

## New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio enters 2020 Presidential race

**Bill de Blasio has officially announced his run for the White House, making him the 23rd person to announce a 2020 democratic presidential run**



Mayor de Blasio: "Donald Trump must be stopped"

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced, Thursday, May 16 that he will be joining other Democratic hopefuls as he will be running for president in 2020.

*contd on Page 20*

## President Donald Trump announces new points-based green card system

**Education, language skills to be rewarded in new proposal  
No mention of "Dreamers"**

**Overall number of green cards, just over 1.1 million in 2017, will remain the same.**

**I.S. SALUJA**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Yet another US President has come up with yet another proposal on streamlining the immigration system, which has often been described by both the Republicans and the Democrats as broken. Ever since the days of President George W Bush and through the two-term presidency of Barack Obama, a number of efforts were initiated to have a comprehensive immigration reform bill, but all failed.

*contd on Page 20*

*President Trump unveiled on May 16, a merit based immigration proposal*

*File photo*



## India House turns into 'Mini Punjab' at Baisakhi Celebration

**Ambassador Harsh V Shringla addressing the invitees to Baisakhi celebrations at India House, official residence of the Ambassador in Washington, May 11**

*Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India*



**BIDISHA ROY**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The India House at Washington DC, the official residence of India's Ambassador to the US, witnessed a rare moment on Saturday 11 May 2019 when it turned into a whole sea of turbans at Baisakhi celebrations, hosted by Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

The Ambassador himself donning a red turban welcomed the guests, with First Lady Mrs. Hemal Shringla by his side.

Over 200 guests, including prominent representatives of Sikh organizations and Gurudwaras from the Washington area, San Francisco, New York *contd on Page 12-13-15*

## Xavier University School of Medicine President Bhooplapur conferred Leadership Award



*Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, Dr. Bhupi Patel present Ravishankar Bhooplapur with the Leadership award*

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** The SUNY Old Westbury College Foundation held their annual Leadership Awards Dinner on Tuesday May 7th, 2019 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, New York. On the occasion, Leadership awards were presented to Ravishankar Bhooplapur, President, Xavier

University School of Medicine, Dr. Laura Anker, Distinguished Service Professor, SUNY Old Westbury, and Lionel Chitty'02, President, Alumni Association of SUNY Old Westbury. Also recognized was Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, President of SUNY Old Westbury

*contd on Page 2*

## 5th Annual DFW SAFF Unveils Entire Festival Lineup: Eight Features, Two Docs & Shorts over Four Days



**DALLAS, TX (TIP):** The 5th annual DFW South Asian Film Festival,

presented by Toyota, has announced its entire festival lineup, which consists of ONE World Premiere, TWO North American Premieres, ONE U.S. Premiere, 14 Texas Premieres and THREE Dallas Premieres.

The four-day movie event, taking place from May 16th to 19th at various locations including Victory Park,

Addison and the Design District, boasts 21 shorts, documentaries and feature films, Q&A sessions with attending filmmakers/actors and nightly after-parties for festival-goers. For the entire festival schedule, please click [HERE](#).

The opening night film & after party will take place at The Perot Museum in Victory Park on Thursday, May 16 from

6:30 p.m. to midnight. The festival will kick off with the World Premiere of Gaurav Sharma's short film *THAT MAN IN THE PICTURE*, followed by the Texas Premiere of Rohena Gera's *SIR*, starring Tillotama Shome and Vivek Gomber (in attendance).

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## Xavier University School of Medicine President Bhooplapur conferred Leadership Award

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for his 20 years of outstanding leadership, his dedication to academic excellence and the development of leadership qualities in students.

The objective Leadership awards is to recognize a select few individuals who have committed themselves to leadership work and helping others.

Ravishankar Bhooplapur, President of Xavier University School of Medicine, was awarded the Leadership Award from SUNY Old Westbury in recognition of his lifelong dedication to leadership and his tireless commitment to humanitarian efforts globally. He was presented the award by Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, President of SUNY Old Westbury and Dr. Bhupi Patel, SUNY Old Westbury Trustee. Bhooplapur graciously accepted the award and addressed the audience on what being honored with this award meant to him.

This Leadership awards dinner which was attended by around 600 was a great success. All proceeds from the event went to the SUNY Old Westbury College Foundation in order to help to continue to provide



Ravishankar Bhooplapur and wife Jaya celebrate the award

scholarships to students and to support academic enrichment programs.



Ravishankar Bhooplapur address the audience at the Leadership Awards Dinner

## The Man with a Rare Vision

**Ravishankar Bhooplapur**  
President, Xavier University School of Medicine



A man of rare vision, Ravishankar Bhooplapur, President, Xavier University School of Medicine, is the Founder & CEO of Vision Financial Services, New York. He has been awarded many industry awards and entered into "Hall of Fame" of insurance for his outstanding commitment & service to the industry. Ravi is a board member of numerous charities, hospitals, and businesses. He is the founder of the "Gift of Life, India" and has been instrumental in saving over 1500 children's lives to date by providing heart surgery to children under the age of 15.

Ravi has worked with many hospitals and physicians nationwide (through his work with "Gift of Life, India"). He became the President of Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba almost 8 years ago. He is a very active member of Rotary International and was installed as District Governor of Rotary International July 2, 2009. The Rotary Foundation has awarded Mr. Bhooplapur Meritorious Service Award and Distinguished Service Award, for his great services to the International organization. Rotary Foundation's highest award "Service above Self" was also conferred on him for his commitment to humanitarian work worldwide.

He is a Hall of Fame Member at the Rotary Foundation and his portrait was installed at world headquarters in Evanston, Chicago in 2005. Mr. Bhooplapur was recognized by the United States Congress and presented an award by Congressman Gary Ackerman, for his outstanding contributions to local & international humanitarian causes.

## Xavier University School of Medicine in top 10 Caribbean medical schools list



Ravishankar 'Ravi' Bhooplapur took over as President of Xavier University School of Medicine (XUSOM), Aruba in 2008 and within a decade has transformed it to become one of the Top 10 Caribbean Medical Schools in 2019, as listed by MoneyInc.com. For the accomplishment, Ravi, of course, likes to

thank the hardworking faculty members and staff. With admissions office in Woodbury, NY, XUSOM is chartered by the government of Aruba with authorization by the Ministry of Education of Aruba. XUSOM is one of the few universities accredited by both CAAM-HP and ACCM. It is registered with NCFMEA and WFME. They have recently achieved a 100% First Time pass rate on the USMLE Step 1 exam and to be recognized. They also offer scholarships to well qualified students and have recently announced special scholarships for Sikh heritage students to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism.



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# Indian American Researches at UC San Diego Receive Helmsley Charitable Trust Grants to Study Crohn's Disease

**SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP):** Two Indian American researches at University of California San Diego got \$3.5 Million in new grants from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to Study Crohn's Disease. Helmsley's goal is to find a cure for Crohn's disease, a long-term pursuit in parallel with improving patients' lives today.

Dr. Pradipta Ghosh and Soumita Das will aim to improve surgical outcomes and therapeutics for Crohn's disease patients.

The \$3.5 million grant will allow Ghosh, professor and director of the Center for Network Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine, and Das, assistant professor, chief scientific officer and director of HUMANOID Center of Research Excellence at UC San Diego School of Medicine to assemble a transdisciplinary team of cellular, molecular and stem-cell biologists along with computer science engineers, pathologists and gastroenterologists. Together, they will build and validate a stem cell-based "gut-in-a-dish" model of Crohn's disease, as a "Phase 0" human



*Dr. Pradipta Ghosh (left) and Soumita Das (right) will aim to improve surgical outcomes and therapeutics for Crohn's disease patients*

model before clinical trials.

The stem cells will be derived from intestinal biopsies of patients with the disease and used to reverse-engineer the



gut lining. The model will encompass the microbes, immune cells and other complex cell types found in the gut.

*(Source - UC San Diego News)*

## Indian American receives Distinguished Teaching Award



*Dr. Ramnath K. Chellappa is Associate Dean and Academic Director of the Master of Science in Business Analytics program*

**ATLANTA, GA (TIP):** Ramnath K. Chellappa, associate professor of information systems and operations management in Goizueta Business School at Emory University in Atlanta, has been named one of the Recipients of the 2019 Provost's Distinguished Teaching Award.

The Provost's Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education recognizes outstanding scholars who excel as teachers within formal and informal educational settings.

The award is given at Commencement to one faculty member in each of the seven graduate and professional schools in recognition of the important role of exceptional teaching in graduate and professional education.

Chellappa is a Goizueta Foundation Term Professor and Associate Professor of Information Systems & Operations Management at the Goizueta Business School, Emory University. He was previously a Caldwell Research Fellow at Goizueta, Emory and SRITNE Distinguished Academic Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. Prior to joining Emory University, Prof. Chellappa served on the faculty of Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California from and was the founding director of the Electronic Economy Research Lab (eBizLab) at USC.

Prof. Chellappa's expertise is in the fields of electronic markets, pricing, digital goods piracy and economics of information security and privacy. His research in these areas has been widely published/presented in leading journals and conferences. His work on information privacy, research on music digitization and study of software pricing have received best paper awards in premier conferences. His research methods include analytical modeling, empirical modeling and social network analysis. He also serves/has served on the editorial boards of Information Systems Research and MIS Quarterly. He is currently the president of INFORMS Information Systems Society.

## Indian American Rutgers Student Receives Goldwater Scholarship



*Rikab Gambhir, (left) a junior majoring in physics and mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering. Also seen in the picture are Mariya Galochkina (center) and Brandon Gomes (right) who too were selected for Goldwater Scholarships*

**NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP):** An Indian American Rutgers-New Brunswick Honors College student is among three undergraduates awarded 2019 Goldwater scholarships for their academic excellence.

Rikab Gambhir, a junior majoring in physics and mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering wants to pursue a doctoral degree in physics.

This is the 14th consecutive year that a Rutgers-New Brunswick student was selected as a Goldwater

scholar, a scholarship which honors the late Sen. Barry Goldwater and is designed to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics and natural sciences and engineering.

The other two students are Mariya Galochkina and Brandon Gomes. The trio was selected to compete for the 2019 Goldwater scholarship from a pool of 1,223 students nominated by 442 colleges and universities throughout the country. The scholarship includes up to \$7,500 a year for tuition, fees, books and room and board for up to two years. *(Source - Rutgers Today)*

## Indian American Kunoor Ojha Hired by Warren Campaign

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American activist and Illinois Tech alumnus Kunoor Ojha has been hired by United States Senator Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign as the Deputy National Organizing Director.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign hired Ojha as the national campus and student-organizing director. Ojha previously worked for the Bernie Sanders campaign as the director of student organizing.

Ojha brings extensive campaign experience to her new role. While she was a student at Illinois Tech, she worked as a field organizer for President Obama's second presidential campaign. After graduation, she served as a regional field director for Yes for Independent Maps, a campaign focused on reforming the legislative district map-drawing process in Illinois. Prior to joining the Sanders campaign, she was a field director for the Bill Hughes Jr. congressional campaign in New Jersey.

As a student, Ojha was a very active member of the Illinois Tech community. She served as vice president and president of IIT Feminist United, participated in Habitat for Humanity, and worked as a student DJ at WIIT.



*Ojha brings extensive campaign experience to her new role*

## Indian American Economist Raj Chetty to receive 'Brainy Award'



*Raj Chetty is the William A. Ackman Professor of Public Economics at Harvard University*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program marked its fifth year with the announcement of the 2019 class of fellows, comprised of 32 scholars, including Indian American economist Raj Chetty.

*(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*



## US Interfaith Coalition Writes to Pakistani Ambassador to curb religious freedom violations



Jay Kansara, HAF Director of Government Relations, who spearheaded the effort, said, "We look forward to engaging in a dialogue with Pakistan's new envoy in Washington

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Hindu American Foundation (HAF), in conjunction with the International Religious Freedom Roundtable, sent a letter earlier this month to Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, who represents the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United States.

The diverse coalition of scholars, interfaith activists, and organizations wrote to the Ambassador in hopes of engaging him in a constructive dialogue on recent and ongoing religious freedom violations faced by minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Shia and Ahmadiyya Muslims.

Jay Kansara, HAF Director of Government Relations, who spearheaded the effort, said, "We look forward to engaging in a dialogue with Pakistan's new envoy in Washington. We see this as a great opportunity for all stakeholders to proactively discuss ways to enhance religious freedom for Pakistani citizens of all backgrounds."

### The letter reads in part:

"We approach you in a good-faith effort as members of American civil society to build upon the recent visit to Pakistan by Ambassador Sam Brownback, representing the United States for International Religious Freedom. After his brief trip to Islamabad, where he had the opportunity to meet with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, other prominent government officials, and leaders of civil society, Ambassador Brownback expressed with great optimism that Pakistan has "a desire to change" in order to be removed from the United States' Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) list.

In recent weeks, however, the conditions of religious minorities have continued to deteriorate. While we were initially encouraged by the exoneration of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman, and Dr. Abdul Shakoor, an Ahmadi Muslim, on false blasphemy charges, we are deeply concerned by the recent reports of abductions and forced conversions of dozens of young Hindu and Christian girls."

In March of this year, another high-profile case involving the abduction and forced conversion of two Hindu girls, Reena (14 years old) and Raveena (16 years old), from their homes in Sindh province, became international news. Despite assurances from Prime Minister Imran Khan of a thorough investigation to curb the abductions of young Hindu girls and the existence of laws prohibiting the marriage of minors, a court validated the conversion and subsequent underage marriages of the two girls.

# Committees Call on White House and DOJ to Stop Withholding Documents on Obamacare

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Five House Committees sent letters May 14 to the White House and the Department of Justice demanding documents in response to a request made more than a month ago regarding the Trump Administration's sudden decision to reverse its legal position in court and assert that the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA), popularly known as Obamacare, should be held unconstitutional.

The letters were signed by Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr., Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Richard E. Neal, Committee on Education and Labor Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, and Committee on the Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler.

"This action could deprive millions of Americans of health insurance coverage, including 133 million people with pre-existing conditions," the Chairmen wrote. "Given the grave consequences that would result if the Trump Administration's legal position were to



prevail, it is Congress' responsibility as an independent and co-equal branch of government to understand how this decision was made. If the President and his Administration truly stand by their decision to seek to eliminate health insurance coverage for millions of Americans, it is unclear why the White

House would cover up its role in this unprecedented and disastrous reversal."

According to a release by House Committee on Oversight and Reform, to date, the White House has failed to respond in any way to the previous request for documents. The Department of Justice sent an acknowledgement stating that it would respond promptly to the request, but it subsequently produced no further information.

Instead, on May 1, 2019, the Department of Justice filed a 50-page brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit elaborating on the Administration's new-and-flawed-legal position.

In the letters, the Committees demanded a complete response to their previous request, as well as a transcribed interview of Russ Vought, the Acting Director of Office of Management and Budget, by May 24, 2019, and the testimony of relevant Department of Justice officials. The Committees also warned that if they do not receive a response by this date, they will consider alternative means to obtaining compliance.

## US Navy Chief Concludes India Visit, Expands Partnership



US Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson inspects the Indian navy Guard of Honor at South Block lawns in New Delhi

**NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON (TIP):** Chief of US Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson concluded his three-day visit to India, May 14.

During the visit, Richardson met with Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy Adm. Sunil Lanba and other senior military, diplomatic and national security officials of India.

The two heads of navy discussed the strategic importance of growing the two navies' partnership and the need to focus on information sharing and exchange. They also discussed their shared view on a multilateral approach in maintaining maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region.

"This visit provided a critical opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the Indian Navy and the U.S. Navy," said Richardson. "Nothing beats the chance to meet in person. I'm grateful for the friendship and vision of Admiral Sunil Lanba, who is nearing the end of a very impactful term as Chief of the Indian Navy. He has been a strong advocate for a closer partnership between our two navies, and we've made significant progress. Our mutual commitment and shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific enables even more opportunities for the future. We took the opportunity during the visit to discuss specific steps that will set the stage for further cooperation between our two navies."

Richardson also met with the U.S. Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster and discussed how to further strengthen relations between the two countries and navies. The visit included a wreath laying at the National War Memorial and a guard of honor arrival ceremony.

## China's Huawei, 70 affiliates placed on US trade blacklist



The dramatic move comes as the Trump administration has aggressively lobbied other countries not to use Huawei equipment in next generation 5G networks.

Photo / Courtesy Reuter

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Trump administration hit Chinese telecoms giant Huawei with severe sanctions on Wednesday, adding another incendiary element to the US-China trade dispute just as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he would visit China soon for more talks.

The Commerce Department said it was adding Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and 70 affiliates to its "Entity List" - a move that bans the company from acquiring components and technology from US firms without government approval.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement that President Donald Trump backed the decision to "prevent American technology from being used by foreign owned entities in ways that potentially undermine US national security or foreign policy interests."

(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com))

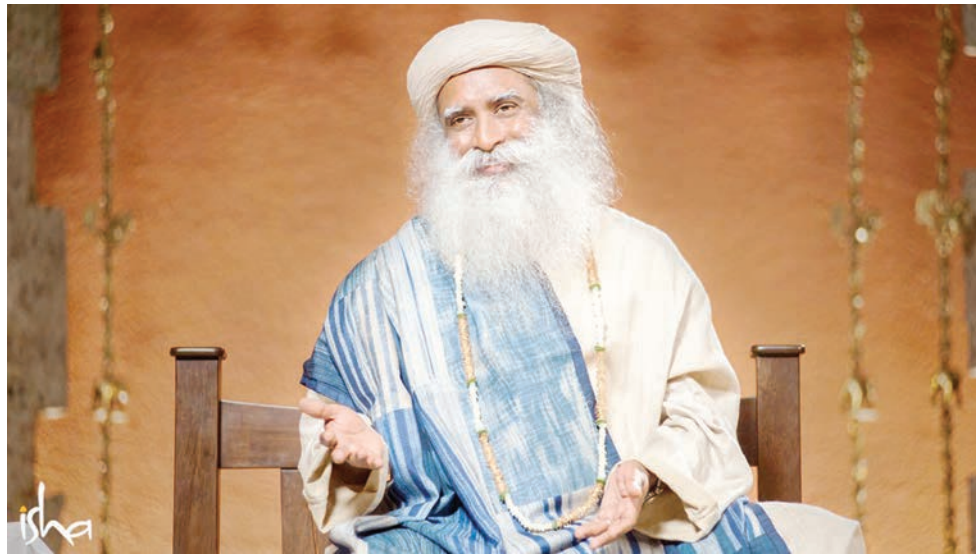


# Sadhguru to Lead Spiritual Discourse during AAPI's 37th Annual Convention in Atlanta

**ATLANTA, GA (TIP):** Understanding the inherent humanity that unites all nations, religions and cultures, Sadhguru is recognized for his pioneering efforts to nurture global harmony, Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of American association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), said, May 11, while announcing spiritual discourse led by Sadhguru during AAPI's 37th Convention in New York.

The 37th Annual AAPI Convention & Scientific Assembly will be held from July 3rd to July 7th, 2019 at the fabulous and world-famous Omni Atlanta at CNN Center and Georgia World Congress Center. Expected to have a record attendance of more than 2,000 delegates including Physicians, Academicians, Researchers and Medical students, "the annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events," Dr. Parikh added.

"Having Sadhguru at the Convention with his unique ability to make the ancient yogic sciences relevant to contemporary minds, and act as a bridge to the deeper dimensions of life, will make the convention and the delegates from across the nation richer, in so many ways," said Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Chairman of the Convention. "His approach does not ascribe to any belief system but offers



Indian yogi, mystic, author and founder of Isha Foundation, Sadhguru will lead a spiritual discourse at AAPI's 37th Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia in the first week of July 2019.

methods for self-transformation that are both proven and powerful," Dr. Gangasani added.

Named one of India's 50 most influential people, Sadhguru is a realized Yogi and mystic who works tirelessly towards the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of all. Sadhguru's work has deeply touched the lives of millions worldwide through his transformational programs.

"We need to create a culture of Health in society, instead of investing in just healthcare," Sadhguru says. "What we call feeling healthy, is not just the absence of disease, but having a sense of wholeness

within us. If we feel like a complete being in our body, mind and spirit, that is when we are truly healthy."

An author, poet and internationally renowned speaker, Sadhguru's wit and piercing logic provoke and broaden our thoughts and perception of life. Sadhguru has been an influential voice at major global forums including the United Nations, World Economic Forum, the UK House of Lords, TED among many others.

Just as he has stated, "Your success in this world essentially depends on how well you can harness the prowess of this body and this mind," Sadhguru believes in

dedicating his life for the service of humanity. He established Isha Foundation; a non-profit organization supported by over three million volunteers worldwide. From powerful yoga programs to large-scale humanitarian projects for rural upliftment, education for the underprivileged, environmental restoration, as well as holistic and healthy living, the foundation's activities are designed to create an inclusive culture and establish global harmony.

His fundamental vision is to offer the science of inner wellbeing to every human being - a science vitally helping realize the ultimate potential within. From this vision stem a multitude of projects, programs, and methods, all towards the same aim: to raise every human being to the peak of their potential, be exuberant, all-inclusive, in harmony within themselves and the world.

**Perhaps Sadhguru's mission is most succinctly summarized in his own paradoxical words:** "I have no mission of my own. It is just that when you see a certain need around you, you do what you can do - that's all. But I have a dream, that someday, walking on a street anywhere in the world, I would be able to meet lots of enlightened or realized beings. That would be the greatest blessing to happen to the world." *(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com))*

## Most restrictive anti-abortion Bill ever signed into law

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Alabama Governor Kay Ivey has signed into law the most restrictive abortion Bill in the US, which passes a near total ban on pregnancy terminations, even in cases of rape, and could punish doctors who perform them with life imprisonment.

"Today, I signed into law the Alabama Human Life Protection Act, a bill that was approved by overwhelming majorities in both chambers of the Legislature," CNN quoted Ivey, a Republican, as saying in a statement on Wednesday, May 15.

"To the bill's many supporters, this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians' deeply held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God." The Alabama Senate passed the bill 25-6 late Tuesday night. The law only allows exceptions "to avoid a serious health risk to the unborn child's mother", for ectopic pregnancy and if the "unborn child has a lethal anomaly". Democrats re-introduced an amendment to exempt rape and incest victims, but the motion failed on an 11-21 vote. Ivey noted in her Wednesday night statement that the new law may be unenforceable due to the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states. *(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com))*

## Indian-led Medical technology startup named TiE50 winner in TiEcon

**SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP):** Oakland based medical technology startup Promaxo, led by Indian American Dr. Amit Vohra who is a serial entrepreneur, business strategist and advisor to several healthcare and technology start-ups, has been selected as a 2019 TiE50 Winner in the prestigious TiE50 Awards Program. This awards competition, now in its tenth year, is a program of TiECon, the world's largest conference for tech entrepreneurs. Promaxo is being recognized for its innovative MRI platform to enable live diagnosis and treatment in a physician's office. "We are excited and humbled to accept this award and to be recognized among the top innovators. This prestigious honor places us in the company of highly respected and beloved past recipients," stated Amit Vohra, Promaxo's President & CEO. "At Promaxo, we continue our quest to enhance quality of care and patients' lives through customer-centric MRI solutions."

"TiE50 has become a global brand and this year we screened entries from all over the world and from a very diverse set of industries including AI, autonomous vehicles, FinTech, sustainable textiles, medical devices, robotics, fuel cells, networking, healthcare, logistics and security. We screened and selected the TiE50 winners as recognition of the



Promaxo's President & CEO Amit Vohra at the TiE50 Awards Ceremony in Santa Clara, CA.

potential of the companies and innovation they are bringing to market. TiE50 program has gained notoriety over the past decade as a competition run with the highest level of integrity and vigorous screening and judging by domain experts," said Kamal Anand, TiE50 Program Chair.

"For over 27 years as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and with a global footprint of half million entrepreneurs, enterprise executives, and investment professionals, at TiE Silicon Valley we take pride in the fact that we have created TiE50, a strong 10-year-old brand for recognizing high potential startups," said B.J. Arun, President, TiE Silicon Valley.

*(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com))*

## US orders non-emergency embassy staff to leave Iraq, citing threat to US Citizens from Terrorist groups

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US on Wednesday, May 15, ordered all non-emergency staff to leave its embassy in Baghdad and consulate in Arbil, as tension escalates between the United States and Iraq's neighbor Iran, prompting Kremlin concern.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Tehran in recent days, accusing Iran of planning unspecified "imminent" attacks in the region, and bolstering the American military presence in the Gulf.

A State Department advisory announcing the partial embassy closures warned of numerous "terrorist and insurgent groups" active in Iraq, including "anti-US sectarian militias" who could "threaten US citizens and Western companies throughout Iraq." The US last year shut its consulate in the protest-hit southern Iraqi city of Basra, blaming "indirect fire" by Iran-backed forces.

Tensions have sharply escalated between arch-rivals Washington and Tehran since US President Donald Trump withdrew last May from the 2015 international Iran nuclear deal which removed sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program. *(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com))*



## BJP, TMC, CONGRESS KEEP POLL BODY BUSY OVER BENGAL

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Complaints from and about West Bengal have kept the Election Commission of India (ECI) busy this poll season. Between February 4 and April 16, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) submitted 40 representations to the ECI, flagging concerns over various polling aspects in the state, while the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) submitted four and the Congress 15.

Most of BJP's complaints pertained to requests for transfer of state officials who, the party felt, were not being impartial in carrying out their duties against voter suppression, attacks against BJP workers, and over chief minister Mamata Banerjee's alleged violation of the model code of conduct.

The TMC has lodged roughly four complaints, all against the BJP. The latest was on the vandalism of a bust of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in a Kolkata college, following a roadshow by BJP president Amit Shah on Tuesday. It has, however, lodged many complaints with the state election office against BJP's alleged malpractices.

A Congress functionary said while leaders in the All India Congress Committee had gone to the ECI on five instances to complain of poll violence in West Bengal, the party's Bengal unit had approached the state chief electoral officer (CEO) over 15 times.

Rajya Sabha MP Pradip Bhattacharya said state unit leaders had approached the CEO on several poll-related violence complaints. "We complained about the threat and intimidation that voters are facing in and around Malda area, where those going to meetings of other parties are harassed and their houses burned. We asked the poll officers to send central forces, but nothing came of it," said Bhattacharya.

Following complaints from both the BJP and the TMC that accused each other of orchestrating Tuesday's violence, the poll watchdog cut short campaigning in Bengal for the May 19 polling. Campaigning ended on Thursday at 10 pm instead of Friday 5 pm (where it will end in the other states that go to polls on Sunday).

According to a person aware of developments, two of BJP's main demands that were met included the removal of Rajiv Kumar and increasing deployment of central forces in the state.

On Wednesday, the ECI relieved Kumar from the post of additional director general of the CID in the state, and ordered him to report for duty at the home ministry in Delhi. Though he was removed following Tuesday's violence during Shah's roadshow, the party had submitted a representation seeking his removal on April 1.

The BJP had approached the EC on February 4 with a representation to invoke its rights under Article 324 of the Constitution to ensure that all parties get a level playing field and polls are held freely. The BJP complained that the Bengal administration was not giving permission for political rallies on land that was "historically and conventionally" used for such purposes, harassment of workers and denial or delay in landing of choppers.

The party cited specific instances of the choppers of BJP president Shah, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and union minister Rajnath Singh being given permission to land only hours before their rallies. *Source: HT*

# Nyay will refuel engine of economy emptied by Modi: Rahul Gandhi

**KUSHINAGAR (TIP):** Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking "fuel out of the engine of the country's economy," Congress president Rahul Gandhi Thursday said if voted to power, his party will refuel it through the proposed 'Nyay' scheme.

Addressing an election rally here, the Congress chief said that the experts he consulted before proposing the 'Nyay' scheme in the party manifesto had told him it was necessary for restoring the purchasing power of the people "hit by demonetisation and GST".

The party's proposed minimum income guarantee scheme, Nyuntan Aay Yojana (Nyay) assures up to Rs 72,000 a year or Rs 6,000 a month income to 20 per cent of India's poorest families if it wins the Lok Sabha polls.

"Narendra Modi has taken the fuel out of the engine of the country's economy. He puts in the key but it does not start the engine. Nyay scheme is the diesel for the engine of economy," Gandhi said, adding it will provide jobs to lakhs of youth with the opening of factories and shops.

"We want to return what Narendra Modi has snatched from you all," he told the gathering.

He claimed that all those having monthly income of less than Rs 12,000 will benefit from the scheme and the money will go directly in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

"Rs 72,000 will go in the bank accounts of five crore women as they spend wisely," the Congress chief said.

Reiterating his charge that PM Modi "benefitted select industrialists and capitalist", Gandhi alleged the money meant for insurance of farmers was given to the 15 to 20 industrialists.

On the promises made in Congress manifesto, he said farmers had suggested that they be told in advance how much funds will be allocated for them at the beginning of every financial year and the party has accepted it.

"Two budgets will be made. The one for

More they abuse, the more people love me: PM Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the love of the people towards him increases with the abuses hurled at him, claiming that the opposition alliance in Uttar Pradesh is now sensing defeat.

"All the mahamilawatis including the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) are in low spirits today seeing their impending defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," Narendra Modi said in an election rally in Chandauli.

"As the dose of the rivals' abuses increases, the people are increasing their dose of trust and love too," Narendra Modi said at another meeting in Mirzapur.

Narendra Modi also addressed a meeting in Mau, where he blamed Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress for the violence during BJP president Amit Shah's roadshow in Kolkata on Tuesday.

farmers which will be presented in the Lok Sabha before the general budget," Gandhi said, adding the Congress has decided that no farmer will be put in jail for not clearing debt after 2019.

## CONG NOT AVERSE TO PM FROM REGIONAL PARTY: AZAD

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Congress is not averse to supporting any regional party leader for the Prime Minister's post even if it emerges as the single largest party, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Thursday. "My party high command has already made it clear that the Congress is not averse to making a prime minister from any regional party," Azad told reporters here.

He was asked if the Congress will be ready to support any regional party leader for the PM's post even if it emerges as the largest party in a hung Parliament.

Speaking in the same vein in Patna on Wednesday, Azad had said the Congress will not make it an issue if the PM's post is not offered to it. The Congress leader said that it would be better if the opposition parties arrived at a consensus on the Congress leader's name to lead the government after the election results were announced on May 23.

"However, it does not mean that the Congress would not allow leaders of any other constituencies to become the PM, in case the Congress is not offered the chance," Azad said the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters on Wednesday.

Azad's remarks assume significance as the Congress has been asserting that it would be the fulcrum of any non-NDA government, which was seen as its claim for the PM's post and had led some major regional parties to maintain a distance from it.

"It will be good if there is a consensus on Congress leader's name for heading the government at the Centre after the LS poll results are out but we are not going to make it an issue that we (Congress) will not let any other (leader) to become the PM, if it is not offered to us," Azad had said in Patna, in an apparent mellowing of Congress's stand.

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha had said the sole objective of the Congress is to stop the NDA from forming the government at the Centre and installing a non-NDA government. Both, PM Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah have criticised the Opposition for not naming prime ministerial candidate.

# After backlash on 'Godse a patriot' remark, Pragya Thakur apologises to BJP

**BHOPAL (TIP):** Pragya Thakur, who provoked national outrage by calling Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse a patriot, has apologised for her comments, the BJP's Madhya Pradesh unit said after a barrage of criticism from political parties across the board.

"She has apologized for her statement. She said she had said it by mistake." Rajneesh Agrawal, a BJP spokesperson in Madhya Pradesh said. Another BJP leader added that the BJP's state president Rakesh Singh had also called up Thakur and ticked her off.

The Congress had called her patriot remark an "insult to the country" and demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP boss Amit Shah. "India's soul is under attack from the successors of Nathuram Godse, the BJP ruling dispensation," said Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Digvijaya Singh, the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister who was pitted against Pragya Thakur for the Bhopal seat,



said glorifying Nathuram Godse wasn't patriotism either. "It is sedition," he said on Pragya Thakur's controversial statement.

Pragya Thakur, responding to a question on actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan's remark that Godse was the first extremist in independent India and a Hindu, had retorted: "Nathuram Godse was a 'deshbhakt' (patriot), is a 'deshbhakt' and people consider him as a 'deshbhakt'."

The BJP candidate from Bhopal was speaking to the media after a roadshow in

Agar-Malwa, 185 km east of Bhopal on Thursday when she had made these comments.

Pragya Thakur, who prefers to be addressed as Sadhvi and wears a saffron robe, went on to add that people who call him (Godse) a terrorist should introspect and predicted that such people would be given a fitting reply in the elections.

Nathuram Godse, a right-wing activist, had assassinated Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 1948. Eight men were convicted in the murder trial inside Red Fort by a special court, constituted by an order of the central government. Godse and co-conspirator Narayan Apte were hanged for the murder of the Father of the Nation on November 15, 1949.

The BJP had rushed into damage control mode and promptly condemned her statement.

"We condemn it. She should apologise publicly for this statement," BJP's GVL Narasimha Rao said in a statement to ANI.



# Mayawati, Akhilesh accuse Modi of selling 'false dreams'

**VARANASI (TIP):** In yet another personal attack on the PM, BSP chief Mayawati today said how can one expect Narendra Modi to respect women when he cannot do so for his wife.

Addressing an election rally here along with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and RLD's Ajit Singh, Mayawati targeted Modi and BJP president Amit Shah, saying the "government of guru and chela (disciple)" would be ousted from power on May 23, the day results of Lok Sabha poll would be announced.

The BSP again alleged that women in the BJP were scared of their husbands meeting the PM fearing they might also "abandon their wives".

"With polling drawing to end, Modi now remembers women and talks about giving them respect....How can one expect Modi, who cannot respect his wife, to do so for mothers and sisters," Mayawati said.

She alleged Modi is also "troubling" West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

In a press statement earlier this week, Mayawati had said, "I have come to know that in BJP, women leaders get scared when they see their husbands going near PM Modi. They fear that like Modi they might also abandon their wives."

"Under such circumstances, I request all women of the country not to vote for such a person. This will also be their real respect to



the deserted wife of Modiji," she had said.

Addressing the rally in Varanasi, the BSP chief also questioned the prime minister on his caste. She claimed Modi has "lost his sleep" after it became clear that the BSP-SP-RLD grand-alliance was winning.

Varanasi, where Modi is pitted against alliance candidate Shalini Yadav, goes to the polls in the seventh and last phase on May 19.

Addressing the rally, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said after May 23, the country would get a new PM. He accused

Modi of selling "false dreams" to the people and then "betraying" them.

He said the BJP and Modi had promised to transform Varanasi into Kyoto (city of Japan), but failed. Modi was also unable to clean the river Ganga, Yadav alleged. He also criticised the BJP government in the state over encounter killings of history-sheeters.

RLD chief Ajit Singh alleged Modi had failed to provide jobs to youths and bulldozed institutions such as the CBI and the RBI.

Source: PTI

## 'Rahul Gandhi is a cannon and I am AK-47': Sidhu

**BILASPUR (TIP):** Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi came as "Ganga's son" in 2014 but will go as an "agent in Rafale" after the ongoing elections.

"I want to ask Narendra Modi whether he took brokerage in Rafale deal or not. He can debate with Sidhu anywhere in the country. Rahul ji is a big thing. He is a cannon and I am AK-47," Sidhu said while addressing an election rally here.

"I challenge Narendra Modi to debate on 'Na khaunga na khane dunga' (neither I will do corruption nor will let anyone commit it). If I lose, I will quit politics forever. I want to say that Narendra Modi came in 2014 as the son of Ganga and he will go in 2019 as an agent in Rafale," he added.

Himachal Pradesh, where four Lok Sabha seats are at stake will go to polls on May 19. The counting of votes will take place on May 23.

### My wife never lies, says Sidhu; Punjab CM clarifies

Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday defended his wife's remarks blaming the state Congress leadership for denying her a ticket from Amritsar.

Reacting to his colleague's assertion, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh sought to clarify that Sidhu's wife was offered either Amritsar or Bathinda seat, "but she refused to contest on either of the seat."

"My wife has that much strength and moral authority that she will never lie.



This is my answer," Sidhu told reporters when asked about his wife's allegations that she was denied party ticket from Amritsar at the instance of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and party's Punjab affairs in-charge Asha Kumari.

Navjot Kaur, a former Bharatiya Janata Party legislator from Amritsar (East), on May 14 blamed the Chief Minister for denying her a Lok Sabha ticket either from Chandigarh or Amritsar.

She said Sidhu would not campaign for his party in his home state as the Chief Minister has told him not to do so. Hours after his wife's claim, Sidhu said at an election rally in Bathinda in the presence of Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi and Amarinder Singh that he would be returning to Punjab on May 17 to deliver a "knockout punch" to the Badals.

Amid reports that the Minister's health was not allowing him to campaign, his wife also blamed Asha Kumari for not allowing Sidhu to campaign in Punjab.

## Rahul again tweets 'Modilie', Oxford says not in our dictionary



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday fired yet another salvo at Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of speaking lies, and claimed even a website now "catalogues the best 'Modilies'".

Gandhi tweeted that "Modilies" is a new word that has become popular worldwide.

"Now there's even a website that catalogues the best Modilies!" the Congress president said on Twitter, along with a link to the website "Modi Lies: The Most Accurate List of PM Modi's Many Lies," he said.

On Wednesday, he had lampooned the prime minister saying "Modilie" is a new word in dictionary and had tweeted a screenshot of a photo-shopped page of an English dictionary explaining the meaning of the word.

Oxford Dictionaries, however, replied to Gandhi's tweet saying the word does not exist in its dictionaries and the the image shown is a "fake".

The BJP used the tweet of Oxford Dictionaries to take a dig at its rival. "Slapped," tweeted BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya. Gandhi has been accusing Modi of speaking "lies" on various issues, including on the Rafale jet deal. In the fabricated page tweeted on Wednesday, "Modilie" was described as a "mass noun". It listed three meanings and examples of the usage of the word.

Oxford Dictionaries on its Twitter handle said, "We can confirm that the image showing the entry 'Modilie' is fake and does not exist in any of our Oxford Dictionaries."

## Probe in Bofors payoff case to continue: CBI

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The CBI today announced that its probe into the Bofors case pertaining to the alleged Rs 64-crore kickbacks in the purchase of the Swedish artillery guns would continue.

In a statement, the agency said, "In view of certain revelations made by one Michael Hershman, the CBI sought the permission of the trial court to conduct further investigation in the Bofors case."

It said, on May 8, the court had observed that "when independent right and power is available with the CBI" to further investigate the matter on their own and if in their wisdom, it was necessary to do so then, "why still such application is being filed in the court".

"After obtaining legal opinion, the CBI filed an application on May 16 in the court stating that for conducting further investigation under Section 173(8) of the CrPC, permission of the court is not mandatorily required and an intimation to the court in this regard will suffice," the statement read, which went on to add: "The probe in the Bofors case will continue".

The CBI's response came after it withdrew from a Delhi court its application to seek permission to further probe the politically sensitive Rs 64-crore Bofors payoff case.

## Two Indians die while climbing Mt Kanchenjunga

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Two Indian climbers died on Mount Kanchenjunga while descending from the summit of the world's third highest mountain, the expedition company said on Thursday.

Pasang Sherpa, Director at the Peak Promotion Nepal, the company, told Xinhua news agency that the Indian climbers collapsed at an altitude of 8,400 meters.

"Indian national Biplab Baidya and Kuntal Karna died of altitude sickness while descending from the summit," Sherpa said.

Their bodies will be airlifted to Kathmandu probably on Friday, he said. A total of 23 people were in the expedition team when they left for the summit on April 6.

Meanwhile, a national from Chile, Rodrigo Vivanco, has gone missing in Mount Kanchenjunga since Wednesday evening.

"We have mobilized a team to rescue Rodrigo who has gone missing above Camp IV on the descent after he reportedly made it to the summit," he said.

Hundreds of foreign climbers attempt to scale high Himalayan peaks during the popular spring climbing season in the Himalayan country that begins in March and ends in May.

## India signs pact to check online terror

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India was among the signatories to the 'Christchurch Call to Action', a pact between largely liberal democracies and most global social media companies to make Internet immune to abuse by terrorists and violent extremists.

The action plan to keep extremist content away from the Internet was announced in Paris by French President Emmanuel Macron and New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardren.

India, Indonesia, Jordan and Japan were the Asian countries in the 16-nation pact with tech firms that promised to review algorithms and processes amplifying or attracting users to extremist violent content.





## COMMENT

Prof I.S. Saluja

Time to work on a  
Comprehensive  
Immigration Reform

President Trump on May 16 announced a proposal on immigration which speaks about a shift from lottery system to a merit-based system. It is just a part of the immigration system which President Trump has touched upon. The need of the hour is to take the bull of immigration by the horn and fix it forever and for good.

Immigration is an important national issue that has been hanging fire for many years now. Ever since the days of President George W. Bush and through the two-term presidency of Barack Obama, a number of efforts were initiated to have a comprehensive immigration reform bill, but all failed. In any attempt to fix the broken immigration system, the welfare of the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants has to be kept in mind. It is a question of accepting a work force that has contributed to the growth of America. It is a question of giving due dignity to people who have sweated it out to support their families back home and have given ungrudgingly to America their unflinching loyalty.

We have 11 million people who are here, who are undocumented, who have 5 million citizen-children, and almost 2 million "Dreamers" [undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children] who know no other country but this one."

I recall a certain Mayor of a city in California State had said: "A temporary status, second-class citizenship, cannot and will not be a comprehensive immigration policy". "Is there an alternative? The deportation of 11 million people? No country in the world has ever deported 11 million people, and this great country certainly won't be the first."

Speaking about the economic incentives for the immigration reform, Mayor Villaraigosa had said, "There's a \$1.5 trillion economic impact, according to the Center for American Progress. The Dreamers alone, it's estimated, will have a \$329 billion impact over a 10-year period. And the reason is this: You're bringing these people from out of the dark and into the light. What happens when you do that? You encourage them to get an education, you encourage them to improve their job skills. They're encouraged to seek better jobs. They contribute more to our Social Security system".

While President Trump's proposal to reward merit is praiseworthy, it is equally important to not forget that family reunion is an emotive and important issue, and a great thing to do, in the best of American values and traditions.

Also, H-1B visas need to be expanded, and we need to make sure that we have a program that makes sense in the agricultural sector.

Hope, President Trump will give the issue a cool thought and expedite a comprehensive Immigration reform which will bring to America greater prosperity and security.

## AS I SEE IT

America-China trade deals will be  
settled by trade wars not trade talks

By A. D. Amar

The imposition of the second leg of tariffs by President Trump on the \$200 billion Chinese imports coming into the USA, and the break in US-China trade talks should have been expected. We know from history that disputes between the leader and its challenger are never settled by talks, they are settled by wars. In this case, it will eventually be the trade wars that will settle the terms, not deals. President Trump started this war and China is going to fight it. Therefore, the upcoming 25 percent tariffs on the remaining almost \$300 billion Chinese exports to the USA would be the natural next fight in this war.

The successful conclusion of a trade deal that both America and China could accept is extremely unlikely. There is a great conflict in the goals of the two countries for the trade agreement to come to an amicable settlement. Any America-China trade agreement would be a zero-sum game. Both President Trump and President Xi of China are working to win this game to make their respective countries great again. While Trump is looking to bring back America's greatness that has been sliding since the 1970s, Xi is working to revive China to its greatness that had slowly but steadily declined since the 1820s.

In this case, winning and losing are mutually exclusive. President Trump became U.S. president to win for America. Therefore, it would require China to lose, which China will never do willingly. Furthermore, China cannot lose because it will interfere with the "Dream of China" goal that was accepted officially by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and has been sold to the nation since 1978. President Xi's term as president was extended indefinitely by the Party for the purpose of achieving this goal.

A trade agreement with the USA would have amounted to China willingly giving up the more than \$500 billion in an annual trade surplus that it is enjoying from trading with America. This lack of incoming cash would require China to abandon the dream and stop working to attain the global hegemony that it has promised to its people and worked to achieve for a few decades now. The Chinese call this plan the "Great Trilogy of the 21st Century". The third, the final, leg of this trilogy is to be achieved by the end of the 21st century. So far, China is on track to do it. In fact, it is slightly ahead of its schedule. Accepting the Trump trade deal would have set it off the course. It would have resulted in China giving up projects such as the One Belt, One Road initiative and the humungous South China Sea base. They all need huge sums of money.

**"From the American perspective, all the trade surpluses that China has enjoyed have not just resulted in America's diminished economic prowess and manufacturing capabilities, they have also funded China's projects with the sole aim to reduce America's supremacy and threaten its hegemony so as to replace China as the sole superpower of the world", says the author.**

The trade deal with America would have also forced China to reduce exports to the USA and increase imports from it that would have idled a large number of the Chinese who had been migrating from the Chinese countryside to the developing urban cities as per the Chinese "Xiao Kang Society" goal. This would have caused political disturbances that President Xi or the Communist Party of China (CPC) could not handle.

The agreement with the USA, as has been targeted by President Trump, is to neutralize the trade surplus that is currently heavily in favor of China. To make the situation worse, it would have become a model for other countries, especially those in Europe and Asia, to follow for settling their trade policies with China because China enjoys a trade surplus with almost all major countries in the world.

There have been many strategic implications of China's trade policy which is a major source of resources necessary to diffuse America's influence around the world and to challenge America's global leadership. Cash from the trade surplus has been providing for China's ambitious military expansions, space odysseys, control of world-wide water and land routes, and global domination projects that have enabled it to encircle the universe. Its One-Belt, One-Road initiative has resulted in it effectively taking over the world's militarily strategic points such as Pakistan's Gwadar Port, Maldives, Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port, Africa's Djibouti military base, Ecuador's crude oil, and Argentina-based satellite tracking station. China had been working on this grand scheme since 1978.

From the American perspective, all the trade surpluses that China has enjoyed have not just resulted in America's diminished economic prowess and manufacturing capabilities, they have also funded China's projects with the sole aim to reduce America's supremacy and threaten its hegemony so as to replace China as the sole superpower of the world. It is producing ships at the rate of one every three weeks. President Trump knows that these threats will have to be dealt by America, better done sooner than later when they become even larger and more difficult to handle and expensive to manage.

It is the confidence, courage and determination of President Trump that he took on this chronic problem that has plagued America for the last more than thirty years and would have posed an existential threat to America as a nation had it not been faced. Additionally, he has very smartly prepared the American national economy to be able to handle this shock of rejecting an unfavorable trade

deal with China. It will also enable the USA to force fair trade rules on China by a policy that would deal with China as it has dealt with America so far.

The current demand and supply economics, and the global situation where America is the only large economy that is growing tell us that the effect of these tariffs will be annulled. While the whole world is set up to produce, America is the country with the highest demand. The short-term hardships that Americans may face are possible, but essential to assure America's long-term supremacy. Somehow, these tariffs will be shared by all parties in the China import transaction, i.e., China the exporter, American businesses that import it from China, retailers and consumers who decide to buy Chinese products, very much in the order preceding.

The chance of any recession or long-term detrimental effect of this trade dispute with China is minuscule. There is nothing that we import from China which American industry and workforce cannot handle. President Trump had already been working on this. All we need is some time to restructure our economy that is growing at the rate of 3.2 percent and has resulted in an unemployment at a fifty-year low rate of 3.6 percent. We are currently best able to handle the shock of this shift. For the future, domestically offsetting imports of goods and services exported to us by China will result in an economic boom that will cause an increase in the use of technology and artificial intelligence in manufacturing that will make these products and services cheaper further in America, in fact, at a price lower than the prices at which the Chinese provide them to us currently.

The biggest benefit for America of this restructuring will be more strategic than economic. It will make America more powerful. Almost the whole world knows that a world led by America will be better than the one led by China. America's strength is essential for the peace and prosperity of the whole world.

We should understand that transformations like the one America has undertaken to wrinkle out its trade deals at this time are not easy. We are undoing what has been happening for the last thirty years. In transformations like this, at least, in the early stages, it is common for things to get worse before they get better. President Trump has planned this transformation very adroitly. Consequently, the pain due to this change will be low. We have to just stay tight.

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# India's growing religious divide: BJP's anti-religious minorities agenda



By George Abraham

As the election season is winding down and the nation is anxiously looking forward to the results, one cannot escape but witnessing India's slide towards complete polarization based on the politics of religion. Prime Minister Modi's ascension to power has resulted in growing Hindu intolerance of Christianity and Islam. Radical elements within his party are pushing an agenda to marginalize these two groups whom they consider 'foreign' and would like to see them disappear!

Although Indian constitution guarantees the freedom of religion to all its citizens, the political dogma of RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), the parent organization of BJP, enunciated by its erstwhile leader and theoretician M S Golwalkar is still mostly the guideline for many of its loyal adherents. In fact, he argued in the book 'Our Nationhood Defined' that as long as the Muslims and the Christians failed to abandon their own religion and culture they cannot but be only foreigners in this country and if they stayed here without losing their "separate existence" they might be treated as "enemies", at best as "idiots". His arguments tilt more favorably towards treating all Christians as "hostiles" who are agents of International movement for the spread of Christianity.

It is important to note that RSS gurus have been inculcating the idea of bigotry and hate to the mindset of many generations for the last 95 years. It is no surprise then that Modi's rise to power has now led to an explosion of anti-Christian attitudes and fiery speeches creating an environment conducive to even physical attacks on Christian Institutions and its leaders. Prejudice against the minorities, especially Christians and Muslims, are a growing trend in the Indian society and for the BJP, it means electoral gains and seats of power! They couldn't care less about the political instability, whether it wreaks havoc across the country or the negative impact it may have on the economic health of the nation.

According to news reports in the National Review magazine, during the 2017 Christmas season alone, there were 23 incidents. Most dramatic was the arrest of 30 priests and seminarians singing Christmas carols in Madhya Pradesh state. They were accused of violating the State's anti-conversion law, which has been on the books since 2013. Similar legislation is in force in seven other states. Eight priests who came to the carolers' aid were physically assaulted, and their vehicles were set on fire. Police officers reportedly stood by without intervening. That scenario is all too common. By some accounts, hundreds of anti-Christian incidents have occurred in the past year.

"We are losing confidence in our



BJP workers protesting cow slaughter

**“ In Modi's India, Christian Institutions are being strangled by denial of FCRA's, freezing of the bank accounts, unending investigations, frequent auditing and harassment of principals who are in charge. These moves appear to be consistent with the Hindutva philosophy that the Modi government has embraced to advance the saffron agenda that challenges the very idea of India as a multi-cultural and pluralistic society. Modi appears to pay lip service to Gandhiji's concept of India upon his visits abroad but remains silent when Institutions that are supposed to promote those principles come under attack back home.**

government," said Cardinal Basileos Cleemis of Thiruvananthapuram, former President of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India (CBCI). He added that "the country is being divided on the basis of religious belief" which he labeled a threat to the "democratic credentials of our country." The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recently released an annual report and its key findings include the observation by the Supreme Court of "deteriorating conditions for religious freedom in some states in 2018, stating that "certain state governments were not only not doing anything to stop violence against religious minorities, and in extreme cases, impunity was being granted to criminals engaging in violence.

The report also highlights Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on these issues, saying he "seldom made statements decrying mob violence," and noting that "certain members of his political party have affiliations with Hind extremist groups and used inflammatory language about religious minorities publicly." The report notes that in 2018, Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs Hansraj Ahir told Parliament that 111 people were killed, and 2,384 people were wounded in 822 communal clashes in 2017. By contrast, in 2016, 86 people were killed, and 2,321 were injured in 703 clashes, the report offers, later adding that independent organizations that monitor hate crimes found that 2018 saw more than 90 religion-based hate crimes that resulted in 30 deaths and many more injuries.

There is also a secret war being waged against Christian NGOs (Non-Governmental Organization) that are engaged in welfare work for the very poor in rural India. By throwing out the 'Compassion International USA' that housed and educated 145,000 destitute

children and shutting down of the work of the 'Caritas International' that works with 360 NGOs across India that boasted about a force of 25,000 volunteers are good examples of Government's authoritarian agenda that works in concert with whims of the Hindutva militants to marginalize the Christian Community and remove them from being a visible and positive force from the public's eye.

In Modi's India, Christian Institutions are being strangled by denial of FCRA's, freezing of the bank accounts, unending investigations, frequent auditing and harassment of principals who are in charge. These moves appear to be consistent with the Hindutva philosophy that the Modi government has embraced to advance the saffron agenda that challenges the very idea of India as a multi-cultural and pluralistic society. It should also be noted that Christianity came to India in A.D. 52, long before Ireland or England have embraced that religion. To judge the Indianness of its nationals only through the prism of one's faith is not only just unfair but preposterous!

While the BJP Government is hard at work restricting Christian NGOs from receiving funds from abroad, no such limitations are placed on the Sangh Parivar organizations that collect millions of dollars from western democracies. Another report from USCIRF states that "while the Indian Government continues to use the FCRA to limit foreign funding for some NGOs, Hindutva supported organizations have never come under the scrutiny of FCRA. With the amendment championed by the Modi government, the foreign-based radical Hindu organizations will be able to send funds to India, without restriction, to support hate campaigns. Under the revised definition of FCRA, so long as the foreign company's ownership of an Indian entity is within the foreign investment limits

**India has a religion problem, and it should be given careful attention by policymakers in Washington as it can have long term repercussions towards the future.**

prescribed by the Government for that sector, the company will be treated as "Indian" for the purpose of FCRA."

It is also common knowledge that Christian church leaders from the United States have a harder time obtaining visas to visit their fellow faithful in India or attend a conference while no such restrictions are placed on Indians based on religious affiliations. It is hypocritical for India to deny a religious conference visa to an American citizen while shedding crocodile tears for a reduction in the number of available H1B visas that could take jobs away from American citizens. The recent cancellation and court-ordered restoration of OCI card of an Indian American Christian who was accused of proselytizing while working as a physician volunteer in India during summer months have sent shock waves to the community. It once again shows the wanton disregard for fairness and due process by the bureaucrats who are so eager to please the current policy makers!

Meanwhile, India's 180 million Muslims are affected as well by mob violence on suspicion of having eaten beef or slaughtered a cow, animals sacred to Hinduism nationwide. The recent election campaign by all parties show the reluctance of the leadership across the board to overtly court Muslims or seek their votes in public forums. Modi's rule also emboldened Hindu extremist elements to translate their religiously ordained contempt and hatred for Dalits into systematic violence against that community as well often lynching them on suspicions of transporting cows for slaughter. According to a report in the New York Times, Indian courts have consistently acquitted most perpetrators of massacres of Dalits. Conviction rates in violent crimes against Dalits and indigenous tribes are a mere 28.3 percent and 16.4 % compared with 40.2 percent in general criminal cases.

India has a religion problem, and it should be given careful attention by policymakers in Washington as it can have long term repercussions towards the future. It appears that the sectarian line-up of political conflict is going to dominate the political landscape of India as long as BJP retains power. History has taught us that if the salience of the State is undefendable, regionalism or tribalism may become rampant and weaken a nation-state. Religious oppression is a clear sign of instability for any nation, and as the US is eyeing India as a strategic partner against the rising threat of China, an increasing level of communal tensions or sectarian conflicts in the sub-continent may not bode well for that relationship.

*(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)*





## PRIYANKA CROSSES 40 MILLION FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM

Actor Priyanka Chopra is riding high on popularity across the globe and has now added another feather to her cap. The actor has crossed 40 million followers on Instagram, the highest for a Bollywood actor. Priyanka shared a heartfelt message for her fans in a video on her Instagram stories.

Thanking her fans for following her on the social networking site, Priyanka said, "Oh My God! 40 million. Its amazing. I still remember the day when I joined Instagram. One by one, all of you have been part of such an amazing journey for me. I am really touched and extremely moved. I love you all and thank you for all your support all my life. I hope it always stays."

Priyanka also shared a short video to share her excitement with the caption, "Biiiiigggg shoutout to my #InstaFam!!! You guys have my heart! Sending love and hugs to each one of you for being a part of my journey! #ILoveYouAll #40MillionStrong #PCManiacs."

## DEEPIKA TO STAR IN, CO-PRODUCE RANVEER'S '83



In a recent interview, Deepika Padukone shared that how in the films she's worked with husband Ranveer Singh so far, the climax has always been a tragedy. While they both die in Ram Leela and Bajirao Mastani, in Padmaavat, Ranveer played the antagonist while Deepika's character ended up committing Johar. However, if rumours are to be believed it looks like that's about to change now.

A report claims that Deepika is all set to be a part of Ranveer Singh's next venture '83, a biopic on Kapil Dev and how he led India to its first world cup title. A source close to the project confirmed saying, "Deepika has

been locked for Kabir Khan's next film '83. The film that revolves around India's 1983 World Cup victory, will primarily focus on Kapil Dev's story. The film has an ensemble cast being lead by Ranveer and now, DP too has given her go ahead to the film." While many might think DP has just a cameo in the film, we hear it's quite different. The informer adds, "Deepika has a good role because she plays Kapil's wife Romi who was also a pageant winner. In fact, as far as the story goes, she had left the stadium after India started losing the wickets. But when she heard that they are on the verge of winning the World Cup, she came back. That

part is extremely dramatic. Also, the film will delve into the relationship between the husband and wife, their love story."

But, it doesn't end here, apart from being the leading lady of the film, Deepika has also come on board as co-producer. The soured added, "Deepika has just ventured into production with Meghna Gulzar's Chhapaak. When she was narrated the story of '83, she loved it because it's not just inspirational but also extremely emotional. She and Kabir have been friends for years now. So she decided to come on board as a co-producer, too. This will be the second venture under her banner."

## KATRINA KAIF OPENS UP ON BREAK UP WITH RANBIR KAPOOR, SAYS IT WASN'T IN HER CONTROL

Katrina Kaif and Ranbir Kapoor were together for 6 years and in 2016, they broke up. As the reasons for their break up is not clearly known, the duo is always asked about how their life has shaped up post the split. In an interview with Elle magazine, the Fitoor actress was asked how she managed to overcome her break up with Ranbir and give all her focus to work.

The actress said that right now, her life is 80% work and 20% personal. She said, "But it's not in our control. Right now, there's a lot of work happening. I take it as a good thing. It wasn't in my control when my personal life got over." She added that it's hard to know what exactly happened. Kat added that she has a different take on it. She stated, "Ok fine—it [the break-up] sucks, it's terrible, this is the worst thing in the world, my life is over. Let's sit here and believe this, even for just two minutes. Do we feel good about

**Katrina Kaif's performance in Shah Rukh Khan starrer Zero was appreciated. Now, she opened up on how she used the difficult phase after breakup with Ranbir Kapoor in polishing her craft**

things? No." But if you really believe in your god, your universe, you'll feel much better." Katrina Kaif also stated that there are young girls who must be listening to her and they might find something that will help them through her. Meanwhile, her ex-boyfriend Ranbir Kapoor is now dating her best friend Alia Bhatt.

On the work front, she will be seen in Bharat alongside Salman Khan. The film hits the screen on June 5, 2019.





# 100-year-old mystery of Egyptian desert glass solved

**MELBOURNE (TIP):** Glass found in the Egyptian desert was created by a meteorite impact rather than atmospheric airburst, say scientists, unravelling a nearly 100-year-old mystery.

The findings, published in the journal *Geology*, have implications for understanding the threat posed by asteroids.

Researchers from Curtin University in Australia examined tiny grains of the mineral zircon in samples of Libyan desert glass, which formed 29 million years ago and is found over several thousand square kilometres in western Egypt.

Nearly pure silica, the canary yellow glass was famously used to make a scarab that is part of King Tut's Pectoral.

Lead author Aaron Cavosie, from Curtin University, said zircons in the glass preserved evidence of the former presence of a high-pressure mineral named reidite, which only forms during a meteorite impact.

"It has been a topic of ongoing debate as to whether the glass formed during meteorite impact, or during an airburst, which happens when asteroids called Near Earth Objects explode and deposit energy in the Earth's atmosphere," Cavosie said.

"Both meteorite impacts and airbursts can cause melting, however, only meteorite impacts create shock waves that form high-pressure minerals, so finding evidence of former reidite confirms it was created as the result of a meteorite impact," he said.

Cavosie said the idea that the glass



File photo of the Egyptian desert. Reuters

**Researchers from Curtin University in Australia examined tiny grains of the mineral zircon in samples of Libyan desert glass, which formed 29 million years ago and is found over several thousand square kilometres in western Egypt.**

may have formed during a large atmospheric airburst gained popularity after a dramatic airburst over Russia in 2013, which caused extensive property damage and injury to humans but did not cause surface materials to melt.

"Previous models suggested that Libyan desert glass represented a large, 100-megatonnes (Mt) class airburst, but our results show this is not the case," Cavosie said.

"Meteorite impacts are catastrophic events, but they are not common. Airbursts happen more frequently, but we now know not to expect a Libyan desert glass-forming event in the near future, which is cause for some comfort," he said. PTI

## Eiffel Tower celebrates 130th birthday

**PARIS (TIP):** The Eiffel Tower has celebrated its 130th birthday in Paris, with the city marking the anniversary with a light show at the famed monument.

Built for the 1889 World's Fair, the tower - which soars to 324 metres in height and weighs 7,300 tonnes - still attracts nearly seven million visitors every year.

Despite calls for its demolition in the years after the exhibition, it soon became the most iconic feature on the Paris skyline and is France's most visited monument.

"The Eiffel Tower is a must," said Laurie, a tourist from Canada.

Christophe Girard, overseeing cultural affairs at Paris's city hall said the recent fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral - which destroyed its spire and most of its roof - had awakened people to "the importance of our heritage", and that it "can disappear or be damaged".

The tower was the tallest structure in the world for 41 years until the construction of the Chrysler Building in New York in 1930.

A section of stairs from the tower sold for almost 170,000 euros last year. AFP

## *Austrian MP's approve headscarf ban in primary schools*

**VIENNA (TIP):** Austrian MPs on May 15 approved a law aimed at banning the headscarf in primary schools, a measure proposed by the ruling right-wing government.

So as to avoid charges that the law discriminates against Muslims, the text refers to any "ideologically or religiously influenced clothing which is associated with the covering of the head".

The government says the patka head covering worn by Sikh boys or the Jewish kippa would not be affected.

However, representatives of both parts of the governing coalition, the centre-right People's Party (OeVP) and the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), have made it clear that the law is targeted at the Islamic headscarf.

FPÖ education spokesman Wendelin Moelzer said the law was "a signal against political Islam" while OeVP MP Rudolf Taschner said the measure was necessary to free girls

from "subjugation".

Austria's official Muslim community organisation IGGOe has previously condemned the proposals as "shameless" and a "diversionary tactic".

The IGGOe says that in any case only a "miniscule number" of girls would be affected.

Opposition MPs almost all voted against the measure, with some accusing the government of focusing on garnering positive headlines rather than child welfare.

The government admits that the law is likely to be challenged at Austria's constitutional court, either on grounds of religious discrimination or because similar legislation affecting schools is normally passed with a two-thirds majority of MPs.

The OeVP and FPÖ formed a coalition in late 2017 after elections in which both parties took a tough anti-immigration stance and warned of the dangers of so-called "parallel societies". — AFP

## Australia's ex-PM Bob Hawke dies at 89

**SYDNEY (TIP):** Bob Hawke, a transformative and charismatic left-wing lawmaker with a "larrikin" streak who served as Australian Prime Minister from 1983 to 1991, died on Thursday aged 89, his family said.

"Today we lost Bob Hawke, a great Australian - many would say the greatest Australian of the post-war era," his wife and former biographer Blanche d'Alpuget said in a statement.

While others may have struggled to dismiss a reputation for boisterous, if well-meaning, behaviour, silver-haired Hawke said it helped him win favour with working-class voters.

PM Scott Morrison hailed Hawke's ability to speak to all Australians. "Bob Hawke was a great Australian who led and served our country with passion, courage, and an intellectual horsepower that made our country stronger," he said on social media. Hawke's death comes ahead of a Saturday general election, with his opposition Labor party is narrowly ahead in the polls. — Reuters

## Saudi-led coalition pounds capital Sanaa

**SANAA (TIP) :** The Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen carried out several air strikes on the Houthi-held capital Sanaa on May 16 after the Iranian-aligned movement claimed responsibility for drone attacks on Saudi oil installations.

The Sanaa strikes targeted nine military sites in and around the city, residents said.

Rubble filled a populated street lined by mud-brick houses, a journalist on the scene said. A crowd of men lifted the body of a woman, wrapped in a white shroud, into an ambulance.

Houthi-run Masirah TV channel quoted the Houthi health ministry as saying six civilians, including four children, had been killed and 52 wounded, including two Russian women working in the health sector. A coalition spokesman did not immediately respond to the media's request for comment. — Reuters

## Prince Harry wins damages over photos of home

**LONDON (TIP):** Britain's Prince Harry on May 16 settled for "substantial damages" and an apology from a news agency that hovered over his home in a helicopter, taking photos directly into his living room and bedroom earlier this year. Lawyers for the Duke of Sussex told the UK High Court that the photographs showed the Oxfordshire home's interior and "very seriously undermined" his safety. The images, which were taken in January and published in UK newspapers and online, showed the living area, dining area and "directly into the bedroom". PTI



# India House turns into 'Mini Punjab'



The program got off to a start with an invocation by Captain Bhai Amrik Singh from the Sikh Foundation of Virginia  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India



Renowned author and Radio Talk Show Host Simran Singh addressed the invitees at Baisakhi celebrations  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India

## CONTD FROM PAGE 1

and Delaware, and prominent community leaders, attended the event. It became a 'Mini Punjab' with even clean-shaven people donning the red turban including Mr. Paul Taylor, who heads the Asian Cultural History Program at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The Minister Community Affairs, Anurag

Kumar, too looked every inch a Sikh in the turban.

Vaisakhi, the birthday of the Sikh religion and also a harvest and spring festival and New Year, was celebrated in a magnanimous way with an exhibition on Sikhism, kirtan, dance performances, and of course, with a rich variety of delicious Punjabi food.

The Ambassador inaugurated an

exhibition featuring a display of paintings, musical instruments related to Sikh musical tradition and 'Shastras' that was organized as part of the 550th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru of the Sikhs. The exhibition also featured a preview of a few paintings which would be put up at Art Museum, Phoenix, in an exhibition on the same theme later from

August 2019 to March 2020.

The program started with an invocation by Captain Bhai Amrik Singh, a Kargil war hero, his son Yashbinder Singh Rathore, and grandson Yuvraj Singh Rathore from the Sikh



A view of the gathering - seen here First Lady Mrs. Hemal Shringla (Front row: 4th from left) with other guests. Turbans all the way.  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India

CONTD ON PAGE 13



# at Baisakhi Celebration



Sikh martial art Gatka performance by Sardar Daler Singh and his team from New York  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India

**CONTD FROM PAGE 12**

Foundation of Virginia.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Shringla highlighted the significance of Baisakhi and mentioned that the

celebrations have brought together not only members of the Sikh Community but also others from different communities, religions, and walks of life, which truly reflects the spirit of Baisakhi.

On a personal note, the Ambassador explained why the celebration is very close to his heart. "I was very fortunate that the first event that I attended here was inaugural function of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th anniversary. I came (to DC)

on 9th of January this year and the event was on 12th of January. It was an auspicious way for me to begin my stay in Washington and it will always stay as a special memory", he fondly recalled.

The chief guest of the event was



Tian Punjab Diyan group enthralled the audience with their Giddha performance

Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India



renowned author and Radio Talk Show Host Simran Singh, who came all the way from South Carolina. Simran is the author of IPA International Gold 'Best New Age Book' & IPPY Gold Award 'Best Mind-Body-Spirit Book' for 'Conversations With The Universe' in addition to several other internationally published books. Simran is also publisher of award-winning 11:11 Magazine and Host of 11:11 Talk Radio. She is the elder sister of Nikki Haley.

Speaking on the significance of Baisakhi, Simran blended song and poetry of life's soulful engagement through a devotional embrace of the world.

The Bhangra dance group of DC, with just 3 women, presented a mesmerizing performance.

Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India

**CONTD ON PAGE 15**



## Pak's rupee touches all-time low

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan's currency has reached a new all-time low against the dollar after the government last week reached a preliminary agreement with the IMF for US\$ 6 billion bailout. The Pakistani rupee dropped to 147 rupees to the dollar on Thursday morning. The rupee was traded at 141 to the dollar earlier this week. — AP

## Dubai Crown Prince, his two brothers marry on same day

**DUBAI (TIP):** The Crown Prince of Dubai and two of his brothers — all sons of UAE Vice President and ruler of Dubai Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, were married in a private religious ceremony here.

Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan, 36, was married to Sheikha Sheikha bint Saeed bin Thani Al Maktoum on Wednesday, according to Dubai Media Office on May 16.

On the same day, Deputy Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed, 35, married Sheikha Mariam bint Butti Al Maktoum and Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed, chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, 32, married Sheikha Midya bint Dalmouj Al Maktoum.

The brothers, who share the same mother, Sheikha Hind bint Maktoum bin Juma, signed an official marriage contract on Wednesday.

A wedding ceremony is expected to follow, local media reports said. — PTI

## Sherpa climbs Everest for record 23rd time

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Kami Rita Sherpa, 49, reached the top of Mt Everest for the 23rd time on May 16, creating a new record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain. Sherpa, reached the 8,850-metre summit via the Southeast Ridge route, accompanied by another sherpa, tourism official Mira Acharya said. PTI

## Nationwide curfew lifted in Lanka, 60 linked to riots held

**COLOMBO (TIP):** According to Sri Lankan authorities they have arrested 60 persons linked to communal riots as a nationwide curfew was lifted on Wednesday in the island nation, which witnessed Sinhalese mob attacks on Muslim-owned shops and businesses in the aftermath of the deadly Easter blasts.

The government imposed the island-wide curfew on Monday after the violence against the Muslim community, who account for 10 per cent of the country's population. The curfew was briefly lifted on May 14 before being reimposed for a second straight night following reports of fresh violence in some parts of the country. — PTI

# Pakistan to bifurcate Punjab to create new South Punjab province: Qureshi

**LAHORE (TIP):** The Pakistan government is going ahead with its plan to create the new South Punjab province by bifurcating Punjab and would move a Bill in the National Assembly, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi announced on May 16.

Punjab is Pakistan's second largest province by area after Balochistan. It is also the most populated province and politically influential. In the run-up to the 2018 general election, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party led by Imran Khan had promised to bifurcate Punjab province to form South Punjab.

The South Punjab province will comprise Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan districts, Qureshi told reporters in Multan, Punjab.

The Punjab Assembly seats will be reduced to 251 from the current 371 while 120 seats have been proposed for the South Punjab Assembly in the Bill.

Qureshi said that certain constitutional amendments have to be passed for the formation of the new South Punjab province.

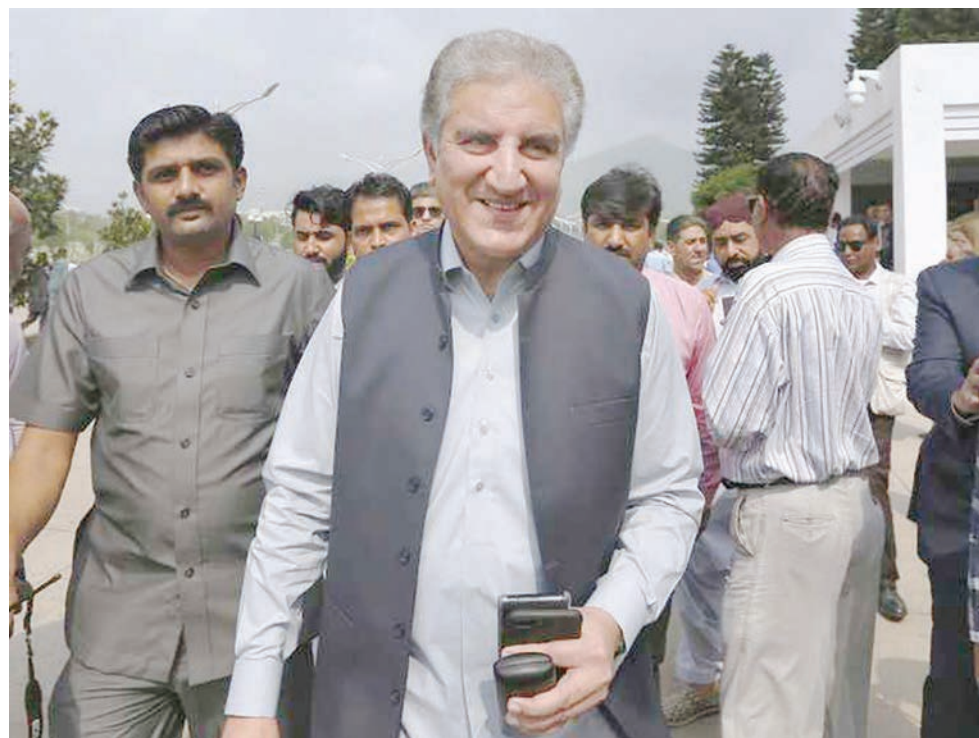
The region will turn into a province when amendments to Articles 59, 51, 1, 106, 158 and 218 of the Constitution are passed.

"The word 'South Punjab' in the first paragraph of Article 1 will be inducted, and the territories that will be part of South Punjab have been named in the proposed Bill," he was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune.

"The province will come into being through Article 51, it calls for the separate formation of the assembly. South Punjab will also get representation in the Senate," he said.

On Monday, PTI lawmaker Sami-ul-Hassan Gillani tabled the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019 before Parliament, calling for the creation of a separate South Punjab province, Geo News reported.

The planned South Punjab province



will be the sixth province of Pakistan after Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Gilgit Baltistan.

Qureshi, a senior leader of the ruling PTI, said that the National Assembly Speaker will formulate a special committee for consent on the Bill.

"We require co-operation of different parties for a two-thirds majority, said Qureshi. Qureshi said that he had held a meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) leadership. "I request them to support us as it is in our joint interest and also a part of the PTI manifesto."

"We believe it strengthens a federation, and have decided to hold political dialogue with like-minded political parties," he said.

Qureshi also requested the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to support the Bill. "I am hopeful they will review their attitude over it," he said.

The National Assembly, Pakistan's

lower house, has a total 342 seats, which means the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf needs 228 votes to get its way.

The PTI has 157 lawmakers. The Pakistan Muslim League-N has 84 members and the Pakistan Peoples Party has 54 lawmakers in Parliament. There are four independents.

To get the South Punjab Bill approved, the PTI would only need the support of the PPP, if the PML-N opts to stay out of the vote count, Geo News reported.

The PPP support will also be needed in the Senate where the party has an upper hand, the report said.

Meanwhile, PML-N secretary general Ahsan Iqbal said Qureshi was fooling people on the name of South Punjab.

Iqbal said the PML-N had already presented a Bill in the National Assembly for the formation of the South Punjab and Bahawalpur provinces. But the Bill was opposed by the PTI then, he said. — PTI

## Oppn party in Nepal warns of strong protest over Media Council Bill

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** The main Opposition party in Nepal warned of a strong protest if the federal government went ahead with the discussion in Parliament on the controversial Media Council Bill that aims to curtail press freedom by imposing strict penalty on media outlets. Nepal on May 16 proposed the new media Bill aimed at imposing a hefty fine of up to Rs 1 million on media outlets found guilty of damaging anyone's reputation, raising alarm among journalists who say the government seeks to punish the press in the name of regulation.

The new Media Council Bill aims to replace the existing Press Council Act and will have more authority to issue hefty fines and give the government more say in the hiring and firing of the council members. A meeting of the

Nepali Congress parliamentary party chaired by the party chief and former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Wednesday decided that they would protest on streets if the government forwarded the discussion in the Parliament. Similarly, the party also demanded that the government put on hold discussions on National Human Rights Commission Bill and National Defence Council Bill as they are also objectionable. "All three bills are against the spirit of the Nepalese Constitution. The government should withdraw them," party chief Bal Krishna Khand told media after the meeting.

It also proposes punishment for violating the code of conduct which includes suspension of press pass of media persons and downgrading of the classification of print media outlets. PTI

## Sudan army ruler says talks with protesters suspended

**KHARTOUM (TIP):** Sudan's army ruler General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said that talks with protesters over installing civil rule have been suspended for 72 hours, in a statement broadcast live on state television May 16.

"We decided to suspend the negotiations over civil rule for 72 hours to help prepare an atmosphere for completing the deal," Burhan said, demanding that protesters dismantle roadblocks in Khartoum, open bridges connecting the capital and other regions and "stop provoking security forces". Army generals and protest leaders had been expected to finalise the make-up of a new ruling body to govern Sudan for three years, the thorniest issue in installing civilian rule. — AFP



# India House turns into 'Mini Punjab' at Baisakhi Celebration



Another view of the gathering. Minister Community Affairs, Anurag Kumar (front row, second from right), looked every inch a Sikh in the turban. Also seen is Shambhulingappa Hakki (front row, first from right), Press, Information & Culture First secretary  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India

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"Baisakhi means harvesting of the soul, purity of the soul. It shows us how to give love to the world", she said in her 'Soul storming' speech.

The cultural extravaganza included Sikh martial art Gatka performance by Sardar Daler Singh and his team from New York. The Bhangra dance group of DC presented a mesmerizing performance. Tian Punjab Diyan group enthralled the audience with their Giddha performance.

Prof Indrajit S Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama, who was among the distinguished guests, presented to the First Lady a 'Shawl' and a traditional "Siropao" to the Ambassador.



Mr. Paul Taylor (left) who heads the Asian Cultural History Program at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, proudly donned a turban. Ambassador Shringla in red turban is on the right.  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India



Prof Indrajit S Saluja (third from left), Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama, who was among the distinguished guests, presenting a traditional "Siropao" to the Ambassador. Seen in the picture (from R to L): Shambhulingappa Hakki, Anurag Kumar, Gurmej Singh, Bidisha Roy (Assistant editor, The Indian Panorama), Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Ambassador Harsh V. Shringla, and an unidentified guest  
Photo / Courtesy Embassy of India



Earlier in the morning, Ambassador Harsh V Shringla inaugurated an exhibition featuring a display of Sikh traditional "Shastras" (weapons), paintings and musical instruments related to Sikh musical tradition.

Some exhibits



Sikh traditional musical instruments included Taus and Rabab



Sikh traditional weapons called 'Shastras'



A Manuscript



Manuscript of Hukkamna (edict) from Shri Darbar Sahib issued in 1877 AD



A Portrait of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji by M.F. Hussain



Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji with his devoted followers / companions Bala (right) and Mardana (left)

Photos / Bidisha Roy



# EVEN IN YOUNG LOVE, MONEY MATTERS FOR YOUR WELL-BEING

Researchers set out to see how financial socialization from three different sources affects life outcomes and well-being in young adults. The three sources they looked at were parents, romantic partners, and the young adults themselves.

The findings show that young adults' own financial behaviors, unsurprisingly, had the most impact on their well-being. In second place were the financial behaviors of their romantic partners, while financial expectations of parents—who undoubtedly have the earliest financial influence on their lives—seemed to have the least impact.

“Financial socialization means how do individuals—in this case, young adults—learn about finances? How do they learn how to save, how to budget, how to responsibly borrow, basically anything about finances,” says Melissa Curran, lead author of the study.

“The fact that young adults are perceiving that what their romantic partner does, financially, impacts them is really interesting, especially because most of them are not married and not cohabitating,” says Curran, associate professor in the University of Arizona's John & Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

“They're young in relationships, which really goes to say that even in these non-marital, non-cohabitating relationships, the person who you are with matters. Their finances matter for your relationship outcomes and well-being.”

## YOUNG PEOPLE AND MONEY

The researchers' findings are part of the ongoing APLUS Life Success research project, which began collecting data from first-year University of Arizona students in 2008 and continues to follow them into adulthood to explore how they achieve stability and happiness.

The new study is based on responses from the third wave of data collection from 504 participants, with an average age of 24, who self-identified as being in a committed romantic relationship.



Most of those young adults—61.5 percent—were unmarried and not living with their partners. Thirty percent were unmarried but cohabitating, and 18.5 percent were living together and married.

While a number of factors contribute to young adults' life outcomes and well-being, the APLUS researchers are especially interested in finances.

“In the United States, you do better when you do have some modicum of money,” says Curran, who is research director for the Norton School's Take Charge America Institute. “You don't need millions and millions of dollars, but having no money is very stressful. Having access to money to do things like pay your bills and have a savings account for emergency borrowing purposes makes your life a lot easier.”

Study participants were surveyed about their parents' financial expectations of them, asked to rate on a five-point scale how much they agreed with statements like: “My parents think I should track my monthly expenses,” or, “My parents think that I should pay credit card balances in full each month.”

Participants also rated how often they themselves engage in a number of different financial activities, such as paying bills on time, contributing to a

retirement account, or saving each month for the future. They also were asked how often they think their romantic partners engage in those behaviors.

In addition, participants responded to a series of questions designed to measure their life outcomes and well-being. The questions assessed participants' perceptions of their own physical health, overall well-being, life satisfaction, romantic relationship satisfaction, and romantic relationship commitment, as well as their subjective and objective financial knowledge.

Subjective financial knowledge was measured through a question asking them to rate their understanding of personal finance and money management, while objective knowledge was measured through 15 true-or-false financial knowledge questions.

Researchers found that the individuals' own financial behaviors were associated with all outcomes measured, except relationship satisfaction and commitment. Individuals' perceptions of their romantic partners' financial behaviors were associated with their relationship satisfaction and commitment, as well as their overall well-being and life satisfaction.

## FOOD CORNER



# Chicken Burritos

## Ingredients

- Chicken - 300 gms, cooked, shredded, skinless, boneless
- Sweet corn kernels - 150 gms, boiled, drained
- Black beans (or red kidney beans) - 150 gms, rinsed, boiled, drained
- Tomatoes - 150 gms, finely chopped
- Flour tortillas - 4
- Green chillies - 2 to 3, chopped
- Jalapenos - 1 tblsp, chopped
- Red chilli flakes as per taste
- Garam masala powder - 2 tsp
- Black pepper powder as per taste
- Salt as per taste
- Coriander leaves - handful, chopped
- Cheese - 100 gms, grated

## Optional ingredients

- Sour cream lettuce - handful, shredded
- Tomatoes - 1/2 cup, chopped

## Method

- In a large bowl, combine the corn, black beans, tomatoes, green chillies, coriander leaves and jalapenos.
- Add the cooked chicken and mix well.
- Add the red chilli flakes, garam masala powder, black pepper powder, salt and toss gently.
- Warm the tortillas and place them on a flat surface.
- Divide the chicken mixture equally among the 4 tortillas.
- Sprinkle some cheese on top.
- If desired, add some sour cream, lettuce and chopped tomatoes.
- Fold from the sides and roll tightly.
- Heat a nonstick pan over medium flame.
- Place the burritos on the pan and warm them up for 3 to 5 minutes, turning gently once or twice.
- Serve.

## Opposites not only attract, also make good decisions together: Study

Two people with divergent attitudes can together make satisfactory decisions, in spite of their opposite personalities, a recent study suggests.

Consumers routinely make joint decisions with others - which restaurant to eat in, what movie to watch, or where to go on vacation. Researchers from Boston College, Georgia Tech, and Washington State University wanted to see if people with opposite attitudes could come to satisfactory decisions together.

The studies found that when paired with a selfish partner, it is better to behave altruistically rather than selfishly. Similarly, when paired with an altruistic partner, it is better to behave selfishly to achieve the desired outcome, according to the findings, reported recently in the *Journal of Consumer Psychology*. In both scenarios, the paired respondents were able to come to decisions that best reflected their individual preferences, or what both partners personally liked - if they took the opposite attitude as that of their partner, said



Hristina Nikolova, lead author of the study.

“When you see that your partner is acting selfishly, it is better to let it go and act altruistically instead; let them make the decision because this will ultimately ensure a better outcome for you than if you act selfishly too,” Nikolova explained. According to the researchers, in the joint decision-

making of an altruistic and selfish consumer, the selfish partner would willingly express his/her desired preference, while the altruistic partner will likely accept these suggestions. Since consumers' preferences are more similar than they recognise, an altruistic individual will likely get an option that he/she somewhat prefers even when a selfish partner drives the decision. Thus, regardless of who drives the decision, both partners are likely to reach a joint decision that is relatively preferred by both of them.

According to Nikolova, conventional wisdom suggests that standing one's ground is associated with positive outcomes. But that's not necessarily the case.

“In the context of joint choices, however, we find that two selfish heads do worse than one altruistic and one selfish head; two selfish consumers jointly choose options that neither of them prefers. This happens because both partners are likely to be rigidly self-oriented when negotiating with others,” she said.



# TRY OUT THESE HEALTHY SUBSTITUTES FOR BUTTER

**B**utter is a dairy product that people can make from churned milk or cream. However, for people who cannot or choose not to consume butter, there are many alternatives.

## Olive oil

People use olive oil in many Mediterranean recipes. For any recipes that require cooking on the stove top, a person can often swap butter for olive oil when sautéing vegetables and meat. It is best to use a little less olive oil compared with butter for this purpose.

Olive oil is not always a good substitute for baking, however. Many baked goods require the fat to remain a solid or return to a solid as they cool. However, people can make some baked goods, such as pancakes, with olive oil.

The main type of fat in olive oil is monounsaturated fat, which may have some health benefits that the saturated fat in butter does not have.

Research from 2014 found that consuming olive oil regularly could reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and mortality in individuals at high cardiovascular risk.

Other benefits of monounsaturated fat include lowering cholesterol and improving blood sugar control.

However, like butter, olive oil is a calorie-dense food. For this reason, people should consume it in moderation.

## Ghee

Ghee is a clarified butter with a distinctive nutty taste and aroma. Like coconut oil, a person can replace butter with ghee at a 1-to-1 ratio in cooking and baking.

However, in some recipes, a person



may need to alter the amount of ghee, as it contains more moisture than butter. Ghee works best as a butter substitute in baked goods that require cooking at higher temperatures.

## Greek yogurt

Greek yogurt is a high-protein substitute for butter suitable for use in many baking recipes. It may add some tanginess to the recipe.

A person should look for full-fat yogurt to help keep baked goods moist. Nonfat yogurt may result in a drier, more crumbly finished product.

## Avocado

Avocado is a nutritious alternative to butter. Not only can adding avocado increase the overall nutritional value of a meal or baked good, but it can also substitute butter's saturated fat for monounsaturated fat.

## Pumpkin purée

With plenty of vitamin A and other

nutrients, pumpkin purée can replace butter in most recipes. However, pumpkin purée is more watery than some of the other options on this list, so a person should use about three-quarters of the amount they would use for butter.

## Mashed bananas

Similar to pumpkin purée, bananas add nutrients and increase the overall nutritional content of the food without the added fat.

However, bananas may add sweetness and a distinct flavor to some recipes.

## Applesauce

Applesauce is a popular substitute for both butter and oil in baking. Like many other substitutes, it can cut calories and increase the nutritional content of many recipes.

When using applesauce as a butter substitute, a person can reduce other sweeteners in the recipe because applesauce adds natural sweetness.



## ANTIBIOTIC USE CAN UP NERVE DAMAGE RISK

**A** common class of antibiotics—used to treat respiratory and urinary tract infections—may increase a patient's risk of suffering a serious and potentially permanent form of nerve damage by almost 50 per cent.

Scientists from the University of Dundee in the UK looked at a database of 1.3 million adults issued one or more prescriptions of fluoroquinolone or amoxicillin-clavulanate antibiotics with no diagnosis of peripheral neuropathy at the outset of treatment.

Peripheral neuropathy has long been recognised as a potential side effect of fluoroquinolone antibiotics—that are commonly used to treat a variety of illnesses such as respiratory and urinary tract infections.

The study, published in the journal *JAMA Neurology*, found that current use of systemic fluoroquinolone antibiotics appeared to increase the risk of peripheral neuropathy by 47 per cent, causing an additional 2.4 cases per 10,000 patients per year of treatment.

A person prescribed with amoxicillin-clavulanate were not significantly more likely to experience peripheral neuropathy.

The risk was higher for men and rose with age and with the length of fluoroquinolone treatment. A peripheral neuropathy diagnosis remained more likely to be diagnosed for up to six months after the fluoroquinolone prescription.

Older men, the group most likely to experience the condition after taking a 28-day course of fluoroquinolones, were said to have a one in 34,000 chance of doing so.

While the absolute risk of a peripheral neuropathy diagnosis remained low, the findings should still be considered as one of the different potential side effects before prescribing antibiotics, researchers said.

"The safety of fluoroquinolone antibiotics has received a lot of attention regarding their potential to cause long-term side effects in some people," said Daniel Morales, from the University of Dundee.

"One of these is peripheral neuropathy where nerves, most commonly affecting the lower limbs, can be affected, leading to numbness, pain, or problems with balance," Morales said in a statement.

"Fluoroquinolones are effective antibiotics but health care professionals should recognise that peripheral neuropathy may rarely occur following fluoroquinolone therapy," he said.

"We observed that treatment with fluoroquinolones could increase the risk of peripheral neuropathy by around 50 per cent and that this risk may last for up to six months following treatment," he said.

# Eating disorders linked to long-term depression risk for mothers

**A**ny kind of eating disorder and body image concerns before or during pregnancy can be associated with long-term depression risk for mothers, recent findings suggest.

"We found that women who have had an eating disorder at any point before childbirth, even if it was years earlier in adolescence, were more likely to experience depressive symptoms during pregnancy and up to 18 years after the birth of their child," said the study's lead author Francesca Solmi.

According to the researchers, this finding suggests that many people with eating disorders might not fully recover since we know that eating disorders and depression often happen at the same time.

Previous studies had suggested that depressive symptoms among mothers with eating disorders might improve after the perinatal period, but those studies didn't have such a long follow-up time to confirm that the increased risk of depressive symptoms does, in fact, persist for women who have had an eating disorder.



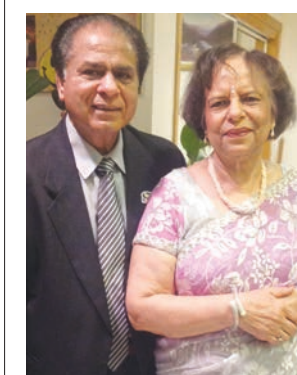
The research team found that women who had ever had anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa experienced more depressive symptoms over an 18-year follow-up than those who had never had an eating disorder.

"Depressive symptoms in mothers have been shown to be associated with a number of negative outcomes for their children, such as emotional and

behavioural problems. It is therefore important, to identify and treat eating disorders early, as these could be one potential cause of the depressive symptoms. We should also identify pregnant women with an eating disorder so that they can be provided with mental health support. This could benefit both mother and child in the long run," Solmi explained.

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## FACEBOOK TIGHTENS RULES AROUND LIVE STREAMING

Following the New Zealand mosque attack which was streamed live on Facebook, the social networking giant has tightened the rules that apply specifically to the Live camera feature on its platform.

As part of its updated policies, anyone who violates Facebook's most serious policies would be restricted from using Live for set periods of time - for example 30 days, starting on their first offence.

"We will now apply a 'one strike' policy to Live in connection with a broader range of offences. For instance, someone who shares a link to a statement from a terrorist group with no context will now be immediately blocked from using Live for a set period of time," Guy Rosen, Vice President, Integrity at Facebook, wrote in a blog post on Tuesday.

After the New Zealand attacks at two mosques in Christchurch city that claimed 51 lives in March, Facebook claimed it removed 1.5 million videos of the C attacks within the first 24 hours itself. It also said it blocked 1.2 million of them at upload, meaning they would not have been seen by users.

The original 17-minute video of the attack was viewed 4,000 times before it was removed from the platform.

## UBER ADDS 'QUIET MODE' IN LUXURY SERVICE UPGRADE

For people who don't prefer chatty drivers, global ride-sharing major Uber is rolling-out "quiet mode" on its luxury services.

It's the first upgrade to the ride-hail giant's premium services to take place in several years, The Verge reported on Tuesday.

Under the upgrade, Uber would also allow its Premium riders to request help with their luggage and specify their preferred temperature while booking the ride.

They can also ask for extra time before getting into the car without incurring late pickup fees, and will be able to speak directly to a customer service representative if something goes wrong, the report said.

More region and rollout specifications of the feature remain unclear as of now.

Uber Black and Uber Black SUV are the company's premium car services that place riders in high-end vehicles.

Originally founded as a luxury car service that could be booked through a smartphone app, Uber later introduced low-cost options like Uber Pool.

The company launched its services in India with Uber Black in 2013 and then the premium UberX in 2014. It currently operates in 31 cities in India.



# SUPERFAST DATA PROCESSING USING LIGHT PULSES CREATED

The invention uses magnets to record computer data which consume virtually zero energy, solving the dilemma of how to create faster data processing speeds without the accompanying high energy costs.

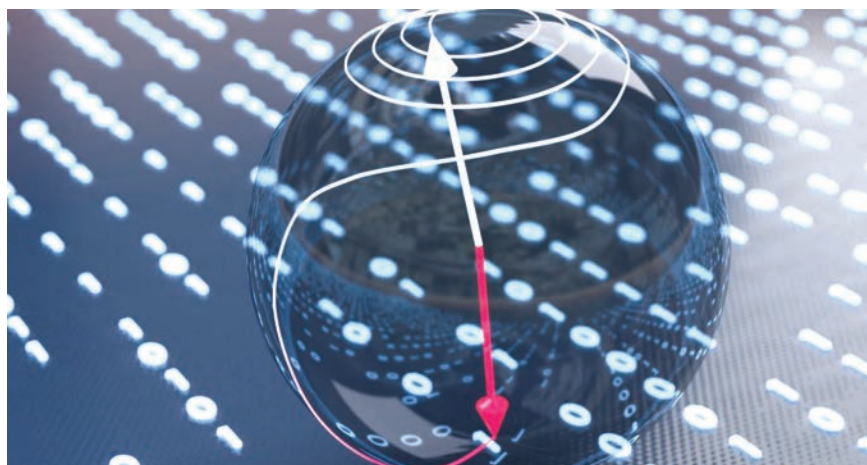
Today's data centre servers consume between 2 to 5% of global electricity consumption, producing heat which in turn requires more power to cool the servers.

The problem is so acute that Microsoft has even submerged hundreds of its data centre services in the ocean in an effort to keep them cool and cut costs.

Most data are encoded as binary information (0 or 1 respectively) through the orientation of tiny magnets, called spins, in magnetic hard-drives. The magnetic read/write head is used to set or retrieve information using electrical currents which dissipate huge amounts of energy.

Now an international team publishing in Nature has solved the problem by replacing electricity with extremely short pulses of light -- the duration of one trillionth of a second -- concentrated by special antennas on top of a magnet.

This new method is superfast but so



energy efficient that the temperature of the magnet does not increase at all.

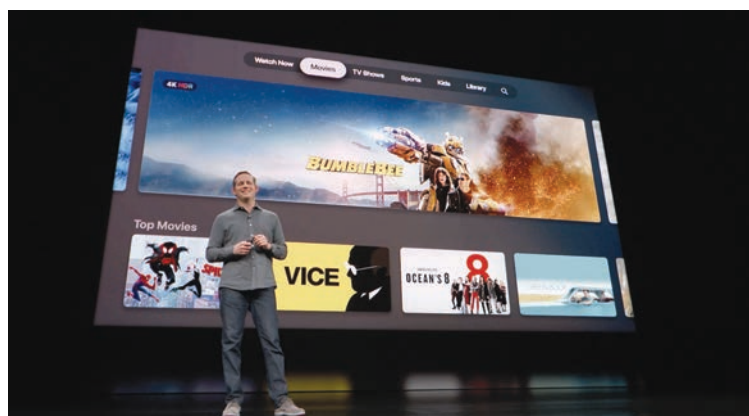
The team includes Dr Rostislav Mikhaylovskiy, formerly at Radboud University and now Lancaster University, Stefan Schlauderer, Dr Christoph Lange and Professor Rupert Huber from Regensburg University, Professor Alexey Kimel from Radboud University and Professor Anatoly Zvezdin from the Russian Academy of Sciences. They demonstrated this new method by pulsing a magnet with

ultrashort light bursts (the duration of a millionth of a second) at frequencies in the far infrared, the so called terahertz spectral range.

However, even the strongest existing sources of the terahertz light did not provide strong enough pulses to switch the orientation of a magnet to date.

The breakthrough was achieved by utilizing the efficient interaction mechanism of coupling between spins and terahertz electric field, which was discovered by the same team.

## Apple's TV app reaching 100 countries



Apple has started rolling out its TV app in over 100 countries that includes India, which would run across devices, including iPhones, iPads, Apple TVs and all of the Samsung smart TVs that are part of its 2019 line-up.

Along with India, US, Canada, Nepal, select African as well as Middle Eastern countries are also getting Apple's TV app.

"With the free iOS 12.3 and tvOS 12.3 software update, customers around the world can now subscribe to Apple TV channels within the Apple TV app - paying for only the ones they want - and watch on demand directly in the app," the company wrote in a blog-post on Monday.

With its Family Sharing feature, the Apple TV app allows up to six members to share subscriptions to Apple TV channels using their Apple ID and password. "Subscribers can watch and download shows and movies both online and offline, making the Apple TV app the first and only place where HBO subscribers can download movies and shows such as 'Game of Thrones' for offline viewing," the post added.

The app features dedicated sections of editorially handpicked content for kids of all ages as well as a Sports section.

The Apple TV app would be made available for MacBook users later this year. "Also starting today (Monday), users worldwide can enjoy personalised recommendations of shows and movies from more than 150 video apps and streaming services and over 100,000 iTunes movies and TV shows, including the largest collection of 4K HDR titles available to browse, buy or rent - all within the new Apple TV app," the post noted.

## WHATSAPP URGES USERS TO UPGRADE APP AFTER REPORT OF SPYWARE ATTACK

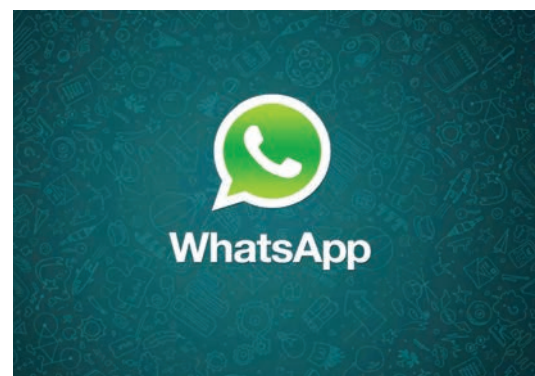
Facebook's WhatsApp on Tuesday urged users to upgrade to the latest version of its popular messaging app following a report that users could be vulnerable to having malicious spyware installed on phones without their knowledge.

"WhatsApp encourages people to upgrade to the latest version of our app, as well as keep their mobile operating system up to date, to protect against potential targeted exploits designed to compromise information stored on mobile devices," a spokesman said.

"We are constantly working alongside industry partners to provide the latest security enhancements to help protect our users."

The Financial Times reported that a vulnerability in WhatsApp allowed attackers to inject spyware on phones by ringing up targets using the app's phone call function. It said the spyware was developed by Israeli cyber surveillance company NSO Group.

Asked about the report, NSO said its technology is licensed to authorised government agencies "for the sole purpose of fighting crime and terror", and that it does not operate the system itself.





# China has a \$3.65 trillion war chest to counter US tariffs

**BEIJING (TIP):** US President Donald Trump's call for the Federal Reserve to mirror its Chinese counterpart misses the mark because Beijing's main defense against trade-war fallout will come from the finance ministry, not the central bank.

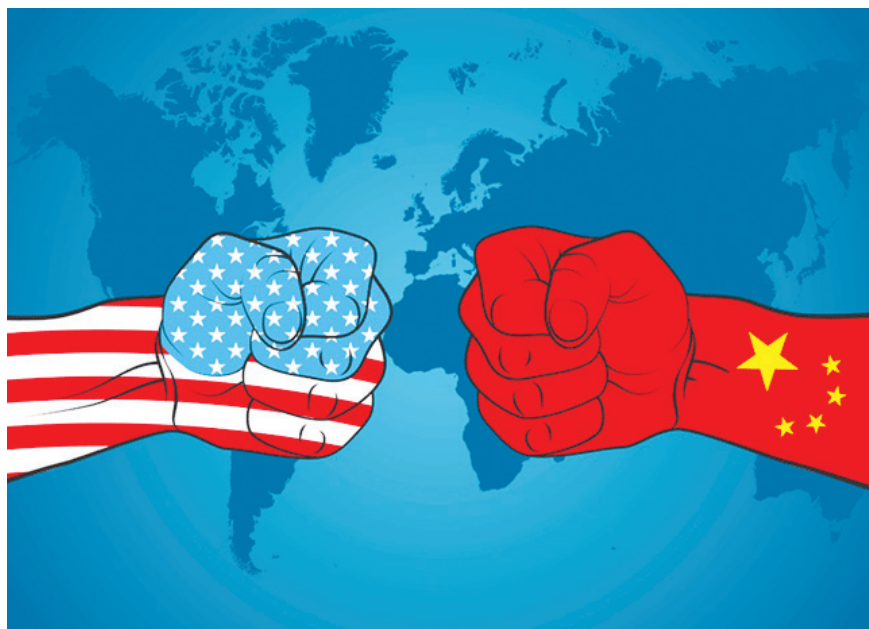
If tariffs begin to really hurt China's growth this year, there's plenty of direct fiscal firepower left to stoke the economy, before the People's Bank of China would have to cut interest rates. Data released Wednesday showed an across-the-board slowdown in April.

Central and local authorities in China have at least 25.1 trillion yuan (\$3.65 trillion) unspent in their budgets this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg using official budget plans. That's two trillion yuan more than the ammunition China had in the same period last year -- and about equivalent to the entire annual output of Germany.

"Chinese leaders will be able to better utilize different kinds of policy tools than their U.S. counterparts if the trade war persists, and that's where China's confidence comes from," said Serena Zhou, an economist at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd in Hong Kong. "From monetary policy and fiscal policy to the dominant role of the state-owned enterprises, China's control on the economy is obviously stronger than the U.S.," she said.

Indeed, PBOC Governor Yi Gang has spent the last year saying he wants to avoid a "flood" of stimulus, pushing back against expectations of benchmark interest-rate cuts as he seeks to curb market bubbles and keep a lid on debt growth. That said, economists from Morgan Stanley and China International Capital Corporation to Macquarie Securities expect further cuts to the proportion of deposits banks are forced to lock away, as authorities look to keep the credit taps flowing.

The authorities have ramped up fiscal expenditure earlier this year than they usually do, with the most obvious front-loading coming in infrastructure-related



areas such as transportation and environmental protection.

Even so, more than two thirds of the total "augmented" budget -- the general public budget, the government fund budget and special government bonds together -- remains unused.

Of course, merely increasing this year's spending isn't the limit of fiscal action if the trade war blows out and impacts economic growth significantly. Officials can support growth by selling more debt via local government financing vehicles and policy banks, though that begins to run counter to the goal of cleaning up debt.

"China may step up its pro-growth policies if the U.S. imposes additional tariffs on \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods" and the preferable policy options include expansionary fiscal policy, such as tax and fee cuts, according to CICC economists.

A severe growth slowdown is likely to produce a "whatever it takes" moment for China's policy makers. Otherwise, the Communist Party faces failure to meet its long-term growth target, just in time for its centenary in 2021.

For its part, the PBOC has also appeared to be leaning toward an easing bias since this month as trade tensions escalate.

Compared to the room for more fiscal stimulus, the PBOC has less space to maneuver and will likely stick to the "targeted approach" for now. Universal cuts to reserve-requirement ratios and interest rates are however on the table if the economy faces greater challenges, said Wang Yifeng, chief analyst of banking at Everbright Securities Co in Beijing.

The central bank has appeared to be more accommodative in open market operations since early May, adding liquidity to stabilize market sentiment. Monetary policy officials also sought to ease investors by saying it has ample policy room and tools to deal with any uncertainties.

"We can't quantify the impact of the trade war on corporate sentiment, so the real influence may be larger" than what economist estimates suggest, which reinforces the case for more pro-growth policies, Hong-Kong-based Morgan Stanley economist Robin Xing said.

## DARWIN GROUP EYES SEAT IN JET AIRWAYS' COCKPIT

**MUMBAI (TIP):** Top management of lesser-known Darwin Group, which was one of the unsolicited bidders for Jet Airways, today met officials of SBI Caps to discuss its proposal.

The Group has offered Rs 14,000-crore deal to the lenders for acquiring the grounded airline, its CEO Rahul Ganpule said.

Darwin Platform Group of Companies claims it has investments across various sectors, including oil and gas, hospitality and realty, among others. Ganpule said the company had submitted its bid on May 8.

"They (SBI Caps) had called us. We wanted to understand the liability and assets of Jet Airways," he told reporters after the meeting.

The consortium of SBI-led seven lenders, which owns 51% in the airline, has offered to sell up to 75% stake in the airline, which stopped flying around mid last month. The ailing carrier owes over Rs 8,000 crore to the lenders.

SBI Caps had early last month invited expressions of interest between April 8 and 12, on behalf of the lenders to sell their stake in the carrier.

It received one solicited bid from the airline's investment partner Etihad Airways, besides two unsolicited on May 10, which was the last date of submission of financial bids.

The bids were examined by the lenders on May 13 and they found Etihad's bid conditional. Ganpule said though the Group had done due diligence before submitting the financial bid, it wanted some more financial details that were not publicly available.

## Exports dip to 4-month low, trade gap at 5-month high

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India's export growth slid to a four-month low of 0.64% in April as shipments of engineering goods, gems and jewellery, leather and other products declined, widening the trade deficit to a five-month high, data released on Wednesday showed.

Imports increased by 4.5%, the highest growth in the past six months as crude oil and gold shipments shot up in the month.

Merchandise exports stood at \$26 billion in April while imports at \$41.4 billion, leading to a trade gap of \$15.33 billion, the widest deficit since November 2018, the trade data showed.

The country's merchandise exports were down because of the negative growth in key sectors such as engineering, gems and jewellery, leather, carpet, plastic, marine products, rice and coffee during the month under review. Previously, exports had recorded a low growth rate of 0.34 per cent in December 2018.

Oil imports grew by 9.26% to \$11.38 billion and non-oil imports expanded by 2.78%. Gold imports rose by 54% to \$3.97 billion in April.

# IndiGo plans budget business class seats to lure Europe-Asia fliers

Low-cost airlines, the pioneers of brief discomfort at bargain prices, have struggled to master long-haul flights. Now one of the world's most successful budget carriers is considering cut-price business class seats as a way into the Europe-Asia market.

India's IndiGo, which currently flies as far as Istanbul, is mapping out an ambitious long-distance network. The airline aims to start one-stop trips further into Europe within six months, Chief Executive Officer Ronojoy Dutta said in an interview in New Delhi last week.

IndiGo has captured almost half the Indian market in just over a decade by offering cheap, punctual flights -- and charging extra for almost anything else. Dutta's long-haul plans are forcing a product overhaul to help passengers endure longer flights and he's considering everything from extra snacks to a brand-new business class.

"Once you get to six, seven, eight hours, the body gets tired, people need to use the washrooms more, people need to eat more frequently, all of those things change," Dutta said. "We have to redesign our product. Is it more pitch, is it more food, is it more hot towels, is it a business class?"

### Patchy Legacy

Success could upend a long-haul market between Asia and Europe that's long been the preserve of full-service carriers



from Singapore Airlines Ltd. and British Airways to Emirates Airline and Cathay Pacific Airways. While IndiGo has become Asia's largest low-cost carrier by market value, other no-frills rivals that have tried to go long-haul have left a hit-and-miss legacy.

Discount carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA, which launched services on intercontinental routes, has been weighed down by losses after a rapid expansion. AirAsia X Bhd., the Malaysian long-haul, low-cost airline, opted to focus on Asia after on-off services to London, although it still flies to a Honolulu, via a stop in Osaka. Both airlines offer premium seats with extra legroom, meals and in-flight entertainment.

Scout, the budget unit of Singapore Airlines, offers long-haul flights to Athens and Berlin. Its "Scoutbiz" class on Boeing Co. 787 Dreamliner jets provides leather seats, more legroom, additional carry-on bags, welcome drinks and one additional alcoholic beverage. Business-class flyers on Scout are also able to charge their mobile gadgets on board, and can stream movies on their own devices.

It's not clear what IndiGo's business class would potentially offer or how much it might cost. The airline must meet other challenges too: Fuel is typically among an airline's biggest expenses and IndiGo faces rising oil prices as it considers setting up a long-distance network.

IndiGo wants to operate one-stop flights to cities like London from New Delhi, while flying non-stop to countries like China, Vietnam, Myanmar and Russia. It's in talks with Airbus SE to buy a yet-to-be-released longer version of the European planemaker's newest narrow-body jet. The airline is preparing to place a "large" order, Dutta said.



# Trump Jr agrees to testify in Senate in Russia probe



Trump Jr. has agreed to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating Russian election meddling

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump's son Donald Jr has agreed to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating Russian election meddling, according to media reports. The agreement resolved a looming fight between the Congress and the White House after Donald Jr was subpoenaed by the Republican-led committee last week.

According to reports, he had initially agreed to testify behind closed doors and then backed out for unclear reasons.

But President Trump is battling any cooperation with Congress in the Russia meddling investigation, claiming that he has already been "totally exonerated" of collusion and obstruction of justice by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report completed in late March.

The Senate panel has interviewed Donald Jr once before and is believed to be seeking clarification on his knowledge of contacts between the 2016 Trump presidential campaign and Russians. Some Democrats suspect he

may have lied about what he and his father knew of a June 2016 meeting in Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer offering dirt on Hillary Clinton, as well as other connections between the two sides. Seeking to complete their own report on Russian election interference, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr risked the wrath of the White House and his Republican party by issuing a subpoena for Donald Jr. (Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com))

contd from page 1

## President Donald Trump...

Far from a comprehensive immigration reform, President Donald Trump on Thursday, May 16, announced a proposal that will include significant changes to the way green cards are allocated, by dramatically reducing the number of family-based green cards and moving towards a points-based ("merit-based") system that will reward, among other factors, education, skills and English language proficiency. The plan, which the President outlined at a Rose Garden gathering, with senior administration officials and influential Hill Republicans in attendance, sought to boost border security and tighten asylum procedures.

Mr. Trump's new plan, details of which had already been reported widely in the U.S. media before the announcement, will dramatically increase the number of green cards that are given through the skills route versus the family-based route. However, the overall number of green cards, just over 1.1 million in 2017, will remain the same.

Currently about 12% of those receiving green cards entered the U.S. based on skill-based visas (such as the H1B), while some 66% are family-based green cards. The new proposal will increase skills-based green cards to 57%. Points will be awarded to applicants based on their education, work experience, age (more points for younger workers), English language ability etc. New immigrants will have to show that they can financially support themselves and will need to pass a civics exam.

Mr Trump also announced that there would be a new "Build America" visa - details of which were not provided on Thursday. His Rose Garden speech made references to foreign workers displacing low income Americans' jobs and highly valuable graduates leaving America to start companies in their own countries because they could not get a visa in America.

People given Green Cards on humanitarian and diversity grounds will now only constitute 10% of all Green Card recipients, according to a handout given to the press at the end of the Rose Garden event. Currently, the diversity lottery offers 50,000 green cards to under-represented groups each year.

The proposals, if they eventually turn into law, are likely to have a significant impact on Indians who interact with the U.S. immigration system. A large majority (over 70%) of H1B visas, for skilled workers, went to Indians in fiscal year 2018. Many of these are eventually converted to green cards. Indian residents getting green cards have been in the range of 57,000-62,000 in the 2015-2017 period.

However, it is far from clear that a shift towards a points-based system will make the prospects of Indian skilled migrants wanting to settle in the U.S. easier, as

bringing family members over, especially elderly parents, may get more complicated. Mr Trump said that spouses and children will be prioritized under the new system. "If Trump's plan became law, millions of U.S. citizens and permanent residents-including those who first arrived as H-1B workers-would no longer be able live in America with their parents and children," Doug Rand, who worked on immigration in the Obama White House and now runs a firm that helps immigrants get green cards, told The Hindu.

"But this has no chance of becoming law-it's just a cynical PR move that pays lip service to high-skill immigration even as the Trump administration is systematically dismantling high-skill immigration with every tool at its disposal," Mr Rand said. The Trump administration has made regulation around legal immigration more stringent, such as by seeking to clamp down on work-permits for spouses of migrants.

The second part of the White House proposal seeks to reduce illegal migration to the U.S. by building "physical barriers" in sections of the southern border with Mexico. It will also make it harder for individuals to claim asylum (which is a right under U.S. and international law). It will create a border security trust fund, which is funded by fees collected at the border, Mr Trump said. The White House immigration plan was designed, as per reports, by Mr Trump's son-in-law and advisor Jared Kushner and Stephen Miller, senior advisor to Mr Trump, who is considered a right-wing immigration hardliner.

The proposal seeks to bring Republicans together around the immigration debate that will be a focus in the 2020 Presidential elections. However it is by no means a given that it appeals to the Republicans. Mr Kushner and Mr Miller lobbied Congressional Republicans earlier this week and reportedly failed to get strong support. It is even less certain that Democrats will support the bill. Based on details currently available, the proposal also does not appear to address concerns the Democrats have with current asylum laws. It also remains silent on how to deal with the status of millions of "dreamers", individuals who were brought into the U.S. illegally as minors.

"The idea that for every immigrant they help, they hurt one, all of that is no good," the New York Times quoted Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer as saying. "Don't come up with a plan that Stephen Miller rubber stamps and say, 'Now pass it.' It's not going to happen," Mr Schumer said. "I don't think it's designed to get Democratic support as much as it is to unify the Republican Party around border security, a negotiating position," Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally, said. Mr Graham released his own immigration proposal earlier on Wednesday. (With inputs from Agencies and The Hindu)

## New York City Mayor Bill...

The official announcement was made via a YouTube video branded with the campaign slogan "Working People First." In it, the 58-year-old de Blasio took a direct aim at the president saying, "Donald Trump must be stopped. I've beaten him before, and I will do it again." With a skeleton staff and a relatively small amount of campaign cash, de Blasio is planning campaign stops in Iowa and South Carolina that will start Friday and end Sunday. De Blasio is scheduled to appear with First Lady Chirlane McCray on Good Morning America on Thursday morning and make the presidential announcement on the show before heading to Iowa and South Carolina.

Early polling numbers show that the mayor has a lot of work to do on the campaign trail. And New York City voters don't approve of the idea of a presidential run; 76 percent said they didn't want him to run, according to an April Quinnipiac poll. Despite the data and warnings from allies, de Blasio has argued he has a message that resonates with voters, and he reminds people he was an underdog in the Democratic primary for mayor in 2013.

Trump took to tweet to share his thoughts on de Blasio's announcement.

Donald J. Trump

?

@realDonaldTrump

The Dems are getting another beauty to join their group. Bill de Blasio of NYC, considered the worst mayor in the U.S., will supposedly be making an announcement for president today. He is a JOKE, but if you like high taxes & crime, he's your man. NYC HATES HIM!

105K | 8:33 AM - May 16, 2019

50.4K people are talking about this

## 5th Annual DFW SAFF Unveils...

The centerpiece film (also men's programming) is the U.S. Premiere of Vasan Bala's (in attendance) action-packed film MARD KO DARD NAHIN HOTA (The Man Who Feels No Pain), marking the acting debut of Bollywood actress Bhagyashree's son, Abhimanyu Dassani (in attendance). The movie will screen at the AMC Village on the Parkway 9 on Saturday, May 18 at 7:15 p.m., followed by an after party at Saffron House in Addison.

The festival closes with the Texas Premiere of Aijaz Khan's (in attendance) emotional Kashmiri drama about a boy in search of his missing father, HAMID, starring Rasika Dugal of MADE IN HEAVEN, DELHI CRIME and QISSA fame. The closing night film will take place at the AMC Village on the Parkway 9 at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, followed by an after party at the Design District's Center Stage.

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# CHAR DHAM YATRA

Char Dham conveys the presence of four sacred abodes. But it has a great significance in Hindu religion. Char Dham originally used to refer to a pilgrimage circuit encompassing four holiest sites which were located at four directions of India - Badrinath, Puri, Rameshwaram and Dwarka. They were established by Adi Shankaracharya in the 8th century AD. A relatively smaller circuit of Hindu pilgrimage is formed by the four hallowed places of Indian Himalayas, which are also known as Chota Char Dham. 'Chota' means small in Hindi. Alternately called Char Dham of Himalayas or Char Dham of Uttarakhand, the revered group possesses four sacred sites - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamotri.

There are three major sects in Hinduism - Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism. The Char Dham of India consists of three Vishnava locations (Dwarka, Badrinath and Puri) and one Shaiva (Rameshwaram).

Hindu pilgrimage circuit of Indian Himalayas represents all the primary cults by having two Shakta sites (Yamunotri and Gangotri), one Vaishnava site (Badrinath) and one Shaiva site (Kedarnath). Adi Shankaracharya, who has been credited with the creation of the four holiest abodes in India, is believed to have attained freedom from his bodily form in Kedarnath.

Four pious spots of Garhwal Himalayas find mention in many great Hindu texts such as Vedas and Puranas and assume a very important position in Hindu religion.

The temples of Chota Char Dham are located in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. Yamunotri and Gangotri are located in Uttarkashi district, Kedarnath is in Rudraprayag district and Badrinath is in Chamoli district.

Land of Uttarakhand is also known as Dev Bhumi (Land of Gods) because of the various tales of divine beings finding its permanent home in the ever flowing rivers, river confluences, shrines, rocks, caves and, most importantly, in people's faith.

Going to the four sacred places would take you through the most picturesque landscape involving dense mountain forests, meadows, large valleys, waterfalls, rivers, river confluences and flowers. With plentiful of nature's presence in every nook and corner of Uttarakhand, pilgrimage in Himalayas becomes more rejuvenating and spiritually uplifting.

## Badrinath

Badrinath Temple is one of the holiest Hindu shrines in India. It is situated in the hill town of Badrinath in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand state. Along the river Alaknanda, the temple is essentially a Lord Vishnu shrine. Also known by the names Badri Vishal and Badrinarayan, it is one of the Char Dham sites and the one amongst 108 Divya Desams. This has contributed to the fact that Badrinath is vital with reference to travel and tourism.

The gates of the temple are open only for a period of six months, due to extreme weather conditions in Himalayas. There are a number of hot water pools here namely Tapt Kund, Narad Kund etc. These pools are filled with hot steaming water in the winter months also and are considered to possess medicinal properties. Many people even perform the last rites of the departed souls at Brahm Kapal.

It is a flat platform on the banks of river Alaknanda. Sheshnetra and Chandrapaduka are other rock boulders present along the river, which are believed to have footprints of Shesh Nag and Lord Vishnu. Another important temple here is the Mata Murti Temple. These temples are also considered as evidences of the rich historical past of Badrinath. Referring the mythological facts, it is believed that Lord Vishnu was practicing penance at this place.

In order to save him from the harmful rays of the sun, his divine consort Lakshmi took the form of a Badri plant and provided shade to him. Pleased by her fervor and devotion, the



Lord told her that this place would be famous by her name. Hence, it came to be known as Badrinath. Splashed by Alaknanda, the divine site serves as an ideal location to experience the eternal bliss associated with spirituality.

## Kedarnath

Kedarnath is a sacred town situated in the state of Uttarakhand of India. It can even be called as one of the remotest Char Dham sites as it is located amidst the snow-capped mountains of Himalayas, near the river Mandakini. Nestled in the Rudraprayag district, the main attractions here is the Kedarnath Temple, which is a popular Hindu shrine and pilgrimage, attracting devotees from all over the world. The travel and tourism scope here is strengthened by factors like natural beauty and religious zest.

The Kedarnath Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is deemed to have been built by Adi Sankaracharya. The glory of the temple can be attributed to the fact that it is one of the twelve jyotirlingas (Lord Shiva shrines), present in the country. The temple remains open only for a period of six months, due to heavy snowfall in the winter months. Testing the fervor and dedication of the pilgrims, the temple is not directly reachable by road.

The only way being, a 14 km trek path from Gaurikund. The present temple stands adjacent to the initial temple built by the Pandavas. According to historical data, Pandavas after winning the battle of Mahabharata, felt guilty of killing their own brothers. They came here in search of Lord Shiva, who kept hiding himself. Finally Bhima, the strongest Pandava brother recognized him. Lord Shiva, who was disguised as a bull, escaped leaving behind his hind part.

This led to the construction of the temple here. The present Kedarnath Temple has been built by huge slabs of gray stones, standing undeterred with all its glory and majesty. The divine peace and tranquility of the place leaves the devotees completely mesmerized. The haunting environment and secluded surroundings compel all the visitors to feel the inner connection with the Almighty. Thus, Kedarnath is considered a must visit place amongst pilgrims, before leaving this world.

## Gangotri

One of the four sites amongst the holiest places, Char Dham in India, is Gangotri. This sacred city is located in the northern part of the state of Uttarakhand. It is known as the source of River Ganges and also the seat of Goddess Ganga. Ducked amidst the sprawling Garhwal hills, Gangotri is an ideal location for

all those who wish to take a dip into the oceans of divinity, as well as those have a thirst for adventure. This makes Gangotri an ideal spot in terms of travel and tourism.

Gangotri also has a strong historical past and bears the eternal feel of antiquity. According to mythological records, King Bhagirath did penance here, after which, as per Lord Shiva's wishes, River Ganges came down on earth. However, to save the earth from the fierce force of the river, Lord Shiva held her in his locks. Thus, river Ganges is also known as Bhagirathi here. Moreover, it is also believed that Pandavas came down to this place to perform Deva Yajna.

As a result, Gangotri is a significant place from religion point of view. Hundreds of devotees throng the place every year in order to unleash the secrets of spirituality. Some of the main attractions of Gangotri include Gangotri Temple, which was built by Gurkha monarch Amar Singh Thapa, around 3000 years back. Another pilgrim site here is Jalamagna Shivalinga, which is a natural rock Shivalinga submerged in the river.

It is deemed to be the place where Lord Shiva held Ganga in his locks. This Shivalinga is only visible in winter months. Other worth visiting places in the vicinity are Gaumukh (source of Ganges), Gaumukh Glacier and Nandanvan. Drifting towards the adventurous aspect of Gangotri, it offers a number of sports for fun lovers such as river rafting, trekking etc. Thus, to enjoy the natural beauty and religious fervor at its best, Gangotri is a must visit place for all.

## Yamunotri

Perched amidst sprawling Garhwal Hills, Yamunotri is another revered pilgrim spots in

the state of Uttarakhand. It is one of the Char Dham in India and holds great religious importance. Yamunotri is the source of sacred river Yamuna and also the abode of goddess Yamuna. It is famous for its thermal springs, glaciers and scenic locales. In effect, it is one of the must visit places from travel and tourism point of view.

According to Hindu mythology, this hilly spot was once the abode of an ancient sage by the name, Asit Muni. Owing to its legendary significance, thousands of devotees visit this silent yet hustling-bustling pilgrimage place. There are a many worth visiting places here, one of the most important being the Yamunotri temple. This temple was built by Maharani Gularia of Jaipur in the 19th century. The shrine is dedicated to goddess Yamuna.

She resides here in the form of a silver idol adorned with garlands. It is believed that a holy dip in the sacred water of river Yamunotri here relieves everyone from a painful death. This is because she is the sister of Yama, the God of Death. As a result, pilgrims visit the place in order to seek the blessings of Yamuna and save themselves from the agony of death. Apart from this there is Surya Kund which is known for its thermal springs.

The temperature of the water here is approximately 190 degree Fahrenheit. Also, there are a number of hot water pools here, which are used to cook rice and potato as Prasad (holy offerings to God). Divya Shilla is a rock pillar here, which is worshipped by the devotees before entering the Yamunotri temple. Other tourist places near Yamunotri are Janaki Chatti, Hanuman Chatti and Saptrishi Kund.

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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."**





## Felicity Huffman pleads guilty in college admissions scandal

Hollywood actress Felicity Huffman has pleaded guilty to paying \$15,000 to a fake charity that facilitated cheating when her daughter took the SATs for college admission. When she appeared in court in Boston on Monday, prosecutors recommended a sentence of four months prison time for the 56-year-old TV star for her role in the college admissions scandal, news channel reported.

They also suggested a \$20,000 fine and 12 months of supervised release for the charge, which is a felony.

She is slated to be sentenced on September 13.

The charity was associated with Rick Singer, who has confessed to helping wealthy parents cheat on standardised tests for their children.

Singer also bribed college coaches to falsely designate students as recruited athletes, smoothing their path to admission, a criminal complaint says.

# AGE DOESN'T DEFINE US, SAYS HALLE BERRY

Actress Halle Berry doesn't like to be defined by her age, and wants to prove women can do anything.

"There is nothing I wanted to do more than to prove that women of my age can do exactly what we want to do. Age doesn't define us," Berry said in a statement.

Keanu Reeves will be back as the remorseful assassin John Wick. He has teamed up with Berry for another mission.

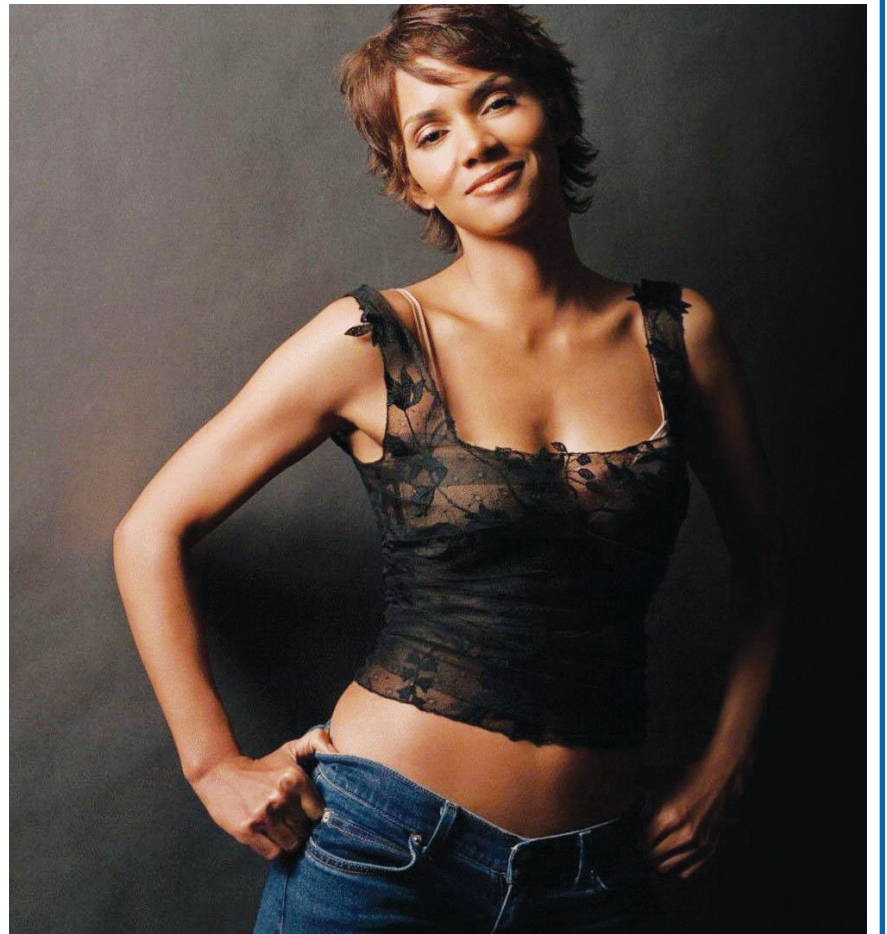
Talking about the role, she said, "I never worked harder for a film role in my entire career. I had to work through some injuries, but I kept at it because quitting was not ever an option. Now I have the bug, and I just want to keep going and going."

The third chapter in the franchise will pick up in the immediate aftermath of 'John Wick 2', with Wick excommunicated and on the run, having to defend himself against a host of equally skilled assassins looking to scoop up the bounty for killing him. The film is being brought to India by PVR Pictures. It will release on May 17.

The film is directed by Chad Stahelski. In addition to Berry, new cast members include Anjelica Huston, Asia Kate Dillon and Jerome Flynn.

Berry started out as a fan of 'John Wick'.

"I loved how real the action felt in the first movie. I looked forward to Chapter 2 as soon as I saw the first. When my manager told me that Chad was looking for a female assassin on par with John Wick, I knew I had to play the part. When I first met with Chad he had not yet finished writing my role, but I didn't care, I said, 'Sign me up, I'll do it!'"



## Maisie Williams says she is tired of pretending who everyone thinks she should be



Game of Thrones star Maisie Williams says she is tired of pretending to be who everyone thinks she should be. In a podcast Happy Place, hosted by Fearne Cotton, Williams opened up about her struggles with mental health and revealed that it was only last year that she started to have a clearer head.

"Last year, in my own personal life, I just went through a lot of real revelations where I was like I'm not very happy doing this and pretending everything was fine. That wasn't a public thing. But after going

through that, now I've sort of tried to be a lot more genuine. It just becomes a lot more relaxing after that I think," she said.

"You just drop it all and that's when you can really have fun," said the actress who got popular for her role as Arya Stark in Game Of Thrones, aired in India on Star World. Claiming that she is far from perfect, Williams said she had many more good days than bad days. She said: "I still lay in bed, like at 11 pm, telling myself all the things I hate about myself. There's still a journey, I think."



## Britney Spears claims father Jamie forced her to enter mental health facility

Pop star Britney Spears has reportedly told a judge that her father, Jamie Spears, forced her to enter a mental health facility and take medication against her will.

The 37-year-old singer had checked herself into a 30-day programme in March in the midst of her father's ongoing health issues.

According to TMZ, Spears recently appeared in front of a Los Angeles Superior Court judge. During the hearing, the singer claimed that Jamie, 66, illegally made her enter the facility after she ditched her doctor-prescribed pills.

Her mother, Lynne, who was also present

during the hearing, backed Spears' claims.

Spears has been under the control of a conservatorship, a guardian or a protector appointed by a judge to manage the financial affairs or daily life of a person.

Jamie has been in charge of his daughter's assets since a court ruling in 2008 following her highly publicised breakdown.

Despite the agreement, he does not have the power to put her into a facility or ply her with drugs without her consent.

The judge, however, did not grant the singer's requests for more freedom and adjustments to the conservatorship.



# Dhoni controls mental aspect of the game, Kohli likes to impose his stamp: Jonty

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Former South Africa cricketer Jonty Rhodes has revealed the main difference in captaincy styles of former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and current captain Virat Kohli. Rhodes opined that Dhoni controls the mental aspect of the game brilliantly while Kohli on the other hand, likes to force the issue and 'impose his stamp on the game'.

"Dhoni's example was of setting incredible standards on fitness and control mindset point of view. So there are different styles of leadership. Kohli's style is to take things by the scruff of the neck and he likes to impose his stamp on the game," Rhodes was quoted as saying by India Today.

Recently, skipper Virat Kohli was full of praise for Dhoni and also revealed what make his indispensable to the Indian team. Dhoni has been an integral part of the Indian team since his debut in 2004. After leading India to a T20 World Cup, Champions Trophy and a 50-over World Cup, Dhoni has earned the reputation of being an astute thinker of the game.

"What can I say about him. My career started under him and few have seen him from so close over the last few years as I have. There's one thing about MS that's far more important than anything else - and there's a lot to him - for him,



the team is always above everything else. It's always about the team, no matter what. To top it, look at the experience he brings to the squad and we're richer with it. Some of his dismissals behind the stumps, just recently too (in IPL), were match-changing," said Kohli in an interview to Times of India.

The two Indian stalwarts enjoyed contrasting fortunes in the recently concluded Indian Premier League (IPL). While Dhoni fired Chennai

Super Kings into the final, which they lost to Mumbai Indians by just one run, Kohli on the other hand saw his team crash out of the league stage once again.

Kohli and Dhoni will now join forces for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2019, where India will look to clinch their third crown in England and Wales. The showpiece event begins on May 30 while India play their first match against South Africa on June 5.



## Dhoni eyes Chennai clean-out after losing IPL final

**HYDERABAD (TIP):** Chennai Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni suggested his ageing side needs a shake-up after they lost a nail-biting Indian Premier League final to arch rivals Mumbai Indians.

The thriller saw Mumbai edge out Chennai on Sunday after Australian Shane Watson was run out going for an unlikely second run in the final over to end a blistering 59-ball innings at 80.

Chennai then needed two runs off the last ball to overtake Mumbai's 149-8. But Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga trapped Shardul Thakur lbw to claim a record fourth title for Mumbai.

"We need to go back and reflect as to how we reached the finals. I don't think it was one of those years where we played really good cricket and we got into the finals," said Dhoni.

"After the World Cup, once we come back, that's the time we get to the drawing board and see what can be done to fill the gaps.

"Nothing against the bowlers, but batting could have been better," said Dhoni, whose team has won three IPL titles from eight finals.

None of Chennai's batsmen made it to the top-10 scorers list in this year's IPL, India's cash-rich domestic Twenty20 showpiece tournament.

Dhoni — 37 but still a key member of India's World Cup squad — was Chennai's best with 416 runs, including three fifties.

## RUNNING IS ONE OF THE BEST FORMS OF FITNESS, SAYS TCS WORLD 10K INTERNATIONAL EVENT AMBASSADOR ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO

**BENGALURU (TIP):** In her first visit to Bengaluru, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario expressed her happiness to be the TCS World 10K International Event Ambassador. The former World No. 1 tennis player said after retiring, it events like these that keeps her connected to sports world. Known for her sheer tenacity and never-say-die attitude, the Spanish legend said running is a universal sport with no barriers. "I think running is one of the best forms of fitness. Anyone can run, even families can run together. And I believe the acceptance for running in Bengaluru through the TCS World 10K has gotten bigger and bigger every year," said the former World No. 1.

On race day, she will encourage the 25,000+ runners at the event through her story of determination and never-say-die-attitude. "I am sure the city as well as the participants are all geared up for the run and hope they give their best and more importantly have fun too. I would like to wish them all the very best and would look forward to experiencing the energy and excitement on Race Day," said Arantxa.

In a stellar 17-year career, the former Spanish pro accumulated 14 Grand Slam titles - four singles, six doubles, and four mixed doubles. At just 17, she reached the 1989 French Open final facing world No. 1 and two-time defending champion Steffi Graf. But she stunned one and all, and announced her arrival on the pro circuit, beating the German to win her first ever Grand Slam, becoming the youngest player ever to win the French Open.



"Playing against Steffi in the final, who was World No.1 and had not lost in a long time, I had nothing to lose but after I won, people expected me to win every event I played in," explained Arantxa. That win over Steffi Graf in French Open made her a trailblazer as she also became the first Spanish woman to win a Grand Slam. "That victory, in a way, changed how people pursued women's tennis because up until then, it was it was mostly perceived as a men's sport in Spain," she added.

Considered to be one of the most decorated Olympians in Spanish history winning four medals (two silver, two bronze), she also was the first Spanish player to simultaneously be ranked as the world's No. 1 player in both singles and doubles during career.

Summing up her career, Arantxa said she was happy to have played in the era that she did. "People always remember winners, I won four singles grand slams but ended up losing the final at Grand Slams eight times," admitted the 'Barcelona Bumblebee'.

On the 2019 Roland Garros, she said Simona Halep will be one of the favourites to win the women's title. "Rafa will of course be the favourite but then Djokovic is also doing well and then we have Federer making a comeback, so it's going to be a very interesting contest," said the former Roland Garros champion of the men's field.

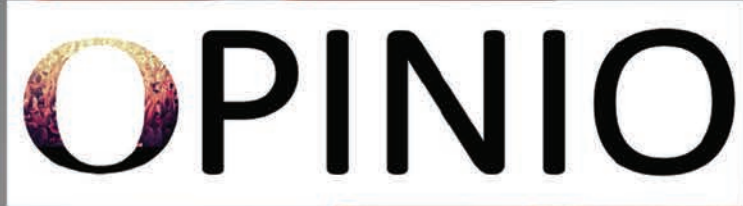
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Since its inception in 1988, Procam International has been the driving force behind the growth and development of sports management in India. Envisioned by founders Anil and Vivek Singh, Procam, is one of the leading companies in holistic sports management, sports consultancy, and live television programming. With astute planning and exemplary execution, Procam has a track record of conceptualising and promoting over 100 international events, across disciplines - Powerboat Racing, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Distance Running, Squash, WWE, Horse Racing, Volleyball among others. These events have elicited participation of the highest calibre of athletes, as well as huge public interest and attendance. Pioneers of the distance running movement in India, Procam International's Big 4 -Tata Mumbai Marathon, Airtel Delhi Half Marathon, Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru and Tata Steel Kolkata 25 K are global leaders in their respective distances. These events have ushered in a running revolution that has helped to re-define, the health, fitness and giving paradigm of our country.



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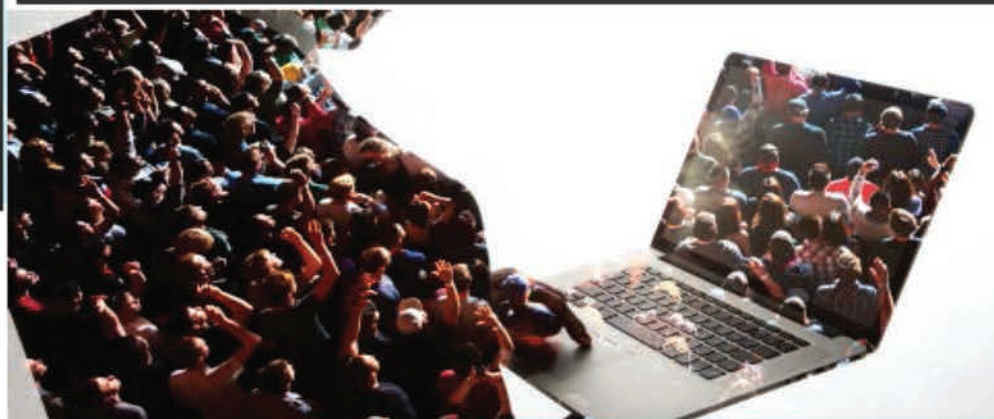
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