

IAF chief Dhanoa is new chairman of chiefs of staff committee



Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa on Wednesday, May 29, received the baton of Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee from outgoing Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba who retires on May 31.

NEW DELHI (TIP): "Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa will be the Chairman COSC with effect from May 31 consequent to relinquishment of charge by Admiral Sunil Lanba upon superannuation," a Defense ministry spokesperson said.

The Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee is tasked with ensuring synergy among the three services and evolve common strategy to deal with external security challenges facing the country.

Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa is a Kargil war veteran and top rated fighter pilot with over 3,000 hours of flying experience.

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Narendra Modi Takes Oath as Prime Minister of India for the Second Term

Amit Shah inducted into Cabinet

36 ministers sworn in for a second term

20 MPs take oath of office as cabinet ministers for the first time

24 cabinet ministers, ministers of state sworn in

Nine sworn in as MoS (Independent charge)

Smriti Irani, 5 other women in Modi government

NEW DELHI (TIP): Narendra Modi took oath of office and secrecy as the Prime Minister of India for a second consecutive term amid thunderous applause from a select gathering in the sprawling forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, May 30th evening.

President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath to Modi, 24 Cabinet colleagues, nine Ministers of State (Independent Charge) and 24 Ministers of State. The loudest cheer was reserved for BJP chief Amit Shah, whose induction means the party will have to elect a new president.

The event was marred by ally Janata Dal (United) deciding not to take oath even as party chief Nitish Kumar marked his presence by attending

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Narendra Modi takes oath as Prime Minister for the second time at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 30, 2019. Photo / Courtesy R.V. Moorthy

Fresh calls for Trump impeachment after Mueller's statement



Special Counsel Robert Mueller known for his reticence made a candid public statement, suggesting President Trump was not cleared by his investigation

WASHINGTON (TIP): Special counsel Robert Mueller's first - and possibly last - public statement on the Russia investigation is fueling fresh calls on Capitol Hill to begin impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump, a step that Democratic leaders have so far resisted.

Surprising Washington with brief remarks on Wednesday, May 29, Mueller indicated it's up to Congress to decide what to do with his findings.

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US administration removes India from its currency monitoring list

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration on Tuesday, May 29, removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners, citing certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi which address some of its major concerns. Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed by the US from its currency monitoring list which

contd on Page 32

Israel to hold fresh election as Netanyahu fails to form govt

Knesset votes to dissolve itself; Paves way for September 17 poll

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israeli lawmakers on Thursday, May 30, voted to dissolve Parliament and hold fresh elections after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a coalition before a midnight deadline, becoming the first prime minister-designate in the country's history who was unable to form a government. In little more than six weeks since

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Benjamin Netanyahu failed to get Avigdor Liberman's support to form a government.



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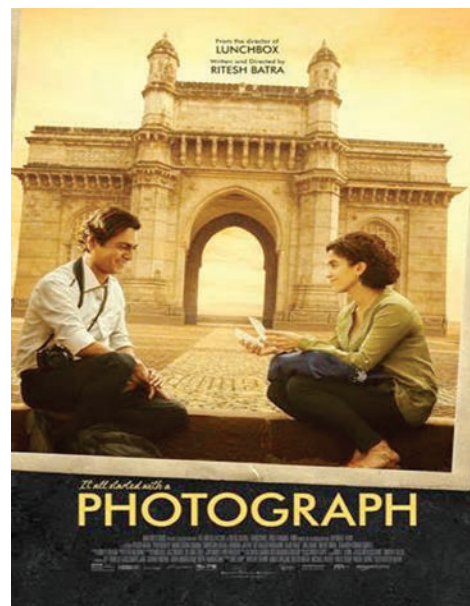
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2019 New York Indian Film Festival Announces Award Winners

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): The 19th Annual New York Indian Film Festival announced, May 13, the winning filmmakers and actors at this year's awards ceremony. Winning Best Film was Rohena Gera's "Sir" which also played as the opening night selection for the festival. Ritesh Batra won the Best Director prize for his latest film "Photograph" starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Sanya Malhotra which Amazon Studios will release in U.S. theaters starting this Friday, May 17.

- 'Sir' directed by Rohena Gera was adjudged the Best Film.
- Ritesh Batra was adjudged the best director for the film 'Photograph'

contd on page 6



Vaishali Deshmukh wins CVS 2019 Division Paragon Award

Picked for the nationwide award among 10+thousands of Pharmacists



2019 Division Paragon Award Vaishali Deshmukh celebrates the honor with her team members

NEW YORK (TIP): "I've worked with Vaishali for 3 years now. She is not just our Pharmacy Manager, she is my friend. Vaishali is a team player at work and at home. She is compassionate, friendly and empathetic. Vaishali is always available to our patients, customers, and myself. Vaishali is very passionate about what she does. She learned very early about taking care of others from both her parents especially her Father who is a Dr. She is very involved with her children and still finds time to hold clinics in her community and speak at our local high schools. I look up to Vaishali and the way she deeply cares about others. She always knows how to make me feel better after a bad day."

contd on Page 7

Yash Modi is honored by Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Yash Modi, a student of Jericho High School, son of Sudha and Mukesh Modi was honored by Town of Oyster Bay board headed by all local Councilmen and Town Supervisor Joesph Saladino.

The New York State FBLA (Future business leaders of America) conference was held in Binghamton from April 10-12. One of the events there was PSA (Public Service Announcement) where students had to make a video on soft skills and present it to panel of judges. It is a great honor that a Long Island native team, Jericho, came in first place.

Yash Modi's father Mukesh Modi is a successful businessman, community leader, philanthropist and a very good human being. He is involved in many social and public organizations.



Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joesph Saladino honoring Yash with a Citation

Dr. Nimisha Shukla Eyes Edison Town Council



Apolitical by nature, Dr. Shukla was encouraged to run by Mayor Thomas Lankey

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Among the candidates vying for their party's endorsement in this year's Democratic Primary for Edison Town Council, one is unique - Dr. Nimisha Shukla. A 25-year resident of the township, Nimisha has led a life of service to her community as a pediatrician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Apolitical by nature, she was encouraged to run by Mayor Thomas Lankey and will provide an independent voice and fresh ideas to resolving the challenges facing the community.

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Acting Consul General Shatrughna Sinha and Dr. Vasudha Gupta, ADG, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting launched the book - 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'



Acting Consul General Shatrughna Sinha and Dr. Vasudha Gupta, ADG, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India launching the book 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'

NEW YORK (TIP): Dr. Vasudha Gupta, ADG, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India and Acting Consul General Mr. Shatrughna Sinha jointly launched a compilation of speeches of PM Narendra Modi- 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' for the US market on May 29, 2019 in New York.

The books have been showcased as part of the Publications Division booth in the New York Book Expo & New York Rights Fair(NYRF) 2019.

Mr. Sinha held discussions with Publication Division delegates Dr Vasudha Gupta, ADG & Mr. Rajinder Chaudhry, Director regarding the rights negotiations process for the books during the ongoing NYRF2019.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Ajay Banga Joins Ivanka Trump to Lead Closing Session at Global Entrepreneurship Summit



Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga will lead the closing session at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, in The Hague

WASHINGTON (TIP): US Department of State and the Kingdom of the Netherlands announced that Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and Indian American business leader Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga will lead the closing session at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, in The Hague, The Netherlands. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, will moderate the session. Co-hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and The Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, GES 2019 is the ninth gathering of entrepreneurs, business leaders, supporters, and government officials.

"I am excited to visit The Netherlands and participate, for the second year, in the Department of State's Global Entrepreneurship Summit. I plan to address issues related to women's economic empowerment, with a focus on women's entrepreneurship. A core pillar of our W-GDP initiative, launched by the White House this year, is to help women in developing countries succeed as entrepreneurs through access to capital, markets, networks, and mentorship. I am looking forward to joining Queen Maxima, Secretary Pompeo, Mastercard's CEO Ajay Banga and entrepreneurs from around the world at this powerful Summit to build on the progress", said Ivanka Trump

GES is the preeminent annual entrepreneurship gathering that convenes emerging entrepreneurs, investors, and partners. This year's Summit will accelerate the momentum of the 2017 GES in Hyderabad, India, which highlighted "Women First, Prosperity for All." More than 1,000 entrepreneurs from around the world will have unprecedented opportunities to showcase their start-ups to more than 300 investors that collectively represent trillions of dollars of assets under management.

Indian American Global Arts Professor at UC Merced Wins UCOP Fellowship

MERCED, CA(TIP): Aditi Chandra, an assistant professor of global arts, media and writing studies at University of California at Merced is among handful of UC faculty who received the 2019-2020 University of California President's Faculty Research Fellowship.

Chandra's work is titled "Unruly Monuments: Disrupting the State at Delhi's Islamic Architecture." A continuation of her thesis at the University of Minnesota, Chandra's work examines how the historical Islamic structures built in Delhi, India between the 12th and 17th Centuries

were transformed into modern tourist monuments in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Chandra is one of eight recipients from seven different campuses all of whom focus on a range of humanities disciplines. As a winner, Chandra will receive paid leave from her regular teaching duties for the spring 2020 semester in order to pursue her own research project.

(Source - UC Merced)

Aditi Chandra, an assistant professor of global arts, media and writing studies at University of California at Merced



Indian Professor Honoured with SAE International's Excellence in Engineering Education Award

NEW YORK (TIP): Professor Raj Rajendran, Professor in the Automobile Engineering Department at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, has won the SAE Excellence in Engineering Education Award.

Dr. Rajendran was presented with the award during the recent SAE Members Annual Business Meeting held in conjunction with SAE International's WCX19.

This annual award recognizes outstanding contributions made by an individual toward activities related to SAE Education related programs, including the promotion of SAE student activities at the international or local levels, contributions that advance engineering education, contributions in support of the SAE Collegiate Design competitions, and promotion of educational related activities at any level.

Dr. Rajendran has 25 years of teaching experience and 16 years of research experience and is currently Chairman



Dr. Rajendran was presented with the award during the recent SAE Members Annual Business Meeting

SAEINDIA Engineering Education Board taking care of collegiate design series and AWIM. He is also a volunteer

for the SAE aSOP (Automotive Student Orientation Program), a unique program that has enabled the student members to prepare for a career in Industry.

Since becoming an SAE Member in 1998, Dr. Rajendran has continued to be an active volunteer supporting SAE student activities. His 20-year tenure at SAE has afforded much success in welcoming, supporting, advocating, and mentoring new arrivals to the Southern Section (India).

SAE International is a global association committed to advancing mobility knowledge and solutions for the benefit of humanity. By engaging nearly 200,000 engineers, technical experts and volunteers, we connect and educate mobility professionals to enable safe, clean, and accessible mobility solutions. We act on two priorities: encouraging a lifetime of learning for mobility engineering professionals and setting the standards for industry engineering.

Indian American Named MSU Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education



Kanchan Pavangadkar is an undergraduate adviser for the neuroscience program

MICHIGAN (TIP): Kanchan Pavangadkar - an Indian American is among two Michigan State University College of Natural Science advisers, who were recently named MSU Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education, or APUE, Fellows for 2019-2020.

Pavangadkar, an undergraduate adviser for the neuroscience program, will be the fellow for the assessment and metrics group, which reviews current advising assessments to identify gaps in assessment across the university.

The APUE fellowships are part of MSU's Proactive Advising Project, which focuses on assessing student experiences with advisers and offering targeted professional development to advisers to improve students' experiences with academic advising. The fellowship year covers 20% of each fellow's time and runs from May 2019 to May 2020.

Indian American Professor at UC Davis to Deliver Distinguished Lecture



Biswanath Mukherjee, distinguished professor of computer science at UC Davis is a pioneer in communications network technology

DAVIS, CA (TIP): Biswanath Mukherjee, distinguished professor of computer science at UC Davis, will deliver a distinguished lecture next week - the Faculty Distinguished Research Award Lecture - under a new format. The lecture, Tuesday, June 4, is free and open to all.

(Full story on www.theindianpanoramanews)



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2019 New York Indian Film Festival Announces Award Winners

Here is the complete list of winners.

Best Film: Sir (Director: Rohena Gera)
Best Director: Ritesh Batra (Photograph)
Best Actor: Adinath Kothare (Paani)
Best Actress: Tillotama Shome (Sir)
Best Child Actor: Sunny Pawar (Chippa)
Best Screenplay: Baggage (Roopa Rao)
Best Documentary Feature: Sindhustan (Director: Sapna Bhavnani)
Best Documentary Short: Daughters of Polo God (Director: Roopa Barua)
Best Short (Narrative): Bebaak (Director: Shazia Iqbal)

More information on this year's edition of NYIFF can be found at:

<https://www.iaac.us/nyiff2019/index.htm>

About NYIFF

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) is the oldest, most prestigious film festival screening premieres of feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Indian subcontinent in the Independent, arthouse, alternate and diaspora genres. Seven days of screenings, post-screening discussions, industry panels, award ceremony, special events, nightly networking parties, red carpet galas, media attention and packed audiences build an awareness of Indian cinema, entertain & educate North Americans about the real India, and add to the amazing cultural diversity of New York City. For more information, please visit the website www.IAAC.us.

About IAAC

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. We work cooperatively with colleagues around the United States to broaden our collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. Our focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. The IAAC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. For further information, visit www.IAAC.us.

Indian Businessman in New Jersey indicted for Allegedly Stealing \$750,000

TRENTON , NJ (TIP): Attorney General of New Jersey Gurbir S. Grewal announced that a businessman of Indian origin has been indicted for allegedly stealing \$750,000 that he solicited from investors to open a bar and restaurant in Hoboken.

Patel is a real estate and business investor whose primary focus has been restaurants and bars in New Jersey and New York. In 2014, Patel solicited investors for a World of Beer franchise in Hoboken.

Nirav Patel, 39, of Hoboken, N.J., was indicted earlier this month by a state grand jury on a second-degree charge of theft by deception. Patel was indicted as the result of an investigation by the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau. Second-degree charges carry a sentence of five to 10 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000.

Patel is a real estate and business investor whose primary focus has been restaurants and bars in New Jersey and New York. In 2014, Patel solicited investors for a World of Beer franchise in Hoboken. He allegedly accepted \$750,000 from an investment group as a share in the ownership of World of Beer Hoboken but failed to use those funds for the project. Instead, Patel allegedly deposited the investor funds in his own business account and used the money for personal and business expenses unrelated to World of Beer Hoboken.



Patel is a real estate and business investor whose primary focus has been restaurants and bars in New Jersey and New York

"When New Jersey residents invest their hard-earned money, they are entitled to nothing less than a fair and honest deal," said Attorney General Grewal. "We are committed to protecting investors by diligently investigating allegations of financial fraud and prosecuting dishonest operators."

"We urge individuals who believe they have been defrauded to contact the Division of Criminal Justice toll free at 866-TIPS-4CJ," said Director Veronica Allende of the Division of Criminal Justice. "We will aggressively investigate financial crimes and prosecute those responsible to the full extent of the law."

Indian National Charged in Syracuse Federal Court for Transporting Illegal Aliens

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian origin man Jaswinder Singh age 30, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been charged in federal court in Syracuse with transporting aliens in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the aliens were in the United States illegally, announced United States Attorney Grant C. Jaquith and U.S. Border Patrol Swanton Sector Chief Patrol Agent Robert Garcia.

A criminal complaint filed in United States District Court charges Singh with transporting two aliens who were without lawful status in the United States and alleges that he received approximately \$2,200 as payment for his services. The complaint further alleges that an agent from the United States Border Patrol stopped Singh's vehicle in St. Lawrence County near the Canadian border, after a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Unit helicopter spotted multiple people entering a vehicle in the area after crossing the St. Lawrence River from Canada into the United States.

The charge filed against Singh carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

The defendant was arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge David E. Peebles, and ordered detained pending resolution of the charges.

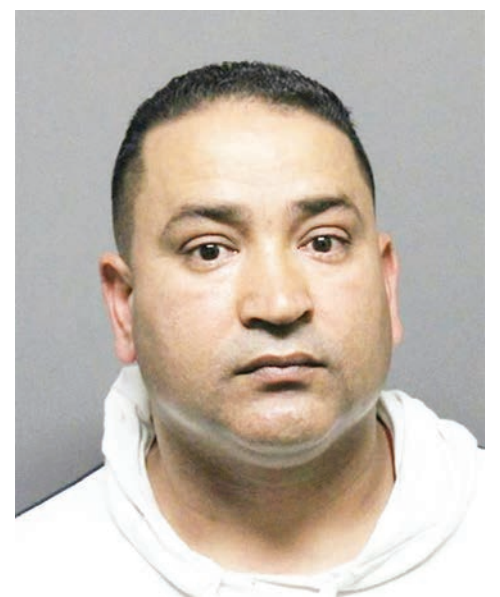
Indian Man in New Jersey Charged with Luring, Attempted Sexual Assault, and Attempted Endangering of a Child

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): Bergen County Prosecutor Mark Musella announced the arrest of Kashmir Singh (DOB: 9/8/1976; single; and employed as a ride-share driver) of 139 Donor Avenue, Elmwood Park, NJ on the charges of Luring, Attempted Sexual Assault, and Attempted Endangering The Welfare Of A Child. The arrest is the result of an investigation conducted by the Bergen

County Prosecutor's Office under the direction of Chief Robert Anzilotti.

Beginning on Thursday, May 16, 2019, members of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit engaged in online conversations with Kashmir Singh who believed he was communicating with a 14-year-old juvenile. During the exchanges, Singh arranged to meet with the purported juvenile to engage in sexual intercourse. On Friday, May 17, 2019, believing he was meeting with the juvenile, Singh drove to a location in Paramus where he was apprehended by detectives from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit.

Singh was charged with one count of Luring, N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6(A), a 2nd degree crime; Attempted Sexual Assault, N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1(A) / 2C:14-2C(4), a 2nd degree crime; and Attempted Endangering The Welfare Of A Child, N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1(A)/2C:24-4(A)1, a 3rd degree crime. Following his first appearance in Central Judicial Processing Court in Hackensack on



Following his first appearance in Central Judicial Processing Court in Hackensack on May 22, 2019, Kashmir Singh was remanded to the Bergen County Jail

May 22, 2019, Singh was remanded to the Bergen County Jail.

(SOURCE: DA, NJ)

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Vaishali Deshmukh wins CVS 2019 Division Paragon Award

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Last year Vaishali went out of her way to help me for one of my fundraisers. She knew I was stressed at work and home. She drove all the way out to my house in the pouring rain after a long shift to drop off homemade baked goods she made for my bake sale the next morning. I told her not to but Vaishali being who she is, is ALWAYS true to her word. I've met a lot of wonderful people in my 21 years at CVS but she truly is 1 of a kind - Dee (Store Manager)

Vaishali has been with CVS for 20 years. Vee has always modeled our core values of innovation, collaboration, caring, integrity and accountability. Our core values created a strong foundation for influencing and leading her past and current teams. Vee started her career as a technician, then went on to become an intern, a staff pharmacist, and currently a pharmacy manager.

Vee has been married to her husband Amit Deshmukh for 15 years; they have 3 beautiful children together. The first time I met Vee I asked her to tell me a little bit about each of her children... here is what she said: Manav is 11 and our eldest boy. He has shown me that if we truly believe in ourselves anything is possible. Meera is our 10 year old girl... she is a free spirit. She has shown me that living in the moment is important. Milan is 7 and our youngest boy... he has a heart of gold. Without my family I am nothing. [would



The Deshmukhs

not be able to do any of the things I do without their support. They truly keep me grounded, humbled, and blessed every day."

Vee always speaks highly of her father, another source of inspiration in addition to her family. Her father is a doctor and has practiced for many years on Long Island. Vee says that she tries to emulate the same care and empathy for her patients and team that her father (as a doctor) has for his. Vee has also shared her admiration for her mother. She sacrificed many things for Vee and her sister. She left India at an early age not

knowing anyone in America, and managed to raise her children successfully.

Anyone that knows Vee, knows that she provides her team with a nurturing environment for her colleagues by inspiring them. She listens to them and demonstrates a deep level of understanding for her team. As a result, Vee has built a strong connection with past and present colleagues. Vee is a preceptor and has developed many great pharmacists. She provides a strong foundation for them and in the process has become a great mentor for them. As a preceptor she offers the opportunity to turn their potential into reality.

One of the things I admire the most about Vee is her natural ability to identify potential. I think of a recent example of a technician that worked with Vee and due to her influence and guidance is now in pharmacy school and has completed his first professional year.

Vee lives in Farmingdale and is proud of that. She is proud of the fact that the commitment she has to her store is also the same level of commitment she has to her community. Vee shares stories of how she runs into many of her patients at local events and around her neighborhood.

A quote that Vee constantly shares is: "Mentors impact eternity because there is no telling where their influence will stop." Vee constantly shows that her influence, coaching, values, and teaching has a deep impact on everyone that interacts with her.

Three Indian Origin Men Charged in Million-Dollar Elder Fraud Scheme

NEW YORK (TIP): Geoffrey S. Berman, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Gregory W. Ehrie, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Newark Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of a criminal Complaint in Manhattan federal court charging Gunjit Malhotra, Gurjeet Singh, and Jas Pal with participating in a conspiracy that for several years exploited elderly victims by remotely accessing their computers and convincing victims to pay for computer support services they did not need, and which were never actually provided. The conspiracy netted at least \$1.3 million for the conspirators. Malhotra and Pal were

arrested May 23 and were presented before Magistrate Judge Debra Freeman. Singh was arrested May 23 in St. Louis, Missouri.

According to the allegations in the Complaint unsealed in Manhattan federal court -

MALHOTRA, SINGH, PAL, and others engaged in a scheme in which they and their co-conspirators purported to provide computer repair services to victims located throughout the United States, many of whom are elderly. The defendants and their co-conspirators provided their victims' false and misleading information to extract payment for computer repair services. For example, the defendants and their co-

conspirators: (i) claimed to be associated with major technology software companies when, in fact, they were not; (ii) promised to provide computer services when none were provided; and (iii) represented that computer repair services were needed when they knew that was false. As part of their scheme, the defendants and their co-conspirators accessed their victims' computers and caused them to freeze or, in other instances, installed software on their victims' computers and caused their victims' email accounts to send emails that thanked the perpetrators for providing computer services.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Dr. Nimisha Shukla Eyes Edison Town Council

Dr. Shukla's views have been shaped by her life experiences. Growing up in a tenement in her native India, she learned the importance of prudence, thrift, and hard work in achieving one's ambitions. Caring for her mother in the battle against depression instilled in Nimisha the desire and compassion that have fueled her career in the field of pediatric medicine.

Traversing three continents in pursuit of her professional development, she ultimately immigrated to the United States where she held distinguished teaching and leadership positions at Michigan State University as Assistant Clinical Professor and at SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine in Brooklyn, New York as Chief Resident providing clinical and administrative direction to 149

physicians. Settling in Edison, she raised twin daughters and built a successful individual pediatrics practice; subsequently, acquiring two other practices to form 7 Days Pediatrics, an innovative, multi-facility primary care practice that she currently operates. Together with her husband, she ventured into an early form of what would today be considered e-commerce - enabling Indian Americans to affordably connect with friends and relatives in India. Cognizant of her cultural heritage, she founded Nrityanjai USA, a dance institute dedicated to teaching the classical Indian form of dance known as Kathak and to promoting it and its integration into other dance forms through cultivation of broader public awareness.

Her Indian heritage also led her into the world of broadcast communications in which she joined DHOOM-FM Radio Station. Her experiences with DHOOM inspired her to purchase WWRL 1600-AM where she transformed a 90-year-old

station that had operated under a variety of formats into a hub for Indian and South Asian talk, music, and culture.

In all of her professional, entrepreneurial, and philanthropic endeavors, Nimisha has sought to educate and empower her audiences. She vows to do no less should she be honored by election to the Edison Town Council.

Dr. Shukla is beholden to no special interests in the Township. She considers herself a resident of Edison - no more, no less. She is concerned with the same issues that disturb many residents - rising property taxes, crumbling roads and infrastructure, poorly planned development, and a general decline in the overall quality-of-life experienced by many residents of the community.

She believes that variable costs within the community can be contained through enhanced budgetary due diligence and that additional funds can be secured through identification and proper application for municipal aid and

economic development funding from the State of New Jersey and Middlesex County. The funding produced by savings and grant awards can then be earmarked for property tax relief and various quality-of-life initiatives - among them, preservation of open space, repair of roads and infrastructure, and protection of families and neighborhoods.

Through enforced fiscal responsibility and renewed energy in identification of funding opportunities from state and county sources as well as municipal-business partnerships, Nimisha believes that the Township of Edison can solidify its financial footing and remain a desirable place to live and work for its residents and businesses for years to come. Nimisha encourages all residents concerned with their community to join with her in restoring Edison's quality-of-life for all of its residents and to support her candidacy for Town Council by voting for her in Column A in the June 4th Democrat Primary Election.

GUEST COMMENT

Get priorities right: Modi 2.0 should address key issues in earnest

The BJP-led NDA rode on PM Narendra Modi's combative nationalism to vanquish the Opposition in the Lok Sabha elections. Now that the new government has taken charge, the PM can't keep harping on national security as a host of issues require immediate attention. The expectations are even higher this time as the NDA has had a stable five-year run, unencumbered by the whims of self-seeking allies. The failure to create enough jobs for the youth has been a huge let-down. India's unemployment rate

reached a 45-year high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18, according to the National Sample Survey Office's periodic labor force survey. The desperate but futile attempt to keep this report under wraps in the run-up to the elections showed the powers that be in a poor light. An action plan should be readied at the earliest to tackle joblessness, with an eye on energizing the 'Make in India' campaign.

The farming community - a key vote bank that ensures the nation's food security - can't be left to fend for itself. Farmers have been at the receiving end as

the average food prices in 2018-19 were almost the same as these were in 2017-18, a trend not witnessed for almost three decades. Remunerative prices for their produce can help cultivators cope with agrarian distress. The direct income support of Rs 6,000 per year to small and marginal farmers, announced in the 2019-20 Interim Budget, should be hiked substantially.

Environmental issues were conspicuous by their absence from the electoral narrative, but these are too critical to be ignored for long. The

government's roadmap in this regard should go beyond the rejuvenation of Ganga and Yamuna rivers. India can't afford to take climate change lightly anymore. As the PM and BJP president Amit Shah have on Thursday sworn in the name of God to uphold the Constitution, they should at the very outset take up the challenge of maintaining communal amity. A stable and strong government should be synonymous with peaceful co-existence of various communities, not with lynch mobs, self-styled vigilantes and hate-mongers. (Tribune, India)

AS I SEE IT



By Ven Parameswaran

Expect an Era of Greater Cooperation between USA and India

President Trump, as soon as he was informed of the election results, took to Twitter and wrote:

"Congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP party on their big election victory! Great things are in store for the U.S.-India partnership with the return of the Prime Minister Modi at the helm. I look forward to continuing our important work together."

The next day, May 24, Trump tweeted:

"Just spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi when I congratulated him on his big political victory. He is a great man and leader of the people of India - they are lucky to have him."

What is the meaning of President Trump's tweet: GREAT THINGS ARE IN STORE FOR THE U.S. -INDIA PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RETURN OF THE PRIME MINISTER MODI AT THE HELM. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR IMPORTANT WORK TOGETHER.?"

For the first time since India won independence 72 years ago, the United States has decided to support India and upgrade its relations to the highest level. President Trump called India the closest ally of USA, on a par with the United Kingdom. Trump has also allowed India to transfer 100% of all U.S. technologies, hitherto fore restricted. US will be sharing its intelligence and communications with India. It is a well-known fact that modern warfare is won thru sophisticated technology.

At the same time, Trump gave ultimatum to Pakistan to get rid of all terror organizations including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) responsible for attack on Mumbai and the Indian Parliament respectively. Trump also cancelled all military aid to Pakistan.

China was quick to note the closeness and warmth of relations between the Western nations, Australia, Japan and India, spearheaded by the USA. In fact, I have noticed that China has been respecting Modi and has emphasized expanding Sino Indian trade relations.

President Trump said that he would be meeting Modi at G-20 meeting in Japan this week, and they were committed to further strengthen relationship and take the partnership to the next level, building on the tangible achievements of the last two years since the advent of his administration.

Vice President of the USA said the Indian election was a strong display of the Indian people's commitment to democracy.

The State Department spokesperson commented: "THE US-INDIA PARTNERSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER, AND WE CERTAINLY EXPECT IT TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS IN THE COMING YEARS."

Analyzing the ups and downs of Indo-US relations, it must be pointed out that Prime Minister Modi has managed to build and develop close personal relationships



"Great things are in store for the US-India partnership with the return of the Prime Minister Modi at the helm", tweeted Trump.

with almost all heads of States. Although India has the closest relations with the US, Modi has used his diplomatic skills to get along with all major powers including China, Russia and EU.

Now that Modi has received a huge mandate, he can do wonders with his two thirds majority in the Parliament to shape Domestic and Foreign Policy.

ECONOMIC REVOLUTION FOR INDIA'S MODERNIZATION

All of a sudden, India has become the most attractive country to invest because it has comparative advantages over China and the USA. To attract generous foreign private investment India must stress the following points:

1. India is the youngest country in the world. Average age is 27. 50% of India is under the age of 25; two thirds of India is under 35. This is a huge advantage creating a huge supply of educated professionals and also factory workers.
2. India is the largest English speaking country in the world, the US being the second.
3. India is the second largest user of internet after China. 400 million Online market of India is expanding fast.
4. Wages and salaries in India are lower than that of the U.S. and China - a great comparative advantage.
5. Technology is the key for peace and war. India has the largest supply of engineers, computer scientists, pharmaceutical professionals, managers, and other technologists. Transfer of technology from the US to India will lead to research and development, new inventions, new products, etc.
6. IBM is the second largest private employer in India after Tatas, employing 150,000.
7. Google announced it is going to hire 50,000 new employees in India within a year.
8. Amazon has huge expansion plans in India because Indian internet population is increasing.
9. Apple is exploring India and may even manufacture all its parts in India.
10. Microsoft is also expanding in India.

Modi's huge victory as Prime Minister of the largest democracy strengthens national security and India-US relations. President Trump Tweeted: "He is a great man and leader of the people of India -they are lucky to have him."

11. Thus, trillion-dollar corporations (Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Google) will have a big presence in India because they are predicting India's GDP will grow @10 to 12% in the next decade or two.

12. President Trump wants to import less from China and therefore as and when India is ready to manufacture on a large scale, the US will import from India.

President Trump wants to lower the cost of drugs and pharma products in the U.S. Currently, the US is importing a small portion from Canada and Ireland that offer some savings. But India can manufacture any and all drugs for a fraction of a cost. American drug companies can set up manufacturing in India with joint venture partners and lower the cost of drugs to the rock bottom. American companies can reap huge profits by increasing its global market share. In fact, no other country can compete with India, and therefore, the American companies can get the lion's share of the global market. India has a large and continuing supply of biotechnologists, pharmaceutical scientists and professionals. This can help President Trump's reelection in 2020 because Healthcare is a major political issue contested by the parties.

INDIA MUST PRIVATIZE 46 PUBLIC SECTOR CORPORATIONS AND 145 PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES

Prime Minister Modi must get rid of socialism and Soviet styled economic policies that the failed Congress Party had installed; it has encouraged corruption and strengthened the bureaucracy. By privatizing the public sector corporations, India can raise more than a trillion dollars for infrastructure building.

Large scale factories should have the capacity and capability to manufacture 100 million pieces of variety of consumer products including clothing for American and domestic consumption. This will create maximum employment potential for the unskilled and semi-skilled laborers.

Everybody is eagerly awaiting what the victorious Modi will be doing to help and modernize India. He must prepare a Road Map and create the framework within his first 100 days of administration. Export oriented economy can deliver several million new jobs year after year.

(The author is a Senior Adviser to Imagindia Institute, a think tank in New Delhi. He can be reached at vparameswaran@gmail.com)

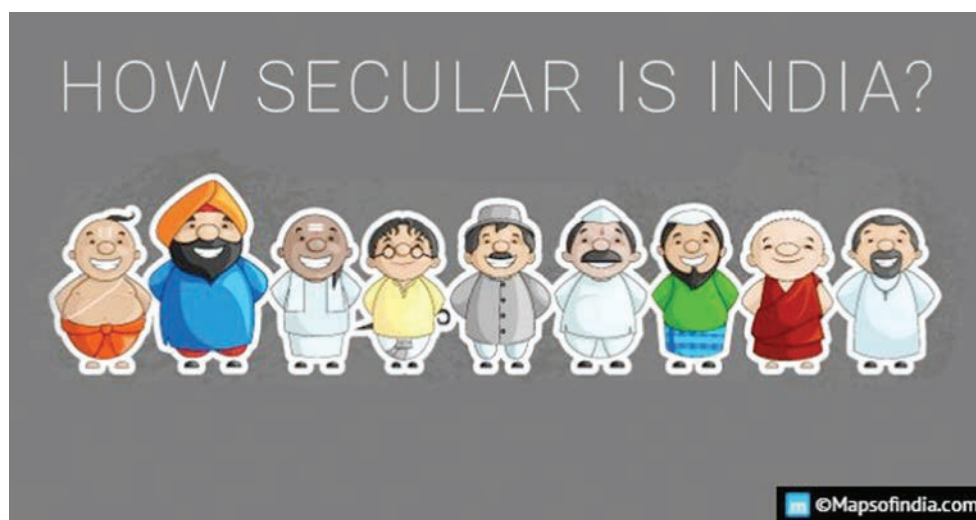
How to rescue genuine secularism



By Rajeev Bhargava

Secularism combats not just discrimination and other worse forms of inter-religious domination such as exclusion, oppression and humiliation. It is equally opposed to intra-religious domination, i.e. the domination (of women, Dalits, dissenters) within every religious community.

One word conspicuous by its absence not only from the election campaign but perhaps from the entire political discourse in recent times was secularism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought it back in his victory speech. Most political parties in the last 30 years had practiced a naqli (fake) secularism, he said. His great achievement, he implied, was to have unmasked these fake secularists and single-handedly dismantled secularism. Until now, for Mr. Modi, fake secularism has been the handmaiden of minority appeasement. Next day, however, he spoke of winning back the trust of the minorities, who, he said, have been deceived and cheated by other parties. With this, fake secularism was given a different meaning; it does not pamper but cheats minorities. In other words, it does not satisfy their real needs, but only gives the illusion of doing so. Here, Mr. Modi acknowledges that Muslims are a deprived lot. So, what, according to Mr. Modi, is asli (genuine) secularism? The answer he gives is the inclusion of minorities in 'sabka saath sabka vikas', which is translated by his party as 'justice to all, appeasement to none'. To this he added 'sabka vishwas', winning the trust of all.



Fears of minorities

On the treatment of minorities by other parties, the Prime Minister is partly right and partly wrong. Wrong, because the insecurity amongst minorities is created largely by Mr. Modi's own political supporters. Lynchings in the past few years and the fear such random violence creates are only the tip of this gigantic iceberg. Right, because when in power, most non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parties have done little more than provide security. Now, the condition of feeling safe and secure must not be underestimated. Freedom from fear is important, and to live in the fear of being lynched only because you are a Muslim is a very real unfreedom indeed. Yet, political parties have not helped Muslims with their vikas. Some have even pampered the orthodoxy within their communities and have done little to bring them out of their ghettos. So, this secularism is partly fake because it has often meant tolerating minority communalism and hobnobbing with the most selfish and conservative spokespersons of the multiple Muslim communities of India.

It is very sad indeed that in the election campaign, these 'fake secularists' failed miserably to speak up for Muslims. Perhaps they were terrified that if they spoke of the legitimate interests of Muslims, they would be immediately branded as pro-Pakistan, anti-national or anti-Hindu. Yes, 'fake' secularism has failed the minorities and the people of India, but the BJP and its supporters, particularly the so-called 'fringe', must take a lot of blame for that. This needs course correction and the nation would be grateful to the Prime Minister if he began that process.

But is the secularism propounded or implied by the Prime Minister genuine? At least in theory, 'sabka saath sabka vikas' gets one thing right: no individual citizen should face discrimination on grounds of religion. Basic amenities, good health, education, housing and employment should be available equally to all, regardless of their religion. If he succeeds in this endeavor, he would make great strides towards realizing secularism.

However, secularism combats not just discrimination and other worse forms of inter-religious domination such as exclusion, oppression and humiliation. It

is equally opposed to intra-religious domination, i.e. the domination (of women, Dalits, dissenters) within every religious community. For instance, the fight against the hierarchical caste system in India, quite like the struggle against the church in European history, is integral to the fight for secularism - a point noted by both Ambedkar and Nehru. Equally important for secularism is opposition to religious fanaticism and bigotry. Neither of these is explicitly captured by 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'.

Misunderstanding secularism

That Indian secularism is not anti-religious is widely understood - but not that it is simultaneously against both forms of institutionalized religious domination. How did this misunderstanding develop? First, the struggle against inter-religious domination (a defense of minority rights, opposition to majority and minority communalism) became separated from the fight against intra-religious domination (religion-related patriarchy and caste domination, fanaticism, bigotry and extremism). Then, this intra-religious dimension was jettisoned from the meaning of secularism and, much to the detriment of its overall value, secularism began to be identified, by proponents and opponents alike, exclusively with the defense of minority rights.

This opened the door for viewing secularism first as a tool to protect the interests of Muslims and Christians, of no relevance to Hindus, and then for twisting it to appear as pro-Muslim and anti-Hindu. The strength of Indian secularism - its advocacy of minority cultural rights - was easily made to appear as its weakness and the burden of its defense, rather than be shared by all citizens, fell on the shoulders of minorities and 'pro-minority' secularists. This is unfair. Secularism is needed as much to protect Hindus from intra-religious domination, from their 'fringe elements', as well as from proponents of religion-based caste and gender hierarchies. And required equally to protect minorities from their own orthodoxies and extremisms. Asli secularism plays that role. Naqli secularism protects fanatics and legitimizes gender and caste-based domination.

Secularism today has other problems. One is its intellectual failure to

The government must focus on its primary business; to prevent religion-based violence, oppression and discrimination.

distinguish communitarianism from communalism. Communitarianism simply notes that an individual is at least partly defined by his or her religious/philosophical commitments, community and traditions. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate to claim that one is a Hindu/ Muslim/ Sikh/ Christian/ atheist etc, and to take legitimate pride in one's community or be ashamed of it when there is good reason to be.

Communalism is different. Here one's identity and the existence and interests of one's community are viewed, even defined, as necessarily opposed to others. It is communal to believe or act in a way that presupposes that one can't be a Hindu without being anti-Muslim, or vice-versa. Communalism is communitarianism gone sour. It is to see each other as enemies locked in a permanent war with one another. Every decent Indian national should be against communalism. But no one should decry legitimate forms of communitarianism. It is simply wrong to conflate communitarianism with communalism.

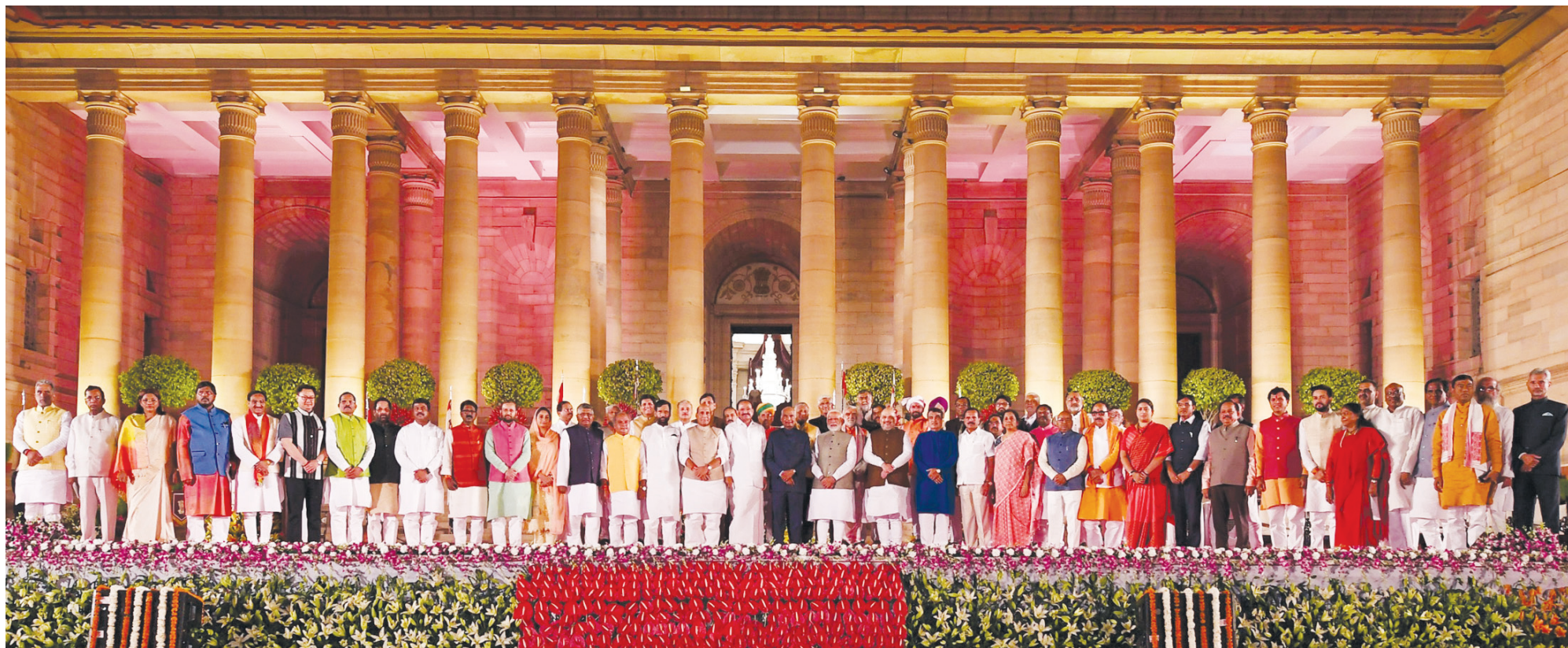
Attention must also be drawn to another problem of Indian secularism. Our education system often fails to distinguish religious instruction and religious education. No publicly funded school or college should have religious instruction, best done at home or in privately funded schools; but reasonable, decent education should include elementary knowledge of all religious traditions. A deeper understanding of these traditions is vital, for it would enable students to discern their strengths and weaknesses and identify what in them is worth preserving or discarding. But Indians come out of their education system without any critical understanding of their religio-philosophical traditions. As a result, a defense of our own religious traditions or critique of others is shallow and frequently mischievous. This too is fake secularism.

What is to be done?

What then must be expected from real, genuine secularism? Justice to all citizens, affirmation of all reasonable religious identities, rejection of majority communalism, careful defense of legitimate minority rights only when accompanied by a robust critique of minority extremism, and a critical appraisal of religions with a deeper, empathetic grasp of their traditions. The government's primary business is to prevent religion-based violence, oppression and discrimination. Perhaps, those outside the government should attend to its other functions. Together, we may just rescue our genuine secularism.

(The author is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi)

36 MINISTERS SWORN IN FOR SECOND TERM, 20 MPs FIRST-TIMERS



The President, Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the other members of Council of Ministers after the wearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 30, 2019.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani, Nirmala Sitharaman and Prakash Javadekar were among the 36 ministers who were sworn in Thursday for a second term, besides 20 MPs who took oath of office as cabinet ministers for the first time.

While 24 cabinet ministers were sworn-in the Modi government, nine took oath as ministers of state (Independent charge) and 24 others as ministers of state.

Ten of the newly-inducted ministers are from the Rajya Sabha and 45 are from the Lok Sabha Home minister in the previous Narendra Modi government, Rajnath Singh was the first to take oath after the prime minister.

Ram Vilas Paswan, DV Sadananda Gowda, Narendra Singh Tomar, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Harsh Vardhan, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan and Muqtar Abbas Naqvi were among those who got a second chance.

Giriraj Singh, Raj Kumar Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Sripad Yaso Naik, Jitender Singh, Kiren Rijiju, Mansukh Mandavia, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Purshottam Rupala, Ramdas Athavale and Babul Supriyo, were among the ministers of state in the previous government who were retained in the new council.

Ram Vilas Paswan is not a member of either of the Houses and he has been promised a Rajya Sabha seat. Hardeep Puri, who is a Rajya Sabha MP, was reinducted into Modi's council of ministers despite losing the Lok Sabha polls. He was given a ticket by the BJP to contest from Amritsar. Prakash Javadekar who handled four portfolios in the previous regime of the Modi government including Human Resource Development, Environment, Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, was sworn in for a second term.

Mahendra Nath Pandey, who was appointed as the Minister of State for HRD in the Modi government before he was made president of

Ram Vilas Paswan, DV Sadananda Gowda, Narendra Singh Tomar, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Harsh Vardhan, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan and Muqtar Abbas Naqvi were among those who got a second chance.

BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit in 2017, also took oath as a cabinet minister.

Similarly, Fagga Singh Kulaste, a six-time MP from Mandla constituency in Madhya Pradesh, who was Minister of State for Health in the previous government during 2016-17, was inducted in the new council of ministers.

While the inclusion of Amit Shah, seen as BJP's key strategist who helped the party to expand its base after taking over the reins of the party in 2014, was much speculated, former Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar, considered close to Modi, was a surprise pick.

Like Paswan, Jaishankar is also not a member of either of the Houses and he will be also fielded as a Rajya Sabha candidate.

Former Jharkhand chief minister Arjun Munda, former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, four-time MP from Karnataka's Dharwad-Prahlad Joshi, Shiv Sena's Arvind Sawant, five-time MP from Maharashtra's Jalna-Raosaheb Danve, Gangapuram Kishan Reddy from Telangana, three-time Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur, were among those who took oath as Union ministers for the first time.

Other first-timers included Debasree Chaudhuri, Kailash Choudhary, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Rameshwar Teli, Renuka Singh Saruta, V Muraleedharan, Ratan Lal Kataria, Nityanand Rai, Angadi Syresh Channabasappa and Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao.

Prahlad Singh Mulayam Singh Patel who was the Coal Minister in the Vajpayee government also took oath at the glittering ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

S Jaishankar, India's China expert, is surprise pick in PM Modi's cabinet



President Ram Nath Kovind administering the oath as Cabinet Minister to Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 30, 2019.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former foreign secretary S Jaishankar, a surprise pick in Narendra Modi's council of ministers, is a seasoned diplomat who was the Indian government's pointsman for China and the US.

Jaishankar, son of late K Subrahmanyam, one of India's leading strategic analysts, was a key member of the Indian team which negotiated the landmark Indo-US nuclear deal.

The deal, initiated in 2005, took several years to craft, and was signed by the UPA government headed by Manmohan Singh in 2007.

Jaishankar's appointment as foreign secretary in January 2015 had evoked a sharp reaction from various quarters over the timing of the government's decision to remove Sujatha Singh.

The 64-year-old had earlier served as India's Ambassador to the US and before that to China.

A 1977-batch IFS officer, Jaishankar played a key role in resolving the crisis

following the incursion in Ladakh's Depsang and the Doklam stand-off, handling the tough negotiations with Beijing.

Among other positions, Jaishankar has been India's High Commissioner to Singapore and Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

Last year, Tata Group appointed Jaishankar, who was Indian foreign secretary from January 2015 to January 2018, as its president for global corporate affairs, within three months of his retirement from the government service.

A graduate of St Stephen's College, Jaishankar has an MA in Political Science and an MPhil and PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Jaishankar is married to Kyoko Jaishankar and has two sons and a daughter.

In 2019, Jaishankar was conferred with Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award of the country.

BJP PRESIDENT TO UNION MINISTER, AMIT SHAH IN A NEW AVATAR

NEW DELHI (TIP): Hailed as the “Chanakya” of present day Indian Politics, Amit Shah, as the president of ruling BJP, meticulously crafted the handsome return of the Modi regime, has now been charted into the government.

Now with him in the government, Shah is all set to combine his astute political mind with his delivery skills to help his mentor Prime Minister Narendra Modi in implementing his governance agenda in the next five years.

It is broadly understood that Shah’s induction signals that he will now play a crucial role in the government and would remain eyes and ears of the Prime Minister in the government.

However, given the sequence in which the members of the council of ministers took oath, Rajnath Singh appeared to have retained officially the number two position in the government.

For all practical purposes, Shah has been the party’s second most powerful leader after Modi since he became its president in 2014 after the BJP-led NDA assumed power.

Shah made his debut in Lok Sabha with a massive win from Gandhinagar, a seat earlier represented by BJP veteran L K Advani. Shah (54) was a crucial aide to Modi during his near 13-year-old reign as Gujarat chief minister between 2001 and 2014, holding the powerful home portfolio. Though his organisational skills are much-storied since he delivered 71 of 80 Lok Sabha seats of Uttar Pradesh in 2014, prompting Modi to call him “man of the match” of the BJP’s win in that general election. Many in the party say he was instrumental in executing a slew of welfare policies of the party’s government in Gujarat.

He has strongly supported the expansion of National Register of Citizens in different parts of the country to identify and expel illegal immigrants, whom he has termed “termites”, scrapping of Article 370 and 35A, which gives special powers to Jammu and Kashmir, and building of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Source: The Tribune



Amit Shah likely to be FM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Narendra Modi is set to name Amit Shah, the chief of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as the country’s new finance minister after taking his oath of office for the second time on Thursday, according to several Indian media reports.

As Modi’s right-hand man and long-time strategist, Shah would be in a powerful position to direct financial policy in Asia’s third-largest economy in his first role as a federal lawmaker. Shah masterminded the BJP’s landslide victory in the April-May general election, but there are questions about his lack of central government experience and financial background, especially at a time of growing signs of weakness in the economy.

Modi is expected to announce his ministers’ departments on Friday, after all of them were sworn in on Thursday evening at an open-air ceremony outside the colonial-era presidential palace with some 8,000 guests including Bollywood stars and leaders of neighbours Bangladesh and Sri

Lanka.

Shah is tipped to replace Arun Jaitley, who wrote to Modi on Wednesday asking not to be considered for a ministerial position because of health problems.

Shah would be taking over the finance portfolio at a sensitive time. He will probably need to move quickly to stimulate an economy beset by weak farm incomes, slow jobs growth and falling sales of key consumer goods including cars and motorbikes.

This week, two major industrial bodies called on the new government to take steps to bolster a growth rate that slowed to 6.6% in the three months to December - the lowest in five quarters - and is expected to have dropped further to 6.3 percent between January and March.

Several investors and traders said they did not expect Indian markets to react much if Shah’s appointment was confirmed, believing his ability to get things done would offset his lack of financial experience.

Source: Reuters

SUSHMA SWARAJ AMONG EX-MINISTERS ABSENT FROM PM MODI’S NEW CABINET

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major surprise, Sushma Swaraj, one of the senior-most leaders of the BJP, was among seven ministers of the previous Council of Ministers to be dropped as Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed his government for the second term.

The 67-year-old Swaraj who has held key positions in the party and its governments since decades was conspicuous by her absence in the new Cabinet.

Also missing in the new Council of Ministers were Suresh Prabhu, JP Nadda, Mahesh Sharma, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Jayant Sinha.

Although the reasons for Swaraj’s omission were not immediately clear, the main reason possibly could be her ill-health.

Swaraj, who was External Affairs Minister during the previous term of Modi government, did not contest the Lok Sabha elections this time, declaring that her health did not permit her to enter the fray and campaign.

During her tenure as the External Affairs Minister, she was very popular among the Indian diaspora and the compatriots stranded anywhere across the globe. Just one tweet to her about any problem any Indian faced anywhere and she would immediately swing into action and activate the Indian mission in those countries for help.

When the BJP was in Opposition during the UPA government from 2004 to 2014, Swaraj was the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a successful one.

Along with her, Prabhu, who held the key portfolios of Railways and then Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, also did not find a place in the new Council of Ministers.

Nadda, who was the Health Minister in the previous term, was also absent from the list of ministers this time. However, there is speculation that he could be made the BJP President to succeed Amit Shah who has been included in the Cabinet.

Rathore, a former Olympian, who was a successful Sports and Information and Broadcasting Minister, also did not figure in the list of ministers.

Gen V.K. Singh, a former Army Chief who was Minister of State for External Affairs earlier, was also dropped this time, as was Mahesh Sharma, the Minister for Tourism and Culture in the previous government.

Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Finance in the previous government, also was missing in the new Cabinet.

He is the son of former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, who has been extremely critical of Modi.



The 67-year-old Swaraj who has held key positions in the party and its governments since decades was conspicuous by her absence in the new Cabinet.

Nadda emerges as likely replacement for BJP president

NEW DELHI (TIP): BJP leader JP Nadda has emerged as the likely replacement for Amit Shah as the party president after he was left out of the Union Council of Ministers, which was sworn in on Thursday, according to BJP sources.

With Shah joining the Cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he may demit the office of BJP chief as part of the party’s “one-person one-post” principle.

Nadda, a Brahmin leader from Himachal Pradesh, enjoys the confidence of the party’s top brass, is trusted by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh — the party’s ideological parent — and enjoys a clean reputation.

He was the health minister in the first Modi government.

That Nadda (58) maintains a low profile also goes in his favour as the new party president



will be expected to run the organisation in cohesion with the government and carry on with organisational agenda firmed up by Shah.

He is a member of the BJP’s parliamentary board, its top decision-making body having its most important members, which gives him requisite seniority for the job as well, party sources said.

SIX WOMEN MINISTERS SWORN IN

NEW DELHI (TIP): A number of women ministers were inducted into Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s new Cabinet. Senior BJP leaders Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani and Harsimrat Kaur Badal are some of the prominent women ministers in the newly elected government.

Defence minister in the Modi government 1.0, Nirmala Sitharaman, 60, is one of the six women who have been sworn in as part of the new government. She is a Rajya Sabha member and the second woman to helm the key ministry after former PM Indira Gandhi who had held the portfolio in the seventies. Giant killer Smriti Irani, 43, who defeated Congress chief Rahul Gandhi from the Gandhi bastion of Amethi, has also taken oath as a Cabinet minister in the new government. Irani has held a number of portfolios earlier.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal, 53, the former union minister for food processing and Member of Parliament from Bathinda is another woman MP who has secured a ministerial berth for the second consecutive term in PM Modi’s new Cabinet.

Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti, 52, has been sworn in as a Minister of State in the new Cabinet.

Renuka Singh Saruta, 58 was sworn in as a Minister of State in the Modi government. A BJP leader from West Bengal, Deboshree Chowdhury is a first timer in the newly elected government. She has taken oath as a Minister of State.



Air India Announces Schedule Change for Chicago Flight

NEW YORK (TIP): India's national carrier Air India announced schedule change for travel to and from Chicago. In its release it stated that effective June 1, 2019, up to June 30, 2019, their daily non-stop flight AI 127/AI 126 Delhi-Chicago-Delhi would operate as Delhi - Stockholm-Chicago -Delhi. AI 127 departs from Delhi at 22:05 hours (local time) and arrives in Chicago at 07:25 hours (local time) the following day. AI 126 departs from Chicago at 12:00 hours (local time) and arrives in New Delhi at 14:15 hours (local time) the following day.

According to media reports, the debt-laden airline recently decided to discontinue direct flight service between Mumbai and New York. The airline is reportedly discontinuing the flights on this route due to poor demand. It may be noted that direct flights between Mumbai and New York were started by the airline in December last year. According to reports, the direct flight operation between Mumbai and New York were causing losses to the airline. The carrier operated Mumbai-New York direct flights thrice a week. The operations were temporarily suspended in February when Pakistan closed its airspace for Indian flights and was expected to resume in June but the airline has decided to discontinue the service.

Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna Named 'Best Officer' for Constituent Services



Rep. Khanna is recognized for excellence in the Constituent Service category

SAN JOSE, CA (TIP): On May 30, the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) announced that Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) is a winner for the 2019 Democracy Awards, CMF's honors program recognizing non-legislative achievement in operations and constituent service by congressional offices and Members of Congress. Rep. Khanna is recognized for excellence in the Constituent Service category, which focuses on how an office interacts with and serves constituents, especially how it utilizes and leverages specific, methodical, and consistent processes for achieving measurable results in constituent service. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

India's Consul General in Chicago hosts Bose and Khorana Fellows

CHICAGO (TIP): India's Consul General in Chicago Mr. Sudhakar Dalela last week interacted with a group of young minds from India selected as Bose and Khorana Fellows for 2019 to undertake research in U.S. universities during summer break. University of Chicago hosted them for the orientation program. The Khorana Program will provide opportunities to Indian students to undertake research at University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) and partner universities in Summer 2019 for a period of 10-12 weeks.

The Khorana and Bose Programs are leadership programs that are designed to spark the imaginations and broaden intellectual horizons by introducing the top Indian and US students to scientific and innovation ecosystems of leading US and Indian institutions. The goal is to nurture and inspire future thought leaders across a broad spectrum of sciences, industry and society. The programs also intend to seamlessly bridge the academic, industrial and entrepreneurial communities in US and India.

The Khorana program is named to honor Har Gobind Khorana, a pioneering Chemical-Biologist who deciphered the genetic code, chemically generated the first synthetic gene



India's Consul General in Chicago Mr. Sudhakar Dalela last week interacted with a group of young minds from India
Photo /courtesy Consulate General of India, Chicago

and won the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine while a faculty member at University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Khorana Program is funded by the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and supports students whose research interests are at the interface of biology and physical sciences, medicine, and technology.

The S. N. Bose program honors Satyendra Nath Bose, whose groundbreaking mathematical insights, first on his own in India and then with Albert Einstein underlie the fundamental

principles of quantum physics. His fundamental breakthroughs led to several discoveries with the latest, the Higgs-Boson, being awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics. The term "Boson" for fundamental particles was coined by the Nobelist Paul Dirac to honor S. N. Bose. The Bose program was launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), in collaboration with Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and Winstep Forward (WSF) to support scholars from all sciences and engineering disciplines.

Deeply Concerned About Election Results in India, says Indian American Christian Organizations

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations (FIACONA) says that they are deeply concerned about the future of Indian Christians and the future of Indian democracy in the wake of just concluded national elections.

In a statement FIACONA has said:

"In a world that is getting more and more polarized on religious grounds, the return to power of a Hindu extremist party is not surprising.

Though all Hindu voters did not vote for extremist views of the Hindu party, many have. The assertion of extremist Hindus to claim a multi religious, multi-cultural and multi-linguistic country like the Union of India to their view of exclusive Hindu ideology is certainly troubling. Now this election has further deepened that to a crisis level.

Though, there are several reliable reports about rigging and large-scale voter fraud combined with voter suppression not to mention the "malfunctioning" of Electronic Voting Machines, EVMs, in many parts of the country during the elections, for a

student of Indian electorate, the margin with which the Hindu party is claiming victory seem very suspicious. (Interestingly, the "malfunctioning" EVM machines tallies votes only to the Hindu nationalist BJP party in every instance)

The fact that the BJP Hindu party and Prime Minister Modi's appeal failed in states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala shows that the level of cooperation and support needed from election officials to use the "malfunctioning" EVMs was not forthcoming easily in all states.

It is our firm belief that the political landscape of the country does not allow such margin of votes in an honest and transparent election.

We urge the world leaders to be cautious in their endorsement of the extremist Hindu ideology. A full endorsement of Modi's claim to victory will jeopardize the future of almost 2000-year-old church in India and will also cause tremendous disruption to the Unity of India as a one nation state envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi.

While we are concerned for the future of the church in India, we are also concerned about the very survival of the

Constitution of the Republic that guarantees equality and freedom of religion, expression and association to every citizen. Under a new "Hindu Constitution" which Modi and his party wants to implement; all these freedoms we take for granted may not exist. The BJP and Mr. Modi needed a two third majority in the Parliament in their scheme to replace the Constitution. They do have that strength in the Parliament now. Other requirements to change the Constitution are already in place.

All 600,000 Indian American Christians have strong ties to their mother churches back in India. Besides that, almost all mainstream and independent churches in the United States have close ties to this 2000-year-old church. An assault on the rights and independence of the church in India by the Hindu nationalist government headed by Modi and his gang would have direct and negative impact across Christendom and particularly among the Evangelical, Catholic and Protestant populations in the United States.

We continue to urge President Trump to re-asses his misplaced endorsement of Modi and his government."

Measles Outbreak in US Poses Serious Threat

WASHINGTON (TIP): There have been 971 cases of measles reported in the United States this year, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday, May 30.

This means 2019, which is not quite half over, now has the greatest number of cases in a single year in nearly three decades. The number of cases in 1994 was 963, which was lower than in 1992 when there were 2,237 cases.

"Measles is preventable and the way to end this outbreak is to ensure that all

children and adults who can get vaccinated, do get vaccinated. Again, I want to reassure parents that vaccines are safe, they do not cause autism. The greater danger is the disease that vaccination prevents," said CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

India Pavilion showcases strengths of Indian education system



India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla inaugurated Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI)'s India Pavilion at 2019 NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo



Ambassador visited the pavilion set up by Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) at the NAFSA Expo and lauded their initiative 'Study in India.'

WASHINGTON (TIP): India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla inaugurated Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI)'s India Pavilion at 2019 NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo on May 28. Ambassador also addressed the participants at the EPSI Pavilion. Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI), a not for profit organization from India put up the pavilion to offer an opportunity to education administrators from across the globe to acquaint themselves with the strengths of Indian education system.

Noting that the Indian Education system is the world's third largest Higher Education System with 907 universities, 43,000 colleges and a capacity of enrolling more than a whopping 30 million students, the Ambassador explained how the higher education institutions in India offer courses/degrees that are competitive in the world market in terms of quality but are delivered at one-fourth the cost.

"The Indian Education system is vast in size, as well as its academic offerings. A vibrant and diverse education system means a wide variety of courses are

available; from the modern and cutting edge to the traditional. Indian education ranges from exposure to the latest advancements of science and technology like Virtual and Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Computing to Yoga, Ayurveda, Sanskrit, languages, and classical music and dances. This vastness of the Indian education system directly translates to enhanced opportunities for its students and global learning for an all-round academic and personal development", he said.

Ambassador visited the pavilion set up

by Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) at the NAFSA Expo and lauded their initiative 'Study in India.' The web portal, 'Study in India' developed by EdCIL is a wonderful platform for students and education administrators across the globe to understand the process of getting admission into Indian Universities.

Later, a delegation of top educators led by the President of the Board of Trustees of MIT Peace University, Pune also called on Ambassador and presented plans for a joint conference to exchange best practices in the education sector.

Unprecedented congratulatory messages pour in for Modi from over 50 US leaders

WASHINGTON (TIP): In a testimony to the strength of India-US relations, unprecedented congratulatory messages have been received from over 50 US leaders in every domain, including the Administration, Congress, business, academia/think tanks on the historic electoral victory of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ADMINISTRATION

President Donald Trump : "Just spoke to Prime Minister @NarendraModi where I congratulated him on his big political victory. He is a great man and leader for the people of India -they are lucky to have him!"

Vice President Mike Pence: "Congrats to an American ally & friend PM @narendramodi, on his party's win in India's parliamentary election. This was a strong display of the Indian people's commitment to democracy! We look forward to continuing to work with India for a freer, safer, & more prosperous region.

Secretary Mike Pompeo: "Congratulations to @narendramodi and the NDA for their victory in India's election, and to the Indian people for casting their votes in such historic numbers. As the world's largest exercise in democracy, #India's election is an inspiration around the world.

Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the President : "Congratulations @narendramodi a great victory! Exciting times ahead for the wonderful people of India!"

Governor Phil Murphy (New Jersey): "Congrats to Prime Minister @narendramodi and the NDA on your historic election! New Jersey has a vibrant Indian American population and deep ties to the world's largest democracy -we look forward to strengthening our relationship in the years ahead.

Governor Greg Abbott (Texas) : "Prime Minister Modi, Congratulations on your election win. I view it as a very important to the future of India. Texas looks forward to continuing to work with you as we advance the economies of India and Texas

CONGRESS

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE): "Congratulations to the new government and the people of India for concluding the world's largest democratic election in which 600 million votes were cast for the country's leadership." "I look forward to continuing my work to strengthen and deepen ties between the United States and India, two of the world's great democracies, in the years ahead.

Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) : "As co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, I want to congratulate the Indian people on today's historic election -the largest democratic election in history. I look forward to continuing our work with PM Modi's administration to strengthen our important alliance with India.

Senator Kevin Thomas : "Congratulations to @narendramodi on his win in the Indian elections today. India and the U.S. share a great relationship and looking forward to continuing cooperation going forward.

Senator John Cornyn : "Congratulations @narendramodi on your historic victory. Looking forward to seeing you soon

Senator Dan Sullivan : "I want to congratulate @PMOIndia@narendramodi on achieving a commanding victory in his reelection bid today. Modi, a steadfast friend of America and free people everywhere, has clearly earned a strong and lasting confidence among the people of India.

Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL) : "The world's largest democracy and one of our strongest partners in the Indo-Pacific has chosen their leadership in free and fair elections. Congratulations to @BJP4India and @narendramodi on your historic re-election.

Congressman Jim Banks (R-IN) : "Congratulations to @narendramodi and his party for their landslide victory in India's election. The relationship between India and the United States has never been stronger!

Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) : "Congratulations to @narendramodi on his re-election! The India-U.S. relationship is based upon shared values. This alliance will be very important over the next 50 years & I am looking forward to continuing our work with PM Modi & Indian government to strengthen our alliance.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi : "Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi on his re-election -it was truly an inspiration to see so many Indians exercise their democratic rights, and I look forward to working with PM Modi and the Indian government to strengthen the US-India partnership.

Congressman Steny Hoyer : "Congratulations @NarendraModi on winning re-election this week. I look forward to strengthening the important U.S.-India partnership.

Congressman Ami Bera : "Great job to the people of #India on their historic election. Never before have so many voted in a single democratic election. Congratulations to PM Modi for his win and I look forward to working with his government to strengthen the ties between our two great nations.

Congressman Ro Khanna : "One lesson from Modi's win is that dynastic, establishment candidates are weak. Democrats need to make sure that our candidate against Trump can connect with people's frustration and offer a positive vision for change.

Asm. Raj Mukherjee, Assembly Majority Whip, NJ Legislature : "Congrats to @narendramodi on a decisive reelection and to the Indian people on the largest display of participation in democracy in the history of the world. Looking forward to furthering the strong bilateral ties between our two great democracies. @IndiainNewYork



Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a historic mandate in the recent elections in India. He is seen here being welcomed by senior leaders of BJP at party headquarters in New Delhi, May 23.

THINK TANKS/ ACADEMICS

Ambassador Nikki Haley , Stand for America : "India continues to have amazing potential and is a strong US partner. Congratulations to @narendramodi on your success with the elections and the direction you are taking India. We look forward to seeing our partnership continue to strengthen

Ambassador Nicholas Burns, Professor, Harvard Kennedy School : "A major victory for PM Modi and the BJP in #India. The Trump Administration now has an opportunity to expand our military and economic partnership with Delhi, particularly to limit China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific.

Renu Khator, President of University of Houston : "Congratulations to Prime Minister Modi on his decisive victory in election...1.3 billion people have chosen their leader to continue to shape India's future at home and abroad!"

BUSINESS

Bill Gates, Microsoft : "Congratulations @NarendraModi on a remarkable win in #IndianElections2019. Your continued commitment to improve health, nutrition, and development will significantly improve lives of many.

IBM CEO Ginni Rometty : "IBM congratulates Prime Minister Modi on his reelection, and I look forward to continuing to work with him on issues that are critical to India and its people -from skills to emerging technologies like AI.

Ajay Banga, President & CEO, Mastercard : "Congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this historic win with this decisive mandate from the world's largest democracy, he will propel the country further on all fronts. We are proud of our long-standing commitment to India and its citizens. And, we are excited to expand our investments and local partnerships in the country to deliver on the Digital India vision and help power it's continued economic growth.

MEET THE A-TEAM OF MODI'S 2.0 CABINET

Narendra Modi cabinet: As the Modi-led government returns to power, we take a look at the profiles of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new council of ministers

NARENDRA MODI



Modi, a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), represents the Varanasi constituency in Parliament. He is the first non-Congress prime minister to win two consecutive terms with a full majority, and the second one to complete five years in office

after Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Born to a Gujarati family in Vadnagar, the 68-year-old has come a long way from his humble roots. He completed his higher secondary education in Vadnagar in 1967. According to his affidavit filed with the Election Commission, Modi has an MA degree from Gujarat University in 1983 and is an arts graduate from Delhi University.

Before assuming the coveted position, Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014. While his tenure as Gujarat CM was often credited for its economic growth, his administration was accused of complicity in the 2002 Gujarat riots and criticised for failing to improve health, poverty, and education indices in the state significantly.

In the 2014 general election, Modi led the BJP to a landslide victory as the saffron party secured a majority of its own, the first time for any single party since 1984. While his first term as PM was praised for high-profile sanitation campaign and improving efficiency in the bureaucracy, his administration was criticised for demonetisation of high-denomination banknotes and hasty implementation of Goods and Services Tax. In the recently-held 2019 elections, Modi rode a wave of nationalism and his popularity as the BJP swept the elections with a bigger mandate than 2014 by winning a total of 303 seats.

RAJNATH SINGH



Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh represents Lucknow Lok Sabha seat. He has been elected from the coveted seat for the second time, before that he had represented Gautam Budhh Nagar Lok Sabha constituency in 2009. Number 2 in Modi government, Rajnath Singh is likely to be appointed as the home minister of India again.

Rajnath Singh had started his career as RSS volunteer but joined politics in 1974 as secretary of Janasangh of Mirzapur region and later became the MP from Mirzapur in 1977.

Known for his no non sense attitude, Rajnath is a soft spoken politician and the senior most leader in the Modi Cabinet.

AMIT SHAH



Considered as BJP's key strategist, Union minister Amit Shah is likely to get a key portfolio in Modi Cabinet 2.0. Before the Central government, Amit Shah and Narendra Modi worked together in the Gujarat ministry. Amit Shah's tuning with PM Narendra Modi is hailed as jodi of Jai and Veeru.

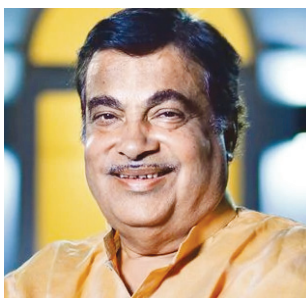
In the 2019 general elections, Amit Shah contested and won

from Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency with a margin of over 5.5 lakh votes. He broke all records of LK Advani.

Amit Shah has had a meteoric rise in national politics in recent years. In 2010, Shah spent time in jail for the Sohrabuddin Sheikh encounter case. He got conditional bail to stay away from Gujarat. Four years later, Amit Shah became national president of the BJP and took party to astronomical heights. According to party's own estimates, the BJP is today world's largest party. Under his leadership, the BJP managed to get re-elected to Union government with a massive increase in their vote share.

NITIN GADKARI

Known as the Highway man, 62-year-old Nitin Gadkari has been sworn in for the second time as cabinet minister. During



Modi government 1.0, Gadkari successfully shouldered the responsibility of Shipping, Surface Transport, Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry. He is likely to get an important ministry in the second term as well.

Nitin Jayram Gadkari started his political career with student's wing ABVP. At the age of 38, Gadkari served as PWD minister in the Shivsena-BJP Govt in 1995. Gadkari was credited with building with nation's first ever Express way from Mumbai to Pune.

Gadkari rose in the national scenario when he was made the national president of BJP in 2009 replacing Rajnath Singh. In 2014, he contested and won the Lok Sabha elections from Nagpur seat.

DV SADANANDA GOWDA



Lawyer-turned-politician DV Sadananda Gowda is a returning minister in Modi Cabinet. In the previous government, Sadananda Gowda handled railway ministry, law and justice, statistics and programme implementation and chemicals and fertilisers for various spans of time.

17th Lok Sabha is Sadananda Gowda's fourth entry to Parliament. In 2019 general elections, he defeated Congress heavyweight Krishna Byre Gowda, a member of the HD Kumaraswamy ministry.

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



Nirmala Sitharaman has risen from the ranks of the BJP and reached the prestigious chair of the Ministry of Defence during previous Modi government. Before becoming the first woman defence minister of India, she handled the Minister of State portfolio in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and

Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Sitharaman has served as Member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament, since 2016. In 2003, during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure, she became a member of National Women for Commission and served on the position till 2005. Sitharaman had joined the BJP in 2006, when Nitin Gadkari was the party chief, and she became the national spokesperson of the party.

RAM VILAS PASWAN



Eight-time Lok Sabha MP and former Rajya Sabha member Ram Vilas Paswan was on Thursday once again inducted into the Narendra Modi cabinet. The Lok Janshakti Party National President was Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in the previous Modi government.

Paswan's party had contested six Lok Sabha seats in Bihar in the recently concluded elections and emerged victorious on all. The LJP chief this time refrained from contesting election from Hajipur after he was assured Rajya Sabha birth by the BJP.

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

Three-time MP Narendra Singh Tomar returns to Modi Cabinet for a second stint. In the previous term, Tomar served at the helm of several ministries, including mines, steel, labour and employment and rural development and panchayati raj.



Born on June 12, 1957 at Murar in Gwalior district, Tomar was president of the Gwalior unit of the BJP youth wing from 1980-84. He was elected as a councilor in 1983, entered the Madhya Pradesh assembly in 1998 and served as a minister in the BJP government in the state from 2003-2007.

Later, he was appointed as state BJP president. After a brief stint as a Rajya Sabha member, Tomar was elected to the Lok Sabha from Morena in 2009.

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD



PM Narendra Modi has reposed faith in senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad and inducted him into the Union Cabinet. During the previous Modi government, Prasad was Union Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology Minister.

A noted Supreme Court advocate, 54-year old Ravi Shankar Prasad who fought his first Lok Sabha elections from Patna Sahib in 2019, defeated Congress's Shatrughan Sinha by a margin of over 2,85,000 votes.

HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL



Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal has been reinducted in the Union Cabinet. Harsimrat Kaur Badal is the wife of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president and former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal and daughter-in-law of former Punjab Chief Minister

Parkash Singh Badal.

Born on July 25, 1966, Harsimrat belongs to the family of Attar Singh Majithia, who was a prominent general in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Army.

THAWARCHAND GEHLOT



A prominent Dalit face of the BJP, Thawarchand Gehlot, has made his way to the Narendra Modi cabinet for a second consecutive time. Gehlot was appointed as the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment during the Modi government's first stint in 2014.

Gehlot represented the Shajapur Lok Sabha seat between 1996 and 2009. Following delimitation, Shajapur constituency ceased to exist and Dewas constituency came into being in 2008.

In 2009, Gehlot lost the Lok Sabha poll to Congress leader Sajjan Singh Verma.

S JAISHANKAR



PM Narendra Modi's surprise pick, S Jaishankar is a career diplomat, who retired as the foreign secretary of India. Jaishankar was a key member of the Indian team which negotiated the landmark Indo-US nuclear deal. He is also credited with helping resolve the Doklam stand-off between India and China.

A 1977-batch IFS officer, Jaishankar had earlier served as India's ambassador to the US and before that to China.

RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK



Poet-politician Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank's appointment as cabinet minister is his comeback to politics after eight years. After his term as the Uttarakhand chief minister ended in 2011, Ramesh Pokhriyal was lost in political wilderness, until this day. During these years, he won every election he contested, but did not get any ministerial berth in his state or at the Centre.

ARJUN MUNDA



Prominent tribal leader Arjun Munda is a three-time chief minister and favourite among public not only in his home state of Jharkhand but also in neighbouring Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Munda, who began his career with the JMM during the statehood struggle before joining the saffron brigade, was first elected as MLA in 1995 in undivided Bihar and went on to win three consecutive terms from Kharsawan before losing the seat in 2014.

SMRITI IRANI



Smriti Irani is back with a bang. In 2014, Smriti Irani had become the youngest cabinet minister and held several illustrious portfolios, including HRD, Textiles and Information & Broadcasting Minister. In 2019, she has been reinducted in the Union Cabinet and is likely to be allotted a key portfolio. Smriti Irani, who lost Lok Sabha elections in 2004 and 2014, emerged a giant-killer of 2019 by defeating the Congress president Rahul Gandhi in his home turf.

Dr HARSH VARDHAN



Doctor-turned-politician Harsh Vardhan is the only MP from the national capital to get a place in Narendra Modi's council of ministers. He served as the Minister of Health and Family Welfare during the Modi government's first stint and was later given the charge of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Science and Technology. During his tenure as health minister of Delhi, he had successfully launched the Pulse Polio Programme, which was later launched nationwide.

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR



Prakash Javadekar is among the returning cabinet ministers in Team Modi 2.0. In the previous Modi government, Prakash Javadekar rose from a minister of state with independent charge to HRD minister. He was first inducted in Modi Cabinet as MoS for environment with independent charge.

PIYUSH GOYAL



BJP's go-to-man, Piyush Goyal took oath of office to Union Cabinet for a second stint as minister on Thursday. During the last Modi government, Piyush Goyal held coal, power, railways and finance portfolios for different time spans. A chartered accountant by profession, Goyal, known for his corporate network developed during his days as an investment banker, is considered to be a key backroom strategist who played a significant role in resource mobilisation of the party.

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN



Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP's face in Odisha, has found a spot in the Modi Cabinet for the second time. During the previous term, Dharmendra Pradhan served as Union minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. As Union minister, Pradhan was credited for leading the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from the front. The party credits Dharmendra Pradhan for significant roads in BJD dominated Odisha.

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI



BJP spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is the lone Muslim in the cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has won the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on the slogan 'sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas'. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has found himself back in the Council of Ministers for a second stint.

PRALHAD JOSHI



Pralhad Joshi, 56, has been elected MP from Darwad in Karnataka for the fourth consecutive term. Joshi is among three other parliamentarians from Karnataka who have landed a ministerial berth in the Modi government that was sworn in on Thursday.

MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY



Mahendra Nath Pandey has made a comeback in Modi Cabinet. Pandey served as a Union minister of state (MoS) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development between 2016 and 2017. He was given the responsibility of the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit in 2017 after the party's massive win in the assembly elections.



ARVIND SAWANT

From building the party's organisation in northern Maharashtra's Dhule to wresting the high-profile Mumbai South seat, it has been a long journey for Shiv Sena lawmaker Arvind Sawant who has got a berth in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet.



GIRIRAJ SINGH

Giriraj Singh, who reluctantly contested against CPIM candidate Kanhaiya Kumar in Begusarai and won, has been reinducted in Modi Cabinet for a second stint.



GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

Second-time Lok Sabha MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is ready for his second stint in the Union ministry. Shekhawat, who has returned to Lok Sabha after defeating Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son from the high-stakes Jodhpur seat, was made the minister of state for agriculture and farmers' welfare in September 2017.

Ministers of state (independent)



SANTOSH GANGWAR, 70: A veteran parliamentarian, he has won the LS election eight times



RAO Inderjit SINGH, 69: He was elected to the LS for the fifth time



SHRIPAD Y NAIK, 66: He has served as MoS (independent charge) for Ayush ministry



JITENDRA SINGH, 62: A diabetologist, he was the chief spokesman of J&K BJP



HARDEEP SINGH PURI, 67: A former diplomat, he has served as an MoS



MANSUKH MANDAVIYA, 46: He has been a member of the RS since 2012

Ministers of state

FAGGANSINGH KULASTE, 60: He represents MP's Mandla constituency



ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY, 66: This will be second stint as union minister



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL, 65: A former IAS officer, he joined politics in 2009



GENERAL (RETD) VK SINGH, 68: An ex-army chief, he joined BJP in 2014



KRISHAN PAL, 62: He has served as MoS for social justice and empowerment



DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO, 64: He is a five-term MP from Jalna



G KISHAN REDDY, 55: He was a three-time MLA from Himayatnagar seat in Hyderabad



PARSHOTTAM RUPALA, 64: He is ex-MoS for panchayati raj, agriculture



RAMDAS ATHAWALE, 59: A maverick Dalit leader from Maharashtra, he is known for his poetry



NIRANJANA JYOTI, 52: She is the former MoS for food processing industries



BABUL SUPRIYO, 48: He has tried his hand at banking, playback singing and politics



SANJEEV BALYAN, 46: He has served as MoS for agriculture and food processing



DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO, 60: He is a surprise pick in the 2nd Modi govt



ANURAG THAKUR, 44: He is the son of Prem Kumar Dhumal, ex-CM Himachal Pradesh



ANGADI SURESH, 63: A four-time MP, he has interests in the sugar, education sectors



NITYANAND RAI, 53: He is a three-term BJP MLA from Hajipur in Bihar



RATTAN LAL KATARIA, 67: He got elected to 16th Lok Sabha from Ambala



V MURALEEDHARAN, 60: From Kerala, he started his political career with ABVP



RENUKA SINGH, 55: She won the 2019 polls from Chhattisgarh's Surguja Lok Sabha seat



SOM PARKASH, 70: The former IAS officer is an MP from Hoshiarpur LS seat



RAMESWAR TELI, 48: He won the 2019 elections from Dibrugarh seat in Assam



PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI, 64: He's the only BJP leader who breached Odisha



KAILASH CHOUDHARY, 45: He has been a legislator from Baytoo since 2013



DEBASREE CHAUDHURI, 48: She won by a margin of 60,574 votes in Raiganj



NJSO 2019 SEASON FINALES

A Harry Potter Film Concert: "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"

By Mabel Pais

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) present the 5th installment of the Harry Potter Film Concert Series with "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" on June 1, 2019 in 2 performances.

On Saturday June 1, 2019, audiences see the NJSO perform the magical score live from "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," playing Nicholas Hooper's entire score live to picture while the entire film plays in high-definition on a 40-foot screen.

The rebellion begins! Lord Voldemort is back, but the Ministry of Magic tries to keep a lid on the truth - including appointing a new, power-hungry Defense Against the Dark Arts professor at Hogwarts. Ron and Hermione convince Harry to secretly train students for the wizarding war ahead. A terrifying showdown between good and evil awaits!

Nominated for a World Soundtrack Discovery Award, composer Nicholas Hooper uses experimental techniques and unique instruments to compose two new main themes reflecting not only Dolores Umbridge but Voldemort's inflection into Harry's psyche. By using Japanese Taiko drums, a deeper and more nefarious undercurrent permeates the magical adventure of Harry and his friends as they prepare for the wizarding war ahead.

For more on the Harry Potter Film Concert Series, visit

www.harrypotterinconcert.com.

Program:

June 1, 2019 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

NJPAC, Prudential Hall, One Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

www.njpac.org or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

For Tickets to "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" in Concert, visit www.njpac.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

Tickets are also available by visiting www.njsymphony.org or NJSO Patron Services or calling 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

For more information on NJPAC, visit

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Cineconcerts and Warner Bros.

CineConcerts and Warner Bros. Consumer Products announced the Harry Potter Film Concert Series, a new global concert tour celebrating the Harry Potter films, in 2016. Since the world premiere of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in Concert in June 2016, more than half a million fans have enjoyed this magical experience from J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World, which is scheduled to include over six-hundred performances across more than 38 countries worldwide through 2018.

Justin Freer, President of CineConcerts and Producer/Conductor of the Harry Potter Film Concert Series explains, "The Harry Potter film series is a once-in-a-lifetime cultural phenomenon that continues to delight millions of fans around the world. It is with great pleasure that we bring fans for the first time ever an opportunity to experience the award-winning music scores played live by a symphony orchestra, all while the beloved film is simultaneously projected onto the big screen. This is truly an unforgettable event."

Brady Beaubien of CineConcerts and Concert Producer for the Harry Potter Film Concert Series added, "Harry Potter is synonymous with excitement around the world and we hope that by performing this incredible music with the full movie, audiences will enjoy returning to the Wizarding World."

About Cine Concerts

CineConcerts is one of the leading producers of live music experiences performed with visual media. Founded by producer/conductor Justin Freer and producer/writer Brady Beaubien, CineConcerts has engaged millions of people worldwide in concert presentations that redefine the evolution of live experience. Recent and current live concert experiences include Gladiator, The Godfather, It's a Wonderful Life, DreamWorks Animation In Concert, Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage 50th Anniversary Concert Tour, Breakfast at Tiffany's, and Rudy in Concert.

Justin Freer has quickly become one of the most sought-after conductors of film music with a long list of full symphonic live to projection projects. He has appeared with some of the world's leading orchestras including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland



A scene from the movie.

Photo / HARRY POTTER characters, names and related indicia are © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. WIZARDING WORLD trademark and logo © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Publishing Rights © JKR. (s19)

Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. From full-length movie screenings with live orchestra to music-interactive sporting event experiences to original 3D-environment holiday programming, CineConcerts is at the forefront of live entertainment.

About Warner Bros. Consumer Products (WBCP)

Warner Bros. Consumer Products (WBCP), a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, extends the Studio's powerful portfolio of entertainment brands and franchises into the lives of fans around the world. WBCP partners with best-in-class licensees globally on an award-winning range of toys, fashion, home décor, and publishing inspired by franchises and properties such as DC, J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World, Looney Tunes and Hanna-Barbera.

The division's successful global themed entertainment business includes groundbreaking experiences such as "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and "Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi (opened 2018). With innovative global licensing and merchandising programs, retail initiatives, promotional partnerships and themed experiences, WBCP is one of the leading licensing and retail merchandising organizations in the world.

NJSO Season Finale - Orchestral Blockbusters: Mendelssohn and Rachmaninoff

By Mabel Pais

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) and Music Director Xian Zhang close the 2018-19 classical season with a pair of blockbuster orchestral works: NJSO performs Rachmaninoff's "Second Symphony" and selections from Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

CONCERT PROGRAM

Blockbuster All-Orchestral Season Finale

Thu, June 6, at 7:30 pm | bergenPAC in Englewood

Fri, June 7, at 8 pm | Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

Sat, June 8, at 8 pm | Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank

Sun, June 9, at 3 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Xian Zhang, conductor

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

MENDELSSOHN Selections from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

RACHMANINOFF "Symphony No. 2"

NJSO ACCENTS

Prelude Performance - June 9 at 2:15 pm

The extraordinary Anne Lieberman Ensemble from the NJSO Youth Orchestras in a special performance in the lobby.



NJSO

Photo / Fred Stucker

More information on NJSO Accent events is available at njsymphony.org/accents. Additional concert information and artist bios are available at njsymphony.org/finale.

Concert tickets for adults and students (discounted) can be purchased at njsymphony.org or 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476). For general information on NJSO, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org.

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO)

Named 'a vital, artistically significant musical organization' by "The Wall Street Journal," the NJSO embodies that vitality



Xian Zhang, Music Director-Conductor, NJSO

Photo / Fred Stucker

through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians. Music Director Xian Zhang-a 'dynamic podium presence' "The New York Times" has praised for her "technical abilities, musicianship and maturity"-continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the NJPAC in Newark and

regularly performs at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra's statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People; NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, led by José Luis Domínguez; and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project). NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners program.

(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)

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MOUNI ROY IS HAPPILY SINGLE, 'MY WORK IS KEEPING ME BUSY'

She has been keeping very busy, signing films back-to-back and that has left very little time for Mouni Roy to focus on her personal life. The actor, who was earlier reportedly dating a co-star, Mohit Raina, shares she is enjoying her 'single' phase, more so given that her work is keeping her occupied.

"I am completely, absolutely single and the way they say it, in love with my work now. There is no time for anything else. And I am completely enjoying the phase... once there is someone in my life, everyone will get to know about it," laughs the actor, who has been quite a popular TV star.

Asked about the former co-star she was reportedly dating, she chooses not to answer the question. Rather, Mouni says she would prefer talking about her films. And there are three of them on the list at present — Brahmastra, Made in China and Bole Chudiyaan. Mouni shares that she has got two more offers, but they are still at the discussion stage.

TAAPSEE PANNU UNDERGOES INTENSE PREP FOR 'GAME OVER'

Actor Taapsee Pannu says she had to mentally prepare a lot to play a wheelchair-bound woman dealing with a mysterious identity trying to invade her home in her film 'Game Over'.

"Keeping the physical aspects aside, mentally a lot of things were new for me to experience. Like post-traumatic stress, anniversary effect reactions and low self-confidence... All these are emotions, I haven't experienced before and don't come to me naturally," Taapsee said in a statement.

"With the co-writer of the film, Kaavya Ramkumar, I could understand the logic behind all these effects and reactions and how to use them naturally in my performance. It needs to be controlled to the right proportion to make it look believable."

Taapsee said since the film also addresses anxiety and nyctophobia (fear of darkness), she took the help of her co-writer "to understand how it really happens" and saw videos and documentaries addressing the problem.

Presented by Anurag Kashyap, 'Game Over' will release June 14.



BEFORE BRAHMASTRA, ALIA BHATT AND RANBIR KAPOOR FEATURE IN FIRST EVER AD TOGETHER



Actors Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor, who will be seen together for the first time in a film in Brahmastra, have gone ahead and featured in an advertisement instead.

Featuring in an ad for Flipkart, the couple come together only in the end of one of ads. In one of them, a boy, shows off his latest fashion in front of Alia, who is at a party in the company of her girl gang (again featuring girls dressed as grown-up women). At one point, one of the boys says he is wearing Ranbir's look that the actor sported two months back at a premiere. Alia then shows him real Ranbir's images in latest outfits from two days back. Embarrassed, the boys make a hasty retreat. One of Alia's friends teases her about knowing every detail about Ranbir; to which Alia shrugs off with a self-assured grin. As the ad ends, the two actors walk towards the camera and pose in different outfits. In another ad, released along with the first one, Ranbir features without Alia.

In the movies, the couple will be seen for the first time in Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra. The release of film was postponed last month. The fantasy drama film, which was initially scheduled to release around Christmas this year, will now hit the big screens in summer 2020. The campaign is expected to be live on television and digital platforms, for a period of eight weeks till July. In addition to Alia and Ranbir, the campaign will also feature popular movie icons of South India, namely, Samantha Akkineni, Vijay Deverakonda and Dulquer Salman.

Ayan announced the news on his Instagram account. While according to the statement, the release has been postponed because the team needs "more time in order to get the VFX right," multiple media reports have pointed out that the makers might have taken this decision to avoid locking horns with Salman Khan's Dabangg 3 at the box office on Christmas 2019. Earlier that month, Salman had announced that his upcoming flick Dabangg 3 would release on December 20, 2019.



Kate Mara, Jamie Bell welcome baby daughter

Actor Kate Mara and husband Jamie Bell have welcomed their first child, a baby girl. The child was born a few weeks ago, Mara wrote on Instagram along with a picture of her newborn daughter's feet.

"We had a baby a couple weeks ago... Here are her feet," Mara, 36, wrote.

This is the first child for Mara while Bell, 33, shares a son with former wife Evan Rachel Wood.

The birth of their baby comes months after Mara revealed the pair were expecting in February.

NATALIE PORTMAN DENIES HAVING DATED MOBY

Actor Natalie Portman refuted rumours of having been in a relationship with singer-songwriter Moby, saying he was a "much older man being creepy with me."

Portman's statement comes after, Moby recently recalled their rumoured romance in his new memoir *Then It Fell Apart*, reported *People*. The 53-year-old singer claimed to have engaged in a brief romantic fling with Portman after meeting her backstage at one of his shows.

According to Portman, the singer's recollection of their time together was far from accurate. She didn't see him as a romantic partner but as a "creepy" older man. "I was surprised to hear that he characterized the very short time that I knew him as dating because my recollection is a much older man being creepy with me when I just had graduated high school," Portman told *Harper's Bazaar UK* as cited by *People*.

The Oscar-winning actor stated that she was just 18 when they met, despite Moby's claims that she was 20. Although they struck up a friendship, it ended when she realised he had other intentions.

"I was a fan and went to one of his shows when I had just graduated. When we met after the show, he said, 'Let's be friends.' He was on tour and I was working shooting a film, so we only hung out a handful of times



before I realized that this was an older man who was interested in me in a way that felt inappropriate," she said.

The *Thor* actor also slammed him and his publisher, Faber and Faber, for not paying attention to the details of the story. She stated that the story is littered with "factual

errors and inventions."

"There was no fact checking from him or his publisher -- it almost feels deliberate. That he used this story to sell his book was very disturbing to me. It wasn't the case. There are many factual errors and inventions," she said.

Women directors don't get second chances: Eva Longoria



Actress Eva Longoria said women directors don't get second chances in Hollywood, and that needs fixing.

"Unfortunately, women don't get a second bite of the apple. So that is something we have to fix," Longoria said in a video posted.

"If a female director fails, if her movie doesn't do well, then she can't direct. That's not the case," she said.

Longoria, who has a production house, finds it important for women to support each other. "It is important once the door is open and 'you are there' to leave the door open for other women."

The actress said, "I produce and direct a show. I said I want a female director of

photography and when I hire her, she makes sure that the camera crew hires women. So you are really out of luck if you are a man because we just fill those positions first with women and then people of colour. Because we have to start building this pipeline of talent."

On the work front, Longoria is excited about *'Dora and the Lost City of Gold'*, which is based on the popular animated series.

The live-action adaptation follows Dora's life as she band together with a group of teenagers to save her parents (essayed by Longoria and Michael Pena) and solve the mystery of a lost Incan civilization.



PARIS JACKSON PERFORMS WITH BOYFRIEND GABRIEL GLENN

Actor-model Paris Jackson performed live with boyfriend Gabriel Glenn at *Good Times* at Davey Wayne's bar in Hollywood on Thursday.

According to an American celebrity magazine, the couple ended the show with 'Margaritaville' when the audience demanded to close the musical with a happy song. "Do you guys want a sad one or a happy one?" the 21-year-old Paris asked the audience, as perceived by a fan's video shared after the show. "Happy one!" the audience responded. Thereafter one audience member suggested playing 'Margaritaville' and the Paris, the daughter of Michael Jackson, happily obliged. "Margaritaville' it is," she responded

to the audience, before strumming the guitar to start the beat. This wasn't the first time duo performed together, earlier they were spotted performing at a private party which celebrated the launch of the new *Pizza Girl* by Caroline D'Amore pasta sauce.

During the month old event, the adorable couple sang four songs which they wrote together. Paris and Gabriel celebrated their anniversary together in April.

Paris took to her Instagram to express her happiness and wrote, "You're the light of my life. Thank you for making me the happiest and luckiest girl in the world. happy anniversary baby. Can't wait for another trip around the sun."

ENTER LAUGHING: The Musical Begins The York's 50

By Mabel Pais

THE YORK RECEIVES A SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In May 2019, The Outer Critics Circle has given The York Theatre a Special Achievement Award "in recognition of 50 years of producing new musicals, as well as classics from the past".

Enter Laughing: The Musical! What better way to celebrate The York's 50th Anniversary than with the return of The York's runaway hit, - Based on Carl Reiner's semi-autobiographical novel and Joseph Stein's stage adaptation, this hilariously tuneful musical careens through the misadventures of star-struck, stage-struck, woman-struck teenager David Kolowitz, who pratfalls his way into manhood via the theatre in 1930s New York City.

"ENTER LAUGHING: The Musical" is the perfect show for anyone who has ever had a dream of stardom, an overbearing mother, a song in their heart, or who just needs a heartfelt, side-splitting laughfest. As the New York Post said, "you may not enter the theatre laughing, but once there, you're guaranteed not to stop."

"ENTER LAUGHING: The Musical," is presented by The York Theatre Company with Producing Artistic Director, James Morgan and Executive Director, Evans Haile.

The "Company" is dedicated to the development of new musicals and rediscovery of musical gems from the past. In association with Riki Kane Larimer and Keylight Productions, the York presents the creative team for the return engagement of the hit Off-Broadway musical Enter Laughing: The Musical" with book by Joseph Stein and music and lyrics by Stan Daniels, based on the play "Enter Laughing" by Joseph Stein from the semi-autobiographical novel by Carl Reiner. "Enter Laughing: The Musical," with direction and musical staging by York Theatre favorite Stuart Ross (York's "Forever Plaid," "Enter Laughing"), music direction by Phil Reno ("Something Rotten"), and choreography by Jennifer Paulson-Lee ("Enter Laughing"), returns to kick off The York's year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The ten-member cast features Raji Ahsan ("Stage Door") as Pike, Farah Alvin ("It Shoulda Been You") as Angela Marlowe, Dana Costello ("Finding Neverland") as Miss B, Ray DeMattis (the original "Grease") as Mr. Foreman, Chris Dwan ("Finding Neverland") as David Kolowitz, Alison Fraser ("Falsettos") as Mother, Robert Picardo ("Star Trek: Voyager") as Father, David Schramm ("Finian's Rainbow") as Marlowe, Allie Trimm ("Bye Bye Birdie") as Wanda, and Joe Veale ("The Rivals") as Marvin.

The creative team includes James Morgan (sets), Tyler M. Holland (costumes), Ken Billington & Jason Kantrowitz (lights), Julian Evans (sound), and Brooke van Hensbergen (props). The Production Manager and

"The Perfect Antidote to Today's Depression"

- Time Out New York

"...the funniest show in town since 'The Producers'"

- New York Post

"You can't pack more laughter and fun into a finite space and time!"

- Jerry Seinfeld

Production Stage Manager is Chris Steckel with Assistant Stage Manager Kayla Santos. The Casting Director is Michael Cassara, CSA.

"Enter Laughing" performances continue until June 16, 2019, except Monday and Thursday evening at The York Theatre Company at Saint Peter's (entrance on East 54th Street, just east of Lexington Avenue).

For more information on the schedule and York Theatre, visit www.yorktheatre.org

For tickets, visit the York website or call (212) 935-5820. Senior, student and group discounts are available. Groups of 10 or more, contact Great White Way at 212-757-9117, or GreatWhiteWay.com.

The York Theatre Company offers the York! Membership Program, an exclusive membership package with special ticket and theater privileges. The York Memberships can be purchased online at www.yorktheatre.org/membership, or by visiting The York Theatre Company Box Office, or calling the Box Office at (212) 935-5820 during regular business hours.

York Theatre Company Gift Cards are available for any production during the 2018-2019 season by visiting the box office or calling (212) 935-5820, or online at www.yorktheatre.org

About The York Theatre Company

Founded in 1969, by Janet Hayes Walker, The York Theatre Company is an Off-Broadway company located at 619 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

The York has presented more than 70 full-scale musical productions, including such classics as "The Golden Apple," "The Grass Harp," "On the 20th Century," "A Doll's Life," "Lost in the Stars," "Carnival!," and "Merrily We Roll Along."

Under the guidance of Producing Artistic Director James Morgan since 1997, The York has focused exclusively on musical theater: newer musicals in its



Chris Dwan as David Kolowitz.
Photo / CarolRosegg



Chris Dwan (center) and Cast.

Photo / CarolRosegg.

Mainstage Series (most of them world, American or New York premieres) and revivals in its popular Musicals in Mufti series of semi-staged readings.

Each season consists of three or four Mainstage productions, six or more concert presentations and dozens of Developmental Readings.

The mission of The York Theatre Company is fourfold:

1. Be a birthplace for new literate, intimate musicals, and a place where underappreciated musical gems from the past are rediscovered;
2. Provide support for the creators of new musical theatre and be a showcase for new musical theatre talent of all kinds;
3. Provide students with opportunities for hands-on theatre education; and
4. Serve the community by presenting free or low-cost musical theatre performances to under-served

audiences.

The York's intimate, imaginative producing style has become its trademark. Its productions have won critical acclaim, a host of honors and awards, and a loyal audience. Just as important, The York provides a nurturing, constructive environment for new artists to hone their craft, and for some of the masters of the musical theater's Golden Age to take fresh looks at their classic works. A special Drama Desk Award was presented to the company for its "vital contributions to theater by developing and producing new musicals."

Started in 2015, the York Theatre offers a Musical Theatre Training Program (MTTP) that trains great performers and inspires great minds. Started in 2015, the York's MTTP brings working professionals in to work with eager and dedicated theatre students. Our rigorous

yet nurturing programs offer training in singing, acting and movement and include master classes with some of New York's top theatre artists. Programs culminate in a showcase performance on the York's Off-Broadway stage. York currently offers a Summer Intensive for middle and high school students 6th-12th Grades and a Winter Intensive for college students and recent college graduates from across the nation.

Established in 2003, in March each year, The York also produces the NEO Concert recognizing New, Emerging and Outstanding musical theater writers, and is proud of its longtime association with Marymount Manhattan College, its Education partner.

Join The York in its celebration!

www.yorktheatre.org

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(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)

Eid Mubarak

The spirit of Ramadan is for all humanity



By Mike Ghouse

God has no need for the hunger or thirst of someone who hurts others, violates their dignity, or usurps their rights. The consciousness of behavior and vigilance over action are the most profound dimensions of fasting: the fasting of the heart focuses on the attachment to the divine. That is when Ramadan becomes a source of peace and solace, just as Christmas or Dussehra goes beyond the rituals to bring forth kindness, charity, and caring.

Whether you are an Atheist, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Native American, Pagan, Shinto, Sikh, Wicca, and Zoroastrian or from any other tradition, you may feel a sense of connection with the spirit of Ramadan.

Don't we all want to get along and live without tensions and fear? Of course, we do. When we live in a community, we might as well learn about each other. The best way to build cohesive societies is for its members to understand each other's sorrows and joys, and festivities and commemorations. Wouldn't it be nice if you know a little bit about your neighbor's festival and perhaps invite them to your celebrations?

Every human and every religious group celebrate something or the other in their way, each one is different, but the essence is the same, that is celebrations and commemorations.

Festivities bring people together. Here we explore Ramadan, two of the major festivals of Muslims. A simple language is used for most people to get a gist of it.

Rituals signify the milestones of our daily life. Every significant moment of the day is a ritual. Every faith is composed of a set of unique rituals to bring discipline and peace to human life. Fasting is one of the five essential rituals that Muslims around the world observe.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is generally observed with a ritual precision; it is an annual training or a refresher. It requires one to abstain from food, drink, intimacy, ill-will, ill-talk, ill-actions and other temptations from dawn to dusk, every day for the whole month. One has to rise above his or her baser desires. Islam gifts this month to its followers to teach discipline to bring moderation to their daily lives.

Although Ramadan is popularly known in the west for its culinary delicacies and fancy iftars (ceremonial breaking of fast at sundown), the spirit and intent of Ramadan lie in a human transformation in a month-long inner spiritual journey of finding oneself in tune with spirituality.

Hindus can see that transformation in nine days of fasting during Navaratri, the Jains in 8-10 days of fasting during Paryushana, Christians during 40 days of lent, Jews for seven days around Yom Kippur, and likewise you find fasting is a way of life in most traditions.

God has no need for the hunger or thirst of someone who hurts others, violates their dignity, or usurps their rights. The consciousness of behavior and vigilance over action are the most profound dimensions of fasting: the fasting of the heart focuses on the attachment to the divine. That is when Ramadan becomes a source of peace and solace, just as Christmas or Dussehra goes beyond the rituals to bring forth



kindness, charity, and caring.

True fasting is self-purification; and from this comes an abundant inner life that brings about values such as justice, generosity, patience, kindness, forgiveness, mercy, and empathy -- values that are indispensable for the success of the community.

Ramadan will come and go with such stealth that we cannot but be reminded of our mortality. What is it that we value and why? Habits, customs, even obsessive behavior like smoking can be curtailed with relative ease in the face of a higher calling.

For fasting to be truly universal, its benefits must extend beyond the fraternal ties of Muslims and must continue to forging a common humanity with others. Fasting is meant to impart a sense of what it means to be truly human, and its observance reflects its universality in Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Sikh, Zoroastrian and other faiths.

Eid Rundown!

The number of days one fast corresponds with the Moon cycle, which varies from 29 to 30 days. At the end of the fasting period, it is time to celebrate! It is thanking the creator, living a disciplined life, and rewarding yourselves.

Before you celebrate, the essential duty is to pay fitra, sort of income tax, and it is roughly 2.5% of your earnings. To make your celebration wholesome, and guilt-free, you thank the Lord for your blessings and share a portion with the underprivileged, so they can also celebrate along with you. The idea is to fill the environment with positive energy.

Chand Raat - That is the evening of moon sighting, it is a shopping spree and surprise gifts for children in particular but for all in general.

Eid - festivity. The whole community

gathers up wearing new clothes and thank Allah for completing the blessed month of Ramadan.

Practices differ in each town. In Dallas, Texas, they rented the Auto Exhibit hall in Fair Park that held about 25,000 people with ample parking. I saw a similar happening in Louisville, Kentucky. Back in Yelahanka, a suburb of Bangalore, all of us went to the Eidgah - a place for large congregations.

Back in the late 70's film Actor Mehmood lived near my town, and he invited many actors for Eid celebrations at his home. Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, and other actors joined in the Eid prayers with Mehmood.

Eid is also a day to pray for the deceased; almost all Muslims visit the cemeteries and pray for their loved ones. It is one of the most beautiful prayers that seeks forgiveness for all humanity, for the living, and the deceased.

Typically, it is a day to clean your slate, seek forgiveness from the ones you have hurt or forgive those who have hurt you. When you see Muslims hugging each other, it is washing off ill-will from their hearts for each other.

Now comes the food!

The most popular dessert of Ramadan in South Asia is "Dum ke Saviyan" and "Sheer Qurma" - that is vermicelli's cooked with milk, cashew, raisins, and other dry fruits. My favorite!

Each nation has its food and delicacies. Goat Biryani is the most common item in South Asia.

Most people have an open house on the day of the Eid, check with your Muslim friends and visit them and enjoy the fellowship and food.

(The author is a public speaker, author, interfaith wedding officiant, a newsmaker and the executive director of the Center for Pluralism in Washington, DC. More about him at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikeghouse/>)

Indian American Student at MSU Earns National STEM Scholarship



Mohit Bansil is an Honors College junior majoring in advanced mathematics in the College of Natural Science

MICHIGAN (TIP): An Indian American Michigan State University undergraduate student has been named recipient of the nationally competitive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

Mohit Bansil is an Honors College junior majoring in advanced mathematics in the College of Natural Science.

Each year, the Goldwater Foundation seeks scholars committed to a career in science, mathematics or engineering who display intellectual intensity and who have the potential for significant future contribution in their chosen field. Those students are given funding for undergraduate tuition and living expenses.

"I am greatly honored by the Goldwater Scholarship," Bansil said. "I believe that the Goldwater Scholarship will help me pursue my dream to attend graduate school and excel in mathematics."

Bansil is from Farmington Hills, Michigan, and graduated from North Farmington High School.

He has been active in various mathematical research opportunities both at MSU and other institutions. In 2017, he won first place in MSU's Herzog competition, earning him a spot representing MSU in the international Putnam Competition Top 150.

(Source - Michigan State University)

Paris wants a 'Princess Diana Square' at site of her death

PARIS (TIP): Paris City Hall wants to name a small plaza after Princess Diana, at the site of the 1997 car crash that killed the cherished British royal. The site is adjacent to the Alma Tunnel where the accident occurred.

The plaza is currently named after opera singer Maria Callas. A city hall official said on Thursday that the city council would vote next month on a measure to rename it after Diana.

The city noted that Callas already had a nearby avenue named after her, and that the city wanted to honour Diana for her humanitarian work.

The 36-year-old princess, her boyfriend and driver died after their Mercedes crashed into a concrete pillar in the tunnel. AP

Over 7,50,000 EU nationals seek UK residence for Brexit

LONDON (TIP): Britain has received 7,50,000 applications from EU citizens seeking to settle in the UK in the first four months of 2019, with Poles leading the way, official data showed on May 30.

The government's scheme for offering an estimated 3.8 million EU nationals the right to live permanently in Britain after Brexit has been riddled with controversy.

Responding to a public outcry, Prime Minister Theresa May in January scrapped a 65 (USD 82, 74-euro) fee that would have been imposed had a so-called "no-deal Brexit" gone into effect.

The programme's status has been weighed further by uncertainties over when—or even if—Britain pulls out of the EU.

The UK interior ministry said 10,30,000 Polish citizens had applied for permanent residence in the first four months of the year.

Romanians filed 90,000 applications and Italians 71,000, the figures showed. Portugal and Spain rounded out the top five.

The scheme is being overseen by Home Secretary Sajid Javid, who is one of 11 declared candidates in the race to succeed May as government chief in July.

"EU citizens are our friends, neighbours and colleagues who



contribute so much to this country. Whatever the outcome of Brexit we want them to stay," Javid said in a statement.

"Our free and straightforward EU Settlement Scheme has already seen 7,50,000 applications - which is immensely encouraging. I hope this early success continues in the coming months." Economic worries and a desire to limit migration—particularly from eastern European countries such as Poland and Romania—was one of the factors that pushed voters to back Brexit

in 2016.

Britain's split from the other 27 EU nations, originally scheduled for March 29, was delayed until April 12 then postponed until October 31 due to the UK parliament's refusal to approve the sides' separation terms.

London may still ask Brussels to grant it another extension, or decide to walk away without a deal—an option that businesses worry would lead to chaos at the border and across the broader economy. — AFP

Saudi Arabia gathers Arab leaders over attacks on oil assets

JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA) (TIP): Arab leaders gather in Saudi Arabia on Thursday for emergency summits that Riyadh hopes will deliver a strong message to Iran that regional powers will defend their interests against any threat following attacks on Gulf oil assets this month.

Saudi and the United Arab Emirates, which have lobbied Washington to contain their foe Iran, have said they want to avoid war after drone strikes on oil pumping stations in the kingdom and the sabotage of oil tankers off the UAE coast.

Riyadh accused Tehran of ordering the drone strikes, which were claimed by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group. A top US security official said Iranian mines were "almost certainly" used in the tanker operation. Tehran denies any involvement.

Saudi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf told a gathering of his counterparts in Jeddah ahead of the summits that the attacks must be addressed with "strength and firmness".

"While summit leaders are likely to discuss how best to avoid a war, King Salman is equally determined to defend Saudi and Arab interests amid increasing tensions between the US and Iran," Prince Turki al-Faisal, former Saudi intelligence chief and envoy, wrote in an opinion piece published by Al Arabiya.

He said the meetings of Sunni Muslim

Gulf leaders and Arab leaders at midnight in Mecca would discuss Shi'ite Iran's "interference" in Arab affairs.

Tensions have risen between the United States and Iran after Washington quit a multinational nuclear deal with Iran, re-imposed sanctions and boosted its military presence in the Gulf.

US National Security Advisor John Bolton said on Wednesday that the attack near a UAE bunkering hub was connected to the strike on pumping stations on the kingdom's East-West pipeline—both alternative oil shipping routes to the Strait of Hormuz—and a rocket attack on Baghdad's Green Zone.

"There is no doubt in anybody's mind in Washington who is responsible for this and I think it's important that the leadership in Iran know that we know," Bolton said of the operation against four vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers.

He said the United States was trying to take a "prudent and responsible" approach but warned Tehran against any new attacks.

An Iranian official dismissed Bolton's remarks as "a ludicrous claim". The Islamic Republic has said it would defend itself against any military or economic aggression.

GULF FAULTLINES: During the US adviser's visit to Abu Dhabi, officials activated a defence cooperation agreement signed earlier this year between the United States and the UAE, which hosts a US air base. Reuters

Budapest boat capsizes: Victims weren't wearing life jackets

BUDAPEST (TIP): Initial investigation into the Budapest tour boat capsizing that claimed the lives of seven South Korean tourists had revealed that none of the victims were wearing life jackets, authorities said.

Thirty-five people—including 33 South Koreans—were on board the sightseeing boat when it collided with another vessel in the Hungarian capital on Wednesday night, leading to the capsizing, reports CNN.

The captain of the other boat had been detained and his arrest proposed, Budapest police said in a statement on Thursday. The 64-year-old Ukrainian citizen was first questioned after police found evidence that warranted suspicion during their investigation into the accident's cause.

The police said they were continuing their search for the 21 people who remain missing.

Of the seven who were rescued, six have now been discharged from the hospital. One person remains in hospital with several broken ribs, a doctor told CNN.

Of the seven victims, two have been identified so far.

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said in a statement on Thursday night that rescue efforts had been hampered by poor weather.

President Moon has ordered a rapid response team to be dispatched to help the rescue effort in Budapest. IANS

Top Afghan officials hold talks with Pak authorities

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A high-level Afghan delegation led by national security adviser has held talks with top civilian and military officers in Pakistan, discussing security issues, peace process with Taliban and also to prepare the ground for a possible visit of President Ashraf Ghani next month.

Hamdullah Mohib – who led a high-powered delegation that included the Afghan interior minister – was the first senior Afghan official to have travelled to Islamabad in months.

The crucial talks with Pakistani authorities, including Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa, were part of the latest push by the two neighbours to remove irritants in their bilateral ties that have undermined efforts for a peace deal in Afghanistan, officials said on May 29.

Diplomatic officials said that main engagements were with the security officials but foreign secretary Sohail Mahmood also attended delegation level talks on border security, Afghan peace process and political ties.

Army spokesman in brief statement on Wednesday said that Mohib also met Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa.

“Matters related to mutual interest, peace and stability in the region, Pak-Afghan border management and



prospects for peace with particular emphasis on reconciliation process in Afghanistan were discussed,” the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

Diplomatic sources said that Ghani was likely to visit Pakistan next month for which was invited by Prime Minister Imran Khan when the Afghan leader talked over phone with him last month.

Mohib mission was to hold initial talks on key issues to see if progress was possible during visit of President Ghani.

Pakistan’s role is considered as a key to bring peace in Afghanistan.

The Afghan peace initiative has been moving at a snail’s pace due to refusal of the Taliban to sit for talks with the Afghan government officials.

Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar is the co-founder of the Taliban movement with Mullah Omar who remained a synonym for the Taliban

until his death was disclosed in 2015. Mullah Baradar was arrested in 2010 in joint ISI-CIA operation from Karachi but released by Pakistan last year to help jumpstart the peace process.

But there are many irritants undermining such efforts, including the trust deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Kabul is still wary of Islamabad’s role in the peace process. Pakistan, on the other hand, has its own list of grievances, including Afghanistan’s patronage of certain militant groups that often launch attacks from across the border.

A senior official said the Afghan NSA’s visit was meant to discuss all such issues. The official said Pakistan was trying to improve ties with Afghanistan and the visit of President Ghani could help achieve that goal.

The Taliban are currently holding talks with the US but have so far refused to sit across the table with the Kabul administration. They are in discussion to end more than a 17-year long bloody war in Afghanistan.

The Taliban control nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 US-led invasion after the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001. PTI

Pak authorities arrest 3 JuD members from Punjab province

LAHORE (TIP): Three members of the Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa have been arrested on the charges of terror financing in Pakistan’s Punjab province, amid pressure from the global community on Islamabad to rein in the militant groups.

In a statement issued here on May 30, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police said it arrested the three members during a raid on their hideout in Faisalabad, some 150 kilometres from Lahore.

“Millions of rupees have been recovered from their possession which they had collected for terror-financing,” it said.

The CTD also said a report had been submitted to the Anti-Terrorism Court in Faisalabad against them.

Last week, the Pakistani authorities arrested 10 members of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror group in Punjab on similar charges.

A nation-wide crackdown against terror financing had been under way, police said.

The Pakistan government has launched a crackdown against the outlawed organisations under the National Action Plan 2015 to eliminate militancy and extremism from the country’s soil.

The Imran Khan-led government has also announced the freezing of accounts and seizure of assets linked to organisations banned by the UN Security Council. PTI

Blast hits Afghanistan capital Kabul

KABUL (TIP): A large explosion hit Kabul on May 31, sending a plume of white smoke into the sky, according to Reuters reporters in the Afghan capital.

There was no immediate word on the cause or casualties from the blast, which came a day after Islamic State claimed a suicide attack outside a military training academy that killed at least six people. Reuters

Pak teacher booked for forcing student to eat grass

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A Pakistani school teacher has been booked for forcing a primary school student to eat grass as punishment for not learning his lesson. The incident happened at the Government Primary School in Fatehpur, Lodhran, a small city in Pakistan’s Punjab province, Dawn newspaper reported on May 29.

The video of the school teacher went viral on social media, showing seven-year-old Kashan being forced to either eat grass or read out the lesson in front of his class fellows. The video clip shows Kashan failing to read the lesson and instead ending up eating grass after being forced by his teacher -- identified as Hamid Raza. (PTI)

HIV positive Pak woman murdered by husband after objecting to his second marriage decision

KARACHI (TIP): A 30-year-old HIV positive Pakistani woman was killed by her husband in Sindh province after she objected to his decision to marry again, police said. The incident happened in a village near Larkana district on Wednesday when the husband of Kareema Rind insisted for a second marriage after she was recently tested HIV positive during a blood test.

“The HIV positive woman who had five children refused to allow the second marriage and her husband, Bahadur Rind with the help of his brothers strangled the woman and hanged her from the tree in the village,” Faheem Tunio, a police officer, said.

The body was handed over to relatives after post-mortem examination, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The police registered an FIR against Bahadur, his brother Darya Khan Rind and relative Johar Rind on the complaint of Akbar Rind, brother of the deceased, the paper reported.

Muzaffar Ghangro, a doctor from the district, who was arrested on the suspicion of having spread the HIV virus with infected needles at his clinic has been cleared of “intentionally” spreading the deadly virus in Ratodero town. The virus but it confirmed the doctor was one of the major sources for the virus’ spread. PTI

Maldives ex-President Nasheed elected Parliament Speaker

MALE (MALDIVES) (TIP): The Maldives’ Parliament has overwhelmingly voted the country’s first democratically elected President as the Speaker of the House.

Mohamed Nasheed received 67 votes from among 87 members. His rival received 17 votes past midnight May 28.

The Speaker also has a role in the Judicial Services Commission that regulates the Supreme Court, and is third in line should the positions of the President and Vice-President become vacant.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih’s Maldivian Democratic Party has swept the parliamentary elections, winning 65 out of 87 seats. Last year, Solih defeated strongman Yameen Abdul Gayoom in the presidential vote.

The elections paved the way for Nasheed’s return home after years in exile. Nasheed, a former pro-democracy activist was elected President of the Indian Ocean archipelago in 2008, ending a 30-year autocratic government. He resigned in 2012 amid public upheaval over his decision to arrest a senior judge.

He lost the 2013 presidential election to Yameen, and was later jailed over the judge’s arrest following a trial criticised for due process violations. He was granted asylum in Britain when he travelled there for medical treatment.

Nasheed had planned to campaign from neighbouring Sri Lanka but gave

up plans to contest the 2018 election because his candidacy could have become invalid as he was still serving his sentence.

Nasheed and other politicians jailed under Yameen’s government were released after Solih was elected to office while others returned from exile. — AP

Everest logjam fails to thwart climber’s record 14-peak bid

KATHMANDU (TIP): Former Gurkha soldier Nirmal Purja remains on target to conquer the world’s 14 highest mountains in a record-breaking seven months despite death-defying queues on the biggest peak of them all.

Waiting for more than seven hours last week to get to the top of Everest and then back to the safety of his camp -- in a pile-up that he documented in a photo that has gone viral -- injected doubts into Purja’s minute-by-minute strategy.

“My plan was to climb Everest and Lhotse as fast as possible, breaking my own previous record but that day, I was stuck in traffic,” Purja told AFP back in the comfort of Kathmandu. In 2017, the ex-British specialforces member climbed the two mountains in a record 10 hour and 15 minutes. “I sat four hours on the way up and three and half hours on the way down and that kind of made me (worry) like I won’t be able to achieve the record,” he said. - AFP

RULES FOR SAVING YOUR MARRIAGE

If your marriage is in trouble, the chances are that you and your partner are stuck in trying to control rather than learn. Changing your intent can heal your marriage.

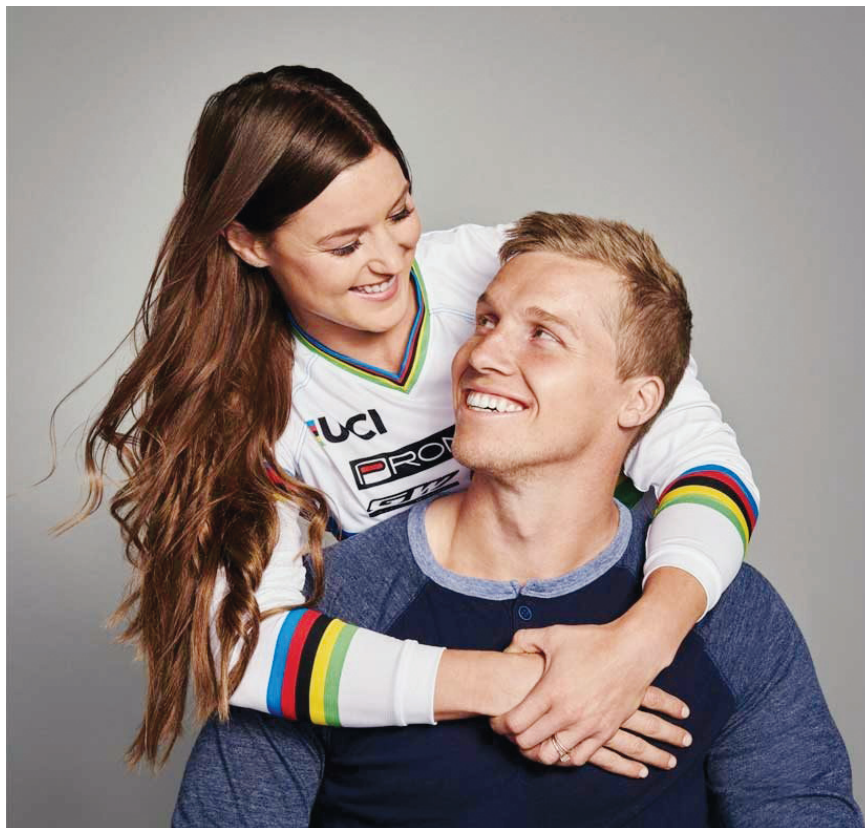
- Be honest with yourself regarding your primary intention. Which category do you fall into - the intent to protect or the intent to learn?

Is your primary intention to protect yourself from your fears with some form of controlling behavior - such as anger, blame, criticism, withdrawal of love, threats, compliance, or resistance? Is having power over your partner and winning more important to you than being loving to yourself and your partner? Do you make your partner responsible for your feelings? Are you more devoted to getting love and avoiding rejection rather than to mutuality, caring, and sharing love?

Is your primary intention to learn about loving yourself and your partner? Are you more devoted to mutuality, caring and sharing love than to being right, winning, having your way, or making your partner responsible for your feelings? Is learning more important to you than whether or not you receive approval?

Basic to all the other rules is being in the intent to learn about loving yourself and others. If your primary intent is to protect yourself from pain and rejection with controlling behavior, you will have no chance of improving your relationship. You will continue to create the very problems you are attempting to avoid with your controlling behavior.

- Let go of the past. Hanging on to old grievances is part of the intent to protect - blaming your partner for your pain rather than taking responsibility for whatever choices you made that resulted in your unhappiness.
- Disengage from conflict as soon as one person is not open to learning. There is no point in trying to talk out problems and issues until both people are open to learning. If you are open and your partner is not, then give up trying to solve problems by talking about them and unilaterally figure out how to



take loving care of yourself in the face of your partner's choices.

- Keep your eyes on your own plate, sharing only about yourself and your own learning. Let go of analyzing or defining your partner. Let go of interrogating questions that are really attacks. These behaviors are controlling and invasive. Your job is to define yourself, not your partner! The more you define your own inner worth and let go of attempting to define your partner, the better your relationship will become.
- Do your own Inner Bonding work to deal with your issues of abandonment and engulfment, and to define your own worth and lovability. Rather than making your partner responsible for your fears of abandonment or your fears of losing yourself, do your inner healing work to move beyond these fears. Take full 100% responsibility for these fears rather than making your partner

responsible for causing them.

- Accept your lack of control over the other person, choosing instead to see your partner as his or her own person. Learn to cherish the differences rather than try to make your partner into you. Support your partner in becoming all he or she came to this planet to be. Support your partner in what brings him or her joy, taking responsibility for whatever fears your partner's independence brings up for you.

- Make kindness to your self and others your guiding light, even when your fears are triggered.

Once again, if you are stuck in the mindset of protection and control, you will not be able to make these choices. Your intent to learn is basic to being able to make these choices and improve your relationship. You are in charge of your intent and you always have the option to let go of the intent to protect/control and move into the intent to learn about loving yourself and your partner.

FOOD CORNER



Mishti doi

Mishti Doi is synonymous with Bengal in East India. The Bengalis are famous for their sweet preparations and Mishti Doi is among their most well-known desserts. Mishti Doi tastes great but is amazingly simple to make.

Ingredients

1 liter full cream/ whole milk, 3-4 tablespoons yogurt, 250 grams sugar,

Method

- Boil the milk in a heavy-bottomed pan, on a medium flame until it is reduced to half its original volume. Stir frequently to prevent the milk from scorching. When done, cool the milk till it is just lukewarm.
- Put the sugar in another pan and heat over a low flame to melt. Allow the sugar to caramelize (brown). Remove from the fire when done, add the reduced milk to this caramelized sugar and mix well to blend.
- When the milk and sugar are thoroughly mixed, add the yogurt to the mixture and stir gently to mix.
- Pour into the desired container and keep in a warm dark spot for the Mishti Doi to set. The best taste results are achieved by setting the Mishti Doi in an earthenware pot.
- When the Mishti Doi has set and is firm, chill for a few hours and serve.

Mango Kulfi

Ingredients

2 fresh, ripe, sweet mangoes (use 3 mangoes if they are not very pulpy), 1 1/2 cups evaporated milk, 2 1/2 cups thickened double cream, 1 3/4 cups sweetened condensed milk, 2 tablespoons almond meal

Method

- Remove the mango pulp carefully. Put all of the ingredients in a blender and mix them until they are completely smooth.
- Pour the ice cream mixture into molds or bowls, or into one large bowl and freeze it until it is almost set.
- Remove the bowl or bowls from the freezer and whisk it thoroughly until all of the lumps are gone. This prevents ice crystals from forming in the kulfi and gives it a smooth texture. Put the ice cream back into the freezer and leave it until it is set.

MULTANI MITTI FACE PACKS FOR ALL TYPES OF SKIN



Multani mitti is very effective for skin glow. It is good cleanser that brightens our skin immediately. Multani mitti is a clay substance used as a cleanser, toner. Multani mitti is rich in magnesium chloride helps to reduce acne.

Multani Mitti and Aloe Vera face pack

INGREDIENTS

- Multani mitti
- Aloe vera gel

PROCEDURE

- Mix multani mitti with some aloe vera gel to form a paste.
- Apply it on your face and leave it

for few minutes so that it dries.

- Rinse with water.

Multani mitti and Tomato face pack

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons of tomato juice
- 2 tablespoons of multani mitti

PROCEDURE

- Mix multani mitti with tomato juice.
- Apply it on your face and leave it for 10 minutes so the skin absorbs the needed nutrients.
- Rinse with warm water.

Multani Mitti and Honey face mask

INGREDIENTS

- 1 spoon of multani mitti

- 1-2 spoons of honey

PROCEDURE

- Mix Multani mitti with honey to form a paste.
- Apply it evenly on the face.
- After a few minutes, rinse it.
- Multani Mitti and Potato face pack

INGREDIENTS

- 2 spoons of grated potato
- Few drops of olive oil
- 1 spoon of multani mitti

PROCEDURE

- Mix grated potato with multani mitti and olive oil.
- Apply this mixture on your face and leave it for few minutes.
- Rinse with water.

HORMONAL LINK BETWEEN DIET AND OBESITY FOUND

In a new study researchers have found that low levels of a circulating hormone called adropin predict increased weight gain and metabolic dysregulation during consumption of a high-sugar diet in a nonhuman primate model.

According to the study published in the 'Journal of Biological Chemistry,' these findings will help set the stage to develop new therapies for managing metabolic diseases.

Obesity is a growing public health crisis, bringing with it many serious risk factors, including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. As the number of people who are either overweight or obese now outnumbers those with a healthy body weight by a ratio of two to one, researchers face an urgent need to better understand how the body burns fuel.

Several years ago, Andrew Butler, professor of pharmacology and physiology discovered the peptide hormone adropin. Research by Butler's lab suggested that adropin regulates whether the body burns glucose or fat.

They also found that young men with high adropin levels had lower body mass index (BMI) levels. Moreover, some studies indicated low adropin is associated with biomarkers of insulin resistance.

In the current study, Butler and his colleagues have conducted studies at California National Primate Research Center in order to explore adropin's role



in metabolic health.

They examined the plasma of 59 adult male rhesus macaques that were fed a high sugar diet.

Overall, consumption of the fructose diet produced a 10 per cent gain in body weight and increases of fasting levels of insulin, indicating insulin resistance, which reduces glucose use and elevated fasting triglycerides which in humans increases the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Animals with low plasma adropin concentrations developed a more severe metabolic syndrome. Interestingly,

development of type 2 diabetes was only observed in animals with low plasma adropin concentrations. These animals also showed more pronounced dysregulation of glucose and lipid metabolism.

Fasting hyperglycemia was also limited to animals with low circulating adropin, indicating glucose intolerance.

"Monkeys with low adropin may therefore not be oxidizing glucose as well, explaining their higher fat content as the glucose is converted to lipids instead of being used as a metabolic fuel," Butler said.



LICORICE TEA MAY HAVE HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS

Excessive consumption of licorice tea—a popular herbal beverage—may have health risks such as high blood pressure and reduced potassium levels, researchers claim.

According to a case study, published in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal), consuming tea made from licorice root resulted in severely elevated blood pressure in an 84-year-old man.

"Excessive amounts of some herbal products can have harmful side effects," said Jean-Pierre Falet from the McGill University in Canada.

"Products containing licorice root extract can raise blood pressure, cause water retention and decrease potassium levels if consumed in excess," said Falet.

According to the researchers, the patient visited the emergency department for a high-blood pressure emergency.

His blood pressure was severely elevated, and he was suffering from a headache, light sensitivity, chest pain, fatigue and fluid retention in the calves.

After admission to hospital and treatment, the patient, who had a history of high blood pressure, told physicians he had been drinking one to two glasses daily of homemade licorice root extract called "erk sous" for two weeks prior.

Licorice tea is popular in the Middle East and parts of Europe, and erk sous is especially popular in Egypt during Ramadan. "Physicians should consider screening for licorice root intake in patients with difficult-to-control hypertension," said Falet. *Source: PTI*

FLOWER PESTICIDES LINKED TO HIGH BP IN KIDS

Exposure to flower pesticide may increase blood pressure in children and put them at the risk of hypertension, a study has found.

Researchers at University of California San Diego in the US found a link between higher blood pressure and pesticide exposures in children—especially heightened pesticide spraying period around the Mother's Day flower harvest, a holiday with one of the highest sales of flowers.

The study, published in the journal Environmental Research, involved boys and girls living near flower crops in Ecuador.

According to the researchers, Ecuador is among the largest commercial flower growers in the world, with significant rose exports to North America, Europe and Asia.

Commercial rose production relies on the use of insecticides, fungicides and other pest controls, but little is known about their human health effects.

"These findings are noteworthy in that this is the first study to describe that pesticide spray seasons not only can increase the exposure to pesticides of children living near agriculture, but can increase their blood pressures and overall risk for hypertension," said Jose R Suarez, an assistant professor at UC San Diego.

The team assessed 313 boys and girls,



ages four to nine, residing in floricultural communities in Ecuador. The children were examined up to 100 days after the Mother's Day harvest.

"We observed that children examined sooner after the Mother's Day harvest had higher pesticide exposures and higher systolic and diastolic blood pressures compared to children examined later," said Suarez.

"In addition, children who were

examined within 81 days after the harvest were three times more likely to have hypertension than children examined between 91 and 100 days," he said.

Research regarding the effects of pesticides on the cardiovascular system is limited, but Suarez said there is some evidence that insecticides, such as organophosphates, can increase blood pressure. *Source: ANI*

LESS THAN 7 HOURS OF SLEEP BAD FOR YOUR HEART

People who sleep less than seven hours each night are at higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) and coronary heart disease, warn researchers.

The findings, published in the journal Experimental Physiology, show that people who sleep fewer than seven hours per night have lower blood levels of three physiological regulators, or microRNAs, which influence gene expression and play a key role in maintaining vascular health.

"This study proposes a new potential mechanism through which sleep influences heart health and overall physiology," said Christopher DeSouza, Professor at University of Colorado in the US.

For the study, the research team took blood samples from a small group of healthy men and women, age 44 to 62, who had filled out questionnaires about their sleep habits.

While half of the participants slept seven to 8.5 hours nightly, the other half slept five to 6.8 hours every night.

The research team measured the expression of nine microRNAs previously associated with inflammation, immune function or vascular health.

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APPLE SET TO UNVEIL IOS 13, MAJOR UPGRADES

Tech giant Apple is set to unveil a slew of features and tools—from software to hardware along with major updates—on its iOS and MacOS ecosystem.

While iOS 13 is a certainty, Apple could also refresh its Mac Pro and announce interoperability between iOS and MacOS at its annual developer conference WWDC 2019 in San Jose, California, next week, reports CNET.

iOS 13, expected to be part of iPhone 11 this year, would have a new home screen, a system-wide “dark mode” setting, expanded multi-tasking capabilities and an “undo” options.

Apple is also said to be “cultivating greater interoperability” between iOS and MacOS.

“This would ostensibly make it easier for developers to share code among apps written for the iPhone and iPad and Macs,” the report said.

The new MacOS 10.15 may let Mac users use an iPad as a second screen.

According to a Digital Trends report, not all Apple devices may support iOS 13.

“Those rumoured to be cut off from the latest software include the iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, iPhone SE, iPhone 5s, the iPad Mini 2, and the original iPad Air,” said the report.

The company could also debut the updated Mac Pro, which it had pledged to reveal in 2019.

Apple may also reveal its Marzipan project too, which would make iPads easier to use as a full laptop replacement.

Google Search to rank sites on basis of ‘mobile-first indexing’

Google has announced that starting July 1, all new websites would be analysed and ranked on Search on the basis of “mobile-first indexing”.

“Mobile-first indexing” means Google would consider the mobile version of any new website for evaluating, indexing and ranking the site, instead of the desktop version which was used primarily.

“We’re happy to announce that ‘mobile-first indexing’ will be enabled by default for all new, previously unknown to Google Search websites, starting July 1, 2019,” John Mueller, Developer Advocate, Google, wrote in a blog-post on Tuesday.

For older and existing websites, Google would determine their readiness for “mobile-first indexing” based on the parity of content including text, images, videos, links and structured data as well as other meta-data-like titles and descriptions.

“We will notify them through Search Console once they’re seen as being ready. Since the default state for new websites will be ‘mobile-first indexing’, there’s no need to send a notification,” Mueller said.

Google said it is pleased to see that “mobile-first indexing” has come a long way.

“We’re happy to see how the web has evolved from being focused on desktop to becoming mobile-friendly, and now to being mostly crawlable and indexable with mobile users,” Muller said.



FLEXIBLE TEXTILE BATTERY MAY POWER WEARABLE DEVICES

Scientists have developed a thin, highly flexible textile lithium battery that could safely power wearable electronics used in healthcare monitoring, smart clothes and Internet of Things (IoT).

The lightweight Textile Lithium Battery, developed by researchers at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, has high energy density and excellent flexibility.

The battery, which is less than 0.5 mm thick, possesses fast charging/discharging capability, and also has a long cycle life comparable with conventional lithium batteries.

“Global market revenues for wearable devices are forecasted to grow by leaps and bounds, of over 20 per cent annually, to reach USD 100 billion by 2024,” said Zheng Zijian, who led the research team.

“As all wearable electronics will require wearable energy supply, our novel technology in fabricating Textile Lithium Battery offers a promising solution to a wide array of next-generation applications, ranging from healthcare, infotainment, sports, aerospace, fashion, IoT to any sensing or tracking uses that may even exceed our



imagination of today,” said Zijian.

Lithium battery is currently the dominant rechargeable battery in the market due to its relatively high energy density and long cycle life.

As conventional bulky heavy lithium batteries are hard to use in wearable devices, over the past decade, scientists have put in efforts in developing bendable lithium battery, often by using metal foils as current collectors. The Textile Lithium Battery overcomes the bottlenecks over energy density, flexibility, mechanical robustness and cycling stability, researchers said.

To create the battery, researchers

deposited highly conductive metal, copper (Cu) and nickel (Ni) uniformly onto pre-treated fabrics.

Such fabricated metallic fabrics, featuring low sheet resistance and large surface area, serve as current collectors in battery.

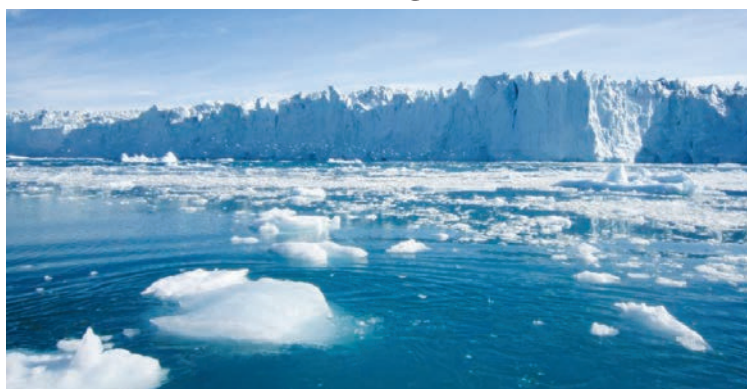
After adding active materials to act as cathode and anode, the metallic fabrics, together with separators and electrolytes, are assembled into the Textile Lithium Battery, researchers said.

Laboratory tests conducted by the team showed the extremely high mechanical stability, durability and safety of the Textile Lithium Battery under deformation.

When the battery is repeatedly folded in half, twisted at different angles or freely crumpled, its voltage window remained unchanged. Bending test showed that the battery can be bent over 1,000 times with marginal capacity degradation.

Safety tests conducted by continuous hammering, trimming with scissors and penetrating with nail proved the battery can stably provide power output for the electronic components with no risk of catching fire or bursting.

Melting glaciers may add 10 inches to sea levels by 2100



Melting glaciers worldwide could result in almost 10 inches of sea level rise by the end of this century, a study warns. The research, published in the Journal of Glaciology, indicates that the smaller glaciers could play a much larger role in sea level rise than researchers had previously thought.

The review is the most comprehensive global comparison of glacier simulations ever compiled, researchers said.

It estimates that glaciers worldwide are likely to lose anywhere from 18 to 36 per cent of their mass by 2100.

“The clear message is that there’s mass loss—substantial mass loss—all over the world,” said Regine Hock, from the University Alaska Fairbanks in the US.

The anticipated loss of ice varies by region, but the pattern is evident. “We have more than 200 computer simulations, and they all say the same thing. Even though there are some differences, that’s really consistent,” Hock said.

This is the only comprehensive and systematic endeavour to date to compare global-scale glacier models and their projections.

The study compared 214 glacier simulations from six research groups around the world and “all of them paint the same picture,” Hock said.

Researchers examined the mass changes for over 200,000 glaciers worldwide, totalling an area equal to the size of Texas.

ORIGAMI-INSPIRED MATERIALS MAY HELP SPACECRAFT SURVIVE COLLISIONS

Inspired by the paper folding art of origami, scientists are designing materials that can withstand high impact collisions—an advance that may be used to build reusable spacecraft.

Landing is stressful for reusable rockets because they must handle the force from the impact with the landing pad. One way to combat this is to build legs out of materials that absorb some of the force and soften the blow.

Researchers from University of Washington in the US have developed a novel solution to help reduce impact forces.

Taking inspiration from the Japanese paper-folding art of origami, the team created a paper model of a metamaterial that uses “folding creases” to soften impact forces and instead promote forces that relax stresses in the chain.

“If you were wearing a football helmet made of this material and something hit the helmet, you’d never feel that hit on your head. By the time the energy reaches you, it’s no longer pushing. It’s pulling,” said Jinkyu Yang, an associate professor at University of Washington.

For the research, published in the journal Science Advances, the team designed a metamaterial to have the properties they wanted.



‘Provoking trade disputes is naked economic terrorism’: China on trade war with US

BEIJING (TIP): Provoking trade disputes is “naked economic terrorism”, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Thursday, ramping up the rhetoric against the United States amid a bitter trade war that is showing no signs of ending soon.

Trade tensions between Washington and Beijing escalated sharply earlier this month after the Trump administration accused China of having “renewed” on its previous promises to make structural changes to its economic practices.

Washington later slapped additional tariffs of up to 25% on \$200 billion of Chinese goods, prompting Beijing to retaliate.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Hanhui said China opposed the use of “big sticks” like trade sanctions, tariffs and protectionism.

“We oppose a trade war but are not afraid of a trade war. This kind of deliberately provoking trade disputes is naked economic terrorism, economic homicide, economic bullying,” Zhang said, when asked about the trade war with the United States.

Everyone loses in a trade war, he added, addressing a briefing on Chinese President Xi Jinping’s state visit to Russia next week, where he will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and speak at a major investor forum in St Petersburg.

“This trade clash will have a serious negative effect on global economic development and recovery,” Zhang added.

“We will definitely properly deal with all external challenges, do our own thing well, develop our economy, and continue to raise the living standards of our two peoples,” he said, referring to China and Russia.

“At the same time, we have the



confidence, resolve and ability to safeguard our country’s sovereignty, security, respect and security and development interests.”

From combative missives in state media and patriotic fervour on social media, to a mobilisation of ambassadors around the world to get its message out, China has intensified its criticism of Washington since the United States this month moved to increase tariffs on Chinese imports and blacklisted tech giant Huawei Technologies Co Ltd.

On Thursday, a broadcaster from Chinese state television and a Fox Business host staged an unprecedented live debate about the China-U.S. frictions on the U.S. cable network.

Over the past two weeks, China has hinted that it may use its dominant position as an exporter of rare earths to the United States as leverage in the trade war. Rare earths are a group of 17 chemical elements used in everything from high-tech consumer electronics to military equipment.

On Thursday, the state-run China Daily newspaper said “it would be naive to think that China does not have other

countermeasures apart from rare earths to hand”.

“As Chinese officials have reiterated, they have a ‘tool box’ large enough to fix any problem that may arise as trade tensions escalate, and they are ready to fight back ‘at any cost’,” it said in an editorial.

China has consistently rebuffed U.S. complaints about lack of access to its economy for foreign companies, forced technology transfers and intellectual property protection, and repeatedly promised further economic reforms.

Speaking at a separate forum in Beijing, Wang Zhaoxing, a vice chairman of China’s banking and insurance regulator, said the last four decades of the country’s economic reforms have shown that “openness brings progress, shutting off brings backwardness”.

“It is undeniable that the current economic globalisation has indeed encountered some new problems and new challenges,” Wang said. “However, the solution is not to return to protectionism and unilateralism.”

Source: Reuters

SUNDAR PICHAI TURNED DOWN A BIG STOCK AWARD AFTER LAVISH PAYOUTS

Sundar Pichai was, for years, one of the world’s highest-paid corporate executives. Now he’s facing the opposite reality: No big paychecks at all.

The Google chief executive officer hasn’t received an equity award in more than two years. A key reason is that Pichai turned down a big new grant of restricted stock in 2018 because he felt he was already paid generously, according to a person familiar with the decision.

It’s unclear how much he passed up. But another giant payday -- on top of hundreds of millions of dollars in previous awards -- could have sparked a new round of controversy for the mild-mannered executive.

Technology companies are being increasingly blamed for all sorts of societal ills -- including rising income inequality. Pichai, given the top job in 2015 for his engineering prowess, has had to address these concerns, while juggling a host of other politically charged issues.

“He may have looked at these numbers and said: ‘I’ve had enough’ -- or he might just be trying to manage the optics of his pay,” said David Larcker, a professor who researches corporate governance at Stanford Graduate School of Business.

The board of Google parent Alphabet Inc. is scheduled to revisit the CEO’s pay later this year, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters. By then, almost all Pichai’s previous stock awards will have vested. That makes him an anomaly among US corporate leaders, and is even raising questions about what’s next for the 46-year-old.

“Clearly there’s very little retentive effect left for Pichai,” said Fabrizio Ferri, an associate professor at the University of Miami who studies executive pay.

A Google spokeswoman declined to comment, and said the Alphabet board won’t comment either. The company and its directors have said nothing publicly about the CEO leaving any time soon. Pichai has never mentioned moving on either.



Bitcoin climbs to highest in a year amid cryptocurrency comeback

Bitcoin soared to the highest level in a year, extending a run that’s seen prices more than double since March.

The largest cryptocurrency climbed as much as 10% Monday from levels late Friday, and was trading at \$8,847 as of 10:25 a.m. in Tokyo. Rival coins were also stronger at the start of the week. Litecoin added almost 9% and Ether, the second largest digital token, rose 6%.

Crypto proponents are taking encouragement from a string of recent headlines showing greater interest in the space from mainstream firms. Fidelity Investments is finalizing plans to buy and sell the digital asset for institutional customers, and E*Trade Financial Corp. is poised to allow crypto trading. AT&T Inc. said it will permit customers to use payment processor BitPay to settle their online bills.

Bitcoin is up almost 70% this month despite concerns from JPMorgan Chase



& Co. strategists that its price may have surged beyond its “intrinsic value” -- a concept that not all agree applies to a digital currency.

“Easier to spend means a greater-use case and a greater level of adoption,” Mati Greenspan, senior market analyst at eToro, wrote in a note Friday. “The tipping point is likely very close now.”

Bitcoin’s fantastic run this year follows a painful downtrend that lasted the majority of last year and saw the digital currency tumble more than 70%.

HUAWEI ASKS COURT TO DEEM US SECURITY LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

SHENZHEN (TIP): Chinese tech giant Huawei filed a motion in U.S. court Wednesday challenging the constitutionality of a law that limits its sales of telecom equipment, the latest action in an ongoing clash with the U.S. government.

Huawei’s chief legal officer Song Liuping said at press briefing that Huawei had filed a motion for summary judgment asking the court to rule on whether it is constitutional for the U.S. to implement a military spending provision that bars the government and its contractors from using Huawei equipment.

Huawei is the biggest global maker of network equipment, but it is now fighting to maintain access to major markets for next-generation communications as the U.S. claims the company threatens international cybersecurity.

In March, Huawei launched its suit against the U.S. law in Plano, Texas, the headquarters of its U.S. operations. The summary judgment motion seeks to accelerate the legal process to give U.S. customers access to Huawei equipment sooner, according to a Wednesday statement from Huawei.



Song said the “state-sanctioned campaign” against the company will not improve cybersecurity.

“Politicians in the U.S. are using the strength of an entire nation to come after a private company,” he said. “This is not normal.” Source: AP



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted astrologer Bejan Daruwalla. Latest correct prediction: Modi's historic victory

Weekly Horoscope - June 3 - June 9, 2019

ARIES:

Ganesha says work tightens and you have to look hard at the nitty gritty. You have many responsibilities and duties to attend to. There is hard, unrelenting work to catch up on. There is no respite from paperwork. Bills, documents and balance sheets occupy your time. You look for loans and may even sell assets to have a sustained cash flow. The phase is hectic as you drown yourself in more and more work.

TAURUS:

You may be misunderstood but it is not your fault if you don't have time for close family and friends. There are many other demands on your time, and you have several things to attend to. This is a period of sustained and concentrated work. Don't lose hope and leave it to Ganesha to steer your home. An interesting period with fun and success, assures Ganesha.

GEMINI:

There is a lot of travel now. You will be moving fast and making fruitful contacts. Expenses mount and you look seriously at cutting back on non-essentials. This is a not a troubling phase but you need to get more disciplined and cut down on your extravagant ways. There will be partying, new friendships and many fun times. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

CANCER:

Once again, you are pitch forked into a hectic phase. You make plans for expansion. If in a job, you could get a promotion or a better offer elsewhere. There is movement and bluster. Expenses mount and there could be domestic worries. Accidents and possible hospitalisation may also be a cause for concern. But all is not lost.

LEO:

New projects will also get underway and you have your plate full. This is certainly an exciting

period with many influences working on you at the same time. Never lose hope, says Ganesha. After the long night is the dawn. Domestic issues are at the forefront now. Your time is usurped by family and friends. There is little time for work but then you are not unduly perturbed as your finances are in order and that is a great worry off your chest.

VIRGO:

You will have to manage time and various commitments as your loved ones will want more of you and it will be difficult to give them the time they demand. There will be romantic dinners, overnight trips, exotic travel and shopping. There will be many binges and you may have to watch your weight. You could go overboard with all the drinking and eating. This is a period of indulgence and you go all out. Enjoy, says Ganesha!

LIBRA:

There is a lot to ponder over now. You are being 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. You are busy with all sorts of things and your energies are diffused. There are many projects on hand, repairs, renovations, constructions and additions to property that need to be supervised.

SCORPIO:

There is a lot of buying and selling going on and your mind is in a twirl. You are caught up in the frenzy of activity. There are also many domestic issues calling for your attention. You need to be steadfast now and focus. Take to meditation or yoga to still your mind. You are walking the tightrope and it is necessary to ask Ganesha for help and blessings.

SAGITTARIUS:

The tide steadies itself somewhat in this phase. There are important forces at play here and you are pushed into career expansion at full throttle. Your work grows in leaps and bounds and you win the applause of your peers and bosses. If self-employed, you look at starting new ventures as you are filled with confidence and innovative ideas.

CAPRICORN:

Grab the moment by the horns and you will be successful. You have a lot to gain now on the professional front. There will be minor pin-pricks, of course, like family matters to attend to and some legalities that need your presence. There may be some travel thrown in too, but you emerge the winner in the cauldron of events that try to snare you. Despite everything, your gains are solid and profound and this is a good period to make substantial headway.

AQUARIUS:

This is a very good phase as the moon is in your birth sign. Use the waxing phase of the moon well. Whatever you start now will lead to success. There will also be great camaraderie and good vibes with loved ones. You expand your sphere of influence at all levels. There is partying and fun times thrown in and the chances of a new affair in your life. Romance is kindled and you just let go.

PISCES:

You throw caution to the winds. While this could be dangerous, you are in no mood to listen to reason. These are grand times and you just want to partake of the miracle of life with gusto. Go for it, says Ganesha, as life is too short for regrets. The expansion of the last period in several spheres of your life continues unabated.

Birthday Horoscope

June 3 - June 9, 2019

JUNE 3RD: Ganesha says today beings with a reassuring vibe. Maybe it's because there's a certain comfort to be derived from the start of a new workweek and being part of a team.

JUNE 4TH: Too much or too little

attention to life's little details creates tension and adds an element of risk to taking action, but this stressful potential soon dissipates, giving way to a more tranquil day.

JUNE 5TH: Under today's influences it's mandatory to accept new ways of doing things; otherwise, a rebellion can erupt. Everyone will benefit from being given a little space.

JUNE 6TH: The Moon spotlights group ties friends, and other social interests. Though reliability and consistency may be lacking, and though some changes are jarring, others can be exciting.

JUNE 7TH: Extra motivation may be needed to finish a project. Being preoccupied with private concerns, you may see duties as a hindrance. Wherever possible, allow yourself a time-out.

JUNE 8TH: You may be cooking up something behind closed doors today. Later, you just might be in the mood to spend a quiet autumn evening all by yourself, or with a close friend or two.

JUNE 9TH: Though you feel more yourself with the Moon in your sign, you'll be more effective pulling the strings while staying on the sidelines.

Shakti in Sanskrit means, power or energy. In Hinduism energy belongs to the domain of Prakriti or the female aspect of Creation. Popularly known as the Mother Goddess, Shakti is worshipped in her various manifestations by millions of Hindus.

God is pure and undivided consciousness. You may even say from a perceptual perspective that He is nothingness. In His purest state devoid of qualities He is Nirguna Brahman, that is (nir+guna) devoid of any distinguished features or appearances. Divisions of time and space and the impurities of ego consciousness created by the gunas do not exist in Him. For inexplicable reasons, as He wakes, He sets in motion Prakriti, the universal energy, that was so far latent in Him, and then enters into it. From this union arises ultimately all this reality that we know as the universe. This is something like the modern theory of the origin of the universe. The big bang is actually what sets in motion the latent energy hidden in the cosmic egg (Hiranyagarbha).

All the matter that exists in this universe, that is tangible, sensible, unstable, with in the domains of sensory world and can be transformed from one state to another, is an aspect of Prakriti only. Matter is energy in its grossest form. (The scientific world took thousands of years to arrive at the same conclusion.). The human body and the mind and the various constituents that go into their making are also manifestations or aspects of Prakriti only, but at a higher level.

The energies of the divinities are still higher on the evolutionary scale than the energies in the human beings, while the energies of the Trinity stand probably above the rest. At the highest level is the combined source of their distinguished energies. This is the energy of the Mother Goddess, acting as the Shakti of Isvara. Isvara is the awakened Brahman, Brahman in his dynamic and creative aspect, who provides the field for the play of Shakti. This in brief is the structure and origin of Shakti.

How Shakti manifests things and beings

Now about Her ways of working and how the diversity arises in the manifested universe. According to our beliefs, creation arises out of the union of the Pure Self (Purusha) with matter or energy (Prakriti). Pure Self enters into matter and then awakens the various energies in the matter leading to the formation of a false self called the ego.

This happens over a period of time through the differentiation and combination of the five Mahabhutas (the five gross elements), Panchendriyas (the five sense organs), the karmendriyas (the five organs of action), the tanmantras (the five subtle elements), manas (mind), ahamkara (deluded self) and buddhi (discriminating intelligence).

This is how individual beings come into the world and evolves gradually towards liberation. Before the individual beings are created this way, the same process takes place at macro levels, resulting in the creation of worlds and higher divinities.

Prakriti develops the ego consciousness by this process to make it an important tool in its armory. The ego is driven by the interplay of the three gunas, namely sattva, rajas and tamas, nourished by the activity of the senses and motivated by the force of desires. These things give it a false sense of identity, through the formation of mind and the mind's awareness of the body.

Prakriti, bondage and delusion

Thus the mind and the body become the field in space and time for the ego to distinguish itself from the rest of the creation and act as if it is the real self and as if it is different and separate from the rest of the creation. This is what we call ignorance that leads to the deluded belief that the individual ego is the real self where as in reality it is not.

THE ROLE OF SHAKTI IN CREATION



All the while, the Real Self exists inside, having lost itself in its own reflection in the buddhi or higher intelligence, doing practically nothing, but keeping the body, the mind and the false ego alive and breathing by its mere presence.

The delusion of the individual ego leads to the bondage of the self. The bondage of self does not mean that the Soul suffers. The Self is pure consciousness and there is no suffering in it. No one can touch it and no one can punish it. We say it suffers because it is caught in the cycle of births and deaths and cannot go back to its source. It is a suffering for the soul from our point of view, not for the soul actually. Whether it exists in the heavens or in Timbaktu, for the soul the experience is one and the same. It is eternal, unchanging and pure bliss consciousness.

What actually suffers or believes that it is suffering is the false self or the ego. Suffering however does not prevent the ego from indulging in its desire driven actions unless the suffering becomes too unbearable to force to turn to spiritualism. Normally otherwise, it is so attached to the world that given an opportunity it would not mind to live for thousands of years. But unfortunately this is not possible because of the logistics and the physical limitations.

So at the end of each life, the ego becomes frustrated at the approach of old age and dies against its own wishes. It dies unhappily because it leaves behind a lot of tasks unfinished, dreams unrealized and the fruits of its past actions untasted. Nature too does not seem to like this happening since it would not let the self escape from its clutches and since perpetuation of delusion by all means is its chief design.

So it has worked out a compromise by which each created ego is permitted to come back again to the earth through another rebirth and continue its unfinished work. When a being dies, its ego would not dissolve

completely. A small portion of it survives containing its basic tendencies, desires and impulses, which becomes attached to the soul as a kind of program file and after passing through the doors of death, heaven or hell as a subtle body is reborn again. This is in essence the cycle of Prakriti.

At the human level, Prakriti keeps us in delusion through the combination of elements and through the interplay of the triple gunas. At the higher levels She enacts the same drama by becoming the Shakti of various worlds and divinities. Since these divinities are awakened souls she would not delude them, but become a force in their consciousness to help them in their assigned responsibilities.

Thus in the world of Brahma, She becomes Saraswathi to assist Brahma in his acts of Creation. In the world of Vishnu, She becomes Lakshmi to help him manage the world by providing the required amounts of wealth and resources. In the world of Siva, she becomes a yogini or a siddhi and helps him in his task of

destroying our illusions.

At the same time, being divine in origin and nature, she also helps individuals who worship her directly and seek liberation from bondage through her grace. Since she is the cause of illusion the logic is she is in a better position to relieve us from the bondage. Hence the ascendance of Shaktism as time went by.

Is Shakti really female? Shakti is pure energy, neither male nor female. This interpretation is purely human, figurative and relative and should not be taken literally. It is also wrong to believe that Self is male and the energy is female. Purusha exists in males as well as females and so does Prakriti exists in males also. They are like the two sides of the same truth. It is also difficult to say who is superior to whom. Without energy Self is practically immovable and without Self energy does not have any field for its movements. The Truth at the highest level: pure energy (PRAKRITI) is undivided consciousness (PURUSHA).

Source: hinduwebsite.com

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contd from page 1

Narendra Modi Takes Oath as Prime Minister of India for the Second Term

the ceremony. Among the allies, Lok Janshakti Party chief Ram Vilas Paswan retained his place in the Cabinet, as did Harsimrat Kaur Badal of the SAD.

Arvind Sawant, who defeated Milind Deora in South Mumbai, made it from the Shiv Sena quota. There was no representation from Tamil Nadu. Tamil-speaking Nirmala Sitharaman, who took oath as a Cabinet minister, represents Karnataka in Rajya Sabha.

Besides Shah, the new members from the BJP include Prahlad Joshi, former Chief Ministers Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Arjun Munda, while party's UP chief Mahendra Nath Pandey makes a comeback into the Council of Ministers and has been elevated to Cabinet rank, as was Giriraj Singh, who was MoS (Independent Charge) earlier.

Former Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar was the lone surprise inductee into the Cabinet, becoming the second former ranking Indian Foreign Service officer to be drafted into the new team led by Modi. Modi has retained former diplomat Hardeep Singh Puri as Minister of State (Independent Charge).

Missing among the Cabinet ministers from the outgoing government were Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj. While the former opted out, Swaraj did not contest the polls, both citing health concerns.

Similarly, missing from the MoS (Independent Charge) list were Dr Mahesh Sharma, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and K Alphonse, while Manoj Sinha failed to make the cut as he lost the election.

The new Ministers of State include Nityanand Rai, Suresh Angadi and first-time MPs G Kishan Reddy (Telangana), Debosree Chowdhury (West Bengal) and Pratap Chandra Sarangi (Odisha).

PM Narendra Modi has dropped parliamentarians and key economic ministers in the previous NDA government like Suresh Prabhu, Jayant Sinha and Manoj Sinha. The name of Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was also missing from the list of ministers who took oath

IAF chief Dhanoa is new chairman of chiefs of staff committee

An alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College and the National Defense Academy, he was commissioned in the flying branch of Indian Air Force in June 1978.

The Air Chief Marshal has primarily flown the MiG-21 aircraft with flying experience across the entire spectrum of fighter aircraft of the IAF.

During the Kargil war in 1999, he was the Commanding Officer of a frontline ground attack fighter squadron.

He has led many coveted operational and staff assignments that include command of a frontline fighter base and director of the fighter operations and war planning at Western Air Command.

He was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of South Western Air Command and has also been the Vice Chief of the Air Staff. (Source: PTI)

Fresh calls for Trump impeachment after Mueller's statement

The special counsel reiterated that, bound by Justice

Department policy, charging a sitting President with a crime was "not an option."

But he also stressed he could not exonerate Trump. Instead, he cited that same policy to say, "The Constitution requires a process other than the criminal justice system." With Mueller closing his office and not expected to comment further, it all amounted, for some, to an open invitation for Congress to launch impeachment proceedings.

"He's asking us to do what he wasn't allowed to - hold the President accountable," said Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the panel with impeachment power.

"We have one remaining path to ensure justice is served," said Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, a Democratic presidential candidate.

But top Democrats, with almost no support from Republicans, are hesitant to go it alone on an impeachment inquiry that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has warned would be divisive for the nation.

In a rare public appearance, special counsel Robert Mueller on Wednesday said his two-year Russia probe had not exonerated Donald Trump, and not indicting him was not equivalent to clearing him

He said Justice Department guidelines prevented him from charging a sitting President, suggesting Congress has both the constitutional powers and the responsibility to pursue the case

'Russia helped me...oops!'

US President Trump briefly acknowledged in a tweet on Thursday, May 30, that Russia helped him get elected but quickly backtracked

"... I had nothing to do with Russia helping me to get elected," Trump said. Quickly recognizing the lapse, he said: "No, Russia did not get me elected."

US administration removes India from its currency monitoring list

among others include China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam.

"India has been removed from the monitoring list in this report, having met only one out of three criteria-a significant bilateral surplus with the US-for two consecutive reports," the Treasury Department said in its latest semi-annual report on macroeconomic and foreign exchange policies of major trading partners of the US sent to the Congress.

After purchasing foreign exchange on net in 2017, the central bank steadily sold reserves for most of 2018, with net sales of foreign exchange reaching 1.7 per cent of GDP over the year, it said.

India maintains ample reserves according to the IMF metrics for reserve adequacy, it said.

In both Switzerland and India, there was a notable decline in 2018 in the scale and frequency of foreign exchange purchases, the report said.

"Neither Switzerland nor India met the criteria for having engaged in persistent, one-sided intervention in either the October 2018 report or this report. Both Switzerland and India have been removed from the monitoring list," the Treasury said in its report running into over 40 pages.

India for the first time was placed by the US in its currency monitoring list of countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies in May 2018 along with five other countries--China, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland.

In its next report in October 2018, the Treasury had said that India had made improvements and its name would be removed from the currency manipulation list

in the next report.

"India's circumstances have shifted markedly, as the central bank's net sales of foreign exchange over the first six months of 2018 led net purchases over the four quarters through June 2018 to fall to USD 4 billion, or 0.2 per cent of the GDP," the Treasury had said in its October 2018 report. (Source: PTI)

Israel to hold fresh election as Netanyahu fails to form govt

they were elected, Israeli lawmakers voted 74-45 in favor of dissolving the 21st Knesset (Israeli Parliament) and hold an unprecedented repeat general election on September 17.

Netanyahu's remarkable victory in the April 9 polls securing him a record fifth term proved temporary in the face of a logjam between potential coalition partners over a military conscription bill governing exemptions for ultra-Orthodox Jewish seminary students.

Ahead of the vote, taken just after the Wednesday midnight deadline, Netanyahu told the Likud faction that he had not succeeded in reaching a compromise with nationalist Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Lieberman on the controversial Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) conscription bill, and that he had also tried unsuccessfully to woo MKs from the opposition to join his government.

Lieberman, a former defense minister, had made it a condition of allying with ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties that they adopt a law aimed at having ultra-Orthodox Jews serve in the military like their secular counterparts.

The bill, which the Defense Ministry drafted under Lieberman's leadership, sets rising annual targets for Haredi conscription in the Israeli Defense Forces.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews studying in religious seminaries are currently exempt from mandatory military service, a practice many Israelis view as unfair.

Lieberman told reporters just before the vote that Israel was going to the polls because of the "complete surrender of the Likud (ruling party) to the Haredim (ultra-orthodox)".

Without Yisrael Beitenu, Netanyahu could muster support of only 60 lawmakers in the 120-member house, falling short of a majority by just one. Netanyahu launched a diatribe against Lieberman whom he blamed for "dragging the country to unnecessary elections".

"Lieberman is now part of the left. He brings down right-wing governments. Don't believe him again. I will tell you about it tomorrow. Maybe I will tell you some things you don't know," the prime minister told reporters immediately after the Knesset voted to dissolve itself. "We'll run a sharp, clear election campaign which will bring us victory. We'll win, we'll win and the public will win," he said.

"The public in Israel made a clear decision. It decided that I will be Prime Minister, that the Likud will lead the government, a right-wing government," Netanyahu said.

The move by Netanyahu's ruling Likud party to dissolve the Knesset ensured that President Reuven Rivlin would not be able to call some other lawmaker to try to form a new government. Rivlin had asked Netanyahu to form the next government after 65 lawmakers, including five of Lieberman's Yisrael Beitenu party, submitted letters of support for him.

(Source: PTI)

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Manali is a high-altitude Himalayan resort town in India's northern Himachal Pradesh state. It has a reputation as a backpacking center and honeymoon destination. Set on the Beas River, it's a gateway for skiing in the Solang Valley and trekking in Parvati Valley. It's also a jumping-off point for paragliding, rafting and mountaineering in the Pir Panjal mountains, home to 4,000m-high Rohtang Pass. If you are planning a trip to Manali, these enticing getaways deserve a place in your itinerary.

Vashisht

Vashisht lies at just 19 km from Manali, and is a short drive away. A tiny hamlet, it is much famous for the ancient temple dedicated to sage Vashisht. The temple premise is also home to hot water springs, which are much frequented by the locals, especially in the freezing winter that the region sees. Go here for an inherently locals' experience and an insight into the religious practices here.

Jibhi

If you are keen on another adventure and do not mind a three-hour drive, Jibhi is just the place for you. Cut away from the more crowded bylanes of Manali, Jibhi is where you can bask in nature, settle in a cosy homestay, count sheep all day, or doze off by a mountain stream. You will not have many for company, apart from a mountain dog or two.

Gulaba

Gulaba is a little village that lies en route Rohtang Pass from Manali, around 26 km away. It is named after King Gulab Singh of Kashmir, and is much loved for the scenic beauty around, meadows, and the banks of River Beas, making it perfect for a day of picnic. Enthusiasts can also indulge in skiing and paragliding here.

Jagatsukh

Jagatsukh is another great alternative if you are seeking some time away from the rather tourist Manali. It lies on the road to Naggar from Manali, and is an hour's drive away. Apart from visiting the ancient temple here, this is where you can buy some of the best homemade cheese around. That is a secret that is known only to the locals.

Naggar

Naggar is an ideal outing from Manali, and lies at just 21 km away. This is where you can bask in the solitude of the region, poring over perfect sunsets from the porch of Naggar Castle. While Roerich Art Gallery makes for an essential visit, Naggar is also home to some of the best bakeries in the region. Just your place to enjoy the old-school joys of good coffee and perfect mud cakes.

Himvalley Amusement & Cultural Park

One of the most unique tourist places near Manali Himachal Pradesh, Himvalley is full of joy rides and cultural extravaganzas, which are a must-experience for a fun-filled holiday. With so much to do and see, it is the perfect place to visit with your partner, friends, and even family.

Arjun Gufa

Located on the way to Naggar village and on the left bank of the Beas River, this cave is an interesting spot to explore, especially for history lovers. For others, the appealing beauty of the cave and stunning views of the mountain ranges around makes a visit here worthwhile.

Rahala Waterfalls

Situated at an altitude of 2500 metres, it is one of the best waterfalls in Himachal Pradesh. What makes it a top tourist spot is the dense silver birch and deodar forests, and marvellous views around. You can visit here anytime between March to October, and spend

PLACES TO EXPLORE AROUND MANALI



your entire day admiring the cascading falls.

Marhi

Located midway between Manali and Rohtang La, this is a great town to visit if you wish to calm the foodie in you. It has numerous roadside restaurants with rolling green hills around, that make this place ideal for a sweet short getaway.

Kothi

If you're in pursuit of peace, away from the crowd in the busy streets of Manali, then escaping to the small village of Kothi is the best choice to make. Definitely one of the best places to visit near Kullu Manali, it lets you reminisce the old-world charm, and witness the magical beauty of nature.

Bhrigu Lake

Located at an altitude of 4,300 metres, and on the east of the Rohtang Pass, this lake is a surreal beauty to be witnessed, especially during winters. You can stop by here during your trek for a while and experience the bliss of nature, or even plan a special tour to this enchanting lake.

Kunzum Pass

One of the highest passes on the Kunzum range, this mountain pass offers stunning landscape views from the valley top, and an out of the world experience. If you love the hills, and adore the heights, this place is a must-visit for you.

Parvati Valley

Stretching from Bhuntar to Spiti, this breathtakingly beautiful valley is one of the best places near Manali. If you're a photography enthusiast, nature admirer, or an adventurer at heart, you'd love traveling from the town to all the way here.

Rohtang Pass

Known as one of the top places to visit around Manali, this mountain pass is a haven for adventure seekers. The beauty of the glaciers, peaks, valleys, and rivers, can be witnessed at their best between the months of June and October, and are absolutely worth capturing.



ICC World Cup: England beat South Africa by 104 runs in opening match



LONDON (TIP): England made a confident start to their World Cup campaign as they crushed South Africa by 104 runs in the tournament-opener at The Oval.

Ben Stokes top-scored with 89 as the hosts made a competitive total of 311/8 after being sent in to bat. Jofra Archer took two early wickets and South Africa never looked likely to reach their target, bowled out in the 40th over for 207 to give World Cup favourites England the perfect start.

England lost Jonny Bairstow to the second ball of the match, caught by wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock off spinner Imran Tahir, but Jason Roy and Joe Root shared a 106-run partnership to steady the hosts. Roy never threatened to dismantle the bowling as he has done regularly in recent matches, accumulating 54 runs before he skied Andile Phehlukwayo to Faf du

Plessis at mid-off. Three balls later Root departed for 51, playing a loose drive at Kagiso Rabada to give JP Duminy a simple catch at backward point and leave England on 111/3.

South Africa continued to bowl tightly as Morgan and Stokes set about rebuilding the innings. Morgan struck the first six in the 26th over and the captain cleared the ropes twice more in a fourth-wicket partnership of 106. Morgan, on 57, was brilliantly caught off Tahir by Aiden Markram at long-on, the fielder diving forward to catch the ball inches from the turf, and England failed to cut free.

Jos Buttler made a scratchy 18, Moeen Ali three before he too fell to a superb catch on the boundary by Du Plessis and Chris Woakes 13 as the last 10 overs produced 76 runs to leave the match finely poised at the half-way stage.

Amla retired hurt

South Africa opener Hashim Amla was forced to retire hurt after being struck on the helmet by a short delivery from Archer and England took wickets at regular intervals. Markram was caught by Root at slip off Archer for 11 and captain Du Plessis, on five, skied the fast bowler to Moeen at fine leg. De Kock made 68 and Rassie van der Dussen 50, the pair sharing a third-wicket partnership of 85 to keep South Africa in the match.

Spectacular catch

Stokes pulled off a spectacular diving one-handed catch on the boundary to dismiss Phehlukwayo and the last three wickets fell quickly, including Amla who returned to the crease but was out for 13.

Source: Reuters

ROUND THE CLOCK DRILL TO GET DIRECT THROWS RIGHT

SOUTHAMPTON (TIP): The Indian team has always been considered as a safe catching unit but fielding coach R Sridhar now wants improvement in the conversion rate for direct throws in the World Cup.

Save Ravindra Jadeja, some of the younger Indian players in the current squad, despite their supreme fitness and agility, are not able to get their direct throws on target, a crucial aspect during close games. Trying to beat the monotony, Sridhar introduced a new fielding drill 'Round The Clock', wherein fielders at six different positions will take a shy at the non-striker's end. While the drill seemed to be like an 'old wine in a new bottle', the players seemed to be enjoying the session, which is the key during a big tournament. "We had an interesting fielding session today. The theme of the session was direct hits. The focus was on the boys getting it right from different angles at the non-striker's end. Initially, we started with a drill called 'Round the Clock' where there were six different fielding positions from where they had to hit the stumps 20 times," Sridhar said.

Last man standing

After a brief session where Sridhar spoke about the importance of having a "correct arm path" in order to get the execution right, he arranged for a competition where the last man standing was certainly not the 'best man standing'. "Then we introduced a game where those who get a successful direct hit are out of the session and those who fail have to come back again. Finally, there was only one guy who was left in the end. The boys were rolling on the floor laughing," Sridhar said.

Kohli's off-spin

The other notable aspect of Thursday's training session was skipper Virat Kohli trying a bit of off-spin at the nets but the batsmen facing him had no problems dispatching the friendly tweaks. With no off-spinner in the squad and Kedar Jadhav hardly bowling with his dodgy hamstrings, it seemed like it was more about providing a bit of knocking for the batsmen.

Source: PTI



Indian junior women's hockey team beat Canada Jr. women 2-0

DUBLIN (TIP): India's Jr Women team beat Canada's Jr. team 2-0 in their final warm up game prior to the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations tournament on May 29.

The game was a tightly contested encounter, with both teams eager to get off on the front foot from the opening hooter. A lack of clear-cut chances and some smart defending meant the scoreboard was left undisturbed at the end of the first quarter.

Canada were quicker out of the blocks in the second quarter and earned the first PC of the game early in. Bichu Devi, in India's goal, though was at hand to parry it away and deny them a goal. India pressed forward from there but with little result. The two teams went into half time with the score still a 0-0 stalemate.

The third quarter proved to be the turning point of the game, as both teams threw caution to the wind and went forward in search of

goals. India had the first of the opportunities with a PC that was smartly saved by the Canadian goalkeeper. Bichu Devi was called into action soon after, saving from a Canada PC. Within minutes of that save, India had the lead, Sharmila Devi capping off a fine move with the opener. India went into the break with the 1-0 advantage.

The opening period of the final quarter saw the two teams exchange PCs but with little effect -- both goalkeepers on top of their game to deny the chances. With Canada forced into action, India had more opportunities to avail on the counter, and duly earned their second PC of the game soon. Mariana Kujur slotted home from the ensuing drag flick to double India's lead and guarantee a comfortable victory.

The Indian Jr team will next be in action at the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations tournament from May 31 to June 4.



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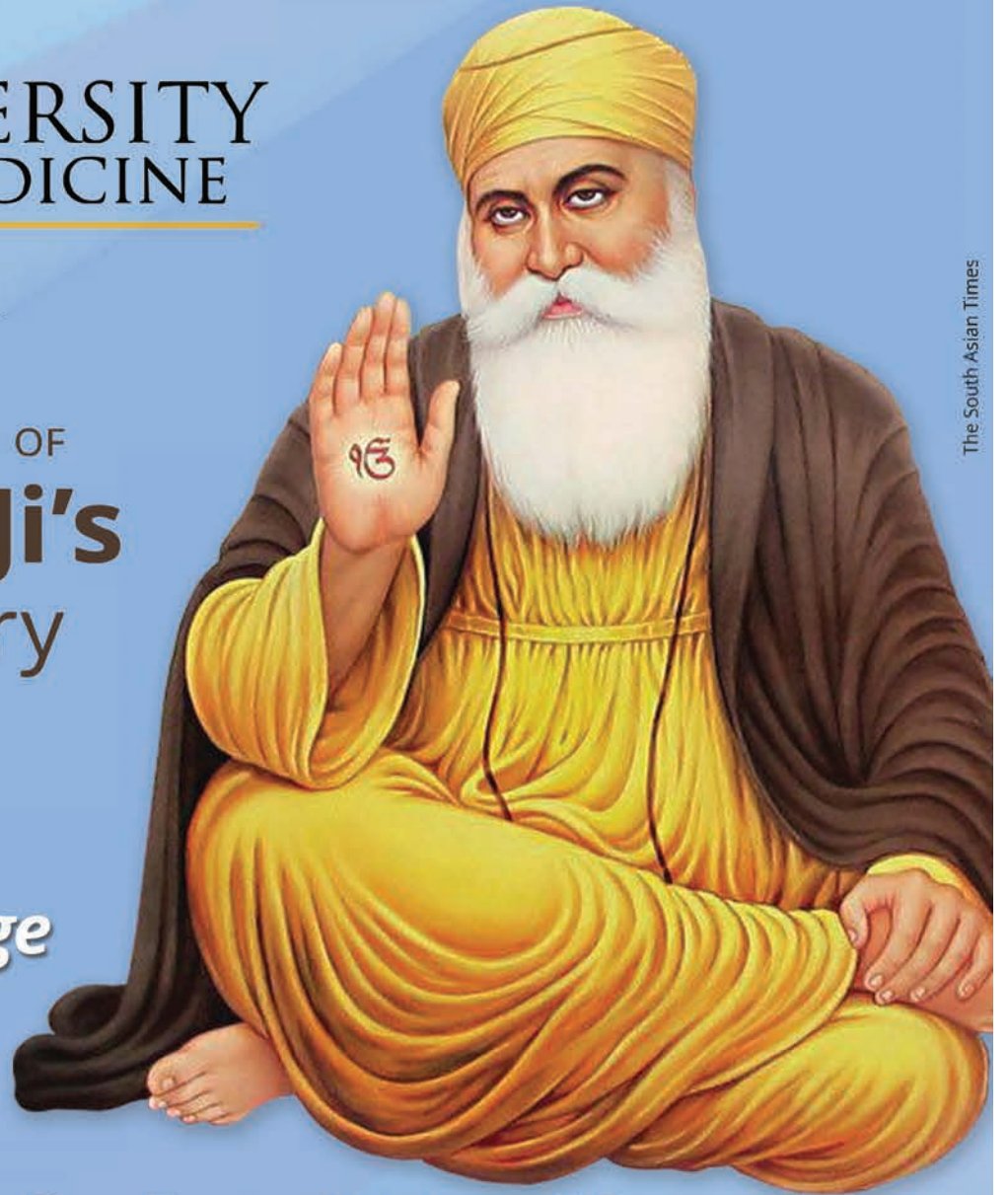


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