unadulterated new beginning for Buddhist followers.

Legends say that suffering can teach humans compassion in ways you cannot intercept. Lord Buddha is that example who instills the belief of compassion and perseverance in mankind. In his search for truth, he has set a path for others to follow and attain nirvana themselves. The birth and death anniversary of this Guru is celebrated as Buddha Purnima - a day of Enlightenment.



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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."

Delhi Capitals and the madness of youth

Delhi Capitals looked like they had done it again. Thrown it away, that is. They needed 12 from 12 with Rishabh Pant and Sherfane Rutherford at the crease. Ten balls on, it was two in two, and Trent Boult had just walked out to join Keemo Paul.

Paul usually doesn't say much, but looked like the one charting out the plans for the last two balls. He is just 21, but had done it before, taken on Khaleel Ahmed in the last over in search for a win. Back in 2016, he had taken West Indies Under-19s to the World Cup title, top-edging an attempted pull. It's a pull again, and he nails it this time, finishing the job and putting Capitals just one step away from a maiden IPL final.

At the post-match press conference, Prithvi Shaw saw the comic side of yet another close match.

"I think we have an affinity for making games interesting every time," he said. "Things seem to go well and suddenly two-three wickets fall. That is the fun in T20s. As long as the situation is not interesting, you don't have fun. You don't feel that pressure. I suppose you guys might have felt the pressure as well - who will win? Who will come for the press conference? The same thing happens in the dugout."

Shaw is one of 12 players who are under 25 years of age in the Capitals' squad. If we make that under 26, then he's one of 14 players in that bracket, in a squad of 24. It is no secret now that youth investment is the hill that the



Capitals have chosen to die on. It was a decision born when they were still the Daredevils a few years ago.

Rarely has a team been able to transform on the fly over 11 years of the IPL. Sunrisers Hyderabad, of course, were born from the ashes of Deccan Chargers and have now carved their identity despite joining the league late. But it's not something any other team has managed. It's something that Delhi, especially, had never pulled off, every roster reshuffle over the years had

seemed like an exercise in finding new ways to lose.

To reiterate, they took the brave call to persist with youngsters, and at long last have come to the possibly their best result ever. And they've got it overwhelmingly right.

When Shaw reached his fifty on Wednesday, only his second of the season, he held up the crest on his shirt, pointed two fingers at the dugout, and traced a line across - dedicated to all of you. *Source: espnricinfo*



'Virat Kohli doesn't have MS Dhoni's match-reading skills'

KOLKATA (TIP): Virat Kohli might be world's best batsman but when it comes to match-reading skills, he is still a few notches below Mahendra Singh Dhoni, feels former India skipper's childhood coach Keshab Ranjan Banerjee.

It has been seen that during death overs, it is Dhoni who takes over the field placements with Kohli manning the deep.

"In terms of match-reading and forming strategies, Dhoni is still unparalleled. Even Kohli doesn't have that. So Kohli needs to take some advice. If Dhoni would not have been part of the Indian team, there would be nobody to help him. Virat still needs time as captain and advice from Dhoni would only help him," Banerjee told reporters during the summer camp launch of MS Dhoni Cricket Academy Clinic, which will be held in Andul.

India will open their campaign in the World Cup against South Africa on June 5 and there's been a lot of talk about a weak middle order, especially with no specialist at No 4. Dhoni is the answer to the No 4 riddle, Banerjee opined.

"I feel Dhoni should bat at No 4 in the World Cup. It is a team management decision but that's my personal opinion. If he bats at No 4, batsmen after him can play freely," he said about the India's 2011 World Cup winning captain.

"When he bats at no 4, he has the luxury of spending some time and then bat freely. But he has to hit right from ball one, if he drops down at 5 or 6. Then he has to take risks," he reasoned.

Dhoni would turn 38 during the upcoming marquee event in England and when asked whether his famous ward would call it quits after the World Cup, he dismissed it with a laugh.

"Do you want him to retire? Haven't you seen his fitness level," the former games teacher of Jawahar Vidya Mandir Ranchi, said. "Fitness is everything. But I cannot say about his retirement, not even his father or wife," he said, citing example of Dhoni's surprise Test retirement announcement on December 30, 2014 in the middle of their away series Down Under.

Banerjee also spoke about young Rishabh Pant's omission from the World Cup squad and said: "It's too early to give him a chance. Our bench strength is huge and his (Pant's) chance will come." *Source: PTI*

World Cup: Kapil Dev predicts the semi-finalists

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Indian captain Kapil Dev believes Virat Kohli's Indian team has the quality to make it to the semi-finals of the World Cup. The legendary all-rounder said that Kohli's team will definitely make it to the top four, following which it was difficult to make a prediction.

"The team has a great combination of youth and experience. In my opinion, they have the right balance and of course, there is Dhoni and Kohli. India will definitely be in the top 4. But that is where it gets tricky. They have a good team but belief and performance will be key," Kapil said on the sidelines of an event in the capital.

Talking about the teams that he thinks will make it to the semi-final, Kapil picked three teams while kept one slot open as he thinks there will be a big fight for the fourth spot.

"The top three teams in the league stage will be India, England and Australia. The fourth one is doubtful as I expect a group of teams to fight for it. Can be between New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa," Kapil said.

Kapil also spoke about Hardik Pandya and said that the all-rounder will be very important for the Indian side but believed people should not put extra pressure on him. Kapil sounded very confident about the performance of the pace attack. *Source: HT*

LUCAS HAT-TRICK TAKES TOTTENHAM TO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

AMSTERDAM (TIP): Lucas Moura's last-gasp strike took Tottenham Hotspur to the Champions League final for the first time in their history on Wednesday, completing his hat-trick and sealing an incredible 3-2 win over Ajax to leave the Dutch side heartbroken.

Ajax's improbable European run seemed set to go on all the way to the final as they led 3-2 on aggregate deep in stoppage time in the second leg of the semi-final at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

That was when the ball broke to Lucas in the box and the Brazilian sent a low shot beyond the despairing dive of Ajax goalkeeper Andre Onana to seal their comeback, making it 3-2 to them on the night, 3-3 on aggregate, and taking Mauricio Pochettino's men through on away goals.

The Ajax players slumped to the turf, their fans stunned, as they go out and Spurs advance to face fellow comeback kings Liverpool in an all-English final in Madrid on June 1.

Leading 1-0 after the first leg, the thrilling young Dutch side appeared to have killed the tie after captain Matthijs de Ligt and Hakim Ziyech both scored in the first half here.

That left Tottenham needing a comeback to match that of Liverpool against Barcelona the previous night, but in an even shorter amount of time.

A quickfire brace by Lucas early in the second half gave them something to



cling to, before he struck the decisive blow, denying Ajax a first final since 1996.

Erik ten Hag's team, who had already eliminated the holders, Real Madrid, and Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus this season, were applauded by their devastated fans at full-time and must now somehow lift themselves to try to win the Dutch title.

They had been dealt a blow just minutes before kick-off when Brazilian winger David Neres pulled out of their starting line-up after the warm-up, his

place taken by the young Dane, Kasper Dolberg.

That last-minute switch did not perturb the Dutch club, though. Far from it, Dusan Tadic moved to the left wing, and Ajax set about tearing into their opponents right from the off, just as they had done in the first leg.

They won a corner after Hugo Lloris had stretched to his left to beat away a Tadic shot, and from the delivery that followed from Lasse Schoene, De Ligt rose to head home a fifth-minute opener. *Source: AFP*



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

Weekly Horoscope - May 20 - May 26, 2019

Aries:

Ganesha says you are charting a new course for your life, giving it a new direction, and are keen to make a mark in the world. You inspire others and meet with success in whatever you undertake. You set new benchmarks and win applause. Elders in the family may need hospitalization, or the spouse and children may meet with emergencies.

Taurus:

You may be tempted to think of the glorious past or the good old days this period. This is a serious phase and you may even want to go on a pilgrimage to propitiate the Gods. Many domestic issues come to the fore along with travel. This period is meant for bonding with people. You look at work more seriously now. You will meet new people and make profitable contacts.

Gemini:

There is money to be earned and to be spent and you are constantly on the move. It is, finally, a happy period with some merrymaking thrown in. There is a lot of work but as the period ends, emotions cloud your judgements. You look for divine intervention and you try to escape your responsibilities. This is a time when you need to be disciplined to come out on top.

Cancer:

There is good luck coming your way, maybe even a new love affair or greater intimacy with your spouse / partner. This is the period for cultivating a hobby. This period inspires you, and you will perform some mind-boggling feats. It is also a good time for fresh bonding, closer interaction and greater intimacy. Ganesha is definitely generous to you now. You are creative and think out of the box.

Leo:

There is support from family and friends and they understand what you are going through. The world is empathetic. It has seen your struggle and now all the forces at play want you to succeed. As the period moves on, you are in full flow and make rapid progress. During this period, you will establish yourself. You earn repute for your formidable skills. Your approach is disciplined and organized.

Virgo:

You may want to have it your way all the time but please remember that it pays to be flexible. The focus shifts from creativity and interpersonal equations to money matters like your income, taxes, rentals, the signing of important documents and cheques. I recommend both health precautions and serious attempts at proper management of both time and resources.

Libra:

There is money and honey, spiritual growth, the family is well taken care of, and there is domestic bliss. You have established yourself in the world and now you have to work harder to remain there. You are ambitious, determined and almost ruthless to get whatever you have set your sights on. In many ways, it represents a period of culmination in your life.

Scorpio:

You want to get yourself as many possessions as you can. Work with others in a spirit of sharing and mutual growth. Ganesha believes that this is the time for ties, attachments, bonding, love, affection, marriage partnership. There may also be an addition to the family and many happy moments in the domestic sphere. Romance and love will be both rewarding and pleasing.

Sagittarius:

While you make progress at work, you can also be insufferable to colleagues with your mighty ego issues. You are drained of valuable energy that has been lost in this unnecessary expression of your ego. Make time for the three F's - friends, fun and frolic. As the period extends, you throw yourself at work and in the party circuit and make new friends.

Capricorn:

You are flamboyant in your display of affection that also spills into the work arena. You dream big, larger than life. You also feel like doing some quality social work and helping the less fortunate. As the period ends, you are at your creative best and win the applause of all those who hear you out. You are filled with wisdom and brilliant solutions to office problems.

Aquarius:

You resolve matters that have so far seemed insurmountable. There are happy moments too with family and friends. Not only do you work well, you love even better. A probable home-away-from-home is on the cards as you power your way along. Projects that you had embarked on in the middle of the period need to be completed now.

Pisces:

You are busy with the three big C's - computers, correspondence and contacts. Just remember to invoke the blessings of Ganesha! Travel is foretold and you have many new interactions with people. The mood is happy but along with it are many issues that still need solving. The period has had many facets to it and as it ends you are richer and wiser. The coming period promises to be even better.

Birthday Horoscope May 20 - May 26, 2019

20TH: Ganesha says even business-oriented you may feel the urge to do something risky or want to take a chance on some kind of breakthrough. Follow your impulses, but don't bet more than you can afford to lose.

21ST: Passions run deep today.

Whether it's a professional or personal relationship, there's the chance to get closer and feel more trust. You can move forward with an empowering alliance.

22ND: There may be much oomph in the day to get much started. You probably won't find any transaction until the late afternoon, and by then you may not feel up to starting anything new.

23RD: The Moon may set off

some urgency when it comes to needs at home and responsibilities at work. But a romance, maybe while travelling, keeps you highly attracted amid emotional rolls

24TH: There might still be issues to deal with at home if family members think you're spending too much time on the job and not even time with loved ones, especially night after the workday finishes.

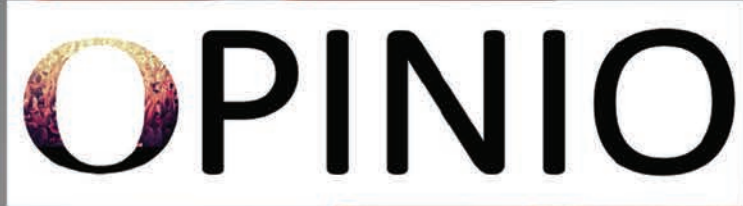
25TH: You'd like to spend this

weekend with loved ones, maybe a child, seeking recreation and pleasure, but awkward relations could get in the way of pure fun. Look for a late-night resolution.

26TH: The morning, especially, makes supportive relationships hard to find. Maybe you're caught up in self-doubt. Look to someone in business to be the person who's got a fair, harmonious solution.

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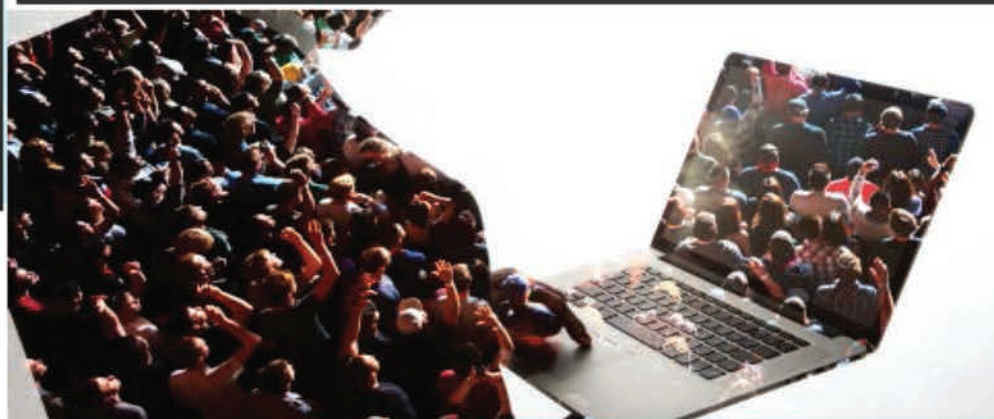
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