

TRUMP PROPOSES NEW RESTRICTIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS



"The biggest loophole drawing illegal aliens to our borders is the use of fraudulent or meritless asylum claims to gain entry into our great country", said Trump.

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump is calling for his administration to restrict the asylum process for 'protecting the integrity of our asylum system and responding to the humanitarian and security crisis at our border', the White House says.

contd on Page 20

The INDIAN PANORAMA

Future of Democracy in India - TIP Survey

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

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

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

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

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

UN DESIGNATES MASOOD AZHAR AS GLOBAL TERRORIST

Goal stands achieved, says India's Ambassador to the UN Syed Akbaruddin

BIDISHA ROY

NEW YORK (TIP): Moments after the United Nations designated Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, India's Ambassador to the UN Syed Akbaruddin thanked all countries for their support.

"Big, small, all join together. Masood Azhar designated as a terrorist in @UN Sanctions list. Grateful to all for their support" Ambassador Akbaruddin tweeted.

Later in an interview with Times Now he said that India's decade long efforts finally paid off. "This is a significant outcome, we have been at it for several years, today the goal stands achieved".

contd on Page 20

United Nations designates Jaish-e-Mohammed Chief Masood Azhar (inset) as a global terrorist. "Grateful to all for their support", tweeted Ambassador Akbaruddin



Massive Sikh Day Parade Taken Out in New York City



Photo / Baldev-BJ Video

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Sikh Community of Tri-states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut took out a parade April 27 in Manhattan, to mark the birth of

the Khalsa, the Sikhs. The Parade, popularly known as the Sikh Day Parade, attracted thousands from the Tri-State area and the neighboring States. contd on Page 20

INDIA GOVERNMENT REVISES POLICY ON CONSULAR SERVICES TO ASYLEES

Asylees will now get visa and OCI cards



Details and certain clarifications are awaited from government of India, said Ambassador Sandeep Chakraborty, Consul General of India in New York

NEW YORK (TIP): In a significant move, India has directed all its missions abroad to abolish local blacklists

contd on Page 20

WE'RE HIRING!

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We are looking for marketing persons for The Indian Panorama print editions and the web portal at a couple of locations which include Long Island, Queens, Manhattan and Buffalo in New York, Jersey City and Edison in New Jersey, Stamford in Connecticut, Atlanta in Georgia, Houston and Dallas in Texas, and Chicago in Illinois. Persons with experience in newspaper

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Indian Doctor Creates History as First Indian President of International Society of Nephrology

LONDON (TIP): Dr Vivekanand Jha created history when he took over as the President of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) April 15 at the conclusion of the World Congress of Nephrology at Melbourne, Australia. He is the first Indian and only the second person from Asia to ascend to the Presidency of ISN in the 59-year history of the organisation.



Dr Vivekanand Jha is the first Indian and only the second person from Asia to ascend to the Presidency of ISN in the 59-year history of the organization

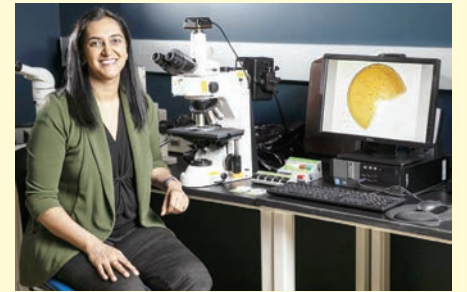
Currently the Executive Director of George Institute for Global Health India and Professor of Nephrology at University of Oxford, Jha is recognized as an expert on the burden of kidney disease and its socio-economic impact on low-middle income countries. Having joined the ISN community as an ISN Fellow, he set up his own laboratory at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. He

has carried out large scale epidemiological studies, conducted key clinical trials to find treatment for many kidney diseases and conducted basic laboratory research. Working with organizations such as the World Health

Organization, Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes and the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group, he has helped develop clinical practice guidelines and advocacy papers.

The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) is a global organization of nephrologists and allied professionals dedicated to advancing worldwide kidney health. The ISN has over 10,000 members and over 100 affiliated societies. The mission of ISN is to bridge the gaps of available care through advocacy and collaborations, to build capacity with healthcare professionals via granting programs, education and research and to develop a stronger understanding of how to manage kidney diseases and engage in a collaborative effort to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment by connecting communities.

INDIAN AMERICAN ECOLOGIST RECEIVES NSF CAREER GRANT



Chaudhary has been teaching courses in plant biology, environment data analysis and climate change at DePaul since 2016

CHICAGO (TIP): Bala Chaudhary, an environmental scientist at DePaul University recently received NSF CAREER grant to study dispersal of mycorrhizal fungi.

Chaudhary, an assistant professor of environmental science at DePaul, is embarking on a deep dive into mycorrhizal dispersal mechanisms with support from the National Science Foundation. The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) grant is NSF's most prestigious award in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. The \$715,000, five-year research grant will support a multifaceted project that combines trait-based ecology, macroecology and physical laws to study dispersal of mycorrhizal fungi.

Chaudhary has been teaching courses in plant biology, environment data analysis and climate change at DePaul since 2016 as an assistant professor in the College of Science and Health. In her lab in the Department of Environmental Science and Studies, Chaudhary examines soil ecological questions, with a focus on mycorrhizal fungi, something she has been studying since her own undergraduate days at the University of Chicago, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

INDIAN AMERICAN NAMED MARCONI SOCIETY PAUL BARAN YOUNG SCHOLAR



Dr. Vasuki Narasimha Swamy is a Research Scientist at Intel Labs and UC Berkeley Electrical Engineering and Computer Science PhD

BERKELEY, CA (TIP) The Marconi Society, dedicated to furthering scientific achievements in communications and the Internet, will honor Dr. Vasuki Narasimha Swamy, Research Scientist at Intel Labs and UC Berkeley Electrical Engineering and Computer Science PhD, with a 2019 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar Award for her work to design robust wireless protocol frameworks for ultra-reliable low-latency communications (URLLC).

*Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news*

INDIAN AMERICAN CHICAGO BOOTH PROFESSOR ANIL KASHYAP REAPPOINTED TO BOE'S FINANCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE



This is Kashyap's second term which will begin on Oct. 1, 2019

CHICAGO (TIP): University of Chicago Booth School of Business Professor Anil Kashyap has been reappointed by UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond as an external member of the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) at the Bank of England.

This is Kashyap's second term. The three-year term will begin on Oct. 1, 2019. His first term ends Sept. 30, 2019.

The FPC was created in the wake of the banking crises by the Financial Services Act of 2012 to protect and enhance the stability of the UK's financial system by identifying, monitoring and addressing systemic risks.

Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, said, "I look forward to the FPC benefiting further from Anil's insights from academia, creative thinking and willingness to challenge and to sharpen our communications."

Kashyap is the Edward Eagle Brown Professor of Economics and Finance at Chicago Booth, where he teaches classes on central banking and financial crises. His research focuses on monetary policy, financial intermediation and regulation, and business cycles.

Prior to joining the Chicago Booth faculty in 1991, Kashyap spent three years as an economist for the Board of Governors for the Federal Reserve System. He currently works as a consultant for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and as a research associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). He is also a research fellow for the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).

Indian American Honored as UChicago's First Schmidt Science Fellow

CHICAGO (TIP): Kasturi Chakraborty, an Indian American PhD student in UChicago, won the Schmidt Science Fellowship, awarded by Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust to excellent emerging scientists to support a year of postdoctoral research in fields substantially different from their current fields of expertise. Chakraborty, a fifth-year in Yamuna Krishnan's laboratory, is the University of Chicago's first Schmidt Fellow.



Chakraborty, a fifth-year in Yamuna Krishnan's laboratory, is the University of Chicago's first Schmidt Fellow

Born in Kolkata, India, Chakraborty completed a BS in chemistry at St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi before pursuing an MS in organic chemistry at the University of Pune. Recalling how her father, an organic chemist, built origami models of molecules and how her mother, a clinical psychologist, worked with children suffering from disease, Chakraborty traces her desire to take a chemical approach to studying biological problems to their early influence. This combination of interests led her to the Krishnan lab. "I saw Yamuna was from a chemistry background, and I liked her outlook and what she was doing," says Chakraborty. "In her lab, I went from synthesizing molecules as an organic chemist to working with *C. elegans*."

At the University of Chicago, Chakraborty has focused on the development of DNA nanodevices for the detection of ions in lysosomes to examine how these organelles function. By correlating ionic imbalances with lysosomal disease severity, these tools can enable quantitative detection of disease phenotypes in cells derived from patients. This work has led to several collaborations with Fred Ausubel at Harvard, Dimitri Krainc at Northwestern, and Paschalis Kratsios and Lev Becker at UChicago and has resulted in thirteen papers, four as first author.

As a Schmidt Fellow, Chakraborty intends to study host-microbiome interactions in mammalian intestines. In humans, the genome of the communities of bacteria, viruses, and fungi that live in and on the body, known as the microbiome, far exceeds the size of the human genome.

FOUR MEMBERS OF SIKH FAMILY KILLED IN CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI (TIP): Four members of a Sikh family have been killed in Cincinnati, Ohio on Sunday, April 28. Three women and a man were fatally shot inside their home in a West Chester apartment complex in Cincinnati around 9:50 p.m. (local time).

The victims have been identified as Hakikat Singh Panag, 59, his wife, Paramjit Kaur, 62, their daughter, Shalinder Kaur, 39, and his sister-in-law, Amarjit Kaur, 58. One of them was an Indian national on a visit to US while others were persons of Indian origin.

India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj made it clear that it is not a hate crime. "The matter is under investigation by the Police but it is not a hate crime. Our Consul General in New York is coordinating with the concerned authorities and will keep me informed on this", she wrote on twitter.

"We have just had a conference call with West Chester Township Police Chief Joel Herzog & other detectives on the case. We are working closely with the Police & family" Indian Consulate in New York wrote on Twitter. No arrests have been made yet.

Indian American Named Chair of Department of Health, Behavior and Society at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Rimal will assume his new role at the Bloomberg School on August 1.

NEW YORK (TIP): Dr. Rajiv Rimal, a leading expert on health behavior change and on social norms, has been named chair of the Department of Health, Behavior and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Rimal will assume his new role at the Bloomberg School on August 1.

Rimal's research focuses on the use of social and behavioral theory for disease prevention and harm reduction. Since 2013, Rimal has served as a professor and chair of the Department of Prevention and Community Health at Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University. Previously, he was a faculty member in the Bloomberg School's Department of Health, Behavior and Society from its inception in 2005 until 2013. Prior to joining the Bloomberg School faculty, Rimal was an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin. **(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)**

US Lawmakers Praise AAPI's Growing Clout in Advocating for Effective Health Care in US

WASHINGTON (TIP): Healthcare continues to be at the center of the national debate, especially after the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle Affordable Care Act, and to do away with the Individual Mandate, affecting almost everyone in the country.

Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the largest ethnic organization of physicians, representing over 100,000 physicians of Indian origin, wants to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and around the nation, particularly on issues relating to healthcare.

Indian-Americans constitute less than one percent of the country's population, but they account for nine percent of the American doctors and physicians. One out of every seven doctors serving in the US is of Indian heritage, providing medical care to over 40 million of US population.

AAPI leaders and members brought to the fore some of the major concerns of the Indian-American community, particularly those affecting the physicians and their patients during AAPI's Legislative Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., on April 30th, 2019.

Attended by several key leading Congressmen and women from both the major political parties, the event held at the Rayburn House Office Building, highlighted key issues affecting physicians and the country in general. House Majority Leader, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Rep. Ami Bera, (D-CA); Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, (D-Illinois); Rep. Tulasi Gabbard (D-HAWAI), Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS); Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC); Rep.



AAPI leadership with Ambassador Shringla

Frank Pallone (D-NJ); Rep. Phil Roe, MD (R-TN); Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD); Rep. Andy Harris, MD (R-MD) and several other leading lawmakers addressed the AAPI delegates and listened to their concerns and promised support.

A White Paper outlining the concerns of the fraternity was submitted to lawmakers who addressed the delegates. Some of the issues outlined in the White Paper included, Increased Residency Slots, Immigration Reform, Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursements, Tort Reform, Repeal of the Individual Mandate, Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs, and, The South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2017.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Naresh Parikh, President of AAPI, stressed the

importance of young physicians in AAPI, who are the "future of AAPI." He highlighted the efforts of the current team under his leadership" to make AAPI financially sound and stable for the years to come."

"We are pleased with the enormous turnout of both AAPI members and the showing of bipartisan members of Congress at this year's Legislative Day," said Dr. Parikh, AAPI President. "It is a testament to the strength of AAPI's reputation as strong leaders, with our physicians proudly serving as health care providers in all 50 states. With this event, we are building a strong foundation for future advocacy and legislative successes at both the federal and state level," said Parikh.

contd on Page 30

More Affluent Executives or Celebrities might be charged in Nationwide College Admissions Scam, says report

BOSTON (TIP): In March 2019, dozens of people were arrested in a nationwide college admissions scam that facilitated cheating on college entrance exams and the admission of students to elite universities as purported athletic recruits. Athletic coaches from Yale, Stanford, USC, Wake Forest and Georgetown, among others as well as parents and exam administrator were arrested by federal agents in multiple states on March 12 and charged in federal court in Boston. Actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman were the high-profile parents charged in the alleged scam.

Now according to a report published in The New York Times, prosecutors are pursuing a new set of parents in the college admissions scandal including some celebrity parents in Los Angeles. The prosecutors have informed some of the parents that they are under investigation and the lead prosecutor conferred with lawyers for at least two of these parents during a trip to Los



Actress Felicity Huffman has admitted to paying a college counselor \$15,000 to arrange for cheating on her daughter's SAT test

Angeles in April, the report says.

William "Rick" Singer, 58, of Newport Beach, Calif., was the mastermind of the racketeering conspiracy and many of his clients were in the Los Angeles area.

According to the charging documents, Singer facilitated cheating on the SAT and ACT exams for his clients by instructing them to seek extended time for their children on college entrance

exams, which included having the children purport to have learning disabilities in order to obtain the required medical documentation. Once the extended time was granted, Singer allegedly instructed the clients to change the location of the exams to one of two test centers: a public high school in Houston, Texas, or a private college preparatory school in West Hollywood, Calif.

It is further alleged that throughout the conspiracy, parents paid Singer approximately \$25 million to bribe coaches and university administrators to designate their children as purported athletic recruits, thereby facilitating the children's admission to those universities.

Hollywood actress Lori Loughlin and her husband designer Mossimo Giannulli have pleaded not guilty in the case while actress Felicity Huffman has admitted to paying a college counselor \$15,000 to arrange for cheating on her daughter's SAT test.

Indian diaspora is One of the Greatest Assets, says Ambassador Shringla at Community Reception in Maryland



Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressed some 500 members of the Indian community at a reception hosted by the National Council of Asian Indian Associations. The community honoured him on the occasion

MARYLAND (TIP): Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla on April 28 addressed some 500 members of the Indian community at a reception hosted by the National Council of Asian Indian Associations (NCAIA) at Montgomery County, Maryland. In his keynote address, Ambassador lauded the

contribution of the Indian diaspora in strengthening these ties.

"The Indian American community in the United States has made a mark for itself and is well regarded across the country. With estimated 4 million Indian-American population in the US, its achievements and excellence in diverse

fields like medicine, business, engineering, technology, academia, entrepreneurship etc. is duly acknowledged in the country. India regards its diaspora, especially in the US, as one of its greatest assets and looks forward to your help and support in the development of our country in various domains as also to strengthen the Indo-US relationship", he said.

Ambassador spoke of the strong India-US relationship as well. "Our relationship with the US has also progressed and we are now close strategic partners. In recent years, we have witnessed a significant convergence of views and evolved a close partnership on a whole range of issues affecting both the countries. In this endeavor, your support and contribution are well recognized, and I hope that you will continue to contribute whole heartedly in the days ahead as well."

He thanked NCAIA for organizing the program along with participating organizations like Global Organization of Peoples of Indian Origin, National Federation of Indian Association, American Telugu Association, American Hindu Coalition and many other organizations for their contribution and support.

ON FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO LOS ANGELES, INDIAN ENVOY HOSTS DIVERSE ENGAGEMENTS



Congressman Brad Sherman honouring Ambassador Harsh V Shringla by presenting the U.S. flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol

LOS ANGELES (TIP): India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla undertook his first official visit to Los Angeles April 26-27. On the first day of his tour, he had a number of diverse engagements, including meetings with Mayor of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti at the City Hall; Randy Wotring, COO and senior executives of AECOM, a major investor in India's Infrastructure development; Nicole Clemens, President and senior executives of Paramount Pictures & TV; Michael D. Rich, CEO, RAND Corporation and research analysts; and a number of Los Angeles based businesses at a US India Business Council event. Consul General of India in San Francisco Sanjay Panda and USIBC President Nisha Biswal accompanied the ambassador.

On the second day of his tour in Los Angeles and before departing for Washington DC on 27 April 2019, Ambassador Shringla hosted a reception for the Indian community based in Southern California along with Congressman Brad Sherman, co-Chair of the House India Caucus and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. Mayor Harry Siddhu and over 120 prominent representatives of the Indian community attended the event. In his address, the Ambassador lauded the contribution of the Indian diaspora in USA to the flagship programs of the Government of India, including #Digital India, #Make in India, #Gyan, etc.

Earlier in the day, Ambassador attended a community reception by Dr. Amarjit S Marwah a renowned public figure and community leader in Malibu.

Congressman Brad Sherman, Consul General Sanjay Panda, Mayor Pro Tem Karen Farrer of Malibu City and prominent representatives of the Indian community were present.

(Source - Embassy of India Facebook Page)

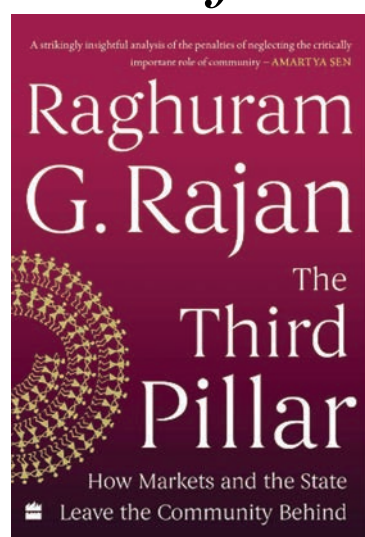
INDIAN-ORIGIN FAMILY MOWED DOWN BY US WAR VETERAN IN CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE (TIP): An US Iraq war veteran intentionally ran down a family of Indian origin in California thinking they were Muslims, according to media reports.

The attack took place in Sunnyvale on Tuesday, April 23 when Isiah Peoples, an African American war veteran was on his way to a Bible study group when he drove his car into the pedestrians, ABC7 TV quoted police as saying. Peoples "intentionally targeted the victims based on their race and his belief that they were of the Muslim faith," Sunnyvale police chief Phan Ngo said.

A 13-year-old girl identified as Dhriti was in coma and fighting for her life after the attack and her father and 9-year-old brother Prakhar were also hurt. Peoples was produced in a San Jose court on April 26 and charged with attempted murder.

Raghuram Rajan's Latest Book Calls for a New Social Contract



The former Governor of Reserve Bank of India makes a case for giving more power to local communities

CHICAGO (TIP): In his new book Raghuram Rajan, a long-time finance professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, makes the case for giving more power to local communities.

In his new book, *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin Press), Rajan presents a radical rethinking of why capitalist democracies have been so successful in the past and why the consensus behind them is breaking down today.

Rajan explores the passions that are

unleashed when an imagined community, such as the nation, fulfills the need for belonging that the neighborhood can no longer meet. He argues that many of the world's most pressing political and economic concerns-including the rise of populist nationalism and growing inequality-reflect technological changes that are creating an imbalance in the three pillars that hold up society: government, the markets, the community. - Why do our neighbours matter when we can reach people across the world? The answer is in his book.



BIOPIC ON MODI TO RELEASE ON MAY 24

MUMBAI (TIP): The makers of Vivek Oberoi-starrer biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that the film would be released countrywide on May 24, a day after the results of the Lok Sabha elections are declared.

The film, 'PM Narendra Modi', was earlier set to release on April 11 but was banned by the Election Commission.

In its order last month, the EC had banned the screening of the film during the poll period, saying any such film that subserved purpose of any political entity or individual should not be displayed in the electronic media.

The EC order had come a day before the movie was to be released.

Producer Sandip Ssingh said he hoped the film would have a smooth run in the theatres. "As a responsible citizen we respect the law of the country. After a lot of discussions and keeping the curiosity and excitement about the film in mind we have decided to release the film immediately after the Lok Sabha election results," Singh said in a statement.

"We are now releasing our film on May 24. This is the first time a film will be promoted for only four days. I hope now nobody has any problem with the film and we are hoping for the smooth release this time," he added.

Directed by Omung Kumar, the film also features Boman Irani, Manoj Joshi, Prashant Narayanan, Zarina Wahab, Barkha Sengupta and Darshan Kumar.

Suresh Oberoi and Anand Pandit are co-producers of the film. *Source: PTI*

PM Modi gets clean chit from poll panel on 'Nuclear Button' remark

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a clean chit by the Election Commission today - his third in three days - for his comment that India too has nuclear weapons and does not care about Pakistan's threats. The comment, the Election Commission said, does not violate the Model Code of Conduct - a set of dos and don'ts for political parties and the government ahead of elections.

Highlighting the party's national security theme at a rally in Rajasthan's Barmer, the Prime Minister had jeered at Pakistan.

"India has quit the policy of being scared of Pakistani threats... Else, every other day they announced, 'We have nuclear button, we have nuclear button'. So what do we have then? Are those being saved for Diwali?" he had said.

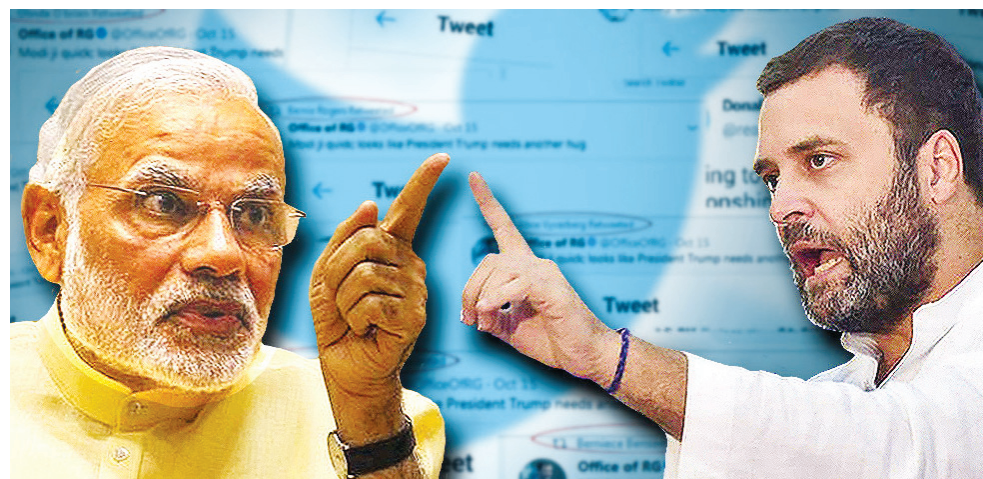
His remarks were vehemently panned by the opposition, which said it was "boastful" and "irresponsible".

The Congress's Anand Sharma said such statements "point to the growing desperation" of the BJP. "Prime Minister's boastful claims of being ready for a nuclear missile attack on Pakistan and US intervention are uncalled for and not in interest of national security," he tweeted.

The Election Commission was asked by the Supreme Court today to expedite their decision on the pending complaints against PM Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah. The court has given it time till Monday.

The Congress, whose appeal was being heard by the top court, has contended that altogether, 11 complaints are pending against the Prime Minister and Mr Shah. The Commission, which resolved the third complaint today, has eight more to go.

The Commission has asked for time till Wednesday, saying it has its hands full with conducting the elections and complaints against other leaders, but the court refused a larger window.



ELECTION COMMISSION GIVES CLEAN CHIT TO RAHUL OVER SPEECH AGAINST AMIT SHAH

The Election Commission has held that Congress President Rahul Gandhi did not violate the model code of conduct during an election speech in Madhya Pradesh where he called his BJP counterpart Amit Shah a "murder-accused".

Giving a clean chit to Rahul Gandhi, EC officials said the "complaint was examined in detail and after examination of the complete transcript of speech sent by the district electoral officer of Jabalpur, the Commission is of the considered view that no violation of the model code of conduct is made out."

Rahul Gandhi made the purported remark during an election rally in Sihora district of Madhya Pradesh on April 23. Attacking the BJP president, Rahul Gandhi reportedly said, "Murder accused BJP chief Amit Shah. Wah, kya shaan hai! (Wow, what a glory!)"

The BJP had complained to the EC about the comment.

The remark had prompted a strong rebuttal from Amit Shah, who questioned the opposition leader's "legal knowledge" and said the "fake" charge was dismissed as "politically motivated" by the court long ago.

"Let me tell you the gist of the order. I was slapped with a fake case and the court has already passed its order that it was a politically motivated allegation and was without any evidence. I don't want to make any comment on the legal knowledge of Rahul Gandhi," he said.

In 2014, a special court discharged Amit Shah in the Sohrabuddin Sheikh and Tulsiram Prajapati encounter killing cases, holding there existed "no case" against him and that he had been implicated for "political reasons."

2019 hustings may create history with record polling

MUMBAI (TIP): The country may see the highest voter turnout since Independence in the ongoing Lokh Sabah polls if the first four rounds, which clocked 67 per cent polling, is any indication says a report.

Last hustings had closed with the highest turnout at 67.6 per cent and if the remaining three phases of the seven-legged election season record more turnouts then this election will create history since Independence, says SBI Research.

Normally, psephologists and political pundits consider a higher voter turnout as an indication of anti-incumbency.

Of the 543 Lok Sabha seats, voting has been completed in 373 seats (69 per cent of the total seats) in the first four of the seven phases, which will end on May 19 after beginning on April 11.

A phase-wise turnout rate indicates that polling in 2019 is more or equal to the 2014 rate, except for the third phase. Overall turnout after the four rounds this time is 67 percent compared to 67.6 percent in 2014.

"If the same trend continues, this year's turnout rate may cross the previous record, and will be the highest since Independence," the report said.

It said though the delayed elections in 1985, the voter turnout was 72 percent, but it was only in Assam and Punjab, and the average turnout of 1984 and in 1985, when only these



two states went to polls, is coming 67.9 per cent.

So far in the ongoing elections, the voter turnout in Andhra, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka registered highest ever since 1962 or in last 57 years since Independence.

Chhattisgarh has seen a 15 years and Maharashtra a 30 years high in voter turnout.

Mumbai registered a voter turnout of 55.1

percent, which is the highest for the city since 1989, the report said.

In Assam, Bihar, UP, Andhra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, MP (partial) and Rajasthan (partial) the polling percentage of younger voters in the 18-25 age bracket) on an average is more than national average, there is a 3.3 percent increase in voter turnout (additional 4.5 million), it said.

SC asks EC to consider starting polling at 5 am

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission to pass necessary orders on a plea seeking to begin voting at 5 am instead of 7 am in view of the Ramzan month. It is coinciding with the remaining phases of voting in the general election.

States like Maharashtra where the elderly population is higher than national average has witnessed an increase in voter turnout, though marginally.

In Karnataka and Kerala that are relatively older states (8.6 per cent elderly population, which is much higher than the national average) there is also an increased 1.8 per cent more voting (or 1.1 million), it said.

Women voters who were previously missing from electoral process due to various socio economic reasons, their numbers have come down in 2019 and are also now actively casting their votes. It said in the western states, where poverty is less, are seeing better polling this year than in the past election.

Southern states also have lower levels of deprivation, and with the exception of Tamil Nadu, they have improved their voter turnout, the report said. *Source: PTI*

Six surgical strikes under UPA, claims Cong; BJP calls it 'farcical'

NEW DELHI (TIP): A war of words broke out between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on May 2 over the issue of 'surgical strikes' and listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a UN-designated terrorist.

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh said Indian armed forces received a free hand to respond to external threats during the Congress-led UPA's tenure. Singh termed it "shameful and unacceptable" that the BJP was attempting to gain electoral mileage from military operations.

The Congress, later, came out with a list of six anti-terror surgical strikes carried out during the UPA rule but it never tried to take political advantage from military operations — a claim which was dubbed "fraudulent and farcical" by the BJP.

Earlier in the day, senior BJP leader and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during a press conference said Azhar being listed as a global terrorist was a great diplomatic victory for India and that Opposition parties were reluctant to celebrate the achievement because they feel they may have to pay a political price for it.

The UN Sanctions Committee on Wednesday had designated Pakistan-based Azhar a global terrorist after China lifted its hold on a proposal to ban him. Jaitley said the Narendra Modi government succeeded in an attempt the country has been making for the last 10 years, "but then they (Opposition) says 'this is trivial, what is big in it'."

"If India wins, Indians win, but there are friends in opposition who are not celebrating it as they may have to pay a political price for it," Jaitley said. "Terrorism shall not be tolerated and this declaration from the UN is noteworthy. It is the result of persistent measures taken by the external affairs ministry, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who was also present in the press meeting.

Later in the day, the Congress said the UPA government carried out six surgical strikes — Bhattal sector in Poonch (June 19, 2008);



Even as Manmohan Singh claimed he had given a free hand to the armed forces, Arun Jaitley said the UPA government did not act against terrorists.



Sharda sector, across Neelam River Valley, in Kel (August 30-September 1, 2011); Sawan Patra checkpoint (January 6, 2013); Nazapir sector (July 27-28, 2013); Neelam Valley (August 6, 2013); and one on December 23, 2013.

Congress spokespersons Rajeev Shukla and Ragini Nayak also listed two surgical strikes carried out under the previous BJP-led NDA government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These were Nadala Enclave, across the Neelam River (January 21, 2000) and Baroh sector in Poonch (September 18, 2003).

However, the BJP rejected the Congress' claim of six surgical strikes during the UPA tenure. "It is a farcical and fraudulent claim. We have the greatest of respect for our armed forces. Our forces were capable of carrying out surgical strikes across the LoC, inside Pakistan, but they were not allowed to do so when the UPA was in power," BJP national spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao said in another press conference.

On the other hand, Jaitley, who was responding to the comments made by Singh in an interview, said the UPA government did not act against terrorists after the Mumbai terror attack in 2008 even as security forces were ready to target them. The UPA government, in fact, released 25 terrorists as

a "goodwill gesture" and one of them was later involved in the Pathankot terror attack, he said.

But Nayak's retort was: "When the former prime minister and (a former) army chief say earlier also surgical strikes have taken place and the FM says they were invisible strikes then he is raising questions not just on Vajpayeeji and Manmohan Singhji, but is also casting aspersions on the Army and the remarks made by the army chiefs at that time."

Jaitley also rejected the Congress' stand that it was disappointed that the UN's decision did not make any reference to the Pulwama terror attack and Azhar's role in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The UN's listing and decision are not a "biodata" of Azhar, and they don't have to give details of his each and every activity, the FM said. The core issue is that Azhar has been declared an international terrorist and he and his country will have to bear the consequences, Jaitley said.

BSP chief Mayawati said: "During its previous stint, the BJP not only took out Masood Azhar (of jail) but also left him abroad and now, they are trying to get votes in his name which is condemnable."

Source: Business Standard

US commerce secretary Ross to meet Suresh Prabhu on May 6

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is looking forward to the visit of US commerce secretary Wilbur Ross next week as an opportunity to discuss several contentious issues, including Washington's withdrawal of benefits under the GSP programme and the ending of exemptions to sanctions on Iranian oil imports.

Ross, who is visiting New Delhi to participate in the Trade Winds Business Forum and Mission, the US commerce department's largest annual trade mission, is scheduled to meet commerce minister Suresh Prabhu on May 6, people familiar with developments said.

"There is a bilateral [between the US and India]," said a commerce ministry official who did not wish to be named.

The people said the visit will allow the two sides to discuss the US sanctions on Iranian oil imports, which kicked in on Thursday, and trade issues such as Washington's impending withdrawal of benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told a news briefing on Thursday that commercial considerations and "legitimate energy and commercial security interests" will guide India's decisions on future oil imports.

India will get additional supplies from other oil-producing countries based on a "robust plan" drawn up by the petroleum ministry, he added.

PepsiCo withdraws cases against potato farmers in Gujarat

NEW DELHI (TIP): Snacks and beverages maker PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt Ltd has decided to withdraw lawsuits it had filed against nine Gujarat farmers for allegedly growing a potato variety owned by the company without its permission.

The company had registered cases of infringement of proprietary rights against four farmers in April 5 and five in 2018, demanding Rs 1 crore from each in damages. PepsiCo, one of the world's largest multinational corporations, had to face widespread backlash from farmers for bringing the lawsuits. Its legal action had sparked outrage among farm activists.

The company had claimed that the farmers had grown potatoes of a variety known as FL2027, which it had developed and registered as a protected strain under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority. The Gujarat government was involved in talks between farmer groups and the company to settle the matter. "After discussions with the government, the company has agreed to withdraw cases against farmers," PepsiCo said in a statement Thursday. The company had pressed charges of infringement of its exclusive rights over the seed variety, which it uses in Lay's crisps, under sections 28 and 64 of The Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act, 2001.

Farm activists however claimed that section 39 of the Act allows Indian farmers to freely grow, use or sell a proprietary or a protected variety of seed as long as they don't sell it as a "branded" item.

"PepsiCo had wrongfully charged the farmers because the same Act gives farmers the freedom to use or grow protected seeds. The Indian legal system governing agricultural innovations offers farmers full freedom, unlike in the US," said Kapil Shah of Jatan Trust.

CPI (Maoist) chief 'plotted' Gadchiroli attack

GADCHIROLI (TIP): Sources in the Gadchiroli Police have said that Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraj is suspected to have masterminded Wednesday's Naxal attack in which 15 personnel of Maharashtra's Quick Response Team and a civilian were killed.

According to the Gadchiroli Police, preliminary probe into yesterday's attack in which Naxals blew up a private bus using an IED points towards the involvement of Basavaraj, who is the chief of banned CPI(Maoist).

According to sources, the attack was planned by Basavaraj and executed by Naxals from both Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Basavaraj is believed to have instructed local Naxal units of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to carry out the attack. Post the incident, Basavaraj is believed to have gone into hiding in Abujhmad forest area of Chhattisgarh.

Following the revelation, Maharashtra Police have established contact with their counterparts in Chhattisgarh to carry out further investigation.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed that the state



Cabinet met this morning and discussed the Gadchiroli attack.

"In today's Cabinet meeting, we discussed the Gadchiroli Naxal attack where our jawans were martyred. The DGP and other officials have gone to the spot. Once they finish their assessment, there will be a detailed meeting. I'll be visiting the spot today," the CM said. As these developments happened, it was reported that Naxal banners emerged near the site of attack in Gadchiroli.

On Wednesday, 15 policemen and the driver of the private bus in which they were travelling were killed when Naxals blew up the vehicle using an improvised explosive device. Police sources also said today that they suspect some locals could have helped the Maoists in carrying out strike.

IED blast took place at Lendhari nallah in Kurkheda area. State Director General of Police Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has refused to call the Naxal attack a result of intelligence failure.

GUEST COMMENT

*A global label: on designating Masood Azhar as global terrorist***With Masood Azhar listed as a terrorist, India must work to ensure the mandated sanctions**

Masood Azhar's listing as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council at long last closes an important chapter in India's quest to bring the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief to justice. He eluded the designation for 20 years, despite his release in 1999 in exchange for hostages after the IC-814 hijack, and his leadership of the JeM as it carried out dozens of deadly attacks in India, including the Parliament attack of 2001, and more recent ones like the Pathankot airbase attack in 2016 and the Pulwama police convoy bombing this year. China's opposition to the listing has long been a

thorn in India's side, given the toll Azhar and the JeM have exacted, and Beijing's veto of the listing three times between 2009 and 2017 had driven a wedge in India-China relations. Despite the frustration over China's last hold on a proposal moved by the U.S., the U.K., and France just weeks after Pulwama, the government has done well to approach Beijing with what the Ministry of External Affairs called "patience and persistence". There is much disappointment, however, over the final listing released by the Security Council, with no mention of Mr. Azhar's role in any of the attacks against India, or

directing the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir. A specific reference to Pulwama, which was in the original proposal, was also dropped, presumably to effect China's change of mind on the issue. Pakistan's claims of a victory in this are hardly credible; Masood Azhar is one of about twenty 1267-sanctioned terrorists who have Pakistani nationality, and more are based there, which is hardly a situation that gives it cause for pride. It is necessary to recognize that India's efforts and those of its partners in the Security Council have been rewarded with a UNSC designation at its 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee. The focus must now move to ensuring its full implementation in Pakistan.

But this is easier said than done. Pakistan's actions against others on the 1267 list have been far from effective, and in many cases obstructionist. Hafiz Saeed, the 26/11 mastermind and Lashkar-e-Toiba chief, roams free, addresses rallies, and runs a political party and several NGOs without any

government restrictions. Let's operations commander Zaki Ur Rahman Lakhvi was granted bail some years ago despite the UNSC sanctions mandating that funds and assets to the sanctioned individuals must be frozen. It will take constant focus from New Delhi, and a push from the global community, to ensure that Masood Azhar is not just starved of funds, arms and ammunition as mandated, but that he is prosecuted in Pakistan for the acts of terror he is responsible for. Azhar and his JeM must lose all capacity to carry out attacks, particularly across the border. Global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force will also be watching Pakistan's next moves closely, ahead of a decision, that could come as early as in June, on whether to "blacklist" Pakistan or keep it on the "greylist". Both financial and political pressure should be maintained on Islamabad to bring the hard-fought designation of Masood Azhar to its logical conclusion.

(The Hindu)

AS I SEE IT



By Gurmeet Kanwal

Dealing with fundamentalist terrorism

India's experiments with POTA, TADA and UAPA have failed to deliver the desired results. Laws must be just and humane and not designed to be vindictive towards or shield any particular community or religious denomination. We are living in the age of 'new terrorism' that is far more violent and diabolical and our policies must keep pace with the emerging developments.

The terror strikes in New Zealand and Sri Lanka are only the most recent manifestations of what is rapidly becoming the new normal in this age of fundamentalist terrorism. It has clearly emerged from the ongoing investigations into the attacks in Colombo that the terrorists involved had linkages in India and Indian cities are probably on the radar on the Islamic State.

Ten years after the Mumbai terror attacks, there is broad consensus that the response in November 2008 was slow, laborious and poorly coordinated among the Central and state governments and their various agencies. Coastal security was virtually non-existent; the Marine Police were too few in number to effectively patrol the vast area entrusted to them; they were ill equipped and inadequately trained; and, there was poor coordination between the Coast Guard and the Marine Police. It took far too long to begin flushing-out operations and then to eliminate the nine terrorists who were holed up at three separate locations.

The government needs to review its largely reactive policies and adopt proactive measures to fight terrorism, particularly the variety that emanates from the soil of inimical neighboring countries. The government must formulate a comprehensive approach to fight terrorism, and all organs of the state must come together to implement a national-level counter-terrorism strategy. The government must draw up a strategy that is inter-ministerial, inter-agency and inter-departmental in character.

It must be ensured that the counter-terrorism policy is based on strong but egalitarian laws. India's experiments with POTA, TADA and UAPA have failed to deliver the desired results. Laws must

*Easter Sunday terror in Sri Lanka*

be just and humane and must not be designed to either be vindictive towards or shield any particular community or religious denomination. The experience of many other countries has proved that it is possible to formulate strong counter-terrorism laws. The US established a powerful Department of Homeland Security following the 9/11 strikes and there has not been a major terrorist attack since then.

One major lacuna in India's approach to counter-terrorism is the gross disconnect between how the Central and the state governments view counter-terrorism. The Constitution must be

amended to move 'law and order' from the State List to the Concurrent List so that the Central government can act on its own initiative when necessary, particularly in the case of externally-sponsored terrorism. And, it is time the government bifurcated the internal security function of the Ministry of Home Affairs into a separate ministry headed by a cabinet minister.

Besides prevention through accurate 'humint' and 'techint' intelligence gathering, successful counter-terrorism requires the effective intelligence penetration of terrorist groups so that their leadership can be systematically

neutralized by an empowered anti-terrorism agency. Comprehensive planning and better stage management are necessary for the real-time elimination of a group of terrorists during a strike while the terrorists are still on a killing spree.

Though the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) gave its approval for the establishment of a National Counter-terrorism Centre (NCTC) following the Mumbai terror strikes, seven chief ministers virtually vetoed the NCTC on the grounds that its functioning will undermine the federal structure of India's Constitution and that it must not be placed under the Intelligence Bureau (IB). The opposition came despite then PM Manmohan Singh's assurance that, "It is not our government's intention to alter distribution of power between states and the Centre. The NCTC is to coordinate counter-terror measures, not to infringe on state powers."

The NCTC was opposed despite the fact that its structure approved by the CCS was a watered-down version of the form in which the NCTC had been conceived by then Home Minister P Chidambaram as an organization capable of "preventing a terrorist attack, containing a terrorist attack should one take place, and responding to a terrorist attack by inflicting pain upon the perpetrators."

The NCTC had been envisaged as an umbrella organization, which would exercise control over the other agencies. It was proposed to be placed under the IB and the existing Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) was to be subsumed in it. The NCTC was to be tasked to draw up and coordinate counter-terrorism plans,

contd on Page 20

INDIA POST-ELECTIONS



By Ven Parameswaran

Present indications are no party will be able to get an absolute majority to form the new government. It has been reported that the BJP will be the only party that will have a commanding lead. Therefore, BJP will be given the first opportunity to form a government with coalition partners.

The largest election with 900 million eligible voters began in India on April 11, 2019 and is continuing. The results will be announced on May 23, that is almost six weeks from the start. Present indications are no party will be able to get an absolute majority to form the new government. It has been reported that the BJP will be the only party that will have a commanding lead. Therefore, BJP will be given the first opportunity to form a government with coalition partners.

Therefore, the parties that are ambitious to plant their members as Ministers in the cabinet will try to woo Prime Minister Modi. Because of political and ideological differences, Modi will try to offer partnerships to the parties that are willing to compromise their ideology for the sake of united front.

Between the date of elections result and forming a new government, the real election for power politics will take shape. This process will be exciting and interesting to India and the world. Thus, weaving of democratic fabric will be in full action.

There will be speculation every hour

as to who is likely to join the BJP. It is a foregone conclusion that the defeated Congress party will be almost powerless.

Let us assume that after the dust settles, Modi will succeed in putting together a coalition that will be approved by the President of India and the Indian Parliament. Now comes, the hard part, how to govern?

Unless the ruling party has majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, it is difficult to get major legislations approved. Composition of Rajya Sabha is based on representation of different parties from various States. As in the past, the BJP may not be able to enjoy a majority in the Rajya Sabha.

The actual results of the election will give some indication on the degree of mandate, if any, Modi is able to get from the electorate. After the election, the reelected Modi will be highly confident. Thus, the huge election and its results offer many opportunities for Modi to transform India from a developing to a developed country. Will Modi embark on an economic revolution that will create employment and start wiping out poverty? Will Modi finally make a determination to build the most modern infrastructure that will deliver clean drinking water and electricity for 24/7 to all Indians?

India has many intrinsic strengths that have not been capitalized within India. The outstanding and extraordinary success of overseas Indians in capturing the leadership of almost all levels of society in the USA, UK, Ireland, Canada, Portugal, Singapore, U.A.E., and others make a refreshing contrast to the leadership within India. Will Modi mobilize the leaders of private industry in India and use their experience in transforming India? Will Modi privatize 46 Public Sector corporations and 145 Public Enterprises?

India is a net exporter of food. But there are 300 million poor in India going hungry, while India is wasting 40% of its food production, costing \$40 billion per year. Will Modi start doing something about this sooner than later?

USA-INDIA CLOSEST ALLY RELATIONSHIP

Prime Minister Modi must capitalize on this new relationship with the USA. President Trump has visited all major countries except India. After forming the new government, Prime Minister Modi should organize a warm reception to President Trump. This visit must be well prepared. The USA private industry is ready, willing and cooperate with India. It can help as much as it helped China, if not more. India must create favorable economic and business environment for private foreign investment. If India gives carte blanche as China did to the USA, India will make a rapid progress.

India should build large scale factories to manufacture consumer and industrial goods for export. India has no choice but to promote exports to create massive employment. India does not have to invent a new wheel. We have seen the



Voter enthusiasm. Long lines of voters waiting to cast their vote

THE LARGEST ELECTION IN THE WORLD IS IN PROCESS IN INDIA. WHEN THE COUNTING OF VOTES IS DONE AND THE DUST SETTLES DOWN, WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED? WILL MODI TRANSFORM INDIA FROM A DEVELOPING NATION TO A MODERN ONE?

successful experience of China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore.

Will India open its economy and liberalize fully? Will India take steps to make India one of the easiest countries to do business with?

FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

President Trump is the first US President since India's independence to give unstinted support to India. India has been branded as the CLOSET ALLY and the USA will allow India to transfer 100% of any and all technologies. This will enable India to manufacture products in India using most sophisticated and latest technologies. We know all modern wars are won by sophisticated technologies.

As India transforms its economy through economic revolution, it can also build the most modern defense using sophisticated technologies.

Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh were one country before independence. Modi must give leadership and negotiate peaceful relations with Pakistan. Pakistan's economy is in shambles. If only Pakistan exterminates all its terrorists and their organizations, Pakistan can open a new page. It is reported that after India's election, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan will be willing to get together with Modi. Helping to grow Pakistan's economy can help India's economy also. Fortunately, the U.S. and the U.N. are applying maximum pressure on Pakistan to get rid of all terrorist organizations.

INDIA IS THE LARGEST ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. INDIA IS THE YOUNGEST WITH 50% LESS THAN 25 AND TWO THIRDS LESS THAN 35

More than 25 CEO's of large Fortune 500 corporations in the USA are of Indian origin. An Indian is the

Dean of Harvard School of Business Administration, that manufactures CEO's. The US elected two governors of Indian origin, Bobby Jindal and Nikki Haley. Indians are the leaders in every discipline -law, engineering, technology, medicine, music, business, science. Indian Americans are the highest educated and earn the highest income in the USA. All these professionals excel not because they are of Indian origin, but because they are the smartest.

IBM IS THE SECOND LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYER IN INDIA, EMPLOYING 150,000

IBM has more employees in India than even in its headquarters in the USA. IBM is reaping profit and investing in Research and Development. The number of patents filed by IBM in India is a testimony. While India is criticized as not a business friendly, IBM's experience challenges it. Every cloud has a silver lining!

MODI MUST CAPITALIZE ON THE ELECTION AND CLOSEST ALLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USA

India's GDP now growing @7% must grow at least @10% for the next decade to modernize India and create employment. The USA because of unfavorable trade balances with China wants to divert its imports from China. Modi has the greatest opportunity to embrace the USA and work together as China did. Modi must discourage socialism and embark on full-fledged capitalism.

(The author is a former President & CEO, First Asian Securities, NY, and Senior Adviser, Imagindia Institute, New Delhi, a think tank. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)

5th Annual DFW SAFF Unveils Entire Festival Lineup: Eight Features, Two Docs & 11 Shorts over Four Days



DALLAS, TX (TIP): The 5th annual DFW South Asian Film Festival, presented by Toyota, is proud to announce its entire festival lineup, which consists of ONE World Premiere, TWO North American Premieres, ONE U.S. Premieres, 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.

COMPLETE FESTIVAL LINEUP

Thursday, May 16:

Opening Night

THAT MAN IN THE PICTURE (short)

SIR (feature)

Friday, May 17:

Shorts Programming:

MALAI (short)

MAUN (short)

PAGG (short)

THE LAYOVER (short)

STILL ROLLING

THE DDLJ STORY (short)

Friday Night Feature:

THE LIFT BOY (feature)

Saturday, May 18:

Documentary Programming:

LOVESICK (documentary)

Children's Programming One:

CHIPPA (feature)

Pakistani Programming:

DREAMS (short)

SALAM (documentary)

LGBTQI Programming:

THE HOMESTAY (short)

A MONSOON DATE (short)

KHEJDI (feature)

Centerpiece/Men's Programming:

MARD KO DARD NAHIN HOTA (feature)

Sunday, May 19:

Children's Programming Two:

NANU AUR MAIN (short)

CHUSKIT (feature)

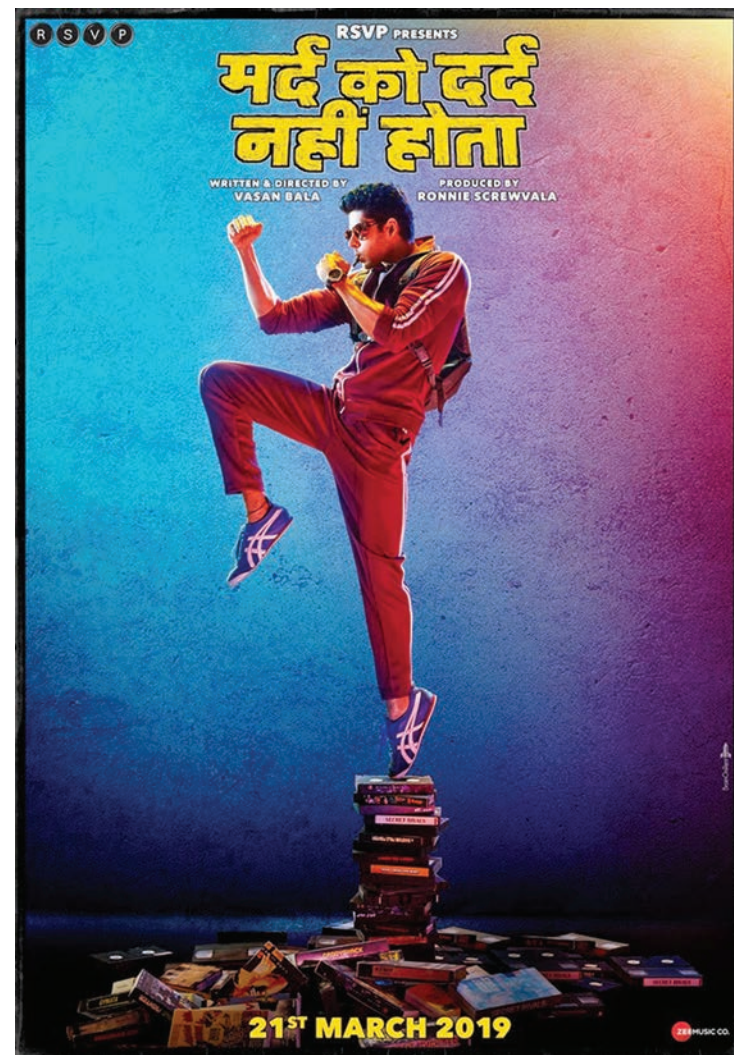
Arts Programming:

VANDE MATARAM (short)

NUDE (feature)

Closing Night Film:

HAMID (feature)



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Venezuela tense as Guaido supporters clash with army

CARACAS (TIP): May Day clashes between opposition supporters and Venezuela's armed forces in Caracas left a woman dead and 46 persons injured on Wednesday, with opposition leader Juan Guaido attempting to rally demonstrators against President Nicolas Maduro.

Jurubith Rausseo (27), died at a clinic after being hit by a "bullet in the head during (a) demonstration," the non-governmental Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict said on Twitter, condemning her "murder." Human rights organisations and health services reported 46 people injured in Wednesday's clashes, including one person with a gunshot wound.

Tensions in Venezuela have soared since Guaido, who heads the National Assembly legislature, invoked the constitution to declare himself acting president on January 23, claiming Maduro's re-election last year was illegitimate. National Guard troops fired tear gas at stone-throwing protesters attempting to block a highway close to the air base in eastern Caracas where Guaido had tried on Tuesday to spark a military uprising.

second day of confrontations between opposition supporters and Maduro's security services came as the United States said it was prepared to take military action, if necessary, to stem the crisis in the South American nation.

At least one journalist was injured when National Guard soldiers fired rubber bullets at a group of reporters



covering the clashes.

Miguel Ramirez, 17, told AFP at one medical center that he had been shot in the foot while protesting on the highway near the La Carlota air base. "I didn't manage to run and hide," he said.

Guaido rallied his supporters in Caracas in the Labor Day demonstrations, urging them to stay in the streets.

His appeal came despite the apparent failure the day before of a revolt by some soldiers and members of the Bolivarian National Guard who joined his side.

In Tuesday's clashes, one person was killed and dozens injured, according to

human rights monitors. More than 150 people were arrested, the government and human rights organizations said.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned Venezuela's authorities not to use deadly force against demonstrators, while the US and Russia accused each other of making the crisis worse, evoking Cold War confrontations of the past.

In a phone call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Moscow of "destabilising" Venezuela. Lavrov, in turn, charged that US interference was "destructive" and "in flagrant violation of international law."— AFP

AXED BRITISH DEFENCE SECY DENIES ROLE IN HUAWEI LEAK

LONDON (TIP): Gavin Williamson, sacked as Britain's Defence Secretary by Prime Minister Theresa May for allegedly disclosing plans to allow Chinese telecommunication giant Huawei to help build the UK's 5G network, has denied leaking any information from the National Security Council. His comments have come amid calls for a police inquiry into it. Opposition MPs say there should be an investigation whether the Official Secrets Act had been breached, the media reported.

Williamson was quoted in several newspapers on Thursday as saying he was the victim of a "vendetta" and a "kangaroo court". He told Sky News he "swore on his children's lives" that he was not responsible for the leak.— IANS

ELDERLY AUSSIE COUPLE SIGN FOR DRUG SHIPMENT AFTER DELIVERY MIX-UP

MELBOURNE (TIP): An elderly couple in Australia were the surprise recipients of an illegal drug shipment after signing for a wrongly delivered parcel containing millions of dollars' worth of methamphetamine, police said on May 2.

The Melbourne couple immediately called police when they discovered bags containing the white powder in the parcel on Wednesday, a police spokesman said. The package contained what police said were 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of AU\$ 10 million (US\$7 million). Police subsequently searched a house in another part of Melbourne where they found 20 more kilograms of the drug and arrested a 21-year-old man. He was charged on May 2 with importing a marketable quantity of a controlled drug and was due to appear in court later in the day, police said.

Police asked that the unwitting couple who helped catch the man not be identified by the media out of concern for their safety. AFP

UK PANEL GRILLS TWITTER, FB OVER ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN

LONDON (TIP): The UK Parliamentary Human Rights Committee has grilled Twitter and Facebook representatives over violent and misogynistic abuse of women users, including women MPs. MP Joanna Cherry accused Twitter "of displaying a pattern of relaxed tolerance to tweets containing violent attacks on women". "There seems to be a pattern of Twitter initially ruling that extremely offensive and violent tweets directed at women in public life are acceptable, and that Twitter only reviews their decision when they are pressed by other figures in public life," The Guardian reported. IANS

Putin fast tracks Russian citizenship for Ukrainians

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new decree fast-tracking Russian citizenship for some Ukrainians despite concerns the move will exacerbate the crisis between the countries.

Under a decree published on Wednesday, several categories of Ukrainian nationals will have the right to a simplified nationality process including those who already have Russian residence permits.

Other categories include Ukrainian citizens who were born in Crimea but left the peninsula before Russia annexed it in March 2014.

The fast-track procedure is implemented to protect "rights and human and civil freedoms", said the decree which Putin signed on Monday.

The move comes after a comedian with no political experience, Volodymyr Zelensky, won a landslide victory in presidential elections in Ukraine last month. The Kremlin has not congratulated Zelensky while Putin said Moscow was thinking of making it easier for all Ukrainians to obtain Russian citizenship.

Putin had already signed a decree on April 24 allowing people living in breakaway regions of eastern Ukraine to



receive a Russian passport within three months of applying for one.

President-elect Zelensky, in response, pledged to grant Ukrainian citizenship to Russians who "suffer" under Kremlin rule.

There were hopes bilateral ties might improve under a Zelensky presidency but that is now looking unlikely, analysts say.

Kiev and the West have condemned the Kremlin, accusing Putin of seeking to further destabilise Ukraine, while critics at home say the moves would be a major

burden for the already-struggling Russian economy.

After a pro-Western uprising in Kiev ousted a Kremlin-backed regime in 2014, Moscow annexed Crimea and extended support to Russian-speaking separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Some in Kiev and the West worry that Moscow's offer of citizenship to Ukrainians would give the Kremlin a justification to move troops across the border under the pretext of protecting the interests of Russian nationals. — AFP



JACQUELINE TO PLAY A GIRL NEXT DOOR IN MRS SERIAL KILLER

Farah Khan's films are known for their elaborate song and dance sequences - something also common to the movies that Jacqueline Fernandez, the lead actress of the choreographer-filmmaker's next production Mrs Serial Killer, does. But this new project won't have any of it.

Mrs Serial Killer is written and directed by Farah's husband Shirish Kunder. It will go live on streaming platform Netflix later this year. The film will mark Jacqueline and Farah's foray into the digital world.

Why was Jacqueline cast in the film? "It is about a girl next door. When Jacqueline and Shirish met and discussed it, she said that she was also hunting for something to do something she had never done before," Farah told IANS over phone.

The 54-year-old filmmaker, known for movies like Main Hoon Na and Om Shanti Om, says Mrs Serial Killer does not have any song, dance and no item number.

ANANYA PANDAY: VARUN KNOWS I AM IN LOVE WITH HIM AND IT'S AWKWARD

Ananya Panday is yet to make her Bollywood debut but has quickly become everyone's favourite because of her spunky nature and outspokenness. The actress has been trending recently for her comments on Varun Dhawan in an interview with Elle India, which featured in the magazine's April issue. Ananya Panday, who covered Elle India's April issue in style, confessed her "love" for the former student when asked about the stars she look up to. Mentioning Alia Bhatt and Kareena Kapoor, Ananya said: "Alia Bhatt and Kareena Kapoor Khan. I am obsessed with both of them. Even Varun Dhawan! His energy...and he is so cute. He knows I am in love with him and it's a bit awkward."

Well, this shouldn't come as a surprise as on Varun Dhawan's birthday this year, Ananya poured her heart out to Varun as she wrote in her post: "Happiest birthday to the student I'll always be crushing on!" In the comments section, Varun replied: "We must get a better picture. You're looking solid."

Ananya Panday also scored a hug from her favourite Alia Bhatt, who makes a special appearance in Student Of The Year 2's Hook Up Song. "'Team Shanaya' for life," Ananya captioned the photo.

2012's Student Of The Year not only marked Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan's Bollywood debuts but also of Sidharth Malhotra's. And this is also not the first time a newcomer has confessed about crushing on a former student. On an episode of Koffee With Karan, Tara Sutaria said that she has a "crush" on a former Student Of The Year actor. She co-stars with Ananya and Tiger Shroff in the upcoming movie.



TROLLS ADVISE VOTERS TO 'USE FINGER WISELY, NOT LIKE SWARA BHASKER'

Actor Swara Bhasker has hit back at trolls who shamed her for her masturbation scene in Veere Di Wedding. The trolls shared pictures of themselves holding up placards, advising voters not to be like Swara and saying 'use your fingers wisely' this election season.

Swara took to Twitter to call them out for their misogynist comment. "Awwwwww!!!! My trolls are hard at work again, sweating it out in the heat to popularise my name.. You guys are SO dedicated & sweet!!! Don't mind the slut-shaming guys.. their imagination is a bit limited.. but loving the effort you two," she wrote in a tweet.

Swara's tweet found support from her followers. "A Bollywood actor does a scene portraying a woman masturbating in film. That alone becomes a defining moment for a bunch of regressive lunatics who seem to believe women don't deserve or have a right to pleasure. Definitely more of a commentary on the loony bunch than the actor," wrote one. "What the what? The regressive lunatics, although urban, apparently educated youngsters

Swara Bhasker shared pictures of a man and a woman, holding up placards, asking voters to use their fingers wisely and not like her, referring to her masturbation scene from Veere Di Wedding

are just enraged by a woman speaking her mind? And a masturbation scene in a film is their only reference point?," wrote another.

Swara has often been shamed online for the scene from Veere Di Wedding. She was also asked on Twitter about it last year: "How masturbating related to empowerment, and that empowerment does not mean that one should masturbate in public. It's private". She had replied, "Sakshi was in her 'private' bedroom, not public. Masturbation is about owning ur body, sexuality. Empowering. In a culture that largely silences or ignores or shames female sexuality showing a girl gratifying herself in a film in a non judgemental way is empowering," she had said.



KATY PERRY SHOWS OFF HER STYLE IN AN ELEGANT WRAP DRESS

Katy Perry commanded attention on Tuesday evening as she dined out in London, shortly after flying to London from her native Los Angeles.

The American singer showed no sign of jetlag after paying a visit to upmarket Mayfair restaurant Sexy Fish, where she caught the eye in an elegant wrap dress.

With a distinctive blue and silver print, it ensured Katy, 34, stood out as she made her way inside for a meal with friends.

Katy showed off her style credentials in the flowing number which cinched in her tiny stomach.

CHARLIZE THERON USED TO FEEL LIKE 'LOSER' AFTER WATCHING ROM-COMS

Actor Charlize Theron says she used to feel like a 'loser' after watching romantic comedies as she never witnessed a happy ending in real life. According to an online newspaper, the 43-year-old actor, who stars alongside Seth Rogen in Jonathan Levine-directed 'Long Shot', told that she wanted to feature in romantic comedy which has a realistic and modern take on relationships.

"I just wanted to make sure that we all agreed that we wanted to make a film that would have two characters that felt modern and felt at times conflicted and that we would focus on a relationship that felt real.

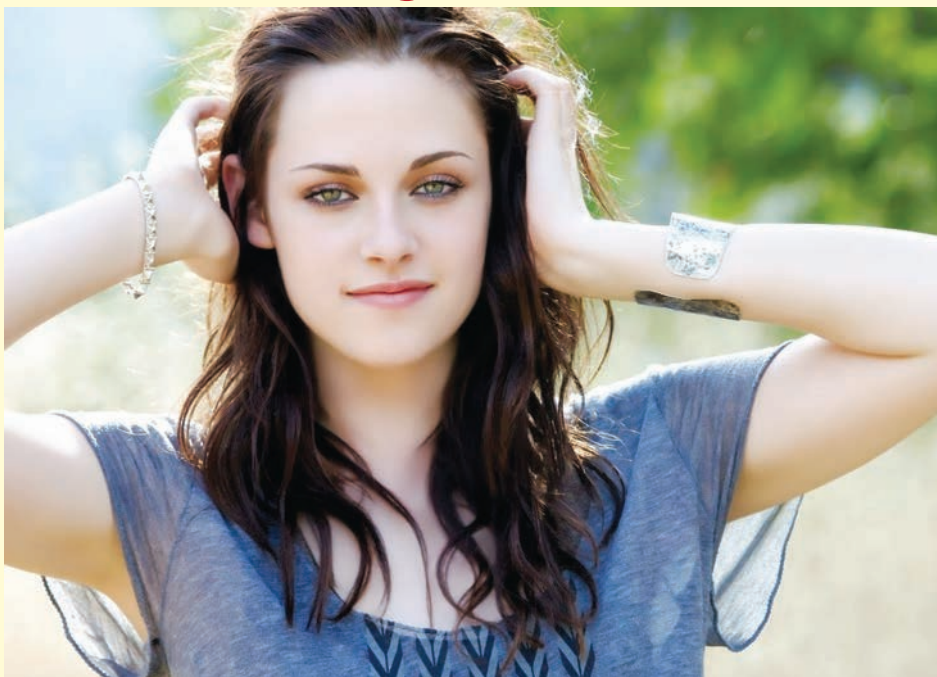
"I struggle with that sometimes in romantic comedies, I feel like I'm the only loser who has never experienced the third act of most romantic comedies and it just makes me feel very bitter, and so I just wanted to feel like I could bring something to the table," Theron said.

The actor also said that she used to often take issues with the fantastical element of romantic comedies.

"I think it's hard for me to do that kind of fantasy love stuff. But they seemed really up for it so we developed it that way from the beginning and I felt very protected, not only by Seth and Jonathan, our director and everybody," she added.



Kristen Stewart: 'Charlie's Angels' reboot is woke and grounded



Actor Kristen Stewart said the upcoming reboot of 'Charlie's Angels' is woke and grounded. The actor, who will play one of the members of the trio alongside Ella Balisnka and Naomi Scott, said even though the feel of the film is a bit different from the original, it does have a fun side to it.

"At one point I think we said it was woke and grounded, and everyone was like, 'Wait, is it still fun?' And I'm like, 'Yeah dude, obviously, it's 'Charlie's Angels,'" Stewart told.

Elizabeth Banks is directing the film and will also star in it as Bosley, a role made famous by Bill Murray.

Stewart teased that more female stars can feature in the film.

"If you were to make that movie right now, there needs to be more than three girls. We're all in it together. There's an entire network of women across the entire world that are supporting each other. It feels really well-intentioned. And it's funny and weird, too, so hopefully people have fun watching it," she said.



SCARLETT JOHANSSON BREAKS SILENCE OVER BLACK WIDOW STAND-ALONE MOVIE

Avengers star Scarlett Johansson says the much-anticipated stand-alone of her Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) character, Black Widow, will happen when the time is right. Johansson has been playing Black Widow aka Natalia Romanova since 2010's Iron Man 2 and her latest outing as the character is Avengers: Endgame.

"I think everything happens when it's supposed to. All I'll say is that I think I have a greater understanding of the character now than I ever possibly could have had before.

Whatever iteration you see of this character, may or may not see of this character in the future, will be the better because of it," the actress said.

There have been reports that Jac Scaeffler is currently penning the Black Widow movie, but neither Marvel Studios nor its parent company Disney has confirmed the news. It was also reported in March that actors Rachel Weisz, Florence Pugh, David Harbour and OT Fagbenle will star in the movie.

Source: PTI

MUSHARRAF'S TREASON TRIAL POSTPONED TO JUNE 12

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A special court accepted former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's request on May 2 to postpone the hearing of a treason trial against him until after the month of Ramzan owing to his poor health.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Tahira Safdar adjourned the case hearing till June 12 after the former military dictator's counsel Salman Safdar told the court that his client could not travel to Pakistan to attend the hearing due to his medical condition, Geo News reported.

The counsel, in an application on behalf of Musharraf, stated that despite "strong willingness and eagerness to return to Pakistan, life-threatening ailments and medical complications had forced him not to appear before the special court".

"He is ashamed and apologetic for not being able to reach (in time). He is unable to walk," the counsel said, adding that he had spent three days with Musharraf and was "shocked to see that he could barely even speak".

"The doctors have said it is not safe for him to travel in this condition," the counsel said. He then asked the court to postpone the hearing until after Ramzan. — IANS

'IMRAN'S CHINA TRIP PLAYED CRUCIAL ROLE'

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The "breakthrough" in designating Masood Azhar as a global terrorist came during Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China where the two sides agreed to withdraw their opposition to the latest move to blacklist the JeM chief, a media report said here on May 2.

The US, France along with the UK had moved the proposal to designate Azhar as a "global terrorist" in the UN Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee in February, just days after the deadly Pulwama attack.

A veto-wielding permanent member of the UNSC, China was the sole hold-out in the 15-nation world body on the bid to blacklist Azhar, blocking four attempts since 2009 by placing a "technical hold" and asking for "more time to examine" the proposal.

Hours after sanctions were imposed on Azhar, the Express Tribune, quoting diplomatic sources, reported that Pakistan and China held extensive discussions before making a decision on the Azhar issue. "It is believed that the breakthrough came during the recent visit of PM Imran Khan to China where both sides agreed to withdraw opposition to the latest move after realising that Islamabad's concerns were addressed," the report said. But the source told the paper that the listing does not mean the person should be detained. Another official claimed that authorities were "unaware" of Azhar's whereabouts. The report also claimed that Islamabad agreeing to the designation of Azhar as a global terrorist was a "paradigm shift" in the country's approach. IANS

King Rama X – from pilot prince to powerful monarch

Thailand's king marries bodyguard, names her queen

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindrade Bayavarangkun will be officially crowned as the 10th king of the Chakri dynasty on May 4, after taking the throne following the death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, in late 2016.

The 66-year-old constitutional monarch had a pre-coronation surprise for his subjects: He married for the fourth time on Wednesday and named his new wife as queen.

During 18 months of his reign so far, Vajiralongkorn, also known by the title King Rama X, has moved to consolidate the authority of the monarchy, including taking more direct control of the crown's vast wealth with the help of Thailand's military government.

In one of his most visible initiatives he has signed up some 5 million Thais to a new volunteer corps, whose members salute a portrait of the king before going out to work on community service projects such as cleaning public spaces.

Devotion to the monarch is an ingrained part of Thai culture that deepened during Bhumibol's 70-year reign. Vajiralongkorn's portrait has replaced or hangs alongside that of his late father in many streets, public



buildings and private businesses.

Public criticism of the king or his family is illegal, with insults to the monarchy punishable by up to 15 years in prison under Thailand's strict lese majeste laws.

Vajiralongkorn was born on July 28, 1952, the second of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit's four children and their only son.

After completing primary education in Thailand, he was educated at private schools in Britain and Australia, before attending Australia's Royal Military College Duntroon, in Canberra, and

earning a bachelor's degree in military studies from the University of New South Wales in Australia.

According to the king's official biography, he is a qualified helicopter and fighter pilot and served as a career officer in the Royal Thai Army, where he saw action against communist insurgents in Thailand in the 1970s.

As king, he is now commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Since he ascended the throne, Vajiralongkorn has asserted his authority in several ways, according to analysts observing his public actions. — Reuters

Sri Lanka to freeze assets of terrorists involved in Easter bombings

COLOMBO (TIP): The Sri Lankan authorities are taking steps to freeze the assets of terrorists involved in the Easter Sunday bomb blasts, a media report said on May 2.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is in the process of identifying and compiling the list of assets belonging to those involved in the attacks, police spokesman S P Ruwan Gunasekera was quoted as saying by the Daily Mirror.

Nine suicide bombers carried out the series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels, killing 253 people and injuring 500 others.

The details of the attackers and their relatives linked to the bombings was released by the police on Wednesday.

Police identified Mohamed Cassim Mohamed Zahran also known as Zahran Hashmi to have led the team of suicide bombers. Hashmi, the leader of ISIS linked local outfit National Thowheeth Jamath (NTJ), blew himself up in the posh Shangri-La hotel. He came from the Muslim majority area in Kathankudi in the eastern province, Gunasekera said.

His brother Mohamed Nazar Mohamed Azath was the suicide bomber at the Zion church in the eastern town of Batticaloa while his another brother Achchi Mohamed Mohamed Hasthun

was the bomber at the St Sebastian's Church at Katuwapitiya, Negombo, the Western coastal town.

The official said that the CID is taking these steps in line with the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Finance Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. On the identification of those involved the country's worst terror attacks, he said that though CID has identified nine terrorists, "further DNA tests will be conducted to ensure proper identification of the suicide bombers who carried out the Easter Sunday attacks and those who were involved in the shoot-out in Kalmunai on Friday."

Six children and three women were among 15 people killed on Saturday when militants linked to the Easter Sunday bombings opened fire and blew themselves up during a fierce gun battle with security forces in the Sri Lanka's Eastern province.

The shootout occurred as the security forces continued their hunt for members of the NTJ that carried out the attacks.

Meanwhile, the special panel appointed by President Maithripala Sirisena to probe the attacks will release its report on May 6. The special panel was appointed to report on the alleged security lapse which paved the way for the local jihadist group NTJ to carry out the attacks. PTI

PAKISTAN COAST GUARDS SEIZE NARCOTICS OVER \$24M

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan Coast Guards have recovered narcotics worth over \$24 million during an operation near Jiwani town of Balochistan province, officials said.

Safeer Mehdi, a spokesperson of the Pakistan Coast Guards, told Xinhua news agency that they received a tip-off regarding a possible bid to smuggle high-quality narcotics to some foreign countries.

Acting on the intelligence report, the Coast Guards launched an extensive operation in the area and recovered 350 kg of hashish hidden in the ground at a beach in Jiwani.

The Pakistan Coast Guards handed the drugs to the anti-narcotics force who would later destroy them as per their schedule, Mehdi added.

No arrest was made, but security forces have increased vigilance and monitoring in the area in efforts to get clues of drug peddlers. IANS

Mahabalipuram (also Mamallapuram) is situated just 60 km off Chennai on the Bay of Bengal coast in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The city is well connected through a network of roads from Chennai and other important cities of South India.

History

The history of Mahabalipuram is an intriguing one. Although its ancient history remains unclear, numismatics, temples and other sources of historical evidence suggest that it was a place of significance even before the temples were built. Some historical facts about Mahabalipuram are mentioned below:

- Mahabalipuram is a historic city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- It became a prominent center of art and literature between 3rd and 7th century CE.
- Ancient mariners referred to Mahabalipuram as the "land of the Seven Pagodas".
- Several coins excavated from here reveal the existence of trade with Romans in ancient times.

Tourist Attractions

Mahabalipuram is home to several tourist attractions that make for great exploration and sightseeing. There are several temples which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites besides other attractions which never stop amazing the visitors.

Here are the most famous tourist attractions in Mahabalipuram:

Group of Monuments

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram is nestled on the Coromandel Coast of Bay of Bengal. The coastal city of the wonderful architectural treasures is situated in close proximity to Chennai in Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu. The architectural grandeur of the 7th and the 8th century monuments are the breathing illustration of ancient civilization and beliefs.

History of Monuments

Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram was the capital region during the reign of Pallava Dynasty in the 7th century AD. The Pallavas rulers used to hold the definitive command in the southern part of India. Pallava rulers were popular for their inclination towards Tamilian art and culture. The power and creativity was at its peak during the kingdom of Narasimha Varman-I and Narasimha Varman-II. The rulers immortalized their glories with the splendid temples they built. The Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram are their witness to their architectural splendor, cultural knowledge and the essence of their greatness which left a huge impact in the pages of history.

The Group of Monuments

Shore Temple

The Shore Temples was built in the 7th century, during the reign of Rajasimha. The temple depicts the peak of Pallava art. These temples are refreshingly orderly, unlike later grandiose Dravidian architectures. The designs are simple and innovative but the beauty shines through. The temple with its beautiful polygonal dome enshrines Lord Vishnu and Shiva. These beautiful temples, ravaged by wind and sea have been declared world heritage by UNESCO.

'Ratha' Cave Temple

The magnificent 'Ratha' cave temples was built by the Pallava king Narsimha in the 7th and 8th centuries. The beauty of the rock-cut sculpture of the temple is reflective of the inventive tastes of the Pallava rulers. The monument is known especially for its Rathas. Rathas is simple words means temples in the

THE TEMPLE CITY OF MAHABALIPURAM



form of chariots, mandapas (cave sanctuaries) and giant open-air reliefs. The famous sculptures of the temple are 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva.

There are eight rathas at Mahabalipuram, out of which five are named after the 'Pandavas' (five brothers) of Mahabharata and one after Draupadi. The five rathas that can be seen are Dharmaraja Ratha, Bhima Ratha, Arjuna Ratha, Draupadi Ratha and Nakul Sahadev Ratha. These Ratha temples are constructed on the style of the Buddhist viharas and chaityas. The unfinished three-storey Dharmaraja Ratha is the largest. The Draupadi Ratha is the smallest, it is one-storeyed and has an interesting thatch-like roof. The Arjuna and Draupadi rathas are dedicated to Shiva and Durga respectively.

Panch Rathas

Panch Rathas is a monument complex at Mahabalipuram. The coastal city along the shores of Bay of Bengal was a major seaport of the ancient Pallava kingdom. It is currently one of the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The Panch Rathas are five rock marvels in the monument complex. It is known for its,

'rathas' or monolithic rock temples cut out in the form of chariots. Constructed from multiple materials, the monolithic structures have bas-relief sculptures carved on it. The five Ratha temples stand majestically on the southernmost extreme of Mahabalipuram. Pallava ruler Narsimha Varman I (AD 630-68) built the majestic architecture in the 7th and 8th centuries.

The Five Rathas are named after the legendary Pandavas, Yudhistara, Arjuna, Bhima, Nakula & Sahadeva and their wife Draupadi. The statues of an elephant (the vehicle of Indra), lion (the vehicle of Durga) and Nandi bull (the vehicle of Shiva) are displayed along with the rathas. Though these temples are named after the Pandava brothers, they are not related to Mahabharata. The Rathas were built as models of South Indian temples. As they were not consecrated, therefore were not used for worship. Most of them remain incomplete but enchanting in their own way. The architectural elements gives a lovely impression of the remarkable architecture of the Pallavas.

Dharmaraja Ratha

Shaped like a characteristic vimana (tower above the shrine) of Southern India of its

times, Dharmaraja Ratha is the most magnificent and tallest of the Five Rathas, with three storeys, though most of it remains incomplete.

The shrine is devoted to Shiva and is adorned with one of the best examples of early Pallava art. Very beautiful are the Shiva figures on the corners of structure. Dharmaraja Ratha contains engravings in Pallava Grantha script of the titles of Narasimhavarman I. Inscription mentions that this was created as Shiva temple of Atyantakama Pallava. Especially fascinating is the sculpture of Lord Shiva in the form of Ardhanariswarar which is half man, half women.

Bhima Ratha

The longest of Five Rathas, the 12.8 m long, 7.3 m wide, 7.6 m high structure is built in Gopura style with gabled roof. It is said to be devoted to Anantashayi Vishnu as a large bas relief of Vishnu in the form of Sayanamurti is located inside. The building remains unfinished but fascinating. The sanctuary has a circumambulatory passage around it. Pillars of the shrine are adorned with figures of lions.

Arjuna Ratha

The Arjuna Ratha is devoted to Lord Shiva. Shaped like a small wooden shrine, the distinctive style in Southern India, it is an impressive building. Inside the shrine there are no embellishments, but the exterior is has interesting details. The facade is adorned with magnificent sculptures, showing gods and humans.

Nakula Sahadeva Ratha

This shrine is devoted to Indra and is associated with elephants. This ratha is the only one which is not placed in a "procession", it stands aside. The roof of this shrine is also shaped like a back of elephant. The relief sculpture of Ardhanariswara adorns the walls whereas columns and pillars are decorated with seated lions.

Draupadi Ratha

The Draupadi Ratha is the smallest of Panch Rathas. This shrine is shaped like a thatched hut, with a square roof. It is devoted to goddess Durga and has amazing artwork. The fine carved panel, which shows Durga on a lotus pedestal is marvelous. Outside, above the entrance door, is carved a sea-monster. The most interesting sculpture is Devi Durga standing on a head of the demon Mahishasura.

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR SOULMATE IN YOUR PARTNER

Soulmates is a concept that usually makes us feel quite wary and hesitant because they are only supposed to exist in romantic comedies and romance novels. But sometimes, the stars are aligned and everything that's meant to happen, happens! You meet your soul mate! At the risk of sounding corny, soul mates do exist in real life too. Here are signs to know if you've found your soul mate in your partner.

Both of you may be quite dissimilar but you balance each other out

Despite all the differences in your personality, your partner and you get along like great wine and cheese, and it's because these very differences that find a way to balance each other and bring you closer together.

You find bliss in the silence

You know he is your soul mate when there's bliss even between those long silences. Silences can be quite intimidating sometimes and they even make you feel vulnerable. But when you're with your partner, even silence is comforting and peaceful.

You want to comply because you want to see him happy

We're not taking about one-sided giving, which happens in a co-dependent and unhealthy relationship. But a relationship wherein both partners are willing to give in to the other only because it makes their counterpart happy. It's always a two-way street.



You're okay to not always do something exciting

When you're with your partner (read: soul mate), it's not always about finding the coolest pub to hit or going for an interesting date. Even if it means staying at home in your PJs with your partner, you still enjoy each other's company.

You sense that he gets you

It's not like he is a complete mindreader (that'd be creepy), but he gives the feeling that he understands your dreams and aspirations. His words and actions will always be supportive and as cheesy as it sounds, it feels like he is the wind beneath your wings.

He's got your back

Whether it's your career or your future aspirations, a partner who's truly committed to your happiness and well-being will not only support you but also encourage you to strive for them. And as you make your climb up (sometime fall off) the professional ladder, he's right there, in all your highs and lows.

You matter so much to each other

When your partner sticks by you even when times are rough, you know he's in it for the long run. And when you're down and out, feel completely wounded and tell him that, he's not only comforting you, he empathises with you. When you're truly in love, your partner's pain becomes yours as well, and you try to do everything in your capacity to make it disappear.

Source: Femina

Unwanted sexting can lead to psychological distress

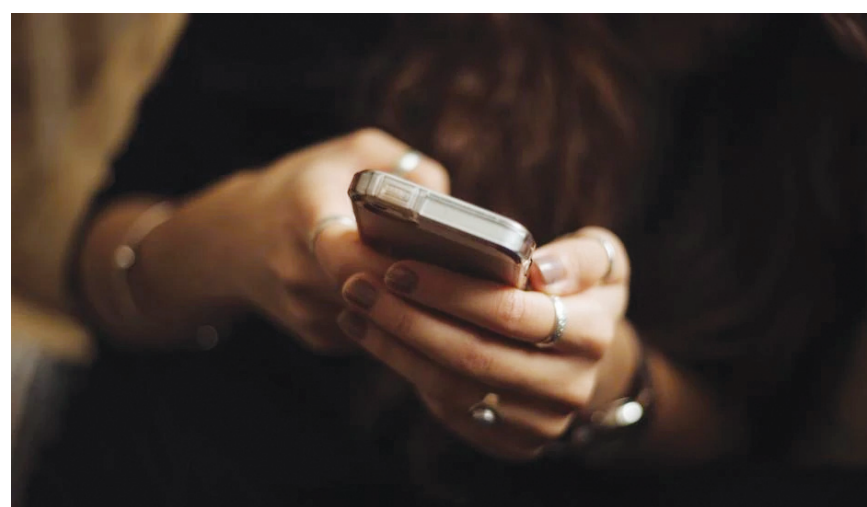
Latest findings draw a link between sexting and psychological distress among young adults.

While sending or receiving nude electronic images may not always be associated with poorer mental health, being coerced to do so and receiving unwanted sexts was linked to a higher likelihood of depression, anxiety, and stress symptoms, a recent study suggests.

As part of the study, the researchers found that receiving unwanted texts and sexting under coercion was also associated with lower self-esteem. Furthermore, males receiving unwanted sexts had poorer mental health outcomes.

The findings of the study were published in the Journal of Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking.

"With more of our lives playing out online, sexting and other seemingly private communications may be contributing to an indelible digital footprint. Digital sex is a much-needed



While sending or receiving nude electronic images may not always be associated with poorer mental health, being coerced to do so and receiving unwanted sexts was linked to a higher likelihood of depression, anxiety, and stress symptoms, a recent study suggests

topic in today's sexual education programmes to ensure responsible use of technologies," explained Brenda K. Wiederhold, lead author of the study.

FOOD CORNER



Bread Biryani

Ingredients

Basmati rice - 1 cup, Coconut milk - 1 1/2 cup, Green peas - 1/4 cup, Radish - 1/4 cup, grated, Carrot - 1/4 cup, grated, Coconut - 1/4 cup, grated, Onions - 2, chopped, Bread slices - 4, crusts removed, sliced in small pieces, Cashews - 5, Almonds - 5, soaked, peeled, Black pepper powder - 1/2 tsp, Cumin powder - 1/2 tsp, Gasa gasa - 1 tsp, Cardamom - 1, Cloves - 1, Cinnamon - 1, Ginger garlic paste - 1 tbslp, Ghee - 3 tbslp, Curry leaves - few, Coriander leaves - few, Salt as per taste

Method

- Dry roast and grind the cardamom, cloves and cinnamon to a fine powder.
- Heat little ghee in a pan.
- Fry the basmati rice for 30 to 45 seconds.
- Remove and keep aside.
- Add a little ghee to the pan and fry the bread pieces till crisp.
- Keep aside.
- Grind the almonds, cashewnuts, coconut and gasa gasa to a smooth paste.
- Heat a little ghee in a pressure cooker.
- Add the cinnamon powder, ginger garlic paste, onions, salt and curry leaves.
- Saute well for a minute or two.
- Add the radish, carrot, green peas and ground coconut paste.
- Stir well and add the coconut milk.
- Bring to a boil.
- Add the rice and pressure cook till 2 whistles.
- Add the cumin powder, pepper powder, bread slices, coriander leaves and mix well.

PANEER SPINACH DAL

Ingredients

Moong Dal - 500 gms, Tomato - 1, small, finely chopped, Onion - 1, small, finely chopped, Oil - 2 tbslp, Garlic - 2 cloves, crushed, Ginger - 3/4 tsp, grated, Coconut Milk - 750 ml, Paneer - 400 gms, cubed, Spinach Leaves - 200 gms, chopped, Coriander Leaves - handful, Salt as per taste



Method

- Wash and rinse the dal.
- Boil for 10 to 15 minutes until tender and drain well.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
- Saute the tomatoes, onions, ginger and garlic for 3 minutes.
- Add the coconut milk and cooked dal to the pan.
- Simmer for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Heat little oil in a nonstick pan.
- Fry the paneer cubes until light golden brown and keep aside.
- Add the spinach leaves to the dal and mix well.
- Cook for 5 minutes and add the fried paneer pieces.
- Simmer for a minute and remove from flame. Garnish with coriander leaves.
- Serve as a side dish to naan, roti or fried rice.

SUFFERING FROM HIGH BP? DON'T TAKE WORK STRESS LIGHTLY

If you are finding it hard to deal with the pressure at the workplace, there is more reason to worry. New research has found that work stress and impaired sleep are linked to a threefold higher risk of cardiovascular death in employees with hypertension.

"Sleep should be a time for recreation, unwinding, and restoring energy levels. If you have stress at work, sleep helps you recover," said study author Karl-Heinz Ladwig, Professor at Technical University of Munich, Germany.

"Unfortunately poor sleep and job stress often go hand in hand, and when combined with hypertension the effect is even more toxic," Ladwig said.

The study included around 2,000 hypertensive workers aged 25-65, without cardiovascular disease or diabetes.

Compared to those with no work stress and good sleep, people with both risk factors had a three times greater likelihood of death from cardiovascular disease, showed the findings published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology. People with work stress alone had a 1.6-fold higher risk while those with only poor sleep had a 1.8-times higher risk, the study said.

In the study, work stress was defined as jobs with high demand and low control—for example when an employer wants results but denies authority to make decisions. "If you have high demands but also high control, in other words you can make decisions, this may even be positive for health," said Ladwig. *Source: IANS*



NATURAL WAYS TO LOWER YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE

Walk and exercise regularly

Exercise is one of the best things you can do to lower high blood pressure. Regular exercise helps make your heart stronger and more efficient at pumping blood, which lowers the pressure in your arteries.

Reduce your sodium intake

Salt intake is high around the world. In large part, this is due to processed and prepared foods. For this reason, many public health efforts are aimed at lowering salt in the food industry.

Drink less alcohol

Drinking alcohol can raise blood pressure. In fact, alcohol is linked to

16% of high blood pressure cases around the world. While some research has suggested that low-to-moderate amounts of alcohol may protect the heart, those benefits may be offset by negative effects.

Eat more potassium-rich foods

Potassium is an important mineral. It helps your body get rid of sodium and ease pressure on your blood vessels. Modern diets have increased most people's sodium intake while decreasing potassium intake.

To get a better balance of potassium to sodium in your diet, focus on eating fewer processed foods and more fresh, whole foods.



Comfort food leads to more weight gain during stress

Indulging in high-calorie 'comfort' foods when you are stressed can lead to more weight gain than usual, scientists say.

Researchers from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Australia discovered a molecular pathway in the brain, controlled by insulin, which drives the additional weight gain.

Using an animal model, the team showed that a high-calorie diet when combined with stress resulted in more weight gain than the same diet caused in a stress-free environment.

"This study indicates that we have to be much more conscious about what we're eating when we're stressed, to avoid a faster development of obesity," said Herbert Herzog, who led the study.

Some individuals eat less when they're stressed, but most will increase their food intake—and crucially, the intake of calorie-dense food high in sugar and fat.

To understand what controls this 'stress eating', the team investigated different areas of the brain in mice.

While food intake is mainly controlled by a part of the brain called the hypothalamus, another part of the brain—the amygdala—processes emotional responses, including anxiety.

"Our study showed that when stressed over an extended period and high calorie food was available, mice became obese more quickly than those that consumed the same high fat food in a stress-free environment," said Kenny Chi Kin Ip, lead author of the study published in the journal Cell Metabolism.

At the centre of this weight gain, the scientists discovered, was a molecule called NPY, which the brain produces naturally in response to stress to stimulate eating in humans as well as mice.

"We discovered that when we switched off the production of NPY in the amygdala weight gain was reduced. Without NPY, the weight gain on a high-fat diet with stress was the same as weight gain in the stress-free environment," said Ip.

"This shows a clear link between stress, obesity and NPY," he said. To understand what might control the NPY boost under stress, the scientists analysed the nerve cells that produced NPY in the amygdala and found they had receptors, or 'docking stations', for insulin—one of the hormones which control our food intake.

Under normal conditions, the body produces insulin just after a meal, which helps cells absorb glucose from the blood and sends a 'stop eating' signal to the hypothalamus feeding centre of the brain.

Breastfeeding important for brain growth of premature babies

Feeding premature babies mostly breast milk during the first month of life appears to stimulate more robust brain growth, suggests a recent study.

The details were presented in the Meeting Pediatric Academic Societies.

"Our previous research established that vulnerable preterm infants who are fed breast milk early in life have improved brain growth and neurodevelopmental outcomes. It was unclear what makes breastfeeding so beneficial for newborns' developing brains. Proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy, a non-invasive imaging technique that describes the chemical composition of specific brain structures, enables us to measure metabolites essential for growth and answer that lingering question," said Catherine Limperopoulos, Director of MRI Research.

The research-clinicians enrolled babies with low birth weight (less than 1,500 grams) and 32 weeks gestational age or younger at birth in the first week of life. The team then gathered data from the right frontal white matter and the cerebellum - a brain region that enables people to maintain balance and proper muscle coordination and that supports high-order cognitive functions.

The team generated light signatures for key metabolites and calculated the quantity of each metabolite.

- Cerebral white matter showed significantly greater levels of a molecule similar to glucose for babies fed breast milk, compared with babies fed formula.
- And the percentage of days infants were fed breast milk was associated with significantly greater levels of both



water-soluble nutrients.

- "Key metabolite levels ramp up during the time babies' brains experience exponential growth. Seeing greater quantities of this metabolite denotes more rapid changes and higher cellular maturation. Choline is a marker of cell membrane turnover; when new cells are generated, we see choline levels rise," said Katherine M. Ottolini, the study's lead author.
- Already, children's national leverages an array of imaging options that describe normal brain growth, which makes it easier to spot when fetal or neonatal brain development goes awry, enabling earlier intervention and more effective treatment.

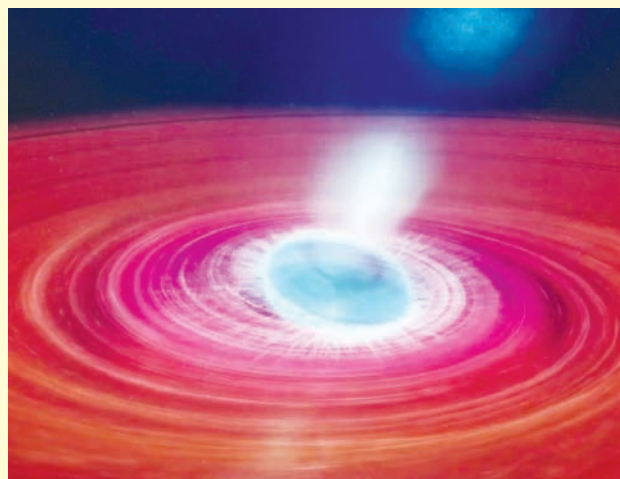
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PLASMA-SPEWING BLACK HOLE DRAGGING SPACETIME

Astronomers have discovered a black hole, almost 8,000 light-years from Earth, pumping rapidly swinging plasma jets into the surrounding universe at a speed so fast that it is dragging spacetime.

The research, published in the journal *Nature*, shows jets from V404 Cygni's black hole behaving in a way never seen before on such short timescales.

The jets appear to be rapidly rotating with high-speed clouds of plasma—potentially just minutes apart—shooting out of the black hole in different directions.

"This is one of the most extraordinary black hole systems I have ever come across," said Associate Professor James Miller-Jones, from the Australia's Curtin University node of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR).

Like many black holes, it is feeding on a nearby star, pulling gas away from the star and forming a disk of material that encircles the black hole and spirals towards it under gravity.

MICROSOFT 365 GETS MORE PRIVACY CONTROLS

With the aim of helping organisations strengthen their data privacy practices, Microsoft has added new features to 'Microsoft 365' that include controls to automatically expire or revoke access to encrypted emails and data investigation capabilities.

'Microsoft 365' is an integrated bundle of Windows 10, Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility and Security (EMS) solutions by the tech giant, sold on a subscription basis.

"Now with Office 365 Advanced Message Encryption, admins have additional controls to automatically expire or revoke access to encrypted emails through a secure web portal," Rudra Mitra, Partner Director of Microsoft 365 Security and Compliance, wrote in a blog post on Tuesday.

"For example, with Advanced Message Encryption, you can leverage sensitive information types—such as health IDs—and automatically encrypt and expire the message after 30 days, which may be specified by the organisation's internal or external compliance requirement," Mitra added.

The update in Microsoft 365 also allows organisations to quickly delete sensitive information in the event of a data leak.

"In the event of a data leak, you can create an investigation to search and identify impacted content or people then delete the email messages that may contain confidential information to prevent end users from accessing the content," Mitra said.

Microsoft also added new features in Teams, including data loss prevention and information barriers, to help organisations prevent sensitive information unintentionally being shared or leaked when using Teams.



NETFLIX SAYS ITS NEW HIGH-QUALITY AUDIO IS EQUIVALENT TO A MASTER

Netflix announced today that it's bringing "studio quality" sound to its audiences. The company is increasing its audio bitrate up to 640 kbps on devices that support 5.1 surround sound and up to 768 kbps for Dolby Atmos -- though you'll need to be a Premium subscriber for that. It's also bringing adaptive streaming, a feature it's long used for video, to your speakers. So, your audio bitrate will be based on network conditions and device performance limitations.

The goal is to make the sound more crisp, more immersive and to "bring the viewer closer to the story." It also helps out users with slower internet connections, since the adaptive streaming can scale down audio quality, instead of stopping the video and forcing it to re-buffer.

According to Netflix, its "high-quality sound feature is not lossless, but it is perceptually transparent." So while the audio will be compressed, you won't notice the difference between what your surround sound system delivers and the studio version -- or so Netflix says. Through internal tests, Netflix



determined that, for Dolby Digital Plus, 640 kbps is the point at which additional quality is imperceivable, and for Dolby Atmos, Netflix says the threshold is 768 kbps. Theoretically, bitrates higher than that would only slow devices. Some audiophiles might disagree.

Apparently, the changes were inspired by the Duffer Brothers. When Netflix invited the duo to view *Stranger Things 2* in a living room setting to get a feel for audiences' perspective, they

were less than impressed with the way the audio came across. Netflix boosted the bitrate for the show, and since then, it says it's been working to roll out similar improvements more broadly. Of course, this could just be an easy bullet point to highlight the next time Netflix decides to raise prices.

"The challenge is bringing this to the most members possible," Sean Sharma, Netflix's director of engineering, said during an interview with Engadget.

Google to let you auto-location tracking data



In yet another bid to address privacy concerns, Google is rolling out a key feature that will allow people to automatically delete their Location History, Web and App Activity data.

Google last year courted controversy when an Associated Press investigation found that many Google services on Android devices and iPhones store users' location data even if the users explicitly used privacy settings to turn it off. In a blog post late Thursday, Google said it is introducing auto-delete controls for users' Location History and Web and App Activity data.

"Choose a time limit for how long you want your activity data to be saved a" three or 18 months a" and any data older than that will be automatically deleted from your account on an ongoing basis," announced David Monsees, Product Manager, Google Search.

These controls are coming first to Location History, Web and App Activity and will roll out in the coming weeks.

"You should always be able to manage your data in a way that works best for you," added Marlo McGriff, Product Manager, Google Maps.

The company argued that when users turn on settings like Location History or Web and App Activity, the data can make Google products more useful for them a" like recommending a restaurant or helping pick up where they left off on a previous search. "We work to keep your data private and secure, and we've heard your feedback that we need to provide simpler ways for you to manage or delete it," said Google.

Water found in samples from asteroid Itokawa

Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have found water in the samples from the surface of asteroid Itokawa that were collected by the Japanese space probe Hayabusa.

The first-ever measurements of water contained in the samples from Itokawa suggest that impacts early in Earth's history by similar asteroids could have delivered as much as half of our planet's ocean water, said researchers from the Arizona State University (ASU) in the US.

Itokawa is a peanut-shaped asteroid about 1,800 feet long and 700 to 1,000 feet wide.

It circles the Sun every 18 months at an average distance of 1.3 times the Earth-Sun distance.

Part of Itokawa's path brings it inside Earth's orbit and at farthest, it sweeps out a little beyond that of Mars.

"We found the samples we examined were enriched in water compared to the average for inner solar system objects," said Ziliang Jin, a postdoctoral scholar in ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration.

The team's idea of looking for water in the Itokawa samples came as a surprise for the Hayabusa project.

"Until we proposed it, no one thought to look for water," said Maitrayee Bose, an assistant professor at ASU.

"I'm happy to report that our hunch paid off," said Bose, co-author on the researcher paper published in the journal *Science Advances*.

In two of the five particles, the team identified the mineral pyroxene. In terrestrial samples, pyroxenes have water in their crystal structure.

Bose and Jin suspected that the Itokawa particles might also have traces of water, but they wanted to know exactly how much.

Itokawa has had a rough history involving heating, multiple impacts, shocks, and fragmentation.

These would raise the temperature of the minerals and drive off water, researchers said.

TRUMP AGAIN GOES AFTER INDIA ON TRADE

SAYS IT SLAPS 'BIG TARIFFS' ON AMERICAN PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has criticised India's "big tariffs" on American paper products and the iconic Harley-Davidson bikes, saying the US has been losing billions of dollars to countries like India, China and Japan.

Addressing a Republican political rally in Wisconsin state's Green Bay city on Sunday, Trump alleged that every country has been ripping off America for years.

The President has repeatedly claimed that India is a "tariff king" and imposes "tremendously high" tariffs on American products.

"For so many decades we've been losing tens of billions of dollars to China and Japan, and India, and name any country and we lost, but we're not losing anymore," he said to his cheering supporters.

He said that the US was being charged high tariffs on foreign paper products.

"We charge other countries zero tariffs on foreign paper products, but when Wisconsin paper companies export it abroad... China charged us big tariffs, India charged us big tariffs, Vietnam charge us massive tariffs," Trump said.

He claimed that people of the US demanded a government that puts America first.

"And we're doing that with China, we're



doing that with India, we're doing that with Japan, we're doing it with a great new trade deal, that hopefully will get approved in the house," the President said.

Early this year at a White House event to announce his support for reciprocal tax, Trump had said that he was satisfied with the Indian decision to reduce the import tariff on high-end Harley-Davidson motorcycles from 100 per cent to 50 per cent.

The President said that he called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

"Look at Harley-Davidson. I met with them three years ago, they would tell me tough to do business in certain kind. I

asked 'How you're doing in India?' and they said, 'Oh, we don't do any business'. They weren't even complaining because so many years.

"So India charged a 100 per cent tariff on Harley-Davidson, but when they send their motorcycles and they may come to us, we charge them nothing," Trump said.

"So I called up Prime Minister Modi, I said unfair, he cut it 50 per cent... But that's not good enough because look, it's 50 per cent to nothing. And what we're doing is changing all of that stuff, changing all of that rapidly," he added.

India is pressing for exemption from the high duty imposed by the US on certain steel and aluminium products, resumption of export benefits to certain domestic products under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme, greater market access for its products from agriculture, automobile, automobile components and engineering sectors.

On the other hand, the US is demanding greater market access through a cut in import duties for its agriculture goods, dairy products, medical devices, IT and communication items. India has stated that it would be difficult for them to cut duties on IT products. *Source: PTI*

APPLE LOGS \$58-BN REVENUE, SERVICES HIT RECORD HIGH

CUPERTINO (TIP):

Riding on the growth in its Services and wearable segments, Apple has posted a revenue of \$58 billion for its second quarter of 2019 — a decline of 5 per cent from the year-ago quarter.



The revenue from iPhones was \$31.05 billion — down from the year-ago quarter but enough to make up over 53 per cent of the entire revenue.

The revenue from Apple's non-hardware business like iCloud, Apple Music and App Store surged to \$11.5 billion this quarter.

"Our March quarter results show the continued strength of our installed base of over 1.4 billion active devices, as we set an all-time record for Services, and the strong momentum of our Wearables, Home and Accessories category, which set a new March quarter record," Apple CEO Tim Cook said in a statement late Tuesday.

This is a good quarter for Apple compared to the last one where the company admitted poor iPhone sales and revised its earnings guidance. A The iPhone sales had fallen 15 per cent from the year prior in Apple's first quarter.

MARUTI SALES SKID 17%

NEW DELHI (TIP): The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India today reported 17.2% decline in sales at 1,43,245 units in April.

The company had sold 1,72,986 units in April last year, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement.

Domestic sales declined by 18.7% at 1,34,068 units last month as against 1,64,978 units in the year-ago month, it added. Sales of mini cars comprising Alto were at 22,766 units as compared to 37,794 units in April last year, down 39.8%.

Sales of compact segment, including models such as Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, were down 13.9% at 72,146 units as against 83,834 units in April last year, the company said. *Source: PTI*



India manufacturing, retail top priority: Apple CEO Tim Cook

CUPERTINO (TIP): Reiterating that India is an important market for Apple, CEO Tim Cook said the current iPhone manufacturing will see maximum growth in days to come amid the renewed push to open its branded retail stores in the country.

In an earnings call with analysts after declaring its Q2 results late Tuesday, Cook said the company has made some "adjustments in India and have seen preliminary some better results there".

"India is a very important market in the long-term. It's a challenging market in the short-term. But we're learning a lot. "We have started manufacturing there which is very important to be able



to serve the market in a reasonable way. And we're growing that capability there," said the Apple CEO.

Giving an impetus to its India manufacturing plans, Apple has started

the assembling of iPhone 7 at its supplier Wistron's facility in Bengaluru. Taiwanese industrial major Wistron already assembles iPhone 6S in the country. Cook also emphasised on the company's plans to open its branded stores in India.

"We would like to place retail stores there. And we're working with the government to seek approval to do that. And so, we plan on going in there with sort of all of our might," said Cook.

Apple is slowly but steadily strategising its plans to make deeper inroads in a country where over 450 million people use smartphones, mostly Android and from China.

Amazon's freight service has a truckload of rivals

LOS ANGELES (TIP): As Amazon.com Inc targets traditional brokerages that match shippers with truckers, it's also battling a bevy of startups - including Uber Freight and a company funded by the e-commerce giant's founder Jeff Bezos.

The world's biggest retailer made a splash in truck brokerage circles after Freight Waves reported on Friday that Amazon's service, launched in a handful of Northeastern states last summer, was discounting market rates by as much as one-third.

"The analysis suggesting dramatic undercutting of pricing is false," Amazon said in a statement.

The company - which is investing billions of dollars to build an air, sea and land shipping network to contain its own costs - has never been shy about squeezing the companies it seeks to unseat.

Analysts said its fight for a slice of the more than \$700 billion U.S. companies spend on trucking each year could pose a long-term threat to leading truck brokers like C.H. Robinson Worldwide and United Parcel Service.

But, they added, that could be offset by Amazon's penchant for competing with the companies that sell on its site or pay for



its services. "Not all customers will be looking to turn over their confidential supply chain data to Amazon, particularly larger players in the retail and consumer products businesses," Cowen & Co analyst Jason Seidl said in a note.

Investors are betting that technology can transform the fragmented truck brokerage business that ran for decades on personal relationships and telephone calls.

They've poured millions of dollars into startups like Uber,

Transfix and Convoy - the latter of which raised nearly \$270 million from Bezos and other backers.

Anheuser-Busch InBev, Colgate-Palmolive Co and other companies have kicked the tires on those upstarts, which aim to dominate by building a massive network of shippers and drivers.

Three shippers, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Uber Freight is pricing aggressively as it fights for a foothold and its parent Uber Technologies racks up massive losses.

David Uncapher, Owens Corning's director of global transportation until late last year, said Convoy's prices were 5 to 15 percent lower than the company's other brokers, which had far greater geographic reach.

Amazon declined to comment on Convoy, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Skeptics said startups don't have a lock on new technology and noted that Coyote Logistics, the truck brokerage UPS bought for \$1.8 billion in 2015, did a better-than-expected job of holding down the delivery company's costs during the 2018 holiday shipping surge. *Source: Reuters*

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UN DESIGNATES MASOOD AZHAR AS GLOBAL TERRORIST

Grateful to many countries who supported us i.e. the USA, UK and France and also several others in the council & outside the council; Would like to thank permanent representative of Indonesia", he said.

In a huge diplomatic victory for India and a blow to Pakistan, Masood Azhar was named a global terrorist by the UNSC 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee on Wednesday, May 1 after China lifted its hold on a proposal in this regard by the United States, United Kingdom and France.

The US described this as 'Victory for American diplomacy.'

"Congrats to our team @USUN for their work in negotiating JEM's Masood Azhar's #UN designation as a terrorist. This long-awaited action is a victory for American diplomacy and the international community against terrorism, and an important step towards peace in South Asia", US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted.

'Imran's China trip played crucial role'

The "breakthrough" in designating Masood Azhar as a global terrorist came during Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China where the two sides agreed to withdraw their opposition to the latest move to blacklist the JeM chief, a media report said here on Thursday.

The US, France along with the UK had moved the proposal to designate Azhar as a "global terrorist" in the UN Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee in February, just days after the deadly Pulwama attack.

A veto-wielding permanent member of the UNSC, China was the sole hold-out in the 15-nation world body on the bid to blacklist Azhar, blocking four attempts since 2009 by placing a "technical hold" and asking for "more time to examine" the proposal.

Hours after sanctions were imposed on Azhar, the Express Tribune, quoting diplomatic sources, reported that Pakistan and China held extensive discussions before making a decision on the Azhar issue. "It is believed that the breakthrough came during the recent visit of PM Imran Khan to China where both sides agreed to withdraw opposition to the latest move after realising that Islamabad's concerns were addressed," the report said.

But the source told the paper that the listing does not mean the person should be detained. Another official claimed that authorities were "unaware" of Azhar's whereabouts. The report also claimed that Islamabad agreeing to the designation of Azhar as a global

terrorist was a "paradigm shift" in the country's approach.

An official said Khan had made a public commitment that Pakistan's soil would not be used against any country. (PTI)

TRUMP PROPOSES NEW RESTRICTIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Trump has signed a Presidential Memorandum April 29 to ensure legitimate asylum-seekers can access asylum while more efficiently processing and removing illegal migrants who are not eligible and who do not qualify.

"The biggest loophole drawing illegal aliens to our borders is the use of fraudulent or meritless asylum claims to gain entry into our great country", said Trump.

The President is directing his Administration to propose regulations to:

Streamline the court proceedings for aliens who pass initial fear determinations.

Adjudicate all asylum applications in immigration courts within 180 days of filing.

Require fees for asylum applications and work permit applications.

Bar aliens who have entered or attempted to enter the country illegally from receiving provisional work permits prior to being approved for relief.

Immediately revoke the work authorization of aliens who receive final removal orders.

The President is directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to reprioritize the assignment of immigration officers to improve the integrity of credible fear adjudications, strengthen law enforcement, and enforce removal orders from immigration judges.

According to White House statistics, US immigration system has reached a breaking point as we continue to see an overwhelming surge of migrants, with more than 100,000 arriving at our border in March alone. As a result of loopholes in United States immigration law, migrants claiming fear are often released into communities across the United States, where they often remain indefinitely. In order to remain in the country, they often fail to show up to court hearings, fail to file an asylum application, or fail to comply with removal orders once their claims have been denied.

The White House further states that illegal migrants with meritless claims have used the asylum system to enter the US illegally and remain here indefinitely.

On average, out of every 100 aliens subject to expedited removal who claim a fear of persecution, only about 12 will

ultimately be granted asylum. Around half of all aliens who make a credible fear claim and are subsequently placed in removal proceedings do not actually apply for asylum.

The number of aliens who do not show up to court and are ordered removed in absentia has soared, with 17,200 removal orders issued in absentia in the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2019.

MASSIVE SIKH DAY PARADE TAKEN OUT IN NEW YORK CITY

The Parade started from 37th Avenue on Madison and terminated at 25th Street where free food (langar) was served.

A Sikh conference, as always, was held at which the Sikh leaders spoke about the agenda before the community.

The Sikh Day parade is organized by the Sikh Cultural Society, Richmond Hill, New York with the cooperation of the Sikh organizations and gurudwaras of the tri-state area.

INDIA GOVERNMENT REVISES POLICY ON CONSULAR SERVICES TO ASYLEES

of asylum-seekers, according to a report published in Times of India.

It is a big relief to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), mainly Sikhs, who have taken asylum in foreign countries as this will help the asylum-takers get consular services including visa and OCI services at their local Indian missions, as long as they are not on central black list approved by the home ministry.

Many of the beneficiaries will be asyleeshailing from Punjab who had taken asylum in countries like Canada and the US, citing fear of religious pursuit back home during the crackdown on pro-Khalistan movement. They had been facing problems in getting visa and OCI benefits in their respective Indian missions that maintain local black lists comprising names of such asylum-takers in addition to the central black list.

According to the report, the Modi government, acknowledging the sensitivities of many Sikh asylum-takers and their family members who have not been able to visit their native places or relatives even years after the end of Sikh militancy, has now issued instructions to all missions/posts abroad to abolish local black lists. The missions have been asked to provide all asylees and their family members, whose names do not figure in the central black list, consular services, including visa services and OCI-related benefits. At the same time, it has directed the missions to continue with the usual checks and due diligence in line with the existing orders.

Sources said the decision reflects the recognition that many of the asylum-seekers were in fact, economic migrants who were forced to pass themselves off as victims of political persecution in order to escape the bleak economic condition then back home.

The Indian Panorama reached out to Ambassador Sandeep Chakraborty, Consul General of India in New York, to verify the TOI report who said details and certain clarifications were awaited from government of India. Once, the picture is clear, he said, he will issue a press note. He also indicated he may invite community leaders to inform them of India government's revised policy with regard to providing consular services to the asylees.

CONTD FROM PAGE 8

DEALING WITH FUNDAMENTALIST TERRORISM

integrate intelligence-gathering and coordinate with all investigating and intelligence agencies.

Though it was never established, the concept had some major lacunae. Unless the NCTC is empowered to conduct counter-terrorism operations like its US counterpart, on which the Indian version was expected to be based, urban terrorism will continue to remain a cause for concern. Without an effective NCTC or a similar organization, the planning and execution of India's counter-terrorism policies will remain mired in systemic weaknesses.

Post-incident investigation is aimed at unravelling the identities of the planners and the plotters and bringing to justice the perpetrators of the incident of terrorism. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) must be reconstituted as it lacks teeth in its present form. It should be re-modelled on the US FBI to give it both preventive and investigative powers. While there is no need to blindly ape any country, there is no harm in learning from the best practices abroad and incorporating them into Indian policies.

India's intelligence coordination and assessment apparatus at the national level and counter-terrorism policies remain mired in the days of innocence. We are now living in the age of 'new terrorism' that is far more violent and diabolical than before and policies must keep pace with the emerging developments. For example, with the Islamic State striving to extend its reach to India, counter-radicalization and de-radicalization policies must be formulated early.

(The author is a former Director, Centre for Land Warfare Studies, New Delhi)

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The word “akshaya” means indestructible. In Bhagwad Gita, Lord Krishna had said that his devotees can never perish and will remain invincible. He ensured that the mahatmas, who were involved in loving and selfless devotional service to him, received special care and attention. He provided them with the virtue of fearlessness, known as abhaya, from all sorts of material entrapment and anxieties. Akshaya Tritiya's festivities have a similar symbolism.

According to Bhagwad Gita, when the results of pious activities are exhausted, people return to this mortal planet again from Swargaloka (heaven). If they have done bad deeds, then they are pushed into the dark regions of hellish planets where they suffer incessantly.

This day, however, also carries Lord Vishnu's blessings. Any pious deed performed on this day is carried forth by the doer and they can reap eternal benefits from it. Akshaya Tritiya generally falls in late April or early May. Mostly it is celebrated on the 108th day of the year. This festival of immortality is equally revered by the Hindu and Jain community and is associated with various traditions and rituals. It is said that any initiative taken on this day awards the person with unending merits throughout their life. This year Akshaya Tritiya falls on May 7.

Did you know that there is another aspect of a Chandan Yatra that's associated with Akshaya Tritiya. The festival of Chandan Yatra is celebrated in Vrindavan and Jagannath Puri, whereby the deities of Lord Krishna and his forms are decorated with huge amounts of sandalwood paste, completely covering his entire body in chandan.

History of Akshaya Tritiya

The celebration of every festival in Vedic religion is associated with a story mentioned in the scriptures. The pious day of Akshaya Tritiya, blessed by Lord Vishnu, is loaded with spiritual significance.

The starting of Treta Yuga

Every yuga has a starting day and an ending day. The second celestial cycle or Treta Yuga (having a span of 1,296,000 years) started on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya.

Commencement of compilation of the Mahabharata

Srila Vyasadeva started the great herculean task of compilation of the great epic Mahabharata with Lord Ganesha on this day.

The appearance day of Lord Parshuram

As per Skand Purana, Lord Parshuram, the son of Mahrishi Jamdagni and Mother Renuka appeared on this day.

The meeting of Lord Krishna and Sudama

It is said that on this day, Lord Krishna's Brahmin friend Sri Sudama visited him in Dwarika and offered him a handful of chipped rice as an offering out of unconditional love.

Breaking of one year-long fast by Lord Rishabhdeva

According to Jain literature, it is said that Lord Rishabhdeva, the first Jain Tirthankara broke his one-year long fast on this day, which he had been observing by drinking only sugar cane juice.

Receiving of Akshaya Patra by the Pandavas

Lord Krishna gave the Pandavas, an Akshaya Patra or an imperishable vessel, during their period of exile. It provided them with a supply of an infinite amount of food.

The commencement of 21 days of Chandan Yatra

The devotees in Jagannath Puri and Vrindavan smear the idols' faces with a huge

AKSHAYA TRITIYA



amount of sandalwood paste. They do that in order to give them relief from the scorching heat of the summer. This is in accordance with the time that occurred with Srinathji of Nathdwara and his dear devotee, Sri Madhvendra Puri.

The opening of the doors of Lord Badrinath

On this day, doors of Lord Badrinath are opened and devotees go and worship him.

The lotus feet darshan of Sri Bankey Bihari in Vrindavan

Only on this day, there is Mangala Aarti in Sri Bankey Bihari Mandir of Vrindavana and people get a chance to have a darshan of his lotus feet.

Significance of Akshaya Tritiya

The day of Akshaya Tritiya holds great significance for the Hindus and Jains. They perform various rituals on this day to keep their mind and heart sacred. Following the advice of the shastras, some people observe fast on this day and worship Lord Krishna with 16 items of puja, called Shodashopchar Puja. People visit temples and offer items such as grains, wheat, rice, clothes, gold, gemstones, water, etc., in charity to the Brahmins and the poor and needy people. Many people organise a big community feast called bhandara and feed people.

It is also a custom to purchase some gold and other valuable items on this day as it is believed that purchasing gold will provide one with the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi and allow prosperity and wealth to flourish at home.

According to astrology, Akshaya Tritiya is considered as the day when the lines of destiny or fate change and, hence, people are advised to propitiate and venerate the deities so as to get their blessings. As per Muhurat Chintamani, the day of Akshaya Tritiya is considered as Swayam Siddha Muhurat. Any auspicious work can be done on this day without worrying about timings. Hence, a lot of weddings and other auspicious ceremonies take place on this day.



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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.”

Mumbai qualify for playoffs

MUMBAI (TIP): Mumbai Indians prevailed over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Super Over to qualify for the IPL playoffs, the win propelling them to the second position in the pecking order.

Opting to bat, Mumbai Indians scored 162/5 in the allotted 20 overs and then saw Sunrisers Hyderabad end their innings at the same score. Needing nine to win in the Super Over, Hardik Pandya hammered Rashid Khan for a six over long off in the first ball and then Kieron Pollard took the side home with three balls to spare. In the one-over eliminator, Sunrisers Hyderabad managed 8/2 with Jasprit Bumrah bagging the wickets of Manish Pandey and Mohammed Nabi.

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma said, "We are rewarded for some real hard work we have put in throughout the tournament. We played consistent cricket and have the results for it. We were very clear in the mind that we wanted to bat first and put runs on the board. We knew if we could get early wickets, we can put some pressure on them."

Rs 50cr for IPL adverts

The IPL is considered one of the most popular tournaments in the world but even a top T20 league needs to be promoted and advertised. For this reason, BCCI had budgeted Rs 50 crore for advertisement and promotion of the 12th edition of the league. BCCI in its budget for the 2019 edition of the tournament pegged the expenses on advertising and promotion at Rs 50 crore. Interestingly, the 2018 edition had seen BCCI spending the same amount in promoting the tournament.



Dhoni, Imran Tahir star as Chennai Super Kings maul Delhi Capitals

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Wednesday defeated Delhi Capitals (DC) by a whopping margin of 80 runs at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Batting first, CSK posted a total of 179-4 in 20 overs after a smashing half-century by Suresh Raina and late blitz by MS Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja. Chasing the 180-run target, DC lost the plot as their batsmen got dismissed in regular intervals and were bundled out for a paltry score of 99 runs.

Suresh Raina roared back to form as he scored a brilliant 59 off 37 balls laced with eight boundaries and a six. Raina left behind his previous scores of 2, 38, 0 and 13 in his last four knocks and played a confident knock at a time when CSK had lost opener Shane Watson for a duck.

MS Dhoni continued his purple patch with the willow as he hammered an unbeaten 44 off 22 balls to help CSK post a competitive target of 179-4 in 20 overs. Dhoni was superbly supported by Ravindra Jadeja who smashed 25 players in 10 balls.

Imran Tahir continued to bamboozle batters as he ripped apart the DC batting lineup to pick up four wickets. Tahir took his wickets tally for IPL 2019 to 21 and is just behind Kagiso Rabada (25) in the Purple Cap race.



ICC RANKINGS

INDIA NUMBER 1 TEST SIDE, ENGLAND LEAD IN ODI

NEW DELHI (TIP): Virat Kohli's India continue to be the number 1 Test side while England have retained their top position as the ODI side after the annual update today in which series results from 2015-16 are removed, and outcomes from 2016-17 and 2017-18 are weighted at 50 per cent.

India's lead over New Zealand in the MRF Tyres ICC Test Team Rankings has narrowed from eight to two points and England remain at the top of the MRF Tyres ICC ODI Team Rankings with their gap over India reduced to just two points in an expanded table.

TEST RANKINGS: India were on 116 points and New Zealand on 108 before the update but India's 3-0 win over South Africa and 2-1 win in Sri Lanka being purged as part of the 2015-16 season sees them losing three points while New Zealand's two 2-0 defeats to Australia being removed sees them gain three points.

In the only change of positions on the table, England have overtaken Australia to fourth position and are on 105 points. Australia are on 98 points after dropping six points as they had won four of the five series in 2015-16, no more part of the calculations. In another significant movement, the gap between seventh-placed Pakistan and eighth-placed West Indies has trimmed from 11 to two points.

ODI RANKINGS: England have retained the No. 1 ranking but to go into the World Cup as the top-ranked side, they will need to beat Ireland in an upcoming one-off ODI and then beat Pakistan 3-2 or better in a home series, or lose to Ireland but then beat Pakistan 4-1 or better.

South Africa have overtaken New Zealand into third position while another change in positions sees the West Indies moving ahead of Sri Lanka to seventh place. No team has dropped out of the top 10, thus ensuring that the World Cup will see the 10 top-ranked sides in action.

Three of the four teams awarded ODI status at the end of the World Cricket League Division 2 will join the rankings once they have played the requisite eight qualifying matches. However, PNG join the rankings immediately having played several ODIs prior to April 2018. The Netherlands, who already had ODI status, will need to play two more ODIs to achieve a ranking.

Olympics champ Semenya loses at CAS, must reduce testosterone

CAPE TOWN (TIP):

Olympics 800m champion Caster Semenya lost her appeal against rules that mean female athletes with high natural levels of testosterone must take medication to reduce it.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled the regulations were necessary for athletes with differences in sexual development (DSDs) to ensure fair competition.

But it also voiced concern about how the new rules, which cover events ranging from 400m to a mile, would be implemented by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the sport's governing body.

Testosterone increases muscle mass, strength and haemoglobin, which affects endurance. Some competitors have said Semenya's higher levels of the hormone give her an unfair advantage.



AGE-OLD SECRET OUT: SHAHID AFRIDI WAS NO TEEN SENSATION

NEW DELHI (TIP): One of cricket's greatest mysteries has finally been solved...sort of.

Shahid Afridi, as many fans have long suspected, is not as young as official records have had it all these years. Afridi himself has made the revelation in his autobiography Game Changer released in India and Pakistan this week. In a chapter in which he describes his call-up to the senior Pakistan team in October 1996, Afridi writes that he was born in 1975. Though he doesn't give a month or day, that makes him, potentially, five years older than what he is: official records, including ESPNcricinfo's player profile pages record his date of birth as March 1, 1980.

Afridi debuted in an ODI tri-series tournament in Nairobi, and, most famously, hit a 37-ball hundred the first time he batted in international cricket. That record stood for over 17 years and was even more outrageous for the fact that it had been achieved by a 16-year-old. Except, now we know, he wasn't.

Yet Afridi only deepens the confusion in his book with the following line: "Also, for the record, I was just nineteen, and not sixteen like they claim. I was born in 1975. So, yes, the authorities stated my age incorrectly." If he was born in 1975, that would make him 20 or 21 at the time of the innings and not 19 as he writes.

He had arrived in Nairobi from the



Caribbean, where he was playing in an Under-19 series for Pakistan - which now suggests that he wasn't really under 19 at the time. Afridi has long retired from the international game though the admission adds a retrospective gloss to his performances in the PSL this season, where he played eight games for Multan Sultans and took 10 wickets conceding just 6.74 runs per over - all as a 43- or 44-year-old.

The year 1975 would also mean that he was 34 or 35 when he suddenly retired from Test cricket in 2010, having returned after a four-year absence from the format - as captain - and staying for

just one Test. It also means that when he finally played his last game for Pakistan at the 2016 World T20, he was not 36 but 40 or 41. Fans will recall another public admission of a real age, from a contemporary and team-mate of Afridi. After leading Pakistan to a memorable World T20 win in 2009, Younis Khan announced his retirement from the format, saying that he was 34 and "too old for this kind of cricket". By his official records, Younis was 31 at the time he made the statement; in fact, the number on his ODI shirt - 75 - was the real year of his birth, the same, incidentally, as Afridi's.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

Weekly Horoscope - May 13 - May 19, 2019

Aries:

Ganesha says new vistas will beckon and there will be meetings and prolonged travel. You may also make contact with old associates from a long time ago and there could be many fun-filled moments. There will be time for leisure and indulging in your favourite hobbies. This is also a great time for the creatively inclined. An interesting period with fun and success, assures Ganesha. There will also be a lot of travel. You will be moving fast and making fruitful contact.

Taurus:

Expenses mount and you look seriously at cutting back on non-essentials. There will be partying, new friendships and many fun times. Ganesha's blessings are with you. As the period ends, there is movement and bluster. Expenses mount and there could be domestic worries. Accidents and possible hospitalization may also be a cause for concern. New projects will also get underway and you have your plate full. There will be romantic dinners, overnight trips, exotic travel and shopping.

Gemini:

There will be many things to binge on and you may have to watch your weight. You could go overboard with all the drinking and eating. This is a period of indulgence. You will have to be a bit careful here. This is an auspicious period for behind-the-scenes activities. Ganesha suggests caution, since there's a danger of accidents. You will need to use tact and patience in all your dealings, but more so at work, since there is the likelihood of setbacks.

Cancer:

There could be likelihood also, of a hurt, a sense of sorrow / disillusionment or pain. Better times will come, and then your plans and hopes will click smoothly, without your needing to worry too much, says Ganesha. This period will see you pulled in different directions. At one level, work and domestic responsibilities weigh you down. At another level, you want time to indulge your fantasies and fly. You want to dream and be carefree.

Leo:

You are busy with all sorts of things and your energies are diffused. You are caught up in the frenzy of activity. There are also many domestic issues calling your attention. You are walking the tightrope. The tide steadies somewhat as the period wears on. There are important forces at play here and you are pushed into career expansion at full throttle. There may be some travel thrown in too, but you emerge the winner in the cauldron of events that try to snare you.

Virgo:

These are grand times and you just want to partake of the miracle of life with gusto. The expansion of last period in several spheres of your life continues unabated. You look at new horizons and new targets and set very high goals for yourself. So, there is a lot happening on all fronts and you are hard pressed. This period gives you an extra edge to succeed. Passion overwhelms you.

Libra:

Ganesha asks you to be careful while playing with fire. Put a cap on your famed passion and temper as they are both very inflammable and could only get you into trouble. There will be tremendous appreciation for your work and loyalty and your image catapults into the stratosphere. You are basking in the spotlight. The 3 P's - power, pelf and privileges - are yours. There is also a good chance that you could indulge in philanthropy.

Scorpio:

You meet up with friends and extended family and take a break from the mundane and the humdrum. As the period unfolds, the work area intensifies. You slog away and burn the midnight oil. You are in an expansion mode and are making new contacts and connections. There could be a rich haul if all the new contacts are optimized. It is a hectic period. Plans and projects will click. Ganesha says always stay happy and healthy in life.

Sagittarius:

Ganesha says don't be in a tearing hurry to get things done, and keep your personal equations balanced. You will try to make this a time to consolidate your gains and then try to build further. Ideas, plans, long-term projections for the future will come spontaneously and you will know just how to implement them. As a continuation, Ganesha gives you a truly marvellous period to fulfil your desires.

Capricorn:

You are renewing old contacts and making new ones. There are journeys of all kinds ahead. You go full steam to achieve your goals. You are a great hit with people. Though normally reticent and retiring by nature, you make waves in group activities. Right now, you are riding the crest of the tallest wave and enjoying every delirious moment. You look for a super power or a greater consciousness to guide you.

Aquarius:

There will be luck escorting you in all your ventures and so you needn't worry. Ganesha's blessings will always be with you. This is also a great time for creative work, and you will be well rewarded. Writers, painters, musicians, actors, artists will be in for windfall as they make money and earn fame. You love the whiff of money and are also sensible enough not to waste hard-earned bucks.

Pisces:

Ganesha says that you will manage to communicate magnificently, make contacts with new people, gain a stronghold on new work, new contacts, new assignments, and do it well. You will cultivate the right mindset to deal with people of all kinds. Also, you will be signing important documents and contracts and cheques. Loans and other monetary instruments will occupy your time as you make serious decisions to forge ahead.

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