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4th of July Special Edition

Articles and advertisements are invited for publication in the 4th of July special edition to mark America's Independence, which may be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by June 30th.

India Secures UNSC Non-Permanent Membership with Unanimous Support of Asia-Pacific Group

Read story on page 6

Trump arrives in Osaka for G-20 Summit; to meet Modi, Xi and Putin

The White House said Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi would hold a bilateral meeting on June 28

OSAKA /WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump on Thursday, June 27, arrived in Osaka, Japan to attend the G-20 Summit over the weekend and to hold discussions on a host of bilateral and global issues with leaders of top 20 economies of the world.

Besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the US president will meet his Chinese and Russian counterparts Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

The White House said Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi would hold a bilateral meeting on June 28. This would be the third engagement of Mr. Trump on Friday, which would start with his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at 8.30 am local time.

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U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi
File photo

Huge Enthusiasm for Yoga: More than 15,000 people participated in various Yoga Day Celebrations

Over 30 organizations participated with Indian Consulate in the celebration of International Day of Yoga 2019



World's oldest Yoga instructor and practitioner Padma Shri Ms. Tao Porchon Lynch (center) taught some Yoga Asanas at the event. On extreme left is Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty

NEW YORK (TIP): Consulate General of India in collaboration with Friends of Yoga celebrated the 5th International Day of Yoga on June 23rd, 2019 at Fair Bridge Hotel & Conference Center, 195 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873. Over 2000 Yoga enthusiasts joined this grand celebration. World's

oldest Yoga instructor and practitioner Padma Shri Ms. Tao Porchon Lynch taught some Yoga Asanas at the event. Mr. Vikas Khanna, celebrity chef and film maker spoke at the event. Motivational Speaker Mr. Gaur Gopal Das also spoke to the audience about the importance of Yoga. contd on Page 3

Census citizenship question blocked by Supreme Court: Trump seeks 2020 Census delay

WASHINGTON (TIP): In a setback for the Trump administration, the Supreme Court on Thursday, June 27, rejected its stated reason for adding a question on citizenship to the census, leaving in doubt whether the question would appear on the census forms sent to every household in the nation next year, says New York Times.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for the majority, said the explanation offered by the Trump administration for adding the question "appears to have been contrived." But he left open the possibility that it could provide an adequate answer.

Executive branch officials must "offer genuine justifications for important decisions, reasons that can be scrutinized by courts and the interested public," the chief justice wrote. "Accepting contrived reasons would defeat the purpose of the enterprise. If judicial review is to be more than an empty ritual, it must demand something better than the explanation offered for



The Supreme Court on Thursday, June 27, rejected Trump administration's stated reason for adding a question on citizenship to the census

the action taken in this case."

The practical impact of the decision was not immediately clear. While the question is barred for now, it is at least possible that the administration will be able to offer adequate justifications for it. But time is short, as the census forms must be printed soon.

President Trump commented on Twitter, writing that he had "asked the lawyers if they can delay the Census, no matter how long, until the United States

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RCHS celebrates 10th anniversary: Gavel passes from Roopam to Mukesh



Roopam Maini (third from right) hands over the gavel to Mukesh Modi (third from left). Seen in picture, from L to R: Rotary District Governor Shawn Weiss, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Mukesh Modi, Roopam Maini, Mrs. Sudha Modi, and Past District Governor and RCHS Charter President Kamlesh Mehta.

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The Rotary Club of Hicksville South (RCHS) celebrated their 10th Anniversary June 23, and honored key supporters and community leaders. The occasion also witnessed change of guard, with Mukesh Modi taking over from Roopam Maini, as the 11th President for 2019-20.



Ravi Bhooplapur conferring Rotary International's highest award, 'Paul Harris Medal of Honor' on Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York. Seen on left is Rotary Governor Shawn Weiss



Dr. Raj Bhayani, eminent ENT Surgeon was honored for his distinguished services. Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty presented the award to Dr. Bhayani

The event was attended by several dignitaries including Indian Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Rotary District Governor Shawn Weiss, Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph S. Saladino's representative, eminent Jain Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni and Past District Governors Ravi Bhooplapur and Kamlesh C. Mehta.

Kamlesh C. Mehta, Past District Governor and Charter President of the club, welcomed the guests and related how RCHS was started 10 years ago by a group of like-minded friends with over 100 charter members, a record for Rotary International's 105 years of history in the US.

PDG Ravi Bhooplapur who had inspired the formation of RCHS, lauded the fact that in the last decade RCHS managed to raise \$800,000 for club-initiated projects and produced a District Governor, and a few Assistant District Governors.

Outgoing President Roopam Maini, Branch Manager BCB Indus American Bank, thanked her executive team for a successful year and related the accomplishments made during her term. She recognized and honored Aleya Jung, Shashi Jhamb and Arjen Bathija for their support.

The high point of the evening came when Roopam Maini handed the gavel to incoming President, Mukesh Modi, an entrepreneur, community leader and philanthropist. Modi said in his acceptance speech that it was an honor to lead the club and he would like to take a quantum leap in the activities of the club during his term.

Modi's team includes Nilima Madan (President Elect), Vice Presidents Shashi Jhamb and Kalpana Patel, General Secretary Shashi Malik, Treasurer Arjen Bathija and Jt Secretary Anu Gulati. Over a score new members were also inducted into the club, including Dr. Pravin Pandhi, Past President of FIA.

Honorees included Dr. Raj Bhayani, eminent ENT surgeon, and Jasbir 'Jay' Singh, Editor-Publisher of Hum Hindustani newspaper and President of India Day Parade of Long Island this year. HAB Bank, the premier community bank,



PDG Ravi Bhooplapur receiving Lifetime Appreciations Award from eminent Jain Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni



Rizwan Qureshi receiving the Lifetime Appreciation award on behalf of HAB Bank from eminent Jain Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni



Jasbir 'Jay' Singh Publisher/ Editor of Hum Hindustani and President of India Day Parade in Hicksville was honored for his community service. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Jasbir 'Jay' Singh, CG Sandeep Chakravorty, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Mukesh Modi



Baby Angel mesmerized the gathering with her vigorous dance performance

were recognized and honored with Lifetime Appreciations Award for their generous contributions for the Club's

humanitarian projects over the past 10 years. HAB Bank Executive Senior Vice President Rizwan Qureshi accepted the award on behalf of the bank

PDG Ravi Bhooplapur was honored with Lifetime Appreciations Award for his continued guidance and mentoring of the club since its inception.

The Banshi Shah Memorial Award for highest donation to RCHS's project in a Rotary year was presented to Subin Varghese of Mekkatti Graphics. He donated over \$25,000 for Kerala flood relief.

Rotary International's highest award, Paul Harris Medal of Honor' was conferred on Amb. Chakravorty by PDG Ravi Bhooplapur. The Consul General was also accorded Honorary Membership of RCHS.

In its 10th anniversary year, RCHS inducted into its Hall of Fame, Past Presidents Dave Vyas Sharma and Qudus Mohammed (Asstt. District Governor 2014-17) for their continued support and exemplary leadership to the club. "Home-Cooking: Recipes for Multicultural Gatherings", a coffee table book written by Qudus Mohammed and published by RCHS, was released at the event. All proceeds of the book will be used for charitable projects of RCHS.

Dr. Urmillesh Arya, Nilima Madan and Roopam Maini received a plaque from Fire Medics, presented to RCHS in appreciation for the support for a stretcher.

Outgoing President Roopam Maini told the gathering of over 200 that in 2018-19 RCHS donated \$10,500 for the Kerala flood relief fund; distributed 700 backpacks with school supplies for students; contributed 500 winter coats, 250 blankets for the needy, and garments worth \$3,500 for veteran families. Serving Food for Hunger project in collaboration with United Methodist Church of Hempstead was continued where 125 people each month are served food and fruit.

Ms. Angel Shah mesmerized over 250 attendees with her dance performance.

There are over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, giving rise to a global network of 1.2 million business and professional leaders, all volunteering their time and talents to serve their communities and the world.

(Based on a Press Release)

Tirlok Malik launches Happy Life Yoga, A new educational platform for a Happy & Healthy Living

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): In honor of International Yoga Day 2019, HAPPY LIFE YOGA, conceptualized by Filmmaker, Restaurateur, and Ayurveda Speaker, will be launching on June 29th. The curtain raiser event for this educational platform will be inaugurated by Deputy Consul General of India in New York, Shatrughna Sinha. . Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer will be the chief guest. Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh will be attending as a guest of honor, and many VIPs will be in attendance as well.

This intriguing, interactive, and entertaining experience will include a panel discussion on topics such as how to use Ayurveda in every day life, the place of Western Medicine in holistic wellness, and the benefits of Yoga. Speakers include Dr. Bhupendra Patel, M.D., Ayurvedic Dr. Bhaswati Bhattacharya, and Long Island yoga teacher Ranju Narang.

HAPPY LIFE YOGA, created by Tirlok Malik, is the yoga of life. This educational platform offers a unique holistic approach to health and happiness using tools from Ayurveda, Indian Philosophy, and Yoga to help better manage modern day challenges such as work, finances, relationships, family and other social pressures and ultimately guides you towards a

happy life योग
Ayurveda • Indian Philosophy • Yoga™



Tirlok Malik has promoted Ayurveda for the last 20 years and now he and the team bring the gifts of India through HAPPY LIFE YOGA.

happier life.

Tirlok Malik believes India has always been a spiritual teacher of the world and that Indian Philosophy provides the blueprint of how to live a happy life. Indian Philosophy teaches that we must practice balance in all four aims of human life: Artha, Dharma, Kama and Moksha. These philosophical concepts can be applied to all cultures.

An asana yoga practice and

healthy eating alone will not make us healthy. Kama, the world of all our desires, can be a double edge sword and we must understand and manage this part of the four aims of human life to be healthier and happier. According to Indian Philosophy we can have it all, but as Tirlok Malik says "Fix your Kama, and be happier!"

Indu Jaiswal of The Indian American Forum, one of the oldest organizations of Indian Americans on Long Island, and Prof. Indrajit Saluja publisher and editor of the Indian Panorama, an Indian American Newspaper in New York & Dallas sponsored the event and are committed to spreading the message of HAPPY LIFE YOGA.

Tirlok Malik created HAPPY LIFE YOGA as well as Ayurveda Cafe in Manhattan. He is a happy lifestyle speaker and a New York Emmy Nominated Filmmaker. He is a proud Upper Westsider. He has promoted Ayurveda for the last 20 years and now he and the team bring the gifts of India through HAPPY LIFE YOGA.

HAPPY LIFE YOGA will provide workshops, excursions, events and more. A unique mix of tools and exercises are used in our workshops to apply these philosophical concepts in every day life. www.happylifeyoga.org

Richa Sharma enthralls audience in Atlantic City



Sai USA Inc. of Amit Jaitly presented Richa Sharma Live In Concert on June 14th at Hard Rock Casino in Atlantic City

Photo / Vijay Shah

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (TIP): Richa Sharma is known for her folk-flavored, lively and soulful singing that made her voice and style exclusive in the industry by singing the Bollywood's longest Tracks. The Bidaai Song from the super hit film Baabul and Sajdaa song of 'My name is Khan' never stopped to amaze her fans with her incredible work. When she sang Kal ho naa ho, Sajdaa, Maahi ve and many others, the floor of casino with footsteps of audience amazed to dance until mid-night.

Addressing the audience Richa said about her earlier life, that without any backing she made her dream to make it big in the music world. In her early career, she sang bhajans to ensure her struggle in Bollywood, until the big hit came by in the form of Taal where she sang for A.R. Rahman and that too for Aishwarya Rai who was Miss World at her peak in film industry.

Huge Enthusiasm for Yoga: More than 15,000 people participated in various Yoga Day Celebrations

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Assemblyman Mr. Daniel R. Bensen, New Jersey, Mr. Philip Kramer, Mayor, Franklin Township, New Jersey, Mr. Rajiv Prasad, Councilman At-Large, Franklin Township, New Jersey and Ms. Crystal Pruitt, Council woman At-Large, Franklin Township, New Jersey also attended the IDY 2019 celebration. Welcoming the participants to the Yoga Day celebrations, Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York, said that 'Yoga for all and all for Yoga' should be our motto. He highlighted worldwide momentum that Yoga is gathering in combating lifestyle related diseases, he noted that Yoga is a timeless gift from India to humanity. A guided yoga session based on the Common Yoga Protocol was

performed by the participants.

The session was led by Dr. Dayashankar Vidyalkar, Teacher of Indian Culture at the Consulate General of India, New York. Various other yoga sessions were conducted by professionally trained Yoga teachers. In addition to the Consulate's flagship event, Yoga enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the 5th International Day of Yoga in Pittsburgh, Westchester and Time Square, New York. The Times Square's Summer Solstice Yoga event saw a gathering of over 11,000 participants.

International Day of Yoga 2019 successfully managed to create a broad-based awareness about the benefits of yoga to all sections of the society and also reintroduced the ancient mind-bodypractice and breathing



Yoga enthusiasts doing Yoga

techniques to a technology driven, fast-paced world. The celebration in Somerset, NJ offered a wonderful and enriching experience thanks to the energetic performance by yoga schools and associations. More than 30 organizations participated with the Consulate in the celebration of International Day of Yoga 2019. More than 15,000 people participated in the various Yoga day Celebration this year.

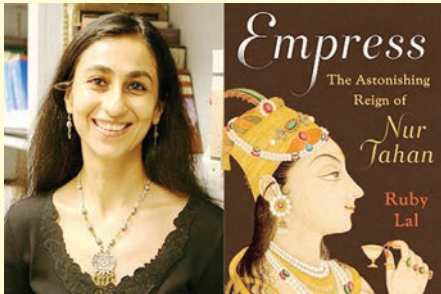
Yoga is an ancient Indian discipline, which has evolved over thousands of years for physical and spiritual wellbeing of the humankind. It has gained worldwide popularity due to its immense health benefits. It not only helps in improving physical health but also brings about inner peace by reducing stress and anxiety. Medical research in recent years has uncovered many physical and mental benefits that Yoga offers, corroborating the experience of millions of practitioners.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 11th, 2014 declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga. The date of June 21st was chosen since this is the summer solstice which is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world.



Representatives of participating organizations and guest speakers with Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha who coordinated the celebrations, and the Consulate staff who all made it a memorable event. Seen in chair is Padma Shri Ms. Tao Porchon Lynch

Indian American Emory Professor Wins Georgia Author of the Year award



Ruby Lal took top honors in the biography category for "Empress: The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan."

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): An Indian American is between two Emory University professors who have won 2019 Georgia Author of the Year Awards for their accounts of historical characters both real and imagined.

Ruby Lal, a professor of South Asian studies in Emory College, won in the biography category for "Empress: The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan," her panoramic story of the wife of Mughal emperor Jahangir, who was regarded by historians as the "real power behind the throne" in 14th century India. The book, Lal's third, had previously been named a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize.

The Georgia Writers Association, the nonprofit that administers the awards, announced the wins during the 55th annual award ceremony on June 15.

Indian Origin Driver of Ridesharing Service Sentenced to 3 Years in Prison for Kidnapping a Rider



Harbir Parmar, 25, of Howard Beach, New York, was sentenced to three years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$3,642 in restitution and forfeiture.

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian origin drive, Harbir Parmar was sentenced in White Plains federal court to three years in prison for kidnapping and wire fraud, Geoffrey S. Berman, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced June 24. Parmar pled guilty on March 11, 2019, before U.S. District Judge Vincent L. Briccetti, who imposed the sentence.

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said: "Many people rely on rideshare apps to navigate New York safely. But when a woman hailed a ridesharing car driven by Harbir Parmar, her ride home took a turn for the worst. With Parmar's lengthy prison term, he will no longer be able to take advantage of ridesharing customers." (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian Americans elected to Princeton Board of Trustees

PRINCETON, NJ (TIP): Two Indian Americans are among nine members Princeton University has named to its Board of Trustees, effective July 1. Sumir Chadha was elected by the board to serve four years as term trustees and Sarah Varghese was elected by the junior, senior and two youngest alumni classes to serve four years as a young alumni trustee.

Chadha, of Hillsborough, California, is the co-founder and managing director of WestBridge Capital, and has been investing in India for the past two decades. He also co-founded and was managing director of Sequoia Capital India. Early in his career, he worked in the Principal Investment Area (PIA) at Goldman Sachs, and at McKinsey & Co.

In 2018, a gift from Chadha established the M.S. Chadha Center for Global India at Princeton, with the goal of bringing together scholars and students from all disciplines to broadly explore contemporary India. The center is part of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), where Chadha is a member of the advisory council.

Varghese, of New Delhi, graduated in June with an A.B. in computer science. Before starting classes at Princeton, she participated in the Novogratz Bridge Year program in Kunming, China, where she volunteered at an anti-human trafficking NGO and taught English and dance. The following summer, she participated in a PIIRS Global Seminar



Sumir Chadha and Sarah Varghese



on Contemporary Chinese Society at Peking University in Beijing. Most recently, she spent time at the Mpala Research Centre in Kenya as an education initiatives summer intern, teaching math and computer science and facilitating community-based projects on disease awareness and prevention.

At Princeton, Varghese has been an Orientation leader, Outdoor Action leader, student worker at the Rocky-Mathey Dining Hall, member of the academic committee of the Undergraduate Student Government, peer tutor and learning consultant at the McGraw Center for Teaching and

Learning, and fellow with the Fields Center. Most recently, she has worked at the Frist Welcome Desk, and has served as a student peer adviser at the Lewis Center for the Arts. She also has been a dancer and choreographer for Raqs Princeton Belly Dance Company and Expressions Dance Company, a member and co-founder at the Scully Co-op, and an actor and co-director for "The Vagina Monologues."

She will join Digital McKinsey's New York location as a business analyst, while also applying to master's programs relating to the intersection of technology and society.

Indian Student Sowmya Karun named 2019-2020 Obama Foundation Scholar



Sowmya Karun works at the intersection of development and data and technology innovation

government officials, to philanthropic leaders and field officers from around the world on implementing data and tech solutions in their fields. Her work involves understanding their programs to advise on how analytics and technology can solve on-the-ground issues and amplify their impact, by conceptualizing bespoke data-driven technological solutions.

Prior to SocialCops, Sowmya was a legal and policy researcher on information and data policies and worked with the Election Commission of India to convene a diverse set of government, political, and civil society stakeholders to recommend reforms on political finance.

She is among the 20 Obama Foundation Scholars at the University of Chicago who will earn a Master of Arts degree focused on international development and policy at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. The 12 Obama Foundation Scholars at Columbia University will participate in Columbia World Project. The Obama Foundation Scholars program was launched in 2018.

Indian American UChicago Graduate student recognized for exceptional teaching of undergraduates

CHICAGO (TIP): Varun Ahluwalia, an Indian origin University of Chicago student has been named one of the 2019 winners of the Wayne C. Booth Prize for Excellence in Teaching, awarded annually to graduate students for outstanding instruction of undergraduates.

Students and faculty in the College nominated the recipients for the prize, which was established in 1991 in honor of Booth, PhD'50, the late UChicago faculty member who was one of the 20th century's most influential literary critics.

Before coming to UChicago for the Harris School's Master of Public Policy program, Varun Ahluwalia was a public servant back in India. He worked in diverse roles in the federal government, from an early position with the central police force to his most recent job as the deputy accountant general for the northern province of Punjab.

Though he has a background in mechanical engineering, Ahluwalia has focused his studies at UChicago around economics, teaching the economics core sequence to undergrads and a microeconomics course to business students at Chicago Booth.



Before coming to UChicago for the Harris School's Master of Public Policy program, Varun Ahluwalia was a public servant back in India



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Air India Mumbai-Newark Flight Diverted to London after Hoax Bomb Threat



Air India Boeing 777-337 (File photo)

LONDON / NEWARK (TIP): An Air India flight from Mumbai to Newark was diverted to London's Stansted Airport on Thursday June 27 due to a bomb threat, according to authorities. The Boeing 777-337 was escorted by British fighter jets to land in Stansted.

News agency ANI quoted an Air India official to say the bomb threat was a hoax. "Air India 191 Mumbai-Newark flight has landed safely at London and all passengers are safe. Earlier, the flight had made a precautionary landing due to a bomb threat that was declared hoax," ANI quoted an Air India spokesperson.

Stansted Airport authority said in a statement, "An Air India Boeing 777 'diverted into the airport at 10:15 hrs and landed safely with the Essex Police in attendance. It is parked on an isolated stand away from the normal airport operations. Our runway has now re-opened and is fully operational."

IACFNJ awards scholarships to students

Four students received scholarship for excellence in Literature and Community Service activities and leadership

BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP): Indo-American Cultural Foundation of Central Jersey - IACFNJ, a non-profit organization in New Jersey has been a leading community organization in central Jersey and has been very popular among young generation of Indian Americans in South Brunswick, North Brunswick, Monroe, Princeton, Princeton Junction and surrounding areas of heavily populated South Asians in North Brunswick, Franklin Park, Princeton, Princeton Junction, Monroe, East Brunswick and East and West Windsor to organize successful events like Navratri Garba, summer picnic, India's Independence Day celebration, holiday party and spring festival to bring the community together for the past two decades.

IACFNJ provided scholarship to students from North Brunswick High School in 2018. This year, the scholarships were extended to South Brunswick High School also and winners sponsored by IACFNJ were in literature and community service leadership and total of four students, two from each high school were chosen as per the criteria selected by North Brunswick High School and written essays submitted and overall academic achievers from South Brunswick High School. The award ceremony was held on June 5, 2019, at North Brunswick High School and Chandler Mattis and Meha Pandejee received the scholarship



The scholarship winning students being addressed

by two members of IACFNJ. The Senior Awards night was held at South Brunswick High School on June 12, 2019, where the scholarships were given to Tejasvi Kalakota and Rohil Sheth. The goal of IACFNJ is to continue to expand scholarship programs to various high schools to promote academic achievements and encourage students to take leadership roles. IACFNJ has been a leading organization in NJ to promote culture, heritage, art and values by doing cultural programs and community events throughout the year to unite people and embrace cultural diversity.

The executive committee and committee members have been working so hard to keep the community together by becoming bridge between all culture and backgrounds. The executive board includes Hitesh Patel, Chairman, Dr.

Tushar Patel, President, Mahesh Patel and Deven Patel as Vice President, Mac Shah, Secretary, Rajesh Patel as Treasurer and Surabhi Agarwal as Joint Secretary. The pillars and founders of the organization and trustees include Raojibhai Patel, Rewo Nawani, Murthy Yerramilli and Jadhav Chaudhary.

The upcoming events of IACFNJ will be annual summer picnic on Sunday, July 28, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Mercer County Park - West Picnic area in West Windsor. The details of rest of the year's IACFNJ events to include Navratri Garba will be announced in the very near future.

For IACFNJ future events, please visit organization website at www.IACFNJ.org or e-mail at iacfnj@yahoo.com.

(Press release)

New UN Women report puts forth policy agenda to end gender inequalities within families

NEW YORK (TIP): As women's rights have advanced over the past decades, families around the world have become a place of love and solidarity but also one where fundamental human rights violations and gender inequalities persist, according to UN Women's new flagship report, "Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World," published today.

"Around the world, we are witnessing concerted efforts to deny women's agency and their right to make their own decisions in the name of protecting 'family values'. Yet, we know through research and evidence that there is no 'standard' form of family, nor has there ever been," said UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. "This report counters that pushback by showing that families, in all their diversity, can be critical drivers of gender equality, provided decision-makers deliver policies rooted in the reality of how people live today, with women's rights at their core."

Anchored in global data, innovative analysis and case studies, the report shows the diversity of families around the world and provides robust recommendations to ensure that laws and policies support today's families and meet the needs of all their members, especially women and girls, with



"Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World" examines how the transformations in families impact women's rights, and reveals most countries can afford family-friendly policies

analysis of what it would cost to implement them.

Among the trends observed:

The age of marriage has increased in all regions, while birth rates have declined, and women have increased economic autonomy;

Globally, a little over one third (38 per cent) of households are couples living with children; and

extended families (including other relatives) are almost as common (27 per cent);

The vast majority of lone-parent families, which are 8 per cent of households, are led by women, often juggling paid work, child-rearing and unpaid domestic work. Same-sex families are increasingly visible in all regions.

As the report shows, families can be places of care, but can also bring conflict, inequality and, far too often, violence. Today, three billion women and girls live in countries where rape within marriage is not explicitly criminalized. **Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news**

India Secures UNSC Non-Permanent Membership with Unanimous Support of Asia-Pacific Group

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): In an extremely significant diplomatic victory for India, the Asia-Pacific group of the world body, including Pakistan and China, unanimously endorsed India's candidature for a non-permanent seat

at the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term.

"A unanimous step. Asia-Pacific Group UN unanimously endorses India's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the security council for two-year term in 2021-22. Thanks to all 55 members for their support," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin tweeted on June 25.

The Council is composed of 15 Members: Five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. Each year the 193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA) elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term.

Previously, India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Council for the years 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and most recently in 2011-2012.



India's candidature for UNSC non-permanent seat for two-year term endorsed by Asia Pacific group

48 Graduates get their diplomas at the 12th Graduation Ceremony of Xavier University School of Medicine

NEW YORK (TIP): On Saturday, June 15, 2019, Xavier University School of Medicine held its twelfth Graduation Ceremony. This year's festivities took place at St. John's University in Queens, New York.

48 graduates took the stage to receive their coveted hoods and well-earned diplomas. These students have spent tireless hours in their studies, and it was wonderful to see them finally graduate. Graduates Natasha Sebastian, Valedictorian, Alana Keegan, Co-Salutatorian, and Albertina Sebastian, Co-Salutatorian had the honor of speaking to their fellow graduates and the audience during the ceremony. In the Valedictorian speech, Natasha reflected on her time in medical school at Xavier and challenged her fellow classmates to embrace the next steps in their medical journey as they officially become doctors. During the first Co-Salutatorian speech, Albertina spoke to and thanked all the people who helped her along the way including her family, friends and Xavier faculty. In the second Co-Salutatorian speech, Alana spoke about her journey through medical school and the importance of having a diverse education. These three students were honored with plaques to commemorate their successes.

Xavier was pleased to welcome back an alumnus to address the graduates: Dr. A. Aboud.

Dr. Aboud who is currently at Michigan State University Hospital in a Family Medicine residency. Dr. Aboud spoke to the students and gave his personal advice on how they can best succeed in their futures, and how to be successful during residency. A few of the most important tips that he gave to the students were time management, becoming a quick learner and learning to adapt quickly, and being able to learn from and understand your struggles or any difficulties they might face. Xavier encourages alumni to continue their involvement with the University, and it was wonderful to welcome back Dr. Aboud for this special event.

Aside from students, Xavier was honored to have many dignitaries present for the event, including Chairman Edwin Casey, Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat, President Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Trustee Dr. Obi Nwasokwa, Trustee Dr. Anthony Shallash, Trustee Mr. Frank Croes, Trustee Dr. Ravindra Kota, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Arun Dubey, Dr. Ahmad Abazid, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Richard Pestell, and Professor Neelam Dwivedi. Xavier also had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Neil Martin as the Keynote Speaker and Dr. Srikanth Hosur as the guest speaker.

Dr. Neil A. Martin, the keynote speaker at Xavier 2019 Graduation Ceremony, attended Yale University and earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia. He completed his surgical internship and neurosurgical residency under the direction of Charles Wilson, M.D. at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Martin was with UCLA Neurosurgery for just over three decades. On July 1, 2008 Dr. Martin was appointed



Xavier University School of Medicine Leadership and Administration joined on stage by the Class of 2019 graduating class



From Left to Right: Guest Speaker Dr. Srikanth Hosur, Keynote Speaker Dr. Neil Martin, Xavier President Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Xavier Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat, Xavier Chairman Dr. Edwin Casey

the first Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Martin is transitioning to Danville, PA where he begins a new chapter having been appointed Director, Neuroscience Institute and Chief Quality Officer for Geisinger Health System. In his address to the students, Dr. Martin gave his own personal insights as to his own experiences in becoming a doctor. He spoke about how at times it can be difficult but it is also one of the most rewarding jobs, knowing that you can have such an immense impact in helping another person. Xavier thanks Dr. Martin for attending.

The Guest speaker at Xavier's 2019 Graduation Ceremony was Dr. Srikanth Hosur. Dr. Srikanth Hosur is the current Chief Medical Officer in the Geisinger Health system at Geisinger Community Medical Center located in Scranton PA. Dr. Hosur addressed the students and audience by speaking on the current state of the health care industry and some of the technological advances that are taking place. He congratulated the students and their families on this remarkable achievement and wished them good luck in all of their future endeavors. Xavier was proud to have Dr. Hosur speak at our ceremony.

Members of the Xavier Board of Trustees also spoke to the students and their friends and families in attendance and gave their advice for success in the future. Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat spoke about the growth that Xavier has achieved in the past decade, and how the University is committed to further this growth in the coming years. Dr. Bhat also reflected on his life in medicine and gave advice to all the students that will help them to achieve success in this profession. Chairman Mr. Edwin Casey spoke on the topic of success, and mentioned how important it is to

embrace all the people your lives who have helped you get to where you are today. Finally, President Ravishankar Bhooplapur addressed the audience by speaking about how much technology has changed the medical industry for the better and how it has helped these graduates. He also spoke on what a remarkable achievement this is for each and every one of the graduates and that they should continue their hard work and dedication in the next chapter in their medical journey.

Graduation is a special time for these students as we are all able to celebrate and reflect on all that they have achieved in their medical school journey here at Xavier. Everyone at Xavier is excited to see all the success that our students will have in the future and are proud to call them our alumni.

Xavier University School of Medicine 2018 Graduates:

1. *Aanak Shah
2. Aaron Walker
3. Aditi Sarker
4. Ahmad Faour
5. *Ahmed Mahmood
6. Akaz John

7. *Alana Keegan
8. *Albertina Sebastian
9. Amer Sultan
10. *Asma Toor
11. Christopher Orlando
12. Daniel Askarinam
13. Darshan Bhatti
14. Deepti Kalani
15. *Ella-Marie Kabia
16. Ernst Eliassaint
17. *Farah Khan
18. Gillian Buddington
19. *Gopi Patel
20. Grishma Jalemu
21. Harbir Mandair
22. Ingrid Martinez
23. Jakarinya Mangalamoorthy
24. Jenin Jose
25. *Jude Akpede
26. Julian Hao
27. Junita Jose
28. *Lauren Levy
29. Maha Azhar
30. *Mandip Mann
31. *Margaret Gavor
32. Megha Abraham
33. Michelle Sadik
34. Mina Thomas
35. *Mohammed Ahmed
36. Mohsin Altaf
37. Nabil Ahmed
38. *Natasha Sebastian
39. Neveen Al-Atiyat
40. Noor Al Saadi
41. *Pouria Mohammadi
42. Sara Philip
43. Seung Eun Kim
44. Sherelle Smart
45. Shoyeb Patel
46. Suha Qasem
47. Urooj Firasat
48. *Utkarsha Kothavade

* With honors

(Based on a press release)

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GUEST COMMENT

At the high table: on India's non-permanent seat at UNSC

India must think big as it takes a step towards a non-permanent seat on the UNSC

By winning the unanimous endorsement of the 55-nation Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations Security Council, India has cleared an important hurdle in its quest for a non-permanent seat for 2021-22. The decision of the grouping this week was taken as India was the sole candidate for the post. In the next step, all 193 members of the UN General Assembly will vote for five non-permanent seats in June 2020, when India will need to show the support

of at least 129 countries to go through to the UNSC. It will then occupy the seat at the UNSC for a two-year period, as it has previously on seven occasions since 1950-51. There are several reasons why India decided to pursue its candidature for 2021-22. The government at the time had felt it was necessary to have India's voice at the high table as many times as possible, and therefore began the process for another seat shortly after it had ended its previous tenure in 2011-2012. By rotation, that seat would have reached India only in the 2030s, and India had to reach out to Afghanistan, which had put in its bid already for the 2021-22 slot, to

request it to withdraw. Afghanistan did so because of the special relationship between the two countries. India has a unique role to play at the UNSC, given the near-complete polarization among the permanent members (P-5 nations), with the U.S., the U.K. and France on one side, and Russia and China on the other. India's ability to work with both sides is well known. The year 2022 also has a sentimental value attached to it, as it marks the 75th year of India's Independence, and a place at the UNSC would no doubt add to the planned celebrations that year. Since 2013, when it first announced the bid, the government has run a quiet but consistent campaign towards this goal.

It is significant that despite the poor state of bilateral relations with Pakistan, and the many challenges India has faced from China at the UN, both the countries graciously agreed to the nomination.

From this point on, it is necessary for the government to think beyond the campaign for the UNSC and work out a comprehensive strategy for what it plans to do with the seat. In the past, India has earned a reputation for 'fence-sitting' by abstaining on votes when it was required to take a considered stand on principle, and the seat will be a chance to undo that image. Given the twin challenges of a rising China, and the U.S. receding from its UN responsibilities, India must consider how it will strengthen the multilateral world order amid frequent unilateral moves by both the world powers. An even bigger challenge will be to nudge all five permanent members on the one issue they have unitedly resisted: towards the reform and expansion of the UNSC, which would include India's claim to a permanent seat at the high table.

(The Hindu)

AS I SEE IT



By Lt Gen Harwant Singh (Retd)

Should the present standoff between America and Iran spill over into a conflict, it will have a far-reaching consequence: not only will it lead to further destabilizing the Middle East, but will also have wider ramifications, besides being disastrous for the world economy.

The Middle East has been in a state of turmoil for decades. Yet another and the more serious of these now appears to be around the corner. In fact, an airstrike in response to the downing of the drone was ordered but was cancelled by Trump, minutes before takeoff by American bombers. So, the situation is fluid and unpredictable. It was not clear whether the targeting of the drone was done at the tactical level or on orders from the highest level.

Iran had embarked on the path to developing nuclear weapons and at some point, Israel was planning to bomb the nuclear facilities of that country. However, during the Bush and Obama administrations, Israel was repeatedly talked down from adopting this course. It was obvious that if Iran retaliated, that would have sucked in American military forces into the conflict. However, both Israel and the US did carry out complex cyber attacks on Iranian facilities to buy time and delay Iranian moves to develop a nuclear weapon.

Eventually, the US under Barak Obama and five other countries, i.e. Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, in 2015 drew a treaty with Iran that it will not enrich uranium to weapon grade. In addition, the deal laid down that Iran can stockpile no more than 300 kg of the so-called low-enriched uranium, a fraction of what it previously hoarded. To remain under this limit, Iran shipped low enriched uranium out of the country. In addition, there are some other restrictions relating to the enrichment of uranium and advance centrifuge. This restriction is valid till 2030. Though, some call this date far too soon.

Trump, during his first 15 months in office, had Lt Gen HR McMaster as

national security adviser, Rex W Tillerson as Secretary of State and Jim Mattis as Secretary of Defense and they all were of the view that the President should expand the deal rather than reject it. However, soon after Tillerson and McMaster were moved out, Trump declared this Obama-era treaty as the 'worst deal ever and a disaster.'

Consequently, America withdrew from this treaty, while the other five countries and Iran did not follow this line. However, Iran is believed to have announced that it will not abide by the treaty. Since the withdrawal from this treaty, America has been imposing increasingly harsh trade sanctions, which, in turn, have been crippling the Iranian economy.

These sanctions affect India, too, because much of its oil and at cheaper rates is obtained from Iran. Large numbers of international flights which fly over the Gulf have since been cancelled.

Earlier, four oil tankers navigating the Gulf of Oman, near the Fujairan port, were attacked. But the recent attack on two tankers - Kokuka Courageous of Japan and Front Altair of Norway - almost crippled these tankers and the crew abandoned the ships. An American video of a small boat filled with sailors by the side of one of the stricken tankers has been taken as proof of Iranian hand in this attack. In addition, the mine used to damage one of the tankers is believed to be of Iranian origin. Though, the German Foreign Minister has said that this video is not enough proof of Iranian culpability in these incidents. Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has tweeted that America has accused Iran without a shred of evidence.

Yet, some experts are of the view that Iraq is seeking ways to strike America while maintaining just enough ambiguity to avoid a direct military confrontation.

Harassing tankers in the Gulf punishes the United States by raising the price of oil and gives Iran a collateral benefit of increasing its revenue from the sale of lesser quantity of oil being sold due to the

Dangers of the US-Iran standoff

While the ever-increasing sanctions are crippling the Iranian economy, they are merely hardening the stance of that country. Iran is threatening that it would stockpile more dangerous - nuclear fuel - and exceed the 300-kg limit and would follow through with its threat to enrich uranium to higher levels.

sanctions.

At the American end, the public is a bit cynical about presidents and intelligence after George W Bush's invasion of Iraq based on false accusations of weapons of mass destruction and Barak Obama's accusation of Syria gassing its own people.

Even before these two incidents of attack on oil tankers, Trump had ordered the move of an aircraft carrier group into this area. Subsequently, he moved some more troops.

It may be argued why the United States is getting involved in this emerging hostile scene when neither of the ships belongs to the US. But America has been committed since World War II to ensure safe export of petroleum products from the Persian Gulf. Subsequently, during the First Gulf War in 1990, the United States reinforced that commitment with a military build-up in the region.

While the ever-increasing sanctions are crippling the Iranian economy, they are merely hardening the stance of that country. Iran is threatening that it would stockpile more dangerous - nuclear fuel - and exceed the 300-kg limit and would follow through with its threat to enrich uranium to higher levels.

Equally, the Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran, which is allied with hardline politicians and wields an important military and economic clout in Iran, has been at odds with the more pragmatic political leadership. And, it is determined to safeguard its own interests by threatening the oil transport on which the world's economy depends. The Revolutionary Guard views that this standoff with America will benefit it in the coming elections by striking at President Hassan Rouhani as well.

At the same time, Iran does understand that a conflict with the United States could be very damaging, but Iran's point is that if it cannot export its oil and safeguard its economy, then no Gulf country will be allowed to do so.



The US has imposed harsh trade sanctions on Iran. Iran facing 'greatest pressure and economic sanctions' in 40 years, says Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

At the American end, both Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and John R Bolton are pushing for an ever-increasing tightening of pressure on Iran. At the recent meetings held in the Oval Office, the common view was that America needs to respond to the attack on its drone which was flying over international waters and not over Iranian-controlled waters, as claimed by Iran.

The fact is that Iran has been backing allied militias in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and even the government's opponents in Bahrain. This is the other issue which has been provoking American reaction. All this is taking the two countries closer to a flashpoint. Should the present standoff between America and Iran spill over into a conflict, it will have a far-reaching consequence: not only will it lead to further destabilizing the Middle East, but it will also have wider ramifications, besides being disastrous for the world economy.

However, the ever-unpredictable Trump may any time soon change his stance for the better. Though, Trump seems to view that this conflict might imperil his chances for a second run on the presidency.

In fact, even after pulling out of the nuclear treaty with Iran, he has called upon that country to abide by the treaty. This flip-flop by Trump keeps everyone in suspense. Some perceive it as madness, while some others view it as shrewd moves.

(The author is a former Deputy Chief of Army staff, India)

Will India Capitalize on Offers from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ?



By Ven Parameswaran

On the eve of his three-day trip to India, the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo addressed the USIndia Business Council in Washington D.C. on strengthening the USA-India Close Ally relationship. He stated: "I truly believe that our two nations have an incredibly unique opportunity to move forward together, for the good of both of our peoples, the INDO-PACIFIC region, and indeed the entire world. We have taken our defense cooperation to new heights, solidified our common vision for the Indo-Pacific, and taken a far tougher stand on Pakistan's unacceptable support for terrorism in the region."

It is important that India must attach importance to reciprocating and working together with the sole superpower, the United States. The proverb --A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED-- applies. To protect and defend India and the stability of South Asia, India must take into account the adventures of China and the menace of terrorism from Pakistan.

It is a well-known fact that China has encircled India dominating its power and influence on all of India's neighbors - Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives Islands, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Nepal has always been a friend of India and as a landlocked country, Nepal has depended on India. But China has used its political skills and succeeded in dominating Nepal. India and Nepal must cooperate more to make sure that democracy survives in Nepal.

Chinese Navy has been very aggressive in the waters surrounding India. In fact, China has been using the South Asian waters as its swimming pool without respecting international sovereignty. On the pretext of helping to assist in developing Sri Lanka's port it has exploited by loaning too much money to Sri Lanka, knowing fully well that Sri Lanka would not be able to return. This has forced Sri Lanka to hand over control of its port to China. This was the military design of China and it worked.

China has applied the same technique to Pakistan. China has been building an international silk route cutting thru Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. China is on its way to take over the port in Baluchistan.

China has been playing politics in Bangladesh to create rift between Bangladesh and India. To encourage rifts, China is lending substantial money to Bangladesh.

China has also succeeded in dominating Myanmar by influencing its military, while its civilian government is trying to build democratic institutions.

INDIA, THEREFORE MUST BE

India alone, does not have the financial resources or technological superiority to defend from the aggressive China. India, therefore, must treat the USA-INDIA CLOSE ALLY relationship as a blessing at the most opportune time.

FULLY AWARE THAT IF CHINA IS ALLOWED ALMOST CARTE BLANCHE IT WILL CONTROL SOUTH ASIA AND ENDANGER THE SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF INDIA.

INDIA alone does not have the financial resources or technological superiority to defend from the aggressive China. India, therefore, must treat the USA-INDIA CLOSE ALLY relationship as a blessing at the most opportune time.

Secretary Mike Pompeo continued in his speech:

"When Prime Minister Modi visited the White House back in 2017, he and President Trump exchanged a lot of good will and a couple of hugs," and added that he could not agree more with Modi's remarks that "India's interests lie in a strong and prosperous, successful America, and in the same way that India's development and its growing role at the international level are in the United States of America's interest as well."

INCREDIBLY UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

"We have come a long way. And now the Trump and Modi administrations have an incredibly unique opportunity to take advantage of this special partnership. We can move further," Pompeo said.

INDIAN AMERICANS, AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN INDO-US RELATIONS

Pompeo was quick to note the role of the Indian American community and its contributions, pointing out that the Indian Americans too have contributed mightily to things that happened here in the United States. We have watched Indians reach the heights of industry, and academia, and government. People like Microsoft's CEO (Satya Nadella), Google's CEO (Sundar Pichai), and FCC (Federal Communication Commission) Chairman, Ajit Pai, a great Kansan, have done remarkable things all around the world.

IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN INDO-USA RELATIONS

I must point out that never before since India became independent in 1947, the USA and India, at the initiative and leadership of President Trump in 2017 had decided to be CLOSEST ALLIES on a par with the U.K., Canada, Australia, and Japan. The Secretary, who will meet with Prime Minister Modi and the newly appointed Foreign Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, exhorted that:

"we must embrace that strategic framework that works for both of our nations. We respect India as a truly sovereign, important country, with its own unique politics and its own unique



Mike Pompeo called on Prime Minister Modi



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar held wide ranging talks

strategic challenges."

TECHNOLOGY WILL DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF WAR, PEACE AND PROSPERITY. US LEADS

President Trump in awarding CLOSEST ALLY relationship to India had stated that the US will be allowed to transfer 100% of all its technology to India. Pompeo said that the Trump administration has already enabled American companies to export more high technology items to India, including cutting-edge defense platforms like armed UAVs and ballistic missile defense systems.

I should point out that because of US sanctions against India for over 30 years, India became far behind and must catch up with sophisticated technology in a hurry.

BOEING, LOCKHEED MARTIN, AND WESTINGHOUSE

Secretary Pompeo said, "We have already launched the Asia-EDGE program, to help India raise private capital to meet its security and access needs. These are solid achievements, but we want to do much more. We clearly have overlapping interests in defense, energy, and space," he said, and pointed out that the first batch of India's Apache helicopters are coming off Boeing's production line in Arizona.

"Lockheed Martin's F-21 and Boeing's F/A-18 are state-of-the-art fighters that could give India the capabilities it needs to become a full-fledged security provider in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

On energy, we want to complete the Westinghouse civil nuclear project, and deliver more American LNG and Crude," he added, and predicted that these steps will give Indians "reliable and abundant energy and help reduce dependence on regimes like Iran and Venezuela."

SPACE COOPERATION

Pompeo also noted that "on space, NASA is already working with the Indian Space Research Organization on the world's most advanced earth-observation satellite and India's second lunar mission."

POMPEO SEEKS ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC INTERCOURSE WITH INDIA

On his 3-day visit to India, Pompeo said:

"Now, I am sure we will breach some tough topics too. But as we democracies have come to know, that we work out the disagreements. We bring them to the table honestly and fairly. And we will probably discuss the recent decision on the GSP program.

contd on Page 30

535 'headphone walkers' killed by Dhaka trains

DHAKA (TIP): A total of 535 people have been killed since 2010 after being hit by trains while wearing headphones on tracks in and around the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, the police said on June 27.

The mostly unfenced railways of the South Asian country of 165 million people are notoriously dangerous, with around 1,000 fatal accidents or suicides every year.

But police said in recent years "headphone walkers" have become a new menace as people walk on tracks listening to music or talking on mobile phones using earphones.

"Walking on railway tracks and putting on headphones is banned in the country. Still a lot of people ignore the ban and are killed by trains," Dhaka rail police chief Yeasin Faroque Mozumder told AFP.

Fatalities hit a record high in 2014 when 109 people died. Numbers have declined since thanks to an awareness campaign, but police said 54 people were still killed in this way last year.

In neighbouring India, home to one of the world's largest rail networks, some 25,000 people lose lives due to accidents and suicides on railways every year. There are, however, no specific figures on people killed while using headphones. — AFP

Two US soldiers killed in Afghanistan: NATO

KABUL (TIP): Two US service members were killed in Afghanistan on June 26, NATO said, the latest international casualties as the US and the Taliban prepare for a new round of talks.

The deaths came less than 24 hours after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made an unannounced visit to Kabul and said he hopes for a peace deal with the Taliban "before September 1".

The Taliban claimed in a statement they killed two American soldiers in an ambush in Sayed Abad district of southern Wardak province on Wednesday, but there was no immediate confirmation from NATO whether it was the same attack.

The blast brings to nine the number of US service members killed in Afghanistan so far this year, compared to 12 killed in all of 2018.

Last September the US began a fresh push to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table to end America's longest war. The next round of talks between the Taliban and the US are set to begin on June 29 in Doha.

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani will visit Pakistan on Thursday to meet Prime Minister Imran Khan, less than a week after its neighbour hosted Afghan opposition leaders to discuss ways to end an 18-year-long war. The talks have centered on four issues: counter-terrorism, the foreign troop presence, an intra-Afghan dialogue, and a permanent ceasefire. — AFP

Afghan Prez Ghani meets Pak's Imran

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani on June 27 discussed peace efforts in the war-torn country and explored ways to overcome the mistrust in the bilateral relations.

The two leaders held a one-on-one meeting after Ghani arrived in Islamabad on a two-day visit to strengthen bilateral relations and boost peace process in Afghanistan.

Officials privy to the details of the meeting said both leaders emphasised that the commonalities of religion, culture and history were source of strengthen between the two nations.

They discussed efforts to bring peace in Afghanistan and explored ways to strengthen the bilateral relations in different areas, including security and trade, they said. They said that Khan told Ghani that "Pakistan has also supported an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led solution to the conflict".

The two sides also agreed that strong cooperation was needed to ensure regional peace and security. The two leaders later led their sides at the delegations-level talks, which encompassed wide-ranging areas including political, trade, economic, security, peace and reconciliation, education and people-to-people exchanges. — PTI

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani with Pakistani PM Imran Khan in Islamabad.



Pakistani politician assaults journalist during live TV debate: Video goes viral

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A live news debate on a Pakistani news channel turned ugly after an argument between a politician and a journalist turned physical, shocking viewers across the country.

Masroor Ali Siyal, a leader from the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, and Karachi Press Club President Imtiaz Khan were among the panelists on the show "News Line with Aftab Mugheri".

In a video apparently shared by the journalist, Siyal is heard warning Khan about his tone and tenor.

Khan replies in a high-pitched voice that he too won't tolerate any nonsense. Within a split of a second, Siyal gets up and violently pushes Khan from the chair. And then, in a fit of rage, he clutches Khan with his arms—like in a wrestling bout—and apparently hurls blows at him.

Both shout and swear at each other, shocking the moderator while other studio employees rush to separate the two.

Siyal returns to his chair while Khan walks out of the studio. After some minutes, Khan returns to the show and



again sits next to Siyal, warning the PTI leader of legal consequences over the incident.

The video has become a rage on Twitter and within hours had been viewed by 99,000 people. Many trolled the politician over his conduct on a live TV show, and one tweet referred to the incident as an outcome of "Naya Pakistan". — IANS

Cop, 3 assailants killed in suicide attack on police training centre in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Three suicide bombers attacked a police training centre in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province on Wednesday, triggering a shootout that killed a security personnel and the attackers, police said.

Four police personnel were injured in the attack that took place when the policemen were busy taking an examination and the assailants ambushed the main gate of the Police Lines area in Balochistan's Loralai district.

However, nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack but Baloch nationalists and Taliban rebels often carry out such strikes against the security forces.

The Pakistan Army, in a statement, said that one attacker was killed on the gate while two succeeded to enter the building. "The suicide bombers were effectively singled out by the police at the main gate. One suicide bomber was killed by a police guard at the entry point, while two others managed to get inside the premises," the statement said. The armed forces shot dead 4 attackers and 4 security personnel were killed while resisting them at the entrance of the training centre. PTI

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Asylum officers ask court to block Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy

WASHINGTON (TIP): Citing the American government's refusal to take in a group of desperate Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany on the eve of World War II, a group of current asylum officers tasked with overseeing the controversial "Remain in Mexico" policy asked a federal appeals court in a surprising legal filing late Wednesday, June 26, to block the Trump administration from implementing it, says The Post.

The labor union representing thousands of asylum officers, Local 1924, filed the extraordinary court filing siding with plaintiffs seeking to prevent the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from implementing the so-called "Remain in Mexico" program. Under the policy, officially called the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), migrants who claim asylum at U.S. ports of entry along the southern border are required to wait in Mexico while their cases are adjudicated in American immigration courts.

In the filing to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals - which is reviewing the legal challenge to "Remain in Mexico" brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other plaintiffs - the union of asylum officers said the program violates U.S. and international law because it places asylum seekers in dangerous circumstances.

"By forcing a vulnerable population to return to a hostile territory where they are likely to face persecution, the MPP abandons our tradition of providing a safe haven to the persecuted and -- violates our international and domestic legal obligations," the amicus brief read.

Asylum officers, the filing argued, "should not be forced to honor departmental directives that are fundamentally contrary to the moral fabric of our Nation."

The officers noted that the U.S. asylum system built in the wake of World War II and subsequent years is "highly respected internationally" for being compassionate, while at the same time enforcing laws, cracking down on fraud and safeguarding national security. The migrant policy, they said, abandons the commitment the U.S. has made to people around the world who've been displaced by conflict, ethnic strife and natural disasters during the last decades.

"Now, perhaps more than ever, America needs to continue its longstanding tradition of offering protection, freedom, and opportunity to the vulnerable and persecuted," the filing read. "Forty-nine members of the amicus curiae signed up to be asylum and refugee officers to help our nation fulfill that commitment. They did not sign up to administer the MPP."

(Agencies)

Democratic presidential debate's first night- Border, Immigration, healthcare, gun laws dominate

MIAMI (TIP): Sen. Elizabeth Warren was asked four other questions before most of the nine other contenders had been asked two. Her platform set the pace for the night, with other candidates embracing elements of it -- or at least passing on opportunities to break directly with her.

Meanwhile, two of the most aggressive candidates onstage, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro, chose another target to mercilessly attack: former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas. De Blasio hammered O'Rourke on health care, while Castro accused his fellow Texan of failing to do his homework on immigration.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey was a steady presence onstage Wednesday night, offering an aspirational message and separating himself from other candidates on gun control.

"I'm with Bernie on 'Medicare for all,'" Warren said.

O'Rourke got the third question of



Democratic presidential candidates New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio (L-R), Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), former housing secretary Julian Castro, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) take part in the first night of the Democratic presidential debate on June 26, 2019 in Miami, Florida.

MSNBC Screen Shot

the night, about the economy -- and answered it in Spanish before delivering the English version.

And it came on the heels of history being made at the debate's outset:

Three female candidates (Warren, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii) were onstage, more than ever before.

(Source: CNN)

HAF Honors Kashmiri Pandits, Religion Freedom Advocates, Legislators, Linguists at Annual DC Reception

WASHINGTON (TIP): On Monday June 24th, more than 300 people filled the Foreign Affairs Committee Room in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC for the Hindu American Foundation's 16th annual Capitol Hill Reception.

In a first, this year's Capitol Hill Reception was co-hosted by HAF and the Indian American Kashmir Forum, with the partnership of Kashmir Hindu Foundation - all groups advocating for justice for the Hindu Kashmiri Pandit community.

"For too long the religio-ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiri Pandit community from the Valley of Kashmir has been overlooked by the international community," noted HAF Board Member Rajiv Pandit, himself a member of the Kashmiri Pandit community, now living in Texas.

"Some three decades ago thousands of Hindus were killed by their neighbors and Pakistan-sponsored militants, with several hundred thousand forced to flee under threat of horrific violence. Some of us emigrated from India entirely, but the majority of our community remains as internally displaced persons in other parts of India. All of us would like to see a time when we are able to return home safely," Pandit added.

In the wake of heightened violence in the Valley, HAF honored stalwarts of the Kashmiri Hindu community who have made significant and positive



In a first, this year's Capitol Hill Reception was co-hosted by HAF and the Indian American Kashmir Forum, with the partnership of Kashmir Hindu Foundation

contributions in a variety of fields, including human rights, science, and the arts, as were individuals who have worked towards fighting for religious freedom of people around the world.

"We're humbled by the selflessness and achievements of these individuals in protecting, preserving, and promoting the indigenous cultural heritage of Kashmir, and in making incredible advances in a variety of fields," said Suhag Shukla, HAF's Executive Director. "And, after 30 years of largely remaining unheard, we were honored to recognize the efforts of American policy makers who have used their platforms to highlight the need for religious freedom

and human rights for this and other minority communities."

Receiving awards in 2019 were: Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA) - Friend of the Community

- Ambassador Sam Brownback - Mahatma Gandhi Award for Advancing Pluralism
- Bansi Pandit - Dharma Seva Award
- Subhash Kak, Ashok Koul, Arti Tiku Kaul - Award for the Advancement of Dharmic Arts and Sciences
- Vijay Sazawal, Deepak Ganju, Sunil Fotedar- Award for the Advancement of Hindu Human Rights

World Environmental Day and 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi celebrated



1Dr. C.M. Modi, MD, Chairperson (Gandhi Memorial Chicago), Pramod Shah, Village Clerk of Skokie, Hon. George Van Dusen; Mayor of Skokie, Namarati Ji (CG's wife), CG Sudhakar Dalela, CGI staff and Village of Skokie officials



Members of Gandhi Memorial Chicago (GMC) at Gandhi Statue

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Members of Gandhi Memorial Chicago [GMC] supported by the Consulate General of India [CGI], Chicago and in partnership with the Village of Skokie celebrated World Environment Day and commemorated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at Gandhi Statue in Heritage Park at McCormick Blvd' where a 'Tree Planting Event' was held on Wednesday, June 05, 2019 at 11:30 noon.

United Nations has declared June 5, 2019 as the Environment Day and urged the

citizens of the world to plant as many trees as they could around them. The call from the Consul General of India (CGI), Chicago, came to the Gandhi Memorial Chicago, located in Skokie, to plan the celebrations. The GMC determined that the surrounding of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, in the Skokie Sculpture Park, would be an ideal place to celebrate this event. However, this location had a score of challenges for the GMC volunteers due to the extremely wet weather. The entire area was soaked wet due to storms during the previous week. The CGI office stepped

forward and suggested to set up a tent and chairs for the comfort of guests. The CGI, Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, also offered to meet the cost of rental equipment.

As the event began, Hon. George Van Dusen, Mayor of Skokie, arrived right on time at Gandhi statue at 11.30 a.m. The CGI and the Consulate staff had already arrived. A large group of guests from Metropolitan Asian Family Services (MAFS), under the leadership of Mrs. Shanta Kumar also joined.

Mahatma Gandhi's favorite bhajan Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram...was sung.

This Mayor addressed the crowd, followed by the CGI who spoke about the significance of Environment Day.

From thereon, the Skokie Forester Cathy took control of the proceedings. She had pre-selected five spots in the ground around Gandhi statue to plant two shady and three flowering trees in the area. Members of MAFS served refreshments, tea and water bottles to the guests. Dr. C.M. Modi, MD, Chairperson (GMC) happily interacted with guests.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)

Indian Envoy woos Silicon Valley Investors for Next Phase of India's Development

WASHINGTON (TIP): Describing Silicon Valley as the best regional partner of India in the social innovation arena, India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla expressed hope that more VC funding from Silicon Valley will go to India that are vital for the next phase of India's development.

During a short but productive visit to San Francisco June 21, Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, accompanied by Consul General Sanjay Panda, released the 'Bay Area - Silicon Valley and India: Convergence and Alignment in the Innovation Age' India Report. For the first time, the Bay Area Council of San Francisco launched a special focus Report on India.

"As the report suggests, India's third wave of venture capital investment shows maturity with US-based firms now steadying their local presence with dedicated India funds and shifting decision-making to local partners. A whole new breed of 10 Indian start-ups has become unicorns in 2018. This should interest more VC funding from Silicon Valley", said the Ambassador.

"India offers further opportunities for Silicon Valley companies in healthcare and life sciences, energy, IT, Smart Cities, Fintech, Telecom, Semiconductors and AI, as the report rightly identifies. Products and services that use AI for social innovation - applications in agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, education, life sciences, etc, are vital for the next phase of India's development. There isn't a better regional partner than Silicon Valley for us in this arena", he further added.

Earlier Ambassador Shringla met Governor of California Gavin Newsom and Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis. Ambassador also invited the Governor to lead the International Yoga Day 2019 event at Sacramento organized by Consulate General of India, San Francisco.



From L to R - Consul General Sanjay Panda, Ambassador Harsh V Shringla, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, the Chief of Protocol Charlotte Shultz, and Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis at the Bay Area Council Pacific Summit

Governor Newsome agreed to schedule a visit to India as early as possible and was appreciative of the growing popularity of yoga in USA. The Governor agreed to consider leading a business delegation to India to expand the India-California partnership. Ambassador thanked the Governor for his strong support for India-US ties.

The Ambassador spoke on "Economic Prosperity in the Pacific" at the Pacific Summit of the Bay Area Council. At a Panel Discussion with Lt Governor Eleni Koulalakis, he highlighted how India has been a positive and stabilizing partner of the US in South Asia and Indo-Pacific region. "India and the US have formed a robust dialogue with each other and other partners to secure a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific. We are working very well with the U.S. side to make a success of our Indo-Pacific vision and strategy. The launch of India-US-Japan Summit-level Trilateral during 2017 and regular official meetings of the Quadrilateral with Japan and Australia have been a positive



Ambassador Shringla paid tribute to the martyrs of the anti-colonial Gadar Movement
Pictures/Courtesy Indian Embassy

development" he said.

Later, at a function hosted by CG Sanjay Panda in San Francisco, Ambassador Shringla paid tribute to the martyrs of the anti-colonial Gadar Movement and addressed members of the Indian community at the Gadar Memorial. "The voice of the Gadar Party and movement is one of sacrifice and justice. Gadar Babas dedicated their lives to the cause of India. To ensure that the voice does not fade from our memories, the Government of India has embarked on a restoration project. The project will restore this building's original facade from the early 1900s. Inside, we will have a museum and a community hall, as well as spaces for books and artefacts from the Gadar period. We will also dedicate space for research scholars of the future who can study the writings of these brave men", he assured.

During the visit, Ambassador Shringla also met healthcare industry leader Bob Ingram and interacted with the California based media.



CRACKDOWN AGAINST NIRAV MODI: FOUR SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS FROZEN

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major crackdown against Nirav Modi by authorities in Switzerland have frozen four Swiss bank accounts belonging to the fugitive diamantaire and his sister Purvi Modi.

Four Swiss bank accounts of fugitive Nirav Modi and his sister Purvi Modi have been seized. Swiss authorities have seized these accounts on request of Enforcement Directorate.

According to a press release by the Enforcement Directorate, authorities of Switzerland have frozen the bank accounts under the PMLA Act.

The press release read, "The request was made on the ground that money in the bank accounts were deposited out of illegal siphoned off funds from Indian banks."

Swiss authorities have frozen a total of US \$ 6 million present in Nirav Modi's Swiss bank accounts along with the assets.

Purvi is also one of the accused along with brother Nirav Modi in Rs 13,000 crore PNB scam. The Interpol's Loyn office in September last year, had Red Corner Notice against absconding diamond businessman Nirav Modi's sister Purvi Modi in connection with the Punjab National Bank scam.

The 48-year-old, who has been lodged at Wandsworth prison in south-west London since his arrest in March in connection with the nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, will be appearing for the first time since his bail appeal was rejected by the UK High Court earlier this month, his fourth attempt at bail. Modi was arrested by uniformed Scotland Yard officers on an extradition warrant on March 19 and has been in prison since. During subsequent hearings, Westminster Magistrates' Court was told that Modi was the "principal beneficiary" of the fraudulent issuance of letters of undertaking (LoUs) as part of a conspiracy to defraud PNB and then laundering the proceeds of crime.

Haryana Congress leader shot dead near Faridabad gym

FARIDABAD (TIP): Haryana Congress leader Vikas Chaudhary was shot dead by unidentified men outside a gym he used to frequent in Faridabad's Sector 9 on Thursday morning. Chaudhary, 41, suffered at least 10 gunshot wounds in the chest, arm and neck, and was rushed to Sarvodaya Hospital in Sector 8, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Haryana police said personal enmity could be the reason behind the murder. Navdeep Singh Virk, Haryana's additional director general of police (law and order), alleged on Twitter that the murder appeared to be connected to Chaudhary's criminal background.

At 9.02am, Chaudhary, a spokesperson for the Congress in Haryana, had gone to a gym run by a hospital in Sector 9 for a regular workout. He had just parked his sports utility vehicle, a Toyota Fortuner, when a white sedan, a Maruti SX4, in which four men were seated, stopped next to his car.

Two armed men allegedly stepped out of the sedan. While one came in front of Chaudhary's car, the other took position near the driver's window. Police said the two men fired a total of 12 rounds at him.

India's Modi and Japan's Abe discuss economy, bullet train

OSAKA, JAPAN (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, June 27, held wide-ranging talks with his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, on the global economy, fugitive economic offenders and disaster management, and announced that President Ram Nath Kovind would participate in the coronation ceremony of Emperor Naruhito in October.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders since the start of Japan's Reiwa era and Mr. Modi's re-election.

Mr. Modi thanked Mr. Abe for the warm welcome for him and the delegation visiting Japan for the G-20 Summit.

He appreciated Japan's leadership as the G-20 chairman.

Mr. Modi said he was looking forward to Mr. Abe's visit later this year for the annual summit.

Later, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale told presspersons that the meeting between the "old friends" was "warm" and they had a "very constructive and detailed discussion" on bilateral ties.

"Abe initially began discussion with his expectation from the G-20 Summit. They spoke about the



CEMENTING TIES: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Osaka, Japan, on Thursday, June 27.

importance of focusing on global economy," Mr. Gokhale said.

"These are the areas where Abe hoped that he would get the understanding and support of the G20 members, including that of India," Mr. Gokhale said.

Mr. Abe also referred to his forthcoming visit to India.

The two leaders also had a brief discussion on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor and on a convention center being built in Varanasi, Mr. Modi's constituency.

They agreed on the delivery of both the projects on time.

Source: PTI

India-Japan ties to become stronger in 'New India', PM Modi tells diaspora

KOBE, JAPAN (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, June 27 said the ties between India and Japan will become stronger in 'New India' as he thanked the Indian diaspora for being part of the world's largest democratic process, which saw the participation of 61 crore voters.

"When it comes to India's relationship with the world, Japan has an important place in it. This relationship is dated back to centuries. There is a sense of belonging, goodwill and respect for each other's culture and civilization," Modi, who is in Japan to attend the G20 Summit to be held in Osaka from Friday, said while addressing an enthusiastic Indian community at Kobe.

"Almost two decades ago, prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and then Japanese premiere Yoshiro Mori together made our relationship as a global partnership. After becoming Prime Minister in 2014, I got a chance to strengthen our friendship with my dear friend Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"This relationship," Modi said, "will become stronger in 'New India'". He also noted the contribution of Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Justice Radhabinod Pal and many other Indians in strengthening India's



PM Narendra Modi gestures while addressing the Indian community at a program in Kobe, Japan, on June 27.
Photo Courtesy PTI

relationship with Japan.

Modi, who is visiting Japan for the first time after his re-election, said people of India have trusted him once again and have bestowed upon him much more responsibility.

"I'm fortunate to be here once again after 7 months. It's a coincidence that last time when I was here, election results were out here, and you had shown trust in my dear friend Shinzo Abe. Today, when I'm here, the world's largest democracy has shown even greater trust in this 'Pradhan Sevak'," he said.

Thanking the Indian diaspora for playing a vital role in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, in which Modi was voted back to power with a stronger mandate, the

prime minister said, "I am aware that many of you have also contributed in this electoral victory."

While several Indians from Japan came to India and worked on the field, many used social media like Twitter to spread the message of the democratic process, he said.

"For the first time since 1971, the country has given a pro-incumbency mandate to a government. This victory was the victory of truth and democracy," he said. He noted that 61 crore voters, 10 lakh polling stations, over 40 lakh EVMs and more than 8,000 candidates took part in the world's largest democratic process.

The number of voters who participated in the Lok Sabha elections exceeded the population of almost all countries, barring China, he said.

"Government with majority is an advantage in foreign relations...The mandate (given to us) to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of new India will give a fillip to our relations with the world. The mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas aur sabka vishwaas' that we are following will help strengthen the world's trust on India," Modi said.

During his visit to Kobe, the Prime Minister also witnessed the exchange of Letter of Intent on Ahmedabad-Kobe Sister City Partnership.

Source: PTI

India and US resolve to work through their trade differences

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the U.S. resolved to "work through" their differences which have led to an impasse on trade issues as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hosted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Delhi ahead of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump in Osaka this week.

"If you trade with somebody, and particularly if they are your biggest trading partners, it's impossible that you don't have trade issues. But I think the sign of a mature relationship is that ability to negotiate your way through that and find common ground," Mr. Jaishankar said at the end of their meeting on Wednesday, although neither side announced any positive outcomes from the discussions. Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Jaishankar are understood to have thrashed out issues, including tariffs and counter-tariffs imposed by New Delhi and Washington on each other in the past year, as well as the U.S.'s specific concerns with India's proposed laws on e-commerce and data localization, on price caps and market access.

"The U.S. is clear that it seeks greater market access and the removal of trade barriers in our economic relationship, and today I addressed these differences in the spirit of friendship and I think we will be able to resolve these issues in the interests of our two countries," said Mr. Pompeo.

He clarified that the U.S. decision to withdraw India's GSP preferential trade status this month had not come up for discussion.

Mr. Jaishankar said both sides had come away with a "better understanding" of each other's concerns on a wide variety of issues besides trade, including energy, defense, investment concerns and



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi .

people-to-people contacts, as well as the growing conflict in the Gulf with Iran and the peace process in Afghanistan.

Rejecting calls by the United States and the threat of sanctions under its CAATSA law, Mr. Jaishankar said that India will take its decision on the purchase of the Russian S-400 Triumf anti-missile system in its own "national interest", and conveyed this to his American counterpart during talks here on Wednesday.

"On the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act)issue) I explained to Secretary Pompeo in some detail that we have many relationships with many countries, and many of them have some standing and they have a history," said Mr. Jaishankar, referring to India's traditional relationship with Russia.

Mr. Jaishankar also raised India's concerns over growing U.S.-Iran tensions and their impact on India's energy security.

While India has zeroed out all oil imports from Iran since the U.S. sanctions deadline ran out on May 2, it has maintained a cordial and close relationship with the Iranian government. In response, Mr. Pompeo lashed out at the Iranian government, which he called a "terrorist regime", adding that India and the U.S. had a "shared understanding" of the terrorist threat emanating from Iran.

"We know that Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terror, and the Indian people have suffered from terror around the world. So I think there is a shared understanding of the threat and a common purpose to ensuring that we keep energy at the right prices and deter this threat," Mr. Pompeo said.

The MEA declined to comment on whether it supported Mr. Pompeo's remarks, which were made in Mr. Jaishankar's presence. Mr. Pompeo also met with PM Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Wednesday, June 26.

SHOW ZERO TOLERANCE TO TERROR, AMIT SHAH TELLS FORCES IN J&K



Union Home Minister Amit Shah (left) heads a meeting in Srinagar on Thursday to assess the security situation.

SRINAGAR (TIP): Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday called for tightening the noose around terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, urging security forces to show zero tolerance towards terrorist activities and take strict action against terror funding in the state.

On the second day of his two-day visit to the state, Shah also met the widow and two children of a police officer killed in a militant attack in south Kashmir's Anantnag on June 12, at their Belgarden home. During the interaction, which lasted about half an hour, the Union minister offered the widow of the officer a government job.

Shah talked tough on terror during a security review meeting with top officials from the Centre and the state, including Governor Satya Pal Malik. He met many political and non-political delegations, including one comprising 30 sarpanches, but did not meet leaders of any mainstream party such as the National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party or the Congress, officials said.

Briefing the media, state chief secretary BVR Subrahmanyam quoted Shah as saying, "There should be zero tolerance towards terrorism and terrorists. There should be continued strict action against terror funding. The rule of law should be enforced."

Centre to go ahead with disinvestment of Air India

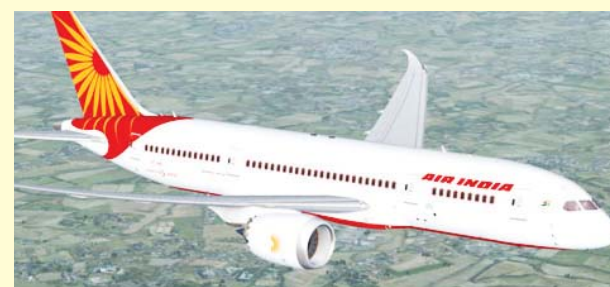
NEW DELHI (TIP): Continued support from the government has resulted in an improvement of the financial and operational performances of Air India and the Centre has decided to go ahead with the process of its disinvestment, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Thursday.

"In an AISAM (Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism) meeting held on 28th March 2018, it was decided that due to issues like volatile crude oil prices and adverse fluctuations in exchange rates, the atmosphere was not conducive for the disinvestment. But this was last year," the ministry said in a statement.

The AISAM, which is basically a Group of Ministers (GoM), has to be reconstituted as Arun Jaitley and Suresh Prabhu are no longer ministers in the second innings of the Narendra Modi government.

They will be replaced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari is likely to continue in the panel.

"Continued support from the government has resulted in improvement of financial and operational performances of Air India. As per the recommendations of the AISAM, the government will now go ahead with the process of disinvestment of the company," the ministry said.



Resigned taking accountability for party's defeat, says Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Rahul Gandhi Thursday stuck to his decision to resign as Congress president, saying he did it to ensure accountability for the party's Lok Sabha poll debacle and there was no question of going back on it.

He made the comments during a meeting with leaders from Haryana state coordination committee who urged him to continue to lead the party and take back his resignation.

"I have resigned after taking full responsibility and ensuring accountability for the party's defeat in the Lok Sabha elections. I cannot ask others to resign too. It is up to them if they want to take responsibility," he told the leaders.

He added there was no question of going back on his decision.



The Congress did not win a single Lok Sabha seat out of 10 in Haryana. Ashok Tanwar continues to be the state Congress chief and has not quit despite his tenure coming to an end.

Asked about the party's strategy for upcoming assembly elections,

Gandhi plainly told the leaders to discuss it among themselves, leaving the state unit in the lurch.

The leaders later said they spoke to Gandhi separately and hoped the party would take a decision on the state leadership soon. Haryana goes to polls later this year.

Those present during the meeting, which remained inconclusive, were Congress general secretary in-charge Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Tanwar.

Gandhi, in the presence of UPA chairperson and his mother Sonia Gandhi, had on Wednesday told his party's Lok Sabha members that he was no longer the Congress president as he had resigned.

BOLLYWOOD GHARANA Rocks New York City

By Mabel Pais

BOLLYWOOD GHARANA, a band with a mesmerizing, fresh sound of Music combining the ancient & the contemporary, extended to New Yorkers a rocking, heart-warming performance at the Elebash Recital Hall of the City University of New York, in Manhattan, New York City on Friday, June 7.

Bollywood Gharana is a crossover of Bollywood and classical music. The band performed Bollywood hits with a fresh twist of Indian classical music. This was a real treat for music lovers who were tapping to the music and dancing in the aisles during the concert!

The concert was presented by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC), one of the pioneering non-profit arts organization, passionately dedicated to promoting, showcasing and building an awareness of the arts and artists whose heritage lies in the Indian subcontinent in the performing arts, visual arts, literary arts and folk arts. The concert was co-presented by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY).

Abhijit Pohankar, the son of classical vocalist Pandit Ajay Pohankar, is the master craftsman and creator of Fusion Music. He presented this unique sound of fusion of Bollywood hits with Indian Classical music with a foot tapping groove and romantic guitar sounds.

Bhavya Pandit, the lead vocalist of the band is a well-known playback singer. Bhavya's singing truly stole everyone's heart with her mellifluous singing, wit and charm. She spread cheer with her



Bollywood Gharana team - L to R: Sourabh Joshi on Guitar, Gandhar Deshpande (vocalist), Abhijit Pohankar, Bhavya Pandit (vocalist), Rahul Deo on Bass & Keyur Barve on drums.

Photo/ Courtesy, IAAC.

effervescent attitude on stage. Gandhar Deshpande was the classical vocalist of the band. One can tell he has had rigorous training because the compositions he performed were authentic but he also made them sound very cool. Keyur Barve on drums, Rahul Deo on Bass & Sourabh Joshi on Guitar added more magic to the evening.

The executive director of IAAC, Sunil Hali called this the "breaking boundaries" concert!

The band presented many popular Bollywood songs from the 80s and 90s along with old and new classical bandishes (compositions), set in similar ragas simultaneously. The perfect blending of the Bollywood and classical made it a joy to listen to for non classical listeners not

familiar with the music. The audience was dancing in ecstasy during the finale of the evening.

Shampa Chanda, a student of Indian classical music said she found the concert to be very entertaining and informative! She found how some of the ragas were juxtaposed with the Bollywood songs, very interesting.

Anurag Harsh, IAAC board member and classical vocalist said, "Bollywood Gharana is a refreshing introduction to what is possible when contemporary music is painstakingly weaved in with traditional classical music. Abhijit Pohankar is a wizard at this and the credit goes to his father the great Hindustani classical vocalist Pandit Ajay Pohankar. Much of Panditji's finesse has come into Bollywood

(The) "breaking boundaries" concert!"

-Sunil Hali, Executive Director of IAAC

"The impact Bollywood Gharana had on our audience was mesmerizing"

- Anurag Harsh, IAAC Board Member

Gharana through his son Abhijit and this band has shown how to do 'fusion' the right way. The impact Bollywood Gharana had on our audience was mesmerizing."

While introducing the artists, Sunny Thakkar, the Artistic Director of Music at IAAC told the audience that they were all in for a treat. This was certainly an understatement to many in the audience who could not stop singing the praises of the band.

The evening saw attendees from all parts of the tri-state (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut) area. Dr. Urvashi Kapoor, an avid music lover traveled from the far end of Long Island, NY with 6 of her friends to watch the live band. She was elated when they performed their signature number "Piya Tu Ab Toh Aja" along with the 100-year-old bandish "Dholan Mende Ghar Aa."

IAAC would like to continue this musical journey and continue bringing to New York City such magical musical evenings that are possible only with the support of music lovers and patrons of Indian Music.

For more information on Bollywood Gharana, visit <https://www.bollywoodgharana.in/>

KULTURE KOOL 10 at NJPAC SHARES WISDOM OF INDIA

Kulture Kool 10's spectacular event: "An Indian Odyssey: A Journey Through India," showcasing the Folk, Classical and Contemporary Dances and Music of India, was presented on June 8 at 2 p.m. at the Victoria Theater, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) by over 250 students of the Academy.

The event was a celebration of the Cultural Academy's 10th anniversary. Performances through various art forms from most regions of India were presented. The cultural program ended with special tribute to 80 years of contributions from Bollywood's iconic composers. The audience was in appreciation of the intense preparation that contributed to the success of the event!

"What an incredible journey these ten years have been. From the germ of an idea to this tight-knit family of students, teachers, patrons and well wishers, this is nothing short of a dream come true. A shout out to Kulture Kool's cofounders Urvashi Mishra and Vanessa Taneja. Without you, we wouldn't exist," said Archana Athalye, Founder-Director of Kulture Kool.

Kulture Kool is on a mission to spread the joy and wisdom of India by sharing different aspects of the grandmother of all cultures with youngsters and adults through the performing arts and

"Today's (June 8) recital is the culmination of 12 months of frenzied activity! All students, teachers, parents and staff have worked incredibly hard to bring this evening to you. We hope to showcase the art and culture of our beloved homeland in an entertaining format which can be enjoyed by all."

"What an incredible journey these ten years have been. From the germ of an idea to this tight-knit family of students, teachers, patrons and well wishers, this is nothing short of a dream come true. A shout out to Kulture Kool's cofounders Urvashi Mishra and Vanessa Taneja. Without you, we wouldn't exist,"

- Archana Athalye, Founder-Director of Kulture Kool

language education, community events, cultural outreach programs in schools, museums and libraries and enrichment workshops across the tri-State (New Jersey, New York and Connecticut) area.

Kulture Kool, since its launch in 2009, is the first center in North Jersey to provide year-round comprehensive programs and workshops in Indian Classical and Instrumental music, Indian Classical Dance, Indian Popular and Folk dance, and has enjoyed tremendous success in Bergen County with its Rutherford venue, leading it to expand its brand beyond to Glen Ridge, Hoboken and West New York.

Kulture Kool has an enviable roster of highly trained exponents and talented teachers that teach more than 15 programs to over 280 students of all ages



Archana Athalye, Founder-Director, Kulture Kool

and ethnicities. The school also carries out year-round outreach programs in libraries, public and private schools and community events throughout the state.

Kulture Kool offers the option to get certification from prestigious boards and institutes from the USA and UK, for all Indian Classical Dance & Music and Western instrumental Music programs.

ABOUT ARCHANA ATHALYE: Archana Athalye is the founder-director of Kulture Kool. With a Masters in Communications and over 25 years of experience in events, tour management and A&R. She has designed Guru Kool as an exclusive program aimed at helping young children internalize the beauty of South Asian languages and cultures



Kulture Kool performers salute India's Capital, Delhi



Kulture Kool performers display Bollywood Dance Moves.

Photo / Courtesy, Kulture Kool/TAG ADDS LLC

through hands-on, play-based activities in a group setting. She conducts various workshops on Indian culture at public institutions in many parts of the tri-State area. To learn more about the Kulture Kool Cultural Academy and its programs, visit www.kulturekool.com or write to info@kulturekool.com or call 201 933 6651.

Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness. She can be reached at mabelep1406@gmail.com

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until
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9:45 am – Prasad (Breakfast)
1:00 pm – Prasad (Lunch)
4:00 pm – Afternoon Snack
5:00 pm – Ramayanji Aarti

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DEEPIKA PADUKONE TO REPLACE KANGANA RANAUT IN IMALI?

Anurag Basu's film Imali has been in the news ever since Kangana Ranaut walked out of the film. However, rumours are rife that Deepika Padukone is stepping in to replace Kangana; but there wasn't any confirmation on who will play the female lead. Well, now that the speculations have been rife for more than a month, let's hear the answer from the horse's mouth.

Kashyap, while talking to DNA told that Kangana got busy with Manikarnika and they had scheduling issues and eventually, he got busy with other films as well. He added how she wanted to be in a good space to do the film but eventually, things did not work out. Ask him about Deepika stepping in, he said that he is in talks with her and did meet her, but he also added that he cannot confirm anything to others unless she confirms it to him.



Bhumi Pednekar on 'Pati Patni Aur Woh' role

Actress Bhumi Pednekar, who has transformed herself one film after another, is excited about finally getting a chance to play a character close to her real self in 'Pati Patni Aur Woh'.

After starting out with 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha' as an overweight but self-assured young woman, she played a progressive small town woman in 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' and 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan'.

She transformed herself on-screen for the role of a small town villager from Chambal valley in crime drama 'Son Chirya'. In 'Saandh Ki Aankh', she plays the role of the world's oldest sharpshooter. And finally, in 'Pati Patni Aur Woh', she plays a young, cool girl from a big city and also plays a character close to her age. Thrilled about it, Bhumi said in a statement: "The character I play in 'Pati Patni Aur Woh' is close to what I am in real life. She is extremely confident and she is got this sensual energy about her which stays back with you. She has an impact on people.

"She is a young girl, she has ambition, she wants bigger things in life. So, these are characteristics about her that I really identify with. I think people will for the first time see how I look in real life."

SUNNY LEONE TO OPEN SCHOOL FOR TODDLERS, SAYS 'I WANT CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN'

It's been 7 years since Sunny Leone has been part of the Bollywood industry. Since then the actress has been part of many other movies. The 38-year-old actress is now all set to star in a south film with her upcoming Tamil and Malayalam acting debut.

Now recently the actress is set to start a school for the toddlers. As per a media report, Sunny along with her husband Daniel Weber is ready to open a branch of D'Art Fusion, an art school for toddlers.

Talking about it, husband Daniel told: "Nisha used to go to the other branch of D'Art Fusion and rave about how much she liked the school and that is when we met Sanjana Asher Kamdar, the owner of that branch and decided to open another branch in the heart of Juhu."

"Our vision is to combine creativity and leisure along with overall development of the brain and body. We don't want to confine the children in books and want them to explore themselves as well as the world around them. I want the children to have fun," said Sunny. "Sunny has always been fond of kids and herself being a mother of 3 children, she understands how important the beginning years are for a child's overall development. She has put a lot of time and effort in this school and she herself sat down and decided on the different features, amenities, interiors, etc. for the school. The school is like a dream come true



for Sunny and Daniel," the publication quoted one of their sources as saying.

On the work front, Sunny will be next seen in a horror comedy titled 'Koka Kola'. For this movie, she has been

working on the Bihari dialect. Also, the actress will be seen in a special appearance in Arjun Patiala that stars Kriti Sanon, Varun Sharma, and Diljit Dosanjh.



Akshay Kumar to remake 'Tip Tip Barsa Pani' with Katrina Kaif

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar is joining Rohit Shetty's cop universe with the upcoming film, Sooryavanshi. The actor will soon be shooting a song with the lead heroine, Katrina Kaif for the film. The movie is going to remake the song Tip Tip Barsa Pani which featured Akshay along with Raveena Tandon, back in the '90s.

Akshay Kumar also had a cameo in Ranveer Singh's Simmba. The actor has started shooting for the action film and has been spotted performing stunts in Thailand. Akshay is certainly excited about the job as he tweeted about it on Twitter recently.

On the news of 'Tip Tip Barsa Pani' remake, Raveena's reaction might not be full of enthusiasm though she is not against it either. "Sounds Superb, I love new remixes," Raveena said as reported by SpotBoyE.

Earlier, another hit song, Tu Cheez Badi Hai Mast Mast, was remade. The song original song also featured Raveena with Akshay. Back then, the actress had said, "It's high time that someone did the remake. I am so happy that such a sweet and beautiful girl like Kiara is performing on the song. She is very young and innocent. Kiara is looking very pretty and innocent. At the same time, she is sensual in the song."

The aura of Raveena Tandon draped in a yellow saree had set really high standards accompanied by her dance moves, which is exceptionally unable to match. But, Katrina seems to be the fittest choice as we have already seen Akshay and Katrina, in a yellow saree, dancing in the rain for the song Gale Lag Ja in the past.



MCKENNA GRACE TO LEAD, PRODUCE 'RABBIT CAKE'

Teen actor Mckenna Grace is set to feature in and produce 'Rabbit Cake'. The 13-year-old actor, best known for 'Gifted', 'I, Tonya' and 'Young Sheldon', is backing the film adaptation of the 2017 acclaimed novel by Annie Hartnett.

According to an American magazine, Grace is one of the youngest producers in Hollywood. 'To All the Boys I've Loved Before' fame director Susan Johnson is attached to helm the project set at Amazon Studios.

Allie Hagan will pen the screenplay.

Besides Grace, Alix Madigan will produce through her Mad Dog Films banner. 'Rabbit Cake' follows on a young girl called Elvis Babbitt whose head is filled with facts. When her mother drowns while sleepwalking, she decides to investigate the circumstances, going on a journey of self-discovery, finding comfort in the people and animals of her town in Alabama.

MARISA TOMEI WANTS TO STAR IN A SITCOM

Marisa Tomei says she wants to go back to the small screen and do a sitcom. The 54-year-old actor, who got her start in 1987's 'A Different World', said she had the realisation after starring in a recreation of an 'All in the Family' episode.

She played Edith Bunker in ABC's recent 'Live In Front of a Studio Audience' event.

"I've wanted to do a show for a while because I want to be in one place for a bit of time. Part of it is just a different phase of life. After this 'All in the Family' live thing, I'm snake bit," Tomei said during Variety's 'My Favorite Episode' podcast.

I was telling my agents, I really want to do a sitcom! And they were like, no you don't want to do sitcoms, nobody wants to do sitcoms. But I really want to do a sitcom!" she added.

She will next be seen reprising her role of Aunt May in 'Spider-Man: Far From Home'.



Jessica Chastain: Was told not to talk too much about woman stuff early in career



Jessica Chastain said in the beginning of her career, she worried about the repercussions of being outspoken about women empowerment.

The actor said she was even advised by a male directors to not speak too much about woman stuff.

Chastain, who has been at the forefront of pay parity movement in Hollywood, believes women no longer feel scared to criticise the industry.

"One big difference is the freedom women have to speak about the industry. In the beginning, I did feel a little bit of nervousness about criticising an industry that I was very lucky to be involved in. After working my whole life to try to create a career, perhaps I was damaging it. I even had male directors

say to me, you're talking too much about this woman stuff," Chastain told a British online newspaper.

A lot has changed in the gender politics in Hollywood after it was hit by the #MeToo movement in the wake of Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal, which birthed another campaign in Time's Up.

"But I've noticed that things are different for women coming into this industry. I just did a press tour (for 'Dark Phoenix') with Sophie Turner, and the freedom that she has to express herself and talk about injustices that she may see, it just comes naturally to her without a second thought. That means women now feel they can speak out without having their careers harmed," Chastain added.



ALLISON SCHROEDER TO WRITE 'MINECRAFT' MOVIE

Hidden Figures co-writer Allison Schroeder has been roped in to pen the script for the movie adaptation of video game 'Minecraft'.

Schroeder, who was nominated for an Oscar for co-writing the 2016 American biographical drama with film's director Ted Melfi, will work on the movie by Warner Bros.

Her writing credits also include 2018 Disney film 'Christopher Robin' and the currently in production, 'Frozen 2', which is slated to be released on

November 22.

According to an American print and Hollywood magazine, producers Roy Lee, Jon Berg and game developer Mojang are attached to rework the project.

Minecraft is the bestselling world-creation game known for its stylistic building blocks in which players choose either a survival or creative mode of play.

Peter Sollett will direct the film. 'Minecraft' is currently set to hit the theatres on March 4, 2022.

Indu Gajwani inducted as President of the Long Island Indo American Lions Club



Indu Gajwani (seated) with her team

GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP): Indu Gajwani was installed as the President of the Long Island Indo American Lions Club on June 14th when the club had its charter night, at a glittering ceremony at Mint Restaurant.

Guest of Honors included 20-K2 District Governor Theresa Whalen, 16-J District Governor Armando Guerra, 20-K2 District Governor - Elect Jose Pastrana, 16-J District Governor - Elect Linda Banks, Guest Speaker Past International President Al Brandel.

Citations were presented from Senator Kevin Thomas Office to Governor Theresa Whalen, Jose Pastrana, Armando Guerra, Linda Banks, Indu Gajwani, Rita Shah and to the committee of Long Island Indo-American Lions Club. Mr. Dilip Chauhan presented Certificate of Recognition Town of Hempstead to Indu Gajwani, Rita Shah, and Dr. Sunil Mehra. A nice pashmina scarf was presented to all the Honorees and dignitaries.

Introduction of Members were done by 1st Vice District Governor Jose Pastrana,



Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Publisher/ Editor of The Indian Panorama who released the Club Souvenir, giving his remarks

Installation of officers by District Governor Theresa Whalen, Charter by Thesesa Whalen, Banner was given by District Governor Linda Banks, Bell by Past District Governor Peg Di Iorio, Gavel by Past District Governor Tejinder (TJ) Anand. President gave speech and remarks. Introduction of Guest speaker Past International Al Brandel was done by Peg Di Iorio. Closing remarks were given by vice president Lion Rita Shah, and, in the end, Benediction was done by Lion Sital Shah.

The following are the office bearers of the Long Island Indo American Lions Club. Indu Gajwani-President, Rita Shah-first vice president, Dr.Sunil Mehra - second vice president, Nimesh Shah-Secretary, Kamlesh Parekh-Treasurer, Anju Sharma-Chair Event Services, Vijay Shah-Chair Membership, Sital Shah-Chair Marketing Communications, Shyam Gajwani-Coordinator-LCIF, board of directors Gobind Bathija, Gary Sikka and Madhu Pareek.

(Based on a Press Release)

HH PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ PLAQUE BLESSING AND TREE DEDICATION CEREMONY



Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, Councilwoman Joan Cergol, Receiver of Taxes Jillian Guthman, Lisa Taft, Chintu Patel, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Amneal Pharmaceuticals and other guests at the tree dedication ceremony

MELVILLE, NY (TIP): The town of Huntington commemorated the life and message of His Supreme Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj with a plaque. On June 9th, 2019, at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci visited the temple for the blessing ritual of the plaque by Doctor Swami, a leading saint of BAPS. The supervisor received blessings as well. His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj's vision, dedication and spirit of unity and diversity fostered a special relationship with the town.

On June 14th at 5:30 pm at Sweet Hollow Park, in Melville, NY, the Town of Huntington installed that plaque in the park next to the white oak tree that was also planted in his honor. Special guests

that spoke at the Ceremony were Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, Councilwoman Joan Cergol, Receiver of Taxes Jillian Guthman, Lisa Taft, Chintu Patel, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Amneal Pharmaceuticals, and several other representatives of the town of Huntington. During the ceremony, Supervisor Lupinacci stated that "the BAPS temple is known for bringing people together for the betterment of humanity and the community. You encourage our community members to be more conscious and caring for others." Pramukh Swami's central message of "In the joy of other lies our own" promoted peace with prayers, forgiveness and compassion across the world.

BAPS Charities Hosts Walk Green 2019 in Flushing, NY



FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Community members of all ages came out with their families to support the annual BAPS Charities Walk Green 2019 in Flushing, NY on Sunday, June 23rd, 2019 marks the fourth year that the annual BAPS Charities walkathon will benefit "The Nature Conservancy" and their effort to conserve the lands and waters on earth to sustain life for upcoming generations. BAPS Charities continues to contribute to 100,000 planting trees, through The Nature Conservancy to support their initiative to plant a billion trees globally by 2025. In addition to supporting this global effort, this year's BAPS Charities walkathon also supported Queens Public Library.

Altogether, over 500 participants attended the walk. New York State Senator John Liu said "Coming to support the BAPS Charities is rewarding and makes me feel proud and

helping the environment and supporting the TNC to plant a billion Trees campaign. It is a way to teach our children and to protect the environment".

BAPS Charities uses these opportunities to instill a spirit of service and commitment to preservation and environmental responsibility in community members. Events such as this help instill consciousness in community members surrounding their actions, and, in turn, helps inspire global harmony with nature.

Commenting on activities of BAPS Charities, Dr. Hari Shukla, Pediatrician in Flushing, NY. "I am greatly impressed with by the logistics and the coordination of the BAPS Charities event. They involve the whole Indian community to support the for the global environmental cause and locally the Queens Public Library.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh - The pioneer geostrategic ruler

By Abhijit Bhattacharyya

The 180th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the legendary ruler of Punjab, falls on June 27.



Ranjit Singh: A brilliant commander and warrior par excellence

Thus, when (minor) Ranjit, as the chief of Sukarchakia Sikh Misl, since April 1792, ascended the throne in April 1801 (at 20-plus), who would foresee the man reigning a long 38 years, till 1839? Perhaps, the ruler Ranjit himself also could not have had seen the future valour, achievement and foresight of his own self!

On the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh - June 27 - it's time to look afresh and recall some of the unprecedented achievements of a mighty Indian Maharaja, checkmating the mightier Englishmen, steam-rolling their Indian opponents with ease, one after another.

When Rabindranath Tagore wrote the immortal stanza on Sikhs: "Pancha nadir tire, beni pakaiya shire; dekhite gurur mantre jagiya uthichhe Sikh; nirmomo nirbhik" (on the banks of the five rivers, tying their hair and braids, the Sikhs responded to the clarion call of their Gurus to wake up from torpor to transform themselves as valiant fighters for their honour), one is not sure whether the poet had Maharaja Ranjit Singh in mind or not.

Nevertheless, the well-known fact is that Tagore wrote at least six poems on Sikh heroism and martyrdom owing to the indelible impression it left on his psyche. Thus, he wrote two poems in 1888, three in 1898, and one in 1935. Of them, three were on Guru Gobind Singh, one each on Banda Bahadur and Bhai Taru Singh, and one on the boy, Nehal Singh.

Be that as it may, if we re-focus from the spiritual to the statecraft of the Sikhs led by Ranjit Singh, what re-surfaces today is the mind-boggling action and thought process of the first geo-strategic thinker-cum-ruler of modern Indian

history who knew how to call a spade a spade with the rapacious and roving British, notwithstanding his multi-front disadvantages.

On the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who passed away on June 27, 1839, at Lahore, the capital of his empire, it's time to look afresh and recall some of the unprecedented achievements of a mighty Indian Maharaja, checkmating the mightier Englishmen, steam-rolling their Indian opponents with ease, one after another. In a matter of days. Battle after battle. State after state. The London juggernaut across South Asian terrain appeared endless, and unstoppable.

When Ranjit was born (originally named Buddha Singh) on November 13, 1780, and growing, it was an era of perennial turbulence and anarchy in India. The Marathas (aspiring to be the Mughals' successor on the Delhi throne) had already been brutally battered by Afghan chief Ahmad Shah Abdali (aka Durrani) in the third battle of Panipat (January 1761). Soon thereafter, the English (under Warren Hastings), too, fought the Marathas and ended with the treaty of Salbai (May 1782), thereby giving another rude jolt to the Indian dream of establishing 'Hindu Pada Padashahi' (the Great Hindu Kingdom).

Thus, when (minor) Ranjit, as the chief of Sukarchakia Sikh Misl, since April 1792, ascended the throne in April 1801 (at 20-plus), who would foresee the man reigning a long 38 years, till 1839? Perhaps, the ruler Ranjit himself also could not have had seen the future valor, achievement and foresight of his own self!

No wonder, Ranjit's sixth sense-cum-vision told him to contain the British in the south through sweet words of diplomacy and curb the congenitally habitual invaders of India (since time immemorial) with the sword-wielding cavalry combatants to the north and north-west. Thus was concluded one of the rare, landmark treaties: the Treaty of Amritsar on April 25, 1809, between the British Government and the State of Lahore.

As many as 210 years have gone post the Amritsar Treaty, yet every Indian would be proud to peruse its semantics: "Both parties being anxious to maintain the relations of perfect amity and concord" were the opening words. The British want "perfect amity and concord" with an Indian ruler! How often has it happened during 19th-century Indian history? The treaty was concluded "by Rajah Ranjeet Singh on his own part, and by the agency of Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, on the part of the British Government." Ranjit's best bet came as a sort of guarantee by the British: "The British Government will have no concern with the territories and subjects of the Rajah" (Ranjeet Singh) "to the northward of the Sutlej".

The strategic vision of Ranjit assured avoidance of 'war on two fronts'. The



Maharaja Ranjit Singh holds court



Ranjit Singh's sculpture was unveiled in Lahore to mark his 180th death anniversary

On the 180th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the legendary ruler of Punjab, a statue was unveiled at the Lahore Fort on Thursday, June 27. Around 500 people crossed the Wagah border to attend the unveiling event. The main ceremony will take place on Saturday at Gurdwara Dera Sahib.

The sculpture is the result of collaboration between Fakir Khana Museum and Sarkar Khalsa Foundation.

British, too, having thus far arrived from their tiny island, were more than aware of their vulnerability owing to the real possibility of a Maratha revival in the heartland and the prospect of growing resentment in the periphery turning into a multi-front revolt across the Indian terrain. Both the British and the Punjab king secured their respective fronts.

Assured of stability and security, Ranjit had the north, north-west, and west to move his military; which he did. Successfully. With 'one at a time' policy. With a professional band of fortune-seeking, able commanders transcending borders and barriers of caste, language and religion, thereby putting Ranjit Singh way ahead of his times, compatriots, foes and friends alike. His sentence 'Ek din sab lal ho jayega' (One

day everything will turn red) after seeing several red-color territories on the map of South Asia (red denoting the British-conquered or -occupied Indian kingdoms and principalities) was prophetic. Ranjit Singh certainly was no prophet. He was an able ruler. A king. Far from pretentious. He had his plus points. He also had fault lines and share of failure.

He was a brilliant commander and himself a warrior par excellence without doubt. However, it was the misfortune of Punjab, and hence the history of India, that so great a visionary and geostrategic ruler like him would leave behind an empire destined to be doomed so fast and furious.

It's of course no fault of Ranjit Singh that his was an essentially land power owing to Punjab (for that matter all territories which he conquered), Kashmir, Afghanistan and the fringe areas of Central Asia being landlocked. Hence, when the 'great game' began for the possession of land as buffer by the British and access to the Indian Ocean warm water port by Moscow (through the territories of South Asia) to break out of its land-fixative strategy, the importance of Ranjit Singh as the best buffer emerged for London and Moscow. His stability and ability were undoubtedly far superior, and preferable, to the eternal turbulence of Afghanistan which the British realized soon after his demise.

The British made the fatal mistake to fight the Afghans directly, in March 1839; but came back battered and shattered in 1842. There was no Ranjit Singh to give the British shelter, safety and security from/of for the north-west frontier, to expand across other zones. The strong man of Punjab, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Central Asia was gone. And as it so often happens, an 'over-strong' predecessor is invariably succeeded by spineless, squabbling successors. Ashoka, Aurangzeb and Hitler: all were strong. Their states just capitulated after them. One is reminded of the old saying about the strong father's weak son: "His scepter was the bow of Ulysses which could not be drawn by a weaker hand."

(Source: Tribune, India)

11 men on trial in Germany over gang-rape of 18-year-old

BERLIN (TIP): Eleven men, most of them from Syria, have gone on trial in southwestern Germany over the gang-rape of an 18-year-old woman last October.

The trial in the case, which added to tensions in Germany over migration, opened on Wednesday at Freiburg state court and is scheduled to last until December.

The news agency DPA reported the defendants are between 18 and 30. Eight come from Syria; the others include an Algerian, a Syrian and a German.

Prosecutors say the woman was offered an Ecstasy tablet in a disco and her drink was spiked with an unknown substance, leaving her unable to fend off the assailants.

She reported that several men later raped her outside the disco. — AP

UK's Johnson rules out any new Brexit extension

LONDON (TIP): Boris Johnson, the favourite to become the next prime minister, categorically ruled out on June 22 any new extension to the date of Britain's departure from the European Union, saying he would not rest until Brexit happened on October 31. Asked if he would categorically rule out another extension, Johnson said, "Yes, because it would be up to the prime minister of the day — I hope myself — to decide under the current terms of the extension that we have to apply for such an extension. And it is up to the European Union to decide whether to grant it." "At the moment the law says that the United Kingdom is leaving the EU ... on the 31st of October."

Britain's new PM to be announced on July 23

Boris Johnson or Jeremy Hunt will be announced as Britain's new Prime Minister on July 23, the Conservative Party said on Tuesday. The party said a postal ballot of the 160,000 or so Conservative Party members to decide who will replace Theresa May as leader would close on July 22 with the winner announced the following day. — Reuters

Harry and Meghan's home renovation cost £2.4m

LONDON (TIP): Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle's new home Frogmore Cottage, a 19th century cottage with an Indian connection on Windsor estate, cost the UK taxpayers a whopping 2.4 million pounds in refurbishment, according to annual royal accounts released on Tuesday. The couple's new home has an Indian connection as a royal gift to Abdul Karim by Queen Victoria, then Empress of India, as a sign of her affection for her Indian aide and confidant. PTI

Selfies five times more deadly than shark attacks

RIO DE JANEIRO

(TIP): Selfies, which have become a global sensation in the last decade or so, have remarkably killed five times more people than shark attacks.

And the death toll has crept up incrementally each year as smartphones become more sophisticated and selfie-sticks increase the range at which people can snap themselves, prompting them to take bigger risks for the perfect shot.

Between October 2011 and November 2017, at least 259 persons died taking selfies around the globe, according to India's Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, compared to just 50 people killed by sharks in the same period. While women take the most selfies, young men, who



are more prone to take risks, make up three quarters of the selfie deaths, in drownings, crashes, falls or shooting accidents.

India, with a population of more than 1.3 billion and 800 million cell phones, holds the record for the number of people dying in the act of photographing themselves, with 159 recorded so far.

That is more than half of the global total-and a testament of sorts to the nation's love of group photos and its youthful population.

India has seen selfie-snapping groups of youths die when they were hit by a train or drowning when their boat sank at the moment they were clicking the shutter. The situation has become so dire that India has set up "no selfie" zones, 16 of them in the city of Mumbai alone. — AFP

InstaReM Partners with The ROOT Academy(R66T Academy)

Kickerline: InstaReM customers will get an exclusive 30% discount on fees at Root Academy cricket training camps worldwide

SINGAPORE / LONDON (TIP): InstaReM, a leading digital cross-border money transfer & payments service provider with presence across Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas, has announced a partnership with The Root Academy (R66T Academy), the cricket coaching academy founded by the family of the England test cricket captain, Joe Root.

The partnership - which is being announced as the Cricket World Cup tournament enters in an exciting phase - enables InstaReM customers to get an exclusive 30% discount off fees at The R66T Academy training camps throughout the world when they send their next money transfer abroad via the InstaReM website or app.

InstaReM's digital cross-border payments solutions stops its customers around the world from getting caught out from hidden fees, and now its customers can stop getting caught out at the crease. The Root Academy partnership gives InstaReM's cricket-loving customers an opportunity to learn the art, science and craft of cricket from those who know it the best.

Announcing the partnership, Prajit Nanu, co-founder and CEO of InstaReM, and a cricketing enthusiast, said, "Nothing connects nationalities like a sport. Cricket, which has English roots, is extremely popular in Australia-New Zealand, Southeast Asia, and more countries in Europe, Africa and Caribbean have started experiencing the thrill of the sport with the newer



formats of the game. As a global payments fintech with global presence, we are delighted to partner with the R66TAcademy, the gold standard in high-quality cricket coaching, to offer discounted programs in the finer aspects of cricketing to the enthusiasts from any part of the world."

Joe Root, the co-founder of the R66TAcademy and the current captain of the English Cricket Test Teamsaid, "We are pleased to partner with InstaReM Money Transfer to offer an exclusive discount on our cricket training camps. The Root Academy is our commitment to unlocking the cricketing talent of tomorrow. Alongside InstaReM, we aim to reach even more cricket fans around the world, offering high-class learning experiences that change the game. We're

up to change the game with InstaReM and the Root academy."

The R66TAcademy aims to encourage people to play more cricket, while preparing and empowering youngsters and teams to succeed at their highest level. Training camps are led by Shaun Siebert, the head coach of The R66TAcademy and mentor/ coach of international cricketers like Joe Root, Jason Roy, Monty Panesar, Liam Plunkett, Sam Billings & many more. The R66TAcademy training camps are available to children up to 18 years - and with InstaReM's exclusive offer, adults are also eligible to participate, subject to availability and schedules.

For more information, visit <https://www.therootacademy.co.uk/>

(Based on a press release)

'The worst is still to come': Sizzling Europe battles wildfires, health risks

TARRAGONA, SPAIN/PARIS (TIP): Wildfires raged across Catalonia and French authorities stepped up restrictions on water use and driving in cities as swathes of western Europe remained gripped by a powerful heat wave.

Temperatures climbed towards 44 degrees Celsius in parts of northern Spain and southern France, driving many people to seek relief in the sea, rivers, lakes, fountains and swimming pools.

Spanish firefighters struggled to douse wildfires across nearly 10,000 acres (4,000 hectares) in the northeastern region of Catalonia. They warned that the affected area could increase as much as fivefold because of the intense heat and winds.

Helicopters dumped water on the fires, which raged some 80 km (50 miles) inland from the coastal town of Tarragona. There were no reports of casualties, but the regional government said some 30 people had been evacuated from farmhouses in the area.

The wildfires are among the worst Catalonia has seen in 20 years, the regional government said.

In neighbouring France, authorities extended restrictions on vehicles, already imposed in Paris and Lyon, to Marseille and Strasbourg in an effort to curb air pollution.

Some schools postponed summer examinations, and parts of northern



France were put on drought alert, with water supplies to businesses, farmers and ordinary residents restricted.

Agriculture Minister Didier Guillaume announced a ban on the transportation of animals until the heatwave has ended.

Grid operator RTE said French electricity demand on Thursday was close to a summer record seen two years ago, as people turned on fans and coolers to full blast due to the scorching temperatures. The Midi Libre newspaper reported that three people have died on beaches in the south of France so far this

week because of the heat, though Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said on Thursday it was too early to give an accurate estimate of the death toll.

"Calls to the emergency services are on the rise nationwide.

We are seeing the beginning of a clear impact of the heatwave," said Jerome Saloman, head of national public health. "For us the worst is still to come."

There was at least relief for northern Germany on Thursday as temperatures slid to more normal levels for June. In Berlin it was 21 degrees Celsius, down from around 37 on June 26. Reuters

Lebanese town bans Muslims from buying, renting property

BEIRUT (TIP): Mohammed Awwad and his fiancée, both Muslims, recently found an affordable apartment for rent online in a town in Lebanon, southeast of Beirut. The 27-year-old journalist called the number and asked the owner when they could drop by to take a look. He was stunned by her response: Muslims are not allowed to settle in the town, she said.

The apartment owner apologised to Awwad, saying she wouldn't mind renting to people of any sect but officials in the town of Hadat issued orders that only Christians be allowed to buy and rent property from the town's Christian residents.

The young Shia Muslim man could not believe what he heard and asked his fiancée, Sarah Raad, to call the municipality and she, too, was told that the ban had been in place for years.

Hadat is a small example of Lebanon's deeply rooted sectarian divisions that once led to a 15-year civil war that left more than 100,000 persons dead. Christian communities feel under siege as Muslims, who tend to have higher birth rates, leave overcrowded areas for once predominantly Christian neighbourhoods.

The ban only applies to Christian property, a Muslim landowner of Hadat is allowed to sell or rent his property to Muslims from outside the town or to whomever he wants. — AFP

Moscow says downed US drone was in Iranian airspace

MOSCOW (TIP): The US drone shot down by Tehran last week was in Iranian airspace, the head of Russia's Security Council said on June 22, despite US claims to the contrary.

"I have information from the defence ministry of the Russian Federation that this drone was in Iranian airspace," Russian news agencies quoted Nikolai Patrushev as telling reporters in Jerusalem.

Patrushev was in Jerusalem for talks with US and Israeli officials, as tensions run high after Iran shot down the US spy drone on June 19 and US President Donald Trump considered, then cancelled, a retaliatory strike.

Iran insists the drone violated Iranian airspace near the Strait of Hormuz, but the Pentagon denies it entered Iranian territory. — AFP

Israel protests Chilean president's holy site visit

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel protested to Chile on June 26 after President Sebastian Pinera visited a highly sensitive Jerusalem holy site alongside a Palestinian minister.

Pinera, on a visit to Israel and the West Bank, toured the Al-Aqsa mosque complex on Tuesday, with images on social media showing him accompanied by Palestinian officials, including Jerusalem affairs minister Fadi al-Hadami.

The status of Al-Aqsa, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and located above the Western Wall, is one of the most sensitive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It is the holiest site in Judaism and the third-holiest for Muslims after Mecca and Medina, administered by the Muslim Waqf but secured by Israeli police.

According to Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Chilean Ambassador Rodrigo Fernandez was rebuked for Pinera's visit taking place "in violation of the regulations and a prior agreement".

"The freedom of worship, which Israel observes more than anyone else has, should be separated from safeguarding our sovereignty on the Temple Mount," he said in a Wednesday tweet.

Foreign dignitaries normally coordinate their visits to the volatile site with Israeli officials.

An official source in the Chilean delegation said the visit was a "private" one, in which "formally, only the delegation from Chile participated". Pinera, who landed in Tel Aviv on Monday, was due to meet with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later in the day.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera adjusts his tie as his Israeli counterpart delivers a statement prior to their meeting at the presidential compound in Jerusalem on June 26, 2019.

Israel occupied mainly Palestinian east Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed it in a move never recognised by the international community.

It sees the entire city as its capital, while the Palestinians view the eastern sector as the capital of their future state.

Chile is home to the world's largest expatriate Palestinian community.

Pinera will meet with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah on Thursday before taking off for Japan. — AFP

Drive to make Great Barrier Reef an Australian citizen

SYDNEY (TIP): A campaign was launched in Australia on June 26 to push for citizenship to be granted to the Great Barrier Reef in order to strengthen protection of the world's largest living organism. The Change.org petition highlighted that the Great Barrier Reef protects the country's coastline and contributes about \$4.5 billion annually to its economy, as well as supporting 64,000 jobs. The health of the Great Barrier Reef, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco, has deteriorated in recent decades due to climate change, which also caused two deadly mass coral-bleaching events in 2016 and 2017. IANS

Israeli passenger plane makes emergency landing in Sofia

SOFIA (TIP): An Israeli airplane made an emergency landing at Bulgaria's Sofia Airport on Wednesday because of a suspected bird strike shortly after take-off, a Bulgarian transport ministry official said. The El Al's Boeing 737-804 bound for Tel Aviv landed safely and passengers disembarked as normal, Hristo Hristov, head of the aircraft accident investigation unit at the ministry said. Reuters

BEST POSITION TO SLEEP WHEN YOU ARE PREGNANT

Between midnight bathroom runs, a racing mind, cramping legs, heartburn and a hopped-up metabolism that's turning up your internal thermostat — plus a growing baby bump that makes getting comfortable increasingly difficult — sleep can be challenging during pregnancy. Consider it preparation for the sleepless nights that lie ahead.

That said, getting enough sleep is more important than ever now that you're snoozing for two. Here's what you need to know about sleep during pregnancy, from the best positions to solutions for common problems and tips for getting a better night's rest.

Why is sleep so important during pregnancy?

Sleep is the time when your body resets and repairs itself. It's when your brain makes memories, making it an ally in your battle against baby brain. It's how your blood vessels restore themselves, which is especially important now that they're under increased pressure from the extra blood flow required to support your baby.

Sleep also keeps your immune system — which is suppressed to support your pregnancy — healthy. And sleep controls how your body reacts to insulin; not getting enough results in a higher blood sugar level, upping your risk of gestational diabetes.

So even if life is getting in the way, make it a priority to set aside at least seven hours a night for sleep.



Best sleeping positions when you're pregnant

The best sleep position when you're expecting is on your left side — though your right is also perfectly acceptable. This position is ideal for your circulation, optimizing the oxygen and nutrients that get to your baby, as well as kidney function, reducing swelling. Past your first trimester, it becomes impossible to lie on your stomach for obvious reasons.

You should also avoid lying flat on your back all night long. The weight of your growing uterus presses on your vena cava, the artery running blood from your lower body back to your heart, disturbing circulation and possibly making you dizzy. Your womb also weighs on your intestines and back, making common pregnancy symptoms like backaches and hemorrhoids worse.

Common pregnancy sleep

problems & solutions

All of the following pregnancy sleep problems can make getting a solid night of shut-eye harder. A few tips to help you sleep better:

You don't like sleeping on your side. Place pillows between your legs and behind your back; full-body and wedge pillows, in particular, are a pregnant woman's best friend. Otherwise try sleeping in a recliner or other comfy armchair, if you have one, in a semi-upright position.

You're restless. Work out during the day, and you'll likely feel sleepier at night — though try to avoid exercising within a couple of hours of bedtime, since that can ramp you up.

You've got a busy mind. If stress at work or about your impending new arrival is keeping you up at night, talk to a friend, parent or your partner earlier in the evening to get your worries off your mind before your head hits the pillow.

FOOD CORNER



Chicken Gilafi Kebab

Chicken kebabs cooked in a Gilaf which means a cover. Chicken mince is mixed with an array of aromatic spices, nuts and a tang of lime along with kewra water. Baked to perfection, serve these mouth-watering kebabs with mint chutney.

Ingredients

- 300 gms chicken mince
- 50 gms onion, chopped
- 50 gms tomatoes, chopped
- 50 gms green capsicum, chopped
- 30 gms coriander leaves, chopped
- 20 gms green chilli, chopped
- 5 gms salt
- 20 ml oil
- 20 gms cashew
- 20 gms almonds, peeled
- 10 gms mint, chopped
- 5 gms red chilli powder
- 5 gms masala powder
- 5 gms ginger garlic paste
- 3 gms cumin powder
- 10 ml lemon juice
- 10 ml fresh cream
- 5 ml kewra water

Method

In a grinder add mince, onion, salt, red chili powder, garam masala, ginger garlic paste, cumin powder, lemon juice, coriander leaves, mint leave, green chilies, fresh cream, kewra water, cashew and almonds.

2. Grind all these ingredients well.
3. Skewer the mince on to wooden skewers.
4. Take chopped onion, capsicum and coriander leaves in a flat plate.
5. Wrap these chopped vegetables around the kebabs.
6. Bake them in oven at 180 degree for 8 to 10 minutes.
7. Your Gilafi kebabs are ready to serve.



HOME REMEDIES TO GET RID OF BLEMISHES

There are some home remedies for treating blemishes naturally that can fight them off without any side effects. The home remedies offer a more painless and cheaper alternative to the clinical ones along with having long-term benefits. The best part is that they cost nothing except few household items laying around and some time.

Tomato juice

Apply on the Blemishes and massage. Leave it for 15 minutes. Use this remedy daily for removing skin blemishes naturally.

Lemon juice

Apply fresh lemon juice for 20 minutes on the blemishes for a month or two for lightening up the blemishes.

Cocoa butter

Massage blemishes with cocoa butter and leaves it overnight. Cocoa butter has anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidants which help in fighting blemishes.

Baking soda

Mix few drops of olive oil or water to baking soda and make a paste. Apply the paste on the blemishes and leave for 10 minutes. Scrub off the paste and wash with clean water.

Egg white

Apply egg white on a clean face and wash it after 10 minutes. Apply a moisturizer. This would lighten your skin and blemishes.

Tips to Prevent Blemishes

Preventing the blemishes from occurring on your skin is always a better option than trying to fight with it. Here are some tips to prevent blemishes

It is vital to keep your face cleaned daily with occasional exfoliation to remove impurities, dirt, oil and dead skin cells that lead to blemishes.

Use a noncomedogenic moisturizer on your skin for hydration.

Avoid using excessive makeup on a breakout skin. Wash off the makeup after the day and sleep with a clean hydrated face.

Certain hair oils can clog your face. It is a good idea to keep your hair away from your face.

JUST ONE GLASS OF WINE MAY IMPAIR SENSE OF CONTROL

Drinking only one pint of beer or a large glass of wine is enough to significantly compromise a person's sense of agency—the feeling of being in control of actions, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal *Addiction Biology*, is the first to test the effect of alcohol on sense of agency, an important aspect of human social behaviour which implies knowledge of the consequences of those actions.

Researchers from the University of Sussex in the UK focused on low doses of alcohol, typically consumed during social drinking, that do not produce a large impairment of behaviour.

Until now, research has mostly focused on the loss of inhibitory control produced by obvious drunkenness, characterised by impulsivity, aggression and risky behaviour.

“Our study presents a compelling case that even one pint of beer is enough to significantly compromise a person's sense of agency,” Silvana De Pirro, lead author of the research paper, said.

“This has important implications for legal and social responsibility of drivers, and begs the question: are current alcohol limits for driving truly safe?” De Pirro said.

When physical stimuli—such as sounds or lights—follow voluntary actions, such as moving a finger or a hand, people judge actions as occurring later and stimuli as occurring earlier than in reality, hence ‘binding’ the two.

The neural mechanisms responsible for this phenomenon are thought to participate in



creating the sense of agency.

In the experiments, subjects drank a cocktail containing doses of alcohol proportional to their body mass index (BMI) to produce blood alcohol concentrations within the legal limits for driving in England and Wales.

These doses of alcohol, corresponding to one or two pints of beer, produced tighter binding between voluntary actions and sensory stimuli.

This suggests that small amounts of alcohol might exaggerate the

sense of agency, leading to overconfidence in one's driving ability and to inappropriate, potentially dangerous behaviour.

“It's important to note that in our experiments, all the participants stayed within the legal alcohol limit for driving in England, Wales, the US and Canada,” said Professor Aldo Badiani, Director of the Sussex Addiction Research and Intervention Centre (SARIC). “And yet we still saw an impairment in their feeling of being in control,” said Badiani.

Source: PTI



FOOD TODAY IS TOO SWEET, SAYS STUDY

Food available in today's marketplace is “too sweet”, suggests a new study. The study published in the journal *Physiology & Behavior* analysed nearly 400,000 food reviews posted by Amazon customers to gain real-world insight into the food choices that people make.

“This is the first study of this scale to study food choice beyond the artificial constraints of the laboratory. Sweet was the most frequently mentioned taste quality and the reviewers definitively told us that human food is over-sweetened,” said Danielle Reed, the study's lead author.

The study used data posted on an open-source data science site to examine 393,568 unique food reviews of 67,553 products posted by 256,043 Amazon customers over a 10-year period.

Using a sophisticated statistical modelling programme to identify words related to taste, texture, odour, spiciness, cost, health, and customer service, the scientists computed the number of reviews that mentioned each of these categories.

“Reading and synthesising almost 400,000 reviews would essentially be impossible for a human team, but recent developments in machine learning gave us the ability to understand both which words are present and also their underlying semantic meaning,” said Joel Mainland, the study's co-author.

The focus on product over-sweetness was striking, as almost one per cent of product reviews, regardless of food type, used the phrase “too sweet.” When looking at reviews that referred to sweet taste, the researchers found that

over-sweetness was mentioned 25 times more than under-sweetness.

Drilling down, the scientists found that sweet taste was mentioned in 11 per cent of product reviews, almost three times more often than bitter. The saltiness was rarely mentioned, a somewhat surprising finding in light of public health concerns about excess salt consumption.

Seeking to better understand individual differences in how people respond to a given food, the scientists also looked at responses to the 10 products that received the widest range of ratings, as defined by the variability in the number of stars the product received.

Source: ANI

People living away from green areas prone to cardiovascular diseases

People who have been living away from green spaces for a long time are prone to conditions such as cardiovascular diseases and Type 2 diabetes, which could lead to even deaths, according to a recent study.

The study which will soon be published in the journal, *Journal of Public Health*, suggests that air pollution may be associated with an increased risk for dangerous conditions like heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes.

Certain cardiovascular diseases are a leading cause of death in developing countries. Hypertension and metabolic syndrome are important causes of cardiovascular diseases. Metabolic syndrome is further associated with abdominal obesity, elevated blood pressure, and higher blood glucose levels.

These conditions are associated with a higher risk for various health problems. The causes of these



disorders are complex and are related to genetic factors, lifestyle, diet, and environmental factors including traffic air pollution, traffic noise, residential housing, and neighbourhood quality.

Researchers investigated the associations between long-term exposure to ambient air pollution

and residential distance to green spaces and major roads with the development of hypertension and some components of metabolic syndrome. These associations were assessed among people living in private houses or multi-story houses in Kaunas City, a city of 280,000 and the second largest city of Lithuania.

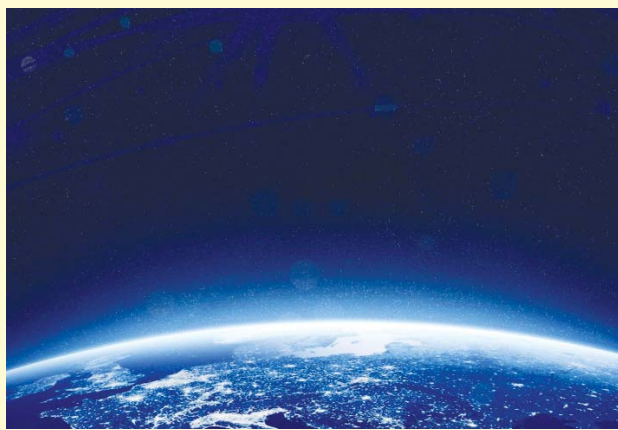
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NEW ALGORITHM TO MAP UNIVERSE, SOLVE MYSTERIES

Researchers have developed an algorithm to visualise models of the universe in order to solve some of the greatest mysteries of physics.

The algorithm, described in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, was developed by applying scientific principles used to create models for understanding cell biology and physics to the challenges of cosmology and big data.

The algorithm, designed by Katherine Quinn from Cornell University in the US, allows researchers to image a large set of probabilities to look for patterns or other information that might be useful.

It also provides them with better intuition for understanding complex models and data.

"This algorithm is a way of untangling information in a way that can reveal the interesting structure of the data," Quinn said.

Further complicating the researchers' task was the fact that the data consists of ranges of probabilities, rather than raw images or numbers.

The solution takes advantage of different properties of probability distributions to visualise a collection of things that could happen.

In addition to cosmology, the model has applications to machine learning and statistical physics, which also work in terms of predictions.

To test the algorithm, the researchers used data from the European Space Agency's Planck satellite, and studied it with co-author Michael Niemack, associate professor at Cornell University.

TWITTER TESTING WAYS TO IMPROVE 'LISTS' FEATURE

Micro-blogging site Twitter is trying new ways to improve the 'Lists' feature on its platform. The company on Tuesday announced that it has begun testing to make the feature easier to use.

The feature, remained buried inside Twitter's interface, is intended to let users create custom timelines by adding specific users whose tweets a user is interested to track.

"Customisable timelines that are easy to access? We're thinking about ways to do this! One idea we had is for you to be able to swipe to your lists from home. If you're in the test tell us what you think," Twitter posted on its handle.

The announcement gathered positive responses from the users.

"This is an excellent idea. Being able to order the lists would be important too. If anything makes it a toggle in Lists so we can have it if we want," a user posted.

"Love this. Many people don't even know about lists. I use lists all the time to cut through the noise. This is a great fix! Love the ease of access," wrote Kyle Harris, renowned vlogger and social media commentator.



YOUTUBE ALLOWS USERS TO TURN OFF AUTOMATED RECOMMENDATIONS

YouTube said it will let users override automated recommendations after criticism over how the online video service suggests and filters toxic clips.

'Although we try our best to suggest videos you'll enjoy, we don't always get it right, so we are giving you more controls for when we don't,' Essam El-Dardiry, a product manager at YouTube, wrote in a blog on Wednesday.

Users will now be able to tell YouTube to stop suggesting videos from a particular channel by tapping the three-dot menu next to a video on the homepage or Up Next, then choosing "Don't recommend channel." After that, viewers should no longer see videos from that channel, El-Dardiry said.

The move comes after Susan Wojcicki and other YouTube executives were criticised for being either unable or unwilling to act on internal warnings about extreme and misleading videos because they were too focused on increasing viewing time and other measures of engagement.



While YouTube is introducing the feature now, this kind of tool is pretty common place on other digital services. Spotify Technology SA has a version for artists people don't want to hear from.

YouTube, part of Alphabet Inc.'s Google, will also try to explain how videos are recommended.

'Sometimes, we recommend videos from channels you haven't

seen before based on what other viewers with similar interests have liked and watched in the past. When we're suggesting videos based on this, you'll now see more information underneath the video in a small box,' El-Dardiry wrote. 'Our goal is to explain why these videos surface on your homepage in order to help you find videos from new channels you might like.'

NASA to open moon rock samples sealed since Apollo missions



Inside a locked vault at Johnson Space Center is treasure few have seen and fewer have touched.

The restricted lab is home to hundreds of pounds of moon rocks collected by Apollo astronauts close to a half-century ago. And for the first time in decades, NASA is about to open some of the pristine samples and let geologists take a crack at them with 21st-century technology.

What better way to mark this summer's 50th anniversary of humanity's first footsteps on the moon than by sharing a bit of the lunar loot.

"It's sort of a coincidence that we're opening them in the year of the anniversary," explained NASA's Apollo sample curator Ryan Zeigler, covered head to toe in a white protective suit with matching fabric boots, gloves and hat.

"But certainly the anniversary increased the awareness and the fact that we're going back to the moon." With the golden anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's feat fast approaching—their lunar module Eagle landed July 20, 1969, on the Sea of Tranquility—the moon is red-hot again. *Source: AP*

SPACEX LAUNCHES HEFTY ROCKET WITH 24 SATELLITES

SpaceX launched its heftiest rocket with 24 research satellites on Tuesday, a middle-of-the-night rideshare featuring a deep space atomic clock, solar sail, a clean and green rocket fuel testbed, and even human ashes.

It was the third flight of a Falcon Heavy rocket, but the first ordered up by the military.

The Defense Department mission, dubbed STP-2 for Space Test Program, is expected to provide data to certify the Falcon Heavy — and reused boosters — for future national security launches. It marked the military's first ride on a recycled rocket.

Both side boosters landed back at Cape Canaveral several minutes after liftoff, just as they did after launching in April. But the new core booster missed an ocean platform, not unexpected for this especially difficult mission, SpaceX noted.

NASA signed up for a spot on the rocket, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Planetary Society and Celestis Inc., which offers memorial flights into space.



Trump warns of 'Plan B' on China trade if no progress at G20 summit

Donald Trump said substantial additional US tariffs would be placed on goods from China if there's no progress on a trade deal after his planned meeting with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the G-20 Summit in Japan.

"My Plan B with China is to take in billions and billions of dollars a month and we'll do less and less business with them," Trump said Wednesday during an interview with Fox Business Network's Maria Bartiromo. The White House announced his meeting with Xi would take place at 11:30am on Saturday in Osaka.

Trump has previously said he may decide to raise tariffs on the remaining \$300 billion of Chinese imports if he doesn't like what he hears from Xi at this weekend's summit in Osaka. Asian stocks edged up Thursday ahead of the highly anticipated meeting.

The president's latest remarks added an element of doubt to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's comment earlier Wednesday on CNBC that he's "hopeful" about US-China trade negotiations.

An alternate course as the trade talks resume may be that US suspends the next round of tariffs on the additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, Bloomberg reported Tuesday. If the tariffs on the broader set of goods does go into effect, it could be at a 10% rate rather than 25%, Trump said in the television interview Wednesday.

"My plan B's maybe my plan A, my plan B is that if we don't make a deal I will tariff, and maybe not at 25%, but maybe at 10%," Trump said in the interview Wednesday.

Trump criticized a range of trading partners in the interview, including Germany and Vietnam, which he called an "abuser" when



responding to a question about companies relocating production from China to that country following US-imposed tariffs.

The president said he likes China and Xi but added: "They have taken advantage of us for so long."

"They devalue their currency like a ping-pong ball," he said.

Xi comes to Osaka with a more vulnerable economy behind him. The expansion in the world's second-largest economy continued to weaken in June, according to a Bloomberg Economics gauge of business conditions and market sentiment. In particular, the smaller-scale, private companies that form the backbone of the economy are seeing their outlook

worsen.

The talks between the leaders of the world's two largest economies mark a critical juncture in their trade war, which has gone on for more than a year, and both sides have plenty to lose if it escalates.

No detailed trade deal is expected from the leaders' summit, a senior US administration official said Tuesday. The goal of the meeting is to create a path forward for a trade agreement, after negotiations broke down last month. That's when Trump decided to increase tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports, and threatened to target the remaining \$300 billion with duties of as much as 25%.

Source: Bloomberg



INDIA WARNS FOREIGN E-COMMERCE FIRMS LIKE AMAZON, FLIPKART OVER DISCOUNTS: SOURCES

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has told foreign e-commerce firms such as Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart that they must ensure compliance with new foreign investment rules aimed at deterring them from providing steep online discounts, three sources familiar with the discussions told Reuters.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said that while the government was prepared to listen to concerns about its new foreign direct investment rules (FDI), it was committed to protecting small traders from predatory behaviour by foreign-funded companies, the sources said.

The comments were made by Goyal during a closed-door meeting on Monday with several e-commerce companies. It comes in a week when US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, is due to visit New Delhi—he is expected to arrive late on Tuesday—and trade tensions have heightened between the two countries.

India from February 1 imposed new e-commerce FDI rules to help hundreds of thousands of small traders, but small businesses and a right-wing group close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party say there are still issues. They allege big online retailers use complex business structures to circumvent federal rules, and still burn billions of dollars to offer discounts.

Amazon and Flipkart say they've complied with the rules and deny any wrongdoing. Both companies, and the US government, protested against the rules in January, saying they would force firms to change their business structures, Reuters has reported.

Goyal during the Monday meeting defended the government's new FDI policy, saying the rules should in no way be violated by any company, both in letter and in spirit.

Source: Reuters

Apple buys self-driving car startup Drive.ai

NEW DELHI (TIP): Apple Inc on Tuesday confirmed that it has acquired self-driving shuttle firm Drive.ai.

Technology news website The Information reported earlier this month that the iPhone maker was considering acquiring the firm as a move to bring aboard some of its engineering talent to boost Apple's own self-driving efforts.

One of hundreds of startups pursuing autonomous vehicles, Drive.ai had been running a small fleet of test shuttles in Texas, The Information reported. But the startup told California regulators that it plans to lay off 90 people in a permanent closure. The San Francisco Chronicle earlier reported the closure.

In Silicon Valley, it is common for larger companies to acquire struggling startups primarily to



hire their engineers, a move known in the industry as an "acqui-hire."

Apple is vying against rivals such as Alphabet Inc's Waymo to develop self-driving vehicles. In the past year, Apple has revamped its efforts, bringing former Tesla Inc engineering chief Doug Field to oversee the operation, which includes more than 5,000 workers.

Source: Reuters

ERASE PAYMENT DATA FROM FOREIGN SERVERS IN 24 HRS, SAYS RBI

MUMBAI (TIP): A week after commerce minister Piyush Goyal met representatives of the payments industry and the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday clarified that in case of cross-border transactions, a copy of the domestic data can be stored abroad.

"For cross-border transaction data, consisting of a foreign component and a domestic component, a copy of the domestic component may also be stored abroad, if required," it said.

While the RBI's April 2018 circular had said that in the foreign leg of transactions, "data" can also be stored in the foreign country, it did not specify if domestic data could be stored. However, experts said companies still have to store data locally as per the earlier circular. A senior executive at a global payment processing company said requesting anonymity that the RBI's clarification does not change the data localization norms and is only a clarification on some ambiguities in the circular. "We



have always interpreted that the word data includes domestic data as well in case of cross-border transactions," he said.

The RBI had, on April 6, 2018, asked payment system operators to store data related to payments in India. These regulations were expected to affect companies like Mastercard, American Express, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, Visa and PayPal who will be forced to store data locally.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone

011-91-8141234275
www.bejandaruwalla.com

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 - July 1 - July 7, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says you are in full flow and make rapid progress. During this period, you will establish yourself. You earn repute for your formidable skills. You have reached a point of equilibrium and your actions and behaviour are consistent. People now rely on you a great deal. Your approach is disciplined and organised.

TAURUS: You achieve all that you set out to do. You mix conservatism with new, liberal ideas and the matching works well. This is not the time for relationships and your nose is to the grindstone. Ganesha wishes you well. The good times continue. You will come in contact with older, more experienced people and you have a lot to learn from such chance encounters.

GEMINI: You may meet someone who becomes your guru and shows you the path to enlightenment. There is money and honey, spiritual growth, the family is well taken care of, and there is domestic bliss. This is an emotional phase and you feel content. You go on pilgrimage to thank the Gods who have helped you along a tricky trail. You are filled with gratitude. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

CANCER: The stage is well set to display your strengths. You have established yourself in the world and now you have to work harder to remain there. The test may take many forms, but you are the master of all that you survey and you like the look and the thought of being the alpha male / female. Your self-control is tested. You are ambitious, determined and almost ruthless to get whatever you have set your sights on.

LEO: You know precisely what you need to succeed and after you are satisfied and achieved whatever you wanted, you are willing to compromise and share your success. You must learn to be accommodating. Stand up for your rights but don't overstep your bounds. There will also be happy moments at home, away from the clutter and ambition of the workplace.

VIRGO: This is a very positive period. In many ways it represents a period of culmination in your life, and you will be tempted to expand beyond reasonable limits. You have a good chance for success in any of the new endeavours you are embarking on. However, you should not restrict yourself solely to material growth. It may be time to turn your attention to spiritual needs.

LIBRA: You realise this and look for the solutions within yourself. This is the turning point, says Ganesha. You want to indulge yourself; you want to get yourself as many possessions as you can. But remember that it can leave you empty later. This is not the time for arrogance either. Work with others in a spirit of sharing and mutual growth. Set goals for the benefit of all, and the team backs you.

SCORPIO: You could be tempted to lose your legendary temper. There is nothing worse, no greater nightmare than a bull that is scorned. So, take care not to lose your cool. While you make progress at work, you can also get insufferable to colleagues with your mighty ego issues. Ganesha warns you to keep it in check. You are drained of valuable energy that has been lost in this unnecessary expression of your ego.

SAGITTARIUS: It will be a good idea to travel or go on a short holiday or take a break. Make time for the three F's - friends, fun and frolic; do anything to distract you from the intense energy of the moment. Learn to be patient and cool. You are in a better frame of mind but the intensity of the period still lingers. You throw yourself at work and in the party circuit and make new friends. This is a testing time, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN: You dream big, larger than life. If married, you enjoy memorable moments with the spouse. For those with children, family life is most enjoyable; there is great bonding, Ganesha wishes you many happy moments. The season is certainly one for romance with candlelight and roses.

AQUARIUS: You feel like doing some quality social work and helping the less fortunate. This is marvellous as it is always good to give back to society. You have many new work ideas too, but they don't seem to fit in with the larger plan as they seem to futuristic and idealistic without any practical rationale. Try to work out some ideas that can be followed through with ease, something more realistic.

PISCES: Try to work out some ideas that can be followed through with ease, something more realistic. You are a practical person by nature; so, look for more workable solutions. Right now, you are zooming far ahead of your contemporaries who fail miserably to comprehend you. But this is a good time, says Ganesha, and there is nothing to worry about. Your health is good, and money will finally come your way!

Birthday Horoscope July 1 - July 7, 2019

JULY 1ST: Ganesha says seize a chance to strengthen a friendship. Plans involving travel, education, publishing, advertising, and legal interests shape up promisingly, helped along by patience, persistence, and practicality.

JULY 2ND: Ride out early disruptions that may get day off to a jarring start. Things eventually start to look up via good news, possibly concerning your job or arriving via a parent.

JULY 3RD: You could get called away unexpectedly. In fact, "unexpected" could be a word that describes about anything you'll experience today. Try to profit from change, even if it is imposed.

JULY 4TH: The Moon can bring a radical shift in thinking or circumstances. Though that is potentially upsetting, the star tells that there is inherent good news in all this.

JULY 5TH: Focus on areas of agreement and down-play differences and you'll be able to minimize areas of discord.

Regarding aims you'd like to achieve, trust gut reactions to guide you above all else.

JULY 6TH: There's an emphasis on socialising, but also a feeling of being restrained. Duties or obligations may cut into your fun time. Or you can't be as free and open with some people as you'd like.

JULY 7TH: At best, involvement with people may not get much traction; at worst, it'll be confusing. No harm done as long as no one takes advantage.

A ritual is something that you do in a particular order according to a pattern, convention or established procedure. A sacrifice is an act of giving with or without an intention or expectation. The idea of sacrifice is inherent to most religions, but in Hinduism it has a special significance. Yajna or Sacrificial ritual (or ritual sacrifice) is the oldest continuing practice of Hinduism and constitutes the core of its ritual and spiritual dimensions. Its essential purpose is to make a devotional offering as a sacred duty and an obligation towards God and his creation.

The history of ritual sacrifices in Hinduism dates back to the Vedic period when the so called Vedic people or Indo Aryans started a Civilization on the banks of the River Saraswathi thousands of years ago. The Vedas are essentially books of revelations which deal with the ritual and spiritual aspects of sacrifices and obligatory duties, collectively known as Dharma. Since the knowledge of the ritual sacrifices comes to us directly from God through Brahma, the Dharma associated with them is also considered eternal. Hence, Hinduism is also known as the eternal religion and goes by the name the eternal Dharma (Sanatana Dharma).

The purpose of ritual sacrifice

Vedic sacrifices are performed for various purposes. Their highest purpose is to establish communion with the gods in heaven and seek their help in ensuring the order and regularity, peace and happiness upon earth. The most common purpose is to please them and obtain their help to fulfill one's desires and achieve the four aims of human life namely to perform obligatory duties (dharma), to earn wealth (artha), to enjoy sexual pleasure for the sake of progeny (kama) and attain liberation (moksha).

Vedic sacrifices are not mere supplications to achieve personal or worldly ends. There is also a service aspect to them, which makes them part of an obligatory, mutual covenant with gods. The gods are made with such power that they may move the earth and heaven and grant boons. They can cause or prevent rains, floods, earthquakes and other natural calamities or heal sickness and injury. However, unfortunately they cannot make their own food or live by themselves. They invariably need humans for food and nourishment. Hence, it makes them the ideal partners of gods with a mutually beneficial relationship.

However, as part of the Dharma, the scriptures exhort humans not to look to gods as mere givers of rewarding gifts or the means to their selfish ends. The purpose of the sacrifice is to cultivate discipline and elevate the mind to the heavens to follow the example of God himself in upholding the eternal Dharma. As the Apastamba Sutras declare, the essential purpose of the yajna is not merely to exchange gifts. It is a sacred duty, which rests upon the authority of the texts. Its highest purpose is to attain liberation. The gifts are less important.

Aspects of the Vedic sacrifice

Vedic people practiced different types of sacrifices, some as part of their domestic services and some in the general interests of the people or a kingdom. More complex Vedic rituals such as the Vajapeya and Asvamedha were performed in stages and had many layers. Most of them are no more

ASPECTS OF VEDIC RITUAL OR SACRIFICE



practiced. In its simplest form, each standard Vedic ritual or sacrifice has the following components: intention, sacrificer, sacrificed, object of sacrifice, altar or the sacrificial pit, sacrificial fire, utensils used for the ritual, officiating priests (Brahmana), hymns, songs and prayers, the remains of the sacrifice, and gifts (dakshina). In the following discussion, we examine in some detail each of the components or aspects of the Vedic rituals or sacrifices.

Intention

Every Vedic sacrifice has a purpose, which is either expressed or implied. One of the commonest purpose is to overcome some problem or fulfill a desire by seeking the help of gods in return for the offerings made and the devotion expressed. Because Vedic sacrifices were initially performed with desires, they collectively represented karmakanda or the body of desire-ridden actions, which produced either positive or negative karma, depending upon which type of sacrifices were performed and with what intent.

The sacrificer

Each sacrifice has a host of the sacrifice (yajaman), who bears the expenses for the sacrifice and for whom the sacrifice is performed. As the sacrificer or the source of the sacrifice he steps into the shoes of God and acts as his true representative upon earth in upholding Dharma. He may be a householder, a king, a wealthy person, or a person of repute in society. In Vedic tradition, certain people are excluded from acting as hosts such as women in general, students and unmarried men, widows, outcasts, renunciants, people who do not belong to Hinduism and those who are mentally unsteady. The host of

accompaniment of mantras, hymnal songs and prayers from the Vedas. The offerings may also vary from deity to deity according to their likes and dislikes and known temperament.

The object of the sacrifice

The recipients of the offerings or the divinities to whom the offerings are made constitute the object of the sacrifice. In a standard Vedic sacrifice, the primary recipient of all the sacrificial offerings is Agni, the fire god, who is represented by the sacrificial fire. The ultimate recipient of them is Brahman, the Supreme Being, himself. Agni receives the offerings on behalf of all the gods and distributes them to the gods in heaven according to their due share. The gods who are most frequently invoked in the Vedas are Indra, Agni, Vayu, Soma, Varuna, Mitra, Aditya, Aditi, Prajapati, Pasupati, Pusan, Usha, Saraswathi, Brihaspati, Asvins, Visvadevas, Maruts, Rudras, Atharvan and Yama. In modern times, people also make offerings to Ganesha, Shiva, Vishnu, and Shakti.

The sacrificial pit

The sacrifice is performed, using a sacrificial altar or pit, which is built specially for the purpose. In recent times, they are also performed using brass or steel utensils or clay pots, but in ancient times the sacrificial altar (homa kunda or yajna kunda) was the standard. Vedic householders used the altars which they kept in their houses to keep the domestic fires to perform simple forms of sacrifices such as the domestic sacrifices or full moon and the half-moon sacrifices. However, complex sacrifices required the assistance of qualified priests to build altars in different sizes and shapes according to strict geometric patterns. They followed strict rules to sanctify the place and lay the bricks according to the mystic formulae that were specified in the scriptures. In some cases, the construction of the altars took several weeks or months, as they had to be built in stages according to the season and the time of the year and had to be consecrated with ritual chants and prayers at the right time before they were fit for the rituals.

the sacrifice may perform the sacrifice on his own, acting as the priest or with the help of one or more priests, according to the situation and the complexity of the ritual. In some instances, the host may not be a person, but a group or an institution, in which case the sacrifice will be hosted by a person chosen by the group or the organization.

The sacrificed

The various materials poured or thrown into the sacrifice constitute the offering or the sacrificed material. Various types liquids and solids are used in Vedic sacrifices as offerings such as food grains, pulses, cooked food, oil, clarified butter, nuts, fruit, water, curd, milk, leaves of certain trees, Soma juice, honey, plants and animals, gold and silver, aromatic substances, specific types of wood, cow dung, and so on. The offerings are either poured or dropped into the fire or given to the priests to the

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

USCIS EXPANDS DIGITAL IMMIGRATION RECORDS SYSTEM

WASHINGTON (TIP): USCIS is announcing the expansion of its digital Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Immigration Records System (FIRST). FIRST is the only system in the U.S. government that allows users to submit and track FOIA requests and receive documents digitally. This process will save time, improve efficiency, and reduce potential errors that can occur with manually handling paper.

Starting June 25, FOIA requestors with a USCIS online account can submit requests online for their own records. Soon, they will be able to submit online requests for non-A-File material (policies, communications, etc.) Later this year, USCIS online account holders can make requests on behalf of another person.

"As USCIS continues to move the nation's legal immigration system away from paper-based services to an electronic future, I am excited to implement the first fully digital FOIA system, and the benefits it will bring for FOIA requestors who take advantage of this service," said Kenneth Cuccinelli, acting director of USCIS. "FIRST brings the antiquated FOIA process into the 21st century and makes it a more efficient and easy process." *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Will India Capitalize on Offers from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ?

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

I do hope and remain open to dialogue and hope that our friends in India will drop their trade barriers and trust in the competitiveness of their own companies, their own businesses, their own people, and private sector companies."

"We will also push for free flow of data across borders, not just to help American companies, but to protect data and secure consumer' privacy. And speaking of privacy, we are eager to help India establish secure communications networks-including SG networks as well."

Pompeo ended his speech to the USIndia Business Council, saying that "as Prime Minister Modi said in his latest campaign-he said, 'Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai, 'Modi makes it possible.' I am looking forward to exploring what is possible between our two peoples."

"We have to be candid, we have to be straight, where we have disagreements we have to own them, work through them, find compromises that deliver good outcomes for every nation in the region, and then collectively-collectively begin to work in a way that will deliver growth throughout the world and for these countries

throughout the Indo-Pacific for the next 5, 10, 25 years."

POMPEO BETS ON LONG TERM DURABLE RELATIONSHIP

Secretary of State, Pompeo asserted that

"what businesses need when they go to invest in each other's countries, they need stability, they need a set of rules that they can understand, they need to make sure that the efforts that we put forward together from the United States have sufficient bipartisanship, that they won't be whipsawed, as we have elections here. That is, when you invest, your return on investment often extends beyond any particular congress or any particular administration."

MODI HAS WON ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AND HAS A HUGE MANDATE TO MODERNIZE INDIA ASSURING NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING HAND-IN- HAND WITH THE USA

India is a democracy and is free to align with any country or group of countries. The USA wants to import less from China to create better terms

of trade. India can create massive employment opportunities only thru export-based economy according to the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram Rajan. Modi must give up the failed socialism of Nehru dynasty and privatize all public sector corporations including banks and insurance. The USA-India Closest Ally relationship could be India's security blanket allowing Modi to launch an economic revolution to modernize India. I am sure Modi realizes that the powerful and corrupt bureaucracy is India's enemy. Soviet Union failed because of socialism and Russia is finding it difficult to develop its economy because of socialism and communism. The USA has helped India more than any other country in the world. The USA fed India free from 1947 to 1967 and also helped launch the green revolution, making India a net food exporter. In technology and inventions, the USA leads the world and India is fortunate that they have become close partners.

(The author, an MBA from Columbia Business School, is Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee and also Senior Adviser to Imagindia Institute, a think tank in New Delhi)

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Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations invites proposals for providing various categories of chauffeur-driven vehicles.

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contd from page 1 Trump arrives in Osaka for G-20 Summit; to meet Modi, Xi and Putin

Thereafter, Mr. Modi would join Mr. Abe and Mr. Trump for a tri-lateral meeting at 9.15 am.

The Trump-Modi bilateral is scheduled to start at 9.35 am. Trump's next engagement is with German Chancellor Angel Merkel at 10.15 am, according to the White House. He will also meet the Russian and Brazilian presidents later in the afternoon.

This would be Mr. Trump's first meeting with Mr. Modi after his recent electoral victory. It comes in the immediate aftermath of the India visit of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, during which he met Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

The Trump-Modi meeting assumes significance in the wake of the strain that has popped up in the bilateral relationship on a host of trade and economic issues.

This is Mr. Trump's second visit to Japan in less than a month.

The G20 is an opportunity for world leaders to discuss the biggest challenges facing the global economy, the White House said.

Mr. Trump's goal this week is to fight for the best deals and outcomes possible to lift up America's workers, it said.

A truly level-playing field means breaking down foreign barriers -- both the tariff and non-tariff kind -- that have stifled America's economy and taken away too many jobs, the White House said.

"Unlike his predecessors, Mr. Trump is willing to use every tool at his disposal to bring these countries to the negotiating table and agree to better terms for our citizens, it said." (Source: PTI)

Census citizenship question blocked by Supreme Court: Trump seeks 2020 Census delay

Supreme Court is given additional information from which it can make a final and decisive decision on this very critical matter."

"We do not hold that the agency decision here was substantively invalid," the chief justice wrote. "But agencies must pursue their goals reasonably. Reasoned decision-making under the Administrative Procedure Act calls for an explanation for agency

action. What was provided here was more of a distraction."

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan joined the key part of the chief justice's opinion.

In dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas said the majority had done something extraordinary. "For the first time ever," he wrote, "the court invalidates an agency action solely because it questions the sincerity of the agency's otherwise adequate rationale."

Justices Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh joined Justice Thomas's partial dissent.

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. filed his own partial dissent.

"To put the point bluntly," he wrote, "the federal judiciary has no authority to stick its nose into the question whether it is good policy to include a citizenship question on the census or whether the reasons given by Secretary Ross for that decision were his only reasons or his real reasons."

Government experts predicted that asking the question would cause many immigrants to refuse to participate in the census, leading to an undercount of about 6.5 million people. That could reduce Democratic representation when congressional districts are allocated in 2021 and affect how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal spending are distributed.

Long Island Advocates React to Supreme Court Decision on the Citizenship Question

MELVILLE, NY . Government and nonprofit leaders gathered at the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island's office, June 27, in response to the Supreme Court ruling that the explanation for inclusion of the Census question was inadequate.

The decision will now be handed back down to the lower courts citing sufficient reason for concern about why the Department of Commerce wanted to add the question, and insufficient explanation.

"While a partial and temporary victory- this is still a win. In these times in which we are living where there is assault after assault on our neighbors- every win- every moment, when humanity is reaffirmed, must be recognized." Said Rebecca Sanin, President/CEO of the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island.

"I welcome the news that all communities on Long Island will receive their fair share from the Federal Government and we must make sure that everyone is counted on Long Island." Said New York State Senator Monica Martinez.

"This is a significant win for making sure every person in Nassau County

can be counted," said Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman. "We must keep up the pressure on Washington so that we have a fair and accurate count and get the resources our communities deserve. The stakes are too high for the entire region."

There are still significant challenges to ensuring that Long Island has a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census. From anti-immigrant rhetoric to raids, to suburban sprawl, there is a lot to overcome less than a year out from the Census. To address these significant challenges, Nassau & Suffolk Complete Count Committees have been convening community leaders across the Island to understand the hurdles ahead, pool resources and knowledge bases, and devise strategies we can utilize to achieve a Complete Count in 2020.

"Let us all come together today and be ambassadors of the Census," said, Rebecca Sanin, President/CEO of the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island. "Let us use this momentary victory as a call to action- to start speaking to everyone we encounter about the need to be counted, about how every human counts, and let's create a sustainable, inclusive and hopeful future for all Long Islanders."

Census Facts:

- An undercount of more than .6 percent, could result in New York losing representation in Washington.
- 800 billion dollars is allocated based on Census data in this country.
- Suffolk & Nassau County are the fourth and fifth hardest to count counties in all of New York State.
- Over 800,000 people on Long Island live in hard to count areas.
- \$73 billion is allocated from 55 spending programs based on the Census-including Medicaid, school funding, Headstart, WIC, school breakfast, Title 1 and special education.

BIG WIN! The Citizenship Question will NOT be added to the 2020 Census: SALDEF

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court ruled that the Citizenship Question will not be added to the census, "saying that the administration's explanation for adding it is insufficient". The unprecedented citizenship question has now been put on halt until further notice. While the U.S. Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the United States Code, prohibiting the

information on the census from being disclosed. Inclusion of a citizenship question in the future has the potential to spark fear in immigrant communities.

SALDEF Executive Director Kiran Kaur Gill said, "we are thrilled by the win today at the Supreme court and hope that all will now feel safe in participating in the Census. I encourage all individuals to take part in the 2020 Census to ensure a complete representation of the Sikh community and all communities."

The reinstatement of the citizenship question was introduced by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in March 2018. Since then, Ross has been accused of trying to depress minority responses for political purposes. The citizen question sparked fear by immigrant groups of targeted harassment including deportation, that would have resulted in an undercount of the actual number of people living in a community. The count is used to allocate federal funding for communities, and resources such as food stamps, public schooling, and assistance programs. Giving a distorted count to the Census Bureau may leave immigrant communities with insufficient federal resources.

The Asian Americans Advancing Justice group recognizes that along with federal funding, the Census data allocates the number of representatives communities will receive. The data provides communities an opportunity to "engage their elected officials in advocating for support and solutions for their community's needs." With distorted Census data, the voices of and concerns of immigrant communities will be suppressed. Lastly, the census data is used for redistricting and not giving immigrant communities substantial political power due to inaccurate Census data may falsify the outcomes of state-level elections.

Meanwhile, Trump is asking his lawyers whether Census can be delayed for the Citizenship question.

Washington Post says President Trump said Thursday, June 27, that he is seeking to delay the constitutionally mandated census to give administration officials time to come up with a better explanation for why it should include a citizenship question.

Trump's announcement, in tweets sent from Japan, came hours after the Supreme Court put on hold his administration's plan to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, saying it had provided a "contrived" reason for wanting the information. He said census would be 'meaningless' without citizenship question.

THE INDIAN PANORAMA

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COORG: SCOTLAND OF INDIA

Coorg, officially called Kodagu, is the most sought after and popular hill station of Karnataka. Lying serenely amidst high mountains, Coorg's landscape stays misty throughout the year. The aboriginals of the place are Kodavas. Apart from Kannada, the other two main languages of this hill station are Kodagu and Kodava.

The best time to visit Kodagu is between October to May and the peak season for this hill station is within February to May. Kodagu is the largest producer of Coffee in India. Also, it is one of the places with highest rainfall across the nation. Undulating hills covered in lush green forests and a landscape dotted with coffee plantations, tea gardens and orange groves, this hill station has breathtakingly stunning scenic beauty.

The popular tourist attractions in Kodagu include Bhagamandala, Talakaveri, Nisargadhama, Dubare, Abbey Falls, Iruppu Falls and Nagarhole National Park. Pushpagiri and Brahmagiri in Coorg are ideal for trekking.

Abbey Falls

Abbey Falls, also known as Abbi Falls, is located around 10 kilometres away from the town of Madikeri and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in and around Coorg. The water cascade coming down from the cliff from a height of 70 feet provides a spectacular scene to behold. Nestled within the lush greenery which is typical to the sceneries of Western Ghats, the waterfalls attract hundreds and thousands of people throughout the year - especially nature lovers and photographers. The waterfall is located between private coffee plantations with stocky coffee bushes and spice estates with trees entwined with pepper vines. There is an over-bridge that hangs opposite of the falls, from where the most picturesque scene of white foams gushing down the ridge can be seen, captured and remembered. The flow of the falls leaves a significant amount of water spray on those who stand on the bridge for some time.

Talacauvery

Talacauvery is the source of the river Kaveri, located on the Brahmagiri hill (not to be confused with the Brahmagiri range further south) near Bhagamandala in Kodagu district, Karnataka. It is located at 1,276 m above sea level. Kodavas erected a tank which is now considered as its origin. It is believed that the river originates as a spring feeding a tank or a Kundike and then flows underground to re-emerge as Kaveri some distance away. The place has a temple dedicated to the Goddess Kaveriamma is located next to the tank and bathing in it on special occasions is considered holy.

Golden Temple

Namdroling Monastery, situated at a distance of 34 km from the Coorg, is the largest teaching centre of the school of Tibetan Buddhism known as Nyingmapa. Popularly known as the 'Golden Temple', the Namdroling Monastery holds some excellent examples of Tibetan architecture and artwork, as seen with the elaborately decorated temple tower and ornate outer



walls, intricately adorned with beautiful murals. It is spread over an area of 80 square feet and was built from Bamboo which was donated by the Indian Government to the Tibetans in exile. Today, it houses many auxiliary structures like educational institutions and a hospital, in addition to being home to about 5,000 members of the Sangha community.

Raja's Seat

Raja's Seat, a garden with beautiful flowering plants and skilfully designed artificial fountains, is located in Madikeri in the district of Coorg. The garden was a favorite venue to rejuvenate for the Kings of Kodagu, and they loved watching the sunsets sitting here as they spent some memorable time with their Queens. Even today, the breathtaking view of the Sun setting into the undulated mountains is mesmerizing. The delightful garden here is adorned with a multitude of flowers and is a treat to nature lovers, and the proximity of the location also makes it a preferred picnic spot for the locals. Visiting Raja's Seat is an excellent way to get a glimpse into the lifestyle of royal indulgence in Coorg.

Nagarhole National Park

Located in the Mysore district of Karnataka, Nagarhole National Park boasts of rich wildlife including both flora and fauna. Located near Bandipur National Park, this beautiful national park is packed with the bounty of raw nature in its best form.

A myriad variety of animals such as Elephant, Jackal, Tiger, Panther, Gaur, Sambar, Spotted deer, Mongoose, Civet cat, Hyena, and Sloth Bear, and almost 250 varieties of birds call this place their home.

Bestowed with best of wildlife and varied topography, this place offers gushing streams, lush green forests, gentle slopes and shallow valleys. The place is a paradise for nature lovers and those seeking solitude.



India knock Windies out of World Cup with 125-run victory



MANCHESTER (TIP): India moved a step closer to the World Cup semi-finals and ended West Indies' slim hopes of qualifying with a 125-run thrashing at Old Trafford.

West Indies, chasing 269 for victory, were dismantled by India, with pace bowler Mohammad Shami taking 4-16 and Jasprit Bumrah 2-9.

It was an underwhelming response from West Indies after they were economical with the ball and tidy in the field.

Virat Kohli made 72 as India worked hard in front of a vociferous crowd, and MS Dhoni's unbeaten 56, which saw him take 16 runs from the final over, propelled them to 268-7.

West Indies were ultimately dismissed for 143 with 94 balls remaining and will be left to rue a impatient batting performance on a slow pitch.

India are the only unbeaten team in the tournament and yesterday replaced England - their next opponents - at the top of the one-day rankings.

They will head to Edgbaston on Sunday with plenty of confidence, knowing that victory will secure their semi-final berth and make England's task to qualify even more difficult.

England, beware

England might have played close attention to this match; they may need to beat both India on Sunday and then New Zealand to reach the semi-finals.

What will they have learnt? India's top order is as dynamic as ever but the middle is brittle. Kohli top-scored and made batting look easy, but those around him faltered. India have a long tail which England may be able to exploit.

KL Rahul was bowled by Jason Holder, caught in two minds; Vijay Shankar, who has struggled for runs at four, was undone by a delivery that moved off the seam and the dangerous Hardik Pandya sliced to cover after a flurry of shots.

While Kohli can manipulate the field and find singles, he has yet to make a century at this World Cup, something that will not be lost on him. He was in disbelief as he pulled Holder straight to the fielder at mid-wicket as India looked to accelerate.



Gayle was dismissed by Shami for just 6.



Pandya and Dhoni added 70 runs together.

KOHLI BACKS DHONI, SAYS HE IS A LEGEND

MANCHESTER (TIP): India skipper Virat Kohli put his weight behind under-fire Mahendra Singh Dhoni, describing him as a legend of the game whose keen understanding and experience has held the team in good stead.

Dhoni faced criticism for his failure to rotate the strike against Afghanistan spinners and even against the West Indies, the former India skipper initially found the going tough before he got 16 in the final over to finish on 56 off 61 deliveries and take India to 268/7. "Dhoni knows exactly what he wants to do in the middle. When he has an off day here and there, everyone starts talking. We always back him. He has won us so many games," Kohli said.

"The best thing about having someone like him is when you need those 15-20 runs, he knows exactly how to get them. His experience, 8 out of 10 times has come good for us. We have quite a few players who play instinctive cricket and follow their game plans. He's such a keen understanding of the game. Always sends us feedback, that you know 260 is a good score. He's a legend of the game. We all know that," he added.

While MS Dhoni provided an entertaining finish for the packed Old Trafford crowd - he hit two sixes and a four off the final over of the innings - he likes to take his time, and the singles lessened as his innings progressed. While he propelled India to a score that was ultimately more than enough, he can also limit them in the crucial moments.

The biggest concern for England

will be the bowling. Mohammed Shami is accurate up top, while Jasprit Bumrah's unorthodox action and mix of paces is difficult to get away. An impatient Chris Gayle holed out early on, before Shai Hope was bowled attempting an expansive drive.

India's spinners were excellent, although they were helped by some poor shots from West Indies' batsmen.



KOHLI BEATS SACHIN, LARA; BECOMES FASTEST TO REACH 20,000 INTERNATIONAL RUNS

MANCHESTER (TIP): India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday became the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs, eclipsing batting greats Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.

Kohli broke the long-standing feat held jointly by Tendulkar and Lara during India's World Cup encounter against West Indies here.

Kohli reached the milestone in only his 417th international innings, while Tendulkar and Lara, both retired now, took 453 innings each to get there.

Prior to Thursday's match, Kohli was 37 runs short of the milestone and reached the feat with a single off West Indies skipper Jason Holder in the 25th over of the India innings.

Kohli, thus, became the 12th batsman and third Indian after Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to reach 20,000 international runs.

The 30-year-old India captain has so far accumulated 11,549 runs in Tests, besides 1647 runs in T20 cricket.

His runs tally in ODIs prior to Thursday's match stood at 11,903.

Besides this, Kohli also became only the third captain in the history of the World Cup to register four consecutive 50-plus scores.

The other skippers to attain the feat are Graeme Smith (in 2007) and Aaron Finch (2019). *Source: PTI*

Pak halt NZ's winning streak

BIRMINGHAM (TIP): Babar Azam produced a sublime unbeaten century under pressure as Pakistan continued its revival in the World Cup by halting New Zealand's unbeaten run with a six-wicket victory.

Chasing 238 on a tricky Edgbaston pitch which offered vicious turn, Azam (101) and Sohail (68) showed intent, temperament and resolve while batting in Pakistan's must-win game. They raised a 126-run stand for the fourth wicket after Mohammed Hafeez's dismissal off a part-time spinner, yet again, raised eyebrows and Mitchell Santner looked almost unplayable. The situation demanded restraint and Hafeez was set but he threw away his wicket while trying to attack Kane Williamson.

This was after Fakhar Zaman (9) was done in by Trent Boult and Imam ul Haq (19) became a victim of Lockie Ferguson. Taking the attack by the scruff of its neck, Azam shifted the gears after completing his half-century and hit some glorious shots off Williamson and Boult to keep the required run-rate under check.





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