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House Passes Bill to Remove Per Country Cap on Green Cards

WASHINGTON (TIP): On July 10 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1044, the bipartisan Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. Eliminating employment per country caps will create a first-come, first-served green card system, putting talent and skills first.

The Bill was passed by the 435-member House by an overwhelming majority of 365-65 votes. A Green Card allows a person to live and work permanently in the United States.

H.R. 1044 would eliminate the per-country quotas that impact all employment-based immigrant visa petitions. Currently, these quotas limit nationals from every country in the world to receive no more than 7% of the total amount of employment-based green cards issued annually. In short, the quota for Iceland, which has a



The Bill was passed by the 435-member House by an overwhelming majority of 365-65 votes.

population of approximately 338,000 people. The new Bill seeks to increase this seven percent per-country limit to 15 percent. *contd on Page 32*

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to visit India in Sept 2019



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy is expected to visit at least five cities in India during his visit coming September

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy is expected to visit India coming September. According to a tentative plan, the governor will visit at least five cities which include Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai and Ahmadabad. *contd on Page 32*

F.T.C. Approves about \$5 billion fine for Facebook over privacy violations



By far the biggest penalty ever for a tech company

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Federal Trade Commission voted this week to fine Facebook about \$5 billion for mishandling users' personal information. *contd on Page 32*

Nationwide U.S Immigration Raids planned to begin on Sunday, July 14

WASHINGTON (TIP): Nationwide Raids to arrest thousands of members of undocumented families have been scheduled to begin on Sunday, July 14. The final details of this rapidly changing operation, backed by President Donald Trump, have not been released according to two current and one former homeland security officials. This operation was previously delayed for two weeks, partly because of resistance among officials at Trump's immigration agency. However, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) director Ken Cuccinelli said Wednesday that the ICE raids are "absolutely going to happen." According to officials, the raids conducted by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will span over multiple days. *contd on Page 32*



Take collective action against D-Company: Syed Akbaruddin urges UN

UNITED NATIONS, NY (TIP): The United Nations Security Council should show similar degree of interest in addressing the threats posed against India by Dawood Ibrahim and his D-Company as it did for ISIL, said Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN.

During an Open Debate on "Threats to International Peace and Security: Linkages between International Terrorism and Organised Crime" at the United Nations Security Council on 9 July, Akbaruddin described Pakistan, without naming the neighbor, *contd on Page 32*



Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN speaking at the debate on 'Threats to International Peace and Security: Linkages between International Terrorism and Organised Crime' at the United Nations Security Council on 9 July



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Award-winning filmmaker plans docu-series on Indian temples in the US

Joshi hopes her temples series to be shot across America will highlight the contributions of Indian Americans through their culture, lifestyle and value system

EDISON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey-based award-winning documentary filmmaker Gayatri Joshi's new project "Divya Yatra - A Divine Journey Through Temples of America," seeks to engage mainstream America, including US-born Indian Americans, about the inclusiveness of India's largest religion, Hinduism.

As the title suggests, the mini TV series will look at the various aspects of Hinduism, its way of life through the prism of temples erected in the US.

"I have personally invested almost five years researching and identifying the relevant focus of the docu-series," she said in a recent interview. "The religious angle notwithstanding, the series will seek to look at Hinduism not only from a religious point of view but surmise the spiritual and the unifying aspect of it and the temples as a gateway to that realization."

The docu-series is aimed at enhancing interfaith understanding and cooperation in the US, also engaging tourists to the grandeur of select temples being showcased.

Joshi, who started her career as a newsreader with India's state television Doordarshan, is known for making films



Filmmaker Gayatri Joshi at a temple

addressing contemporary national issues, also intricately weaving concrete socio-cultural facts in the storyline.

Under the banner of Gayatri

Communications that Joshi setup in 1991, her films have focused on education, women empowerment, folk art forms and the lives of India's leading

public figures such as former prime ministers Atal Behari Vajpayee and Chandra Shekar; Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay, one of leading figures in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the forerunner of the present day Bharatiya Janata Party; Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee, one of the founders of Bharatiya Jana Sangh; and communist leaders Indrajit Gupta and Somnath Chatterjee.

For her pioneering work, Joshi has received several awards, including the "Gujarat Gaurav," given to her by the Gujarat government in 2001 for her contributions in the field of mass communication.

Currently based in New Jersey, Joshi is a law graduate, who also has a master's degree in both arts and commerce. Her prolific career includes 55 documentaries and 40 short films in a four-decade-long filmmaking stint.

Joshi's documentaries are regularly featured at film festivals and events across India.

Joshi hopes her temples series to be shot across America will highlight the contributions of Indian Americans through their culture, lifestyle and value system.

GOPIO-CT to honor six Indian American achievers at its 13th Annual Awards Banquet in Stamford



Dignitaries attending GOPIO-CT 2019 Awards Banquet, from l. to r. Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Senator Richard Blumenthal, CT State Senator Carlo Leone and Tony Hwang, Norwalk Mayor Harry Rillings, New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan; and CT State Representatives Dr. Prasad Srinivasan and Raghieb Allie-Brennan

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)-Connecticut Chapter will honor outstanding achievers of the Indian American community in Connecticut and those provide service to the community or the society at large at its Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 27th at the

Stamford Marriott Hotel, Stamford, CT starting at 6 p.m. Six Indian Americans are honored for their achievements in profession and service to the nation.

Chief guest at the banquet is Indian Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty. Other honored guests include US Senator Richard Blumenthal, Norwalk Mayor



GOPIO-CT 2019 AWARDEES. From L to R: Connecticut State Rep. Raghieb Allie-Brennan, Prof. Ravi Dhar; Dr. Sathya Motupally, Dr. D.R. Nagaraj, Dr. Asha Kapoor Shah and Dinyar Wadia.

Harry Rillings; New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan; CT State Senators Carlo Leone and Tony Hwang and CT State Representatives Dr. Prasad Srinivasan and Raghieb Allie-Brennan.

The 2019 awardees are: Connecticut State Representative Raghieb Allie-Brennan for achievement in Political involvement; Dr. Ravi Dhar is George Rogers Clark Professor of Management and Marketing, Yale School of Management and Professor of Psychology at Yale University for Business Management; Dr. Sathya Motupally, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Doosan Fuel Cell America for Engineering; Dr. D.R. Nagaraj, Principal Research Fellow at Cytec Solvay for Applied Sciences and Dinyar Wadia, Principal of Wadia Associates for Architecture. In addition, GOPIO-CT President's Award for a young professional will be presented to Dr. Asha Kapoor Shah, Associate Hospital Epidemiologist and Associate Director of

Infectious Diseases at Stamford Hospital.

Commenting on the award selection, GOPIO-CT President Anita Bhat said, "We select the awardees, who have made an impact in our society and/or those who provide outstanding service."

GOPIO International Founder President Dr. Thomas Abraham and Chairman of GOPIO-CT Awards Committee said, "these awardees are role models for our new generations and GOPIO-CT has a done great job in building up a good image of India and Indian Americans in Connecticut."

The awardees will be honored at GOPIO-CT's 13th Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 27th at the Stamford Marriott Hotel in Stamford, CT. The program includes dignitaries, entertainment and Bollywood DJ. For reservation or to buy tickets, call Anita Bhat 203-524-2935 or send an e-mail to abnewyork71@gmail.com.

Indian American Sabih Khan Named Apple's Senior Vice President of Operations



Sabih Khan, a 24-year Apple veteran, will lead Apple's global supply chain as senior vice president of Operations

CUPERTINO, CA (TIP): Apple on June 27 announced that Sabih Khan, a 24-year Apple veteran, has been named to the company's executive team as senior vice president of Operations. Khan has played an important role in delivering each of Apple's innovative products to market since the late 1990s, leading key product operations and supply chain functions. He continues to report to Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer.

In his new role, Khan will be in charge of Apple's global supply chain, ensuring product quality and overseeing planning, procurement, manufacturing, logistics and product fulfillment functions, as well as Apple's supplier responsibility programs that protect and educate workers at production facilities around the world.

"Sabih leads our Ops team with heart," said Tim Cook, Apple's CEO. "He and his entire worldwide team are committed to delivering unmatched experiences to our customers, treating workers everywhere with dignity and respect, and protecting the environment for future generations."

Indian American Named 2019 Tenured Professor in MIT School of Science



Ankur Moitra is the Rockwell International Career Development Associate Professor

BOSTON (TIP): An Indian American is among Eight MIT faculty members who are granted tenure in five science departments. MIT granted tenure to eight School of Science faculty members in the departments of Biology; Chemistry; Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences; Mathematics; and Physics. Ankur Moitra works at the interface between theoretical computer science and machine learning by developing algorithms with provable guarantees and foundations for reasoning about their behavior. *Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news*

Two Indian American Researchers Receive Presidential Early Career Award

CHICAGO (TIP): Two Indian Americans are among six researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who were named recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers.

Gaurav Bahl, Mechanical engineering and science professor and chemistry professor Prashant Jain are the recipients of the prestigious award.

Bahl's research focuses on systems that incorporate both optical and mechanical elements - particularly mechanisms where light interacts with photonic devices via radiation pressure, gradient force, electrostrictive pressure and photothermal effects.

Jain investigates artificial photosynthesis through light-matter interactions in nanoscale materials. He has affiliations with the department of physics, the Materials Research Laboratory and the Beckman Institute.



Chemistry professor Prashant Jain (left) and Gaurav Bahl, Professor of Mechanical engineering (right) are recipients of the prestigious award

Indian American Bid Goswami Announces Retirement as Columbia Men's Tennis Coach



NEW YORK (TIP): A legend in the world of college tennis, Columbia Tennis Alumni and Friends Head Coach Bid Goswami retired from his post at the conclusion of the 2019 season after an illustrious 37-year career.

Upon his retirement, Columbia's men's tennis head coaching position will be renamed the Bidyut K. Goswami Head Coach of Men's Tennis as an endowment was established in his name in 2007.

A former touring pro, Goswami succeeded another ex-touring pro at Columbia, Paul Gerken, in November 1982. He was a member of the Indian Davis Cup squad in 1974-75 and won the Indian National singles title in 1979 and the doubles title in 1978. A native of Assam, in the foothills of the Himalayas, Goswami earned a bachelor's degree in business from St. Xavier's College of Calcutta University in 1973 and competed for St. Xavier's in tennis from 1970-73. After leaving the tour, Goswami became a club professional and served as the director of tennis at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York from

1977-2012. In all, Goswami has guided Columbia to 13 NCAA Tournament appearances, advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament three times and achieved the first top-five national ranking in program and Ivy League history. He has coached players who received a total of four All-America honors as well as seven Ivy League Player of the Year recipients, 46 All-Ivy League doubles players, and 69 All-Ivy League singles players honors. Goswami was named the first-ever Ivy League Men's Tennis Coach of the Year in 2015.

Additionally, Goswami led the Lions to the Sweet 16 of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Indoor Team Championship four times. Columbia is the only Ivy League school to ever reach the Sweet 16 round in the history of the tournament. His 13 Ivy League titles rank as the second-highest total won by a head coach in Columbia Athletics history behind fencing coach George Kolombatovich, who won 17 men's titles and eight women's championships in 33 years from 1979-2010.

Indian American Surgeon honoured with Carnegie's 2019 Great Immigrant Award

Jindal is a professor in the Department of Surgery and Division of Global Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences



NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Surgeon Rahul M. Jindal has been honoured with Carnegie's 2019 Great Immigrant award.

Every Fourth of July since 2006, Carnegie Corporation of New York honors Andrew Carnegie's legacy by celebrating the wide-ranging contributions of immigrants who enrich the communities and culture, strengthen the economy, and invigorate the democracy. Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie rose out of poverty to become one of the greatest contributors to American industry and philanthropy.

Jindal is a professor in the Department of Surgery and Division of Global Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Maryland-based federal health professions academy that trains future military medics. He has also served as commissioner of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism in Maryland and as commissioner to the Montgomery County (Maryland) Human Rights Commission. Awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2013.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news



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Prosecutors accuse Jeffrey Epstein of tampering with witnesses

NEW YORK (TIP) Prosecutors argued Friday, July 12, that financier Jeffrey Epstein should be denied bail while he awaits trial on sex trafficking charges involving underage girls, fearing that he will tamper with witnesses. The prosecutors submitted written arguments in advance of a bail hearing Monday, saying he faces "the very real possibility" of spending the rest of his life in prison and seems not to understand the gravity of his crimes.

"And any doubt that the defendant is unrepentant and unreformed was eliminated when law enforcement agents discovered hundreds or thousands of nude and seminude photographs of young females in his Manhattan mansion on the night of his arrest, more than a decade after he was first convicted of a sex crime involving a juvenile," prosecutors wrote in their submission.

The filing came a day after defense lawyers told U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman that Epstein should be given bail and confined to his \$77 million Manhattan mansion with electronic monitoring. Epstein was arrested Saturday after arriving at a New Jersey airport from Paris. Epstein pleaded not guilty Monday to charges alleging he recruited and abused dozens of underage girls at his mansions in New York and Palm Beach, Florida, in the early 2000s.

Epstein was arrested July 6 at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey and charged with child sex trafficking. According to an indictment, Epstein allegedly abused dozens of underage girls as young as 14 from at least 2002 to 2005. He faced similar charges in 2007 but took a plea deal in 2008 to avoid federal prosecution.

contd from page 3

Gopio-Ct to honor six Indian American achievers at its 13th Annual Awards Banquet in Stamford

Over the last 13 years, GOPIO-CT, a chapter of GOPIO International has become an active and dynamic organization hosting interactive sessions with policy makers and academicians, community events, youth mentoring and networking workshops, and working with other area organizations to help create a better future. GOPIO-CT serves as a non-partisan, secular, civic and community service organization - promoting awareness of Indian culture, customs and contributions of PIOs through community programs, forums, events and youth activities. It seeks to strengthen partnerships and create an ongoing dialogue with local communities.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

SARC joined the Montclair Republican Club, the Essex County NJ Republican Women in one of the largest Independence Day parades in New Jersey

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Hemant Bhatt, Founder and Chairman of SARC, joined by several core members including Neeta Ramekar, Brajesh Singh, Sujit Sukumaran, and Paul Lund helped distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution to youths and their parents to provide "summer reading" that might help them connect with the foundation of American exceptionalism!

Hirsh Singh, running on Republican ticket for US Senate against the Democrats' sitting Senator and Presidential wannabe, Cory Booker, also participated alongside the SARC team of patriots. Our presence in Montclair was a strategic part of our ongoing mission to reach out to communities that have yet to connect with the values that we, as Republicans and staunch Conservatives stand for, and to demonstrate the love, respect and appreciation for the country that has given us so much towards the pursuit of our American dreams!

In this, SARC acknowledges and echoes the voice of President Trump who opened his celebration of America's Birthday with "As we gather this evening, in the joy of freedom, we remember that we all share a truly extraordinary heritage. Together we are part of one of the greatest stories ever told, the story of America."

SARC, A New Face in American Patriotism, is on a mission to engineer a major political awakening and grass roots movement toward the Republican Party among the roughly 22.8 million South Asian Americans living in the



United States of America. SARC can be contacted by sending an email at info@sarcusa.org and visiting its web site sarcusa.org.

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS AND ST. GEORGE UNIVERSITY AWARD \$1.8 MILLION IN CITYDOCTORS SCHOLARSHIP TO 12 NYC MEDICAL STUDENTS

- City Doctors scholarship awardees commit to practicing primary care medicine for at least two years at one of NYC Health + Hospitals' acute care facilities
- Partnership was launched in 2012 to help address the shortage of primary care physicians and to increase educational and career opportunities for local students

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals and St. George's University School of Medicine have announced that 12 students from the New York metropolitan area will be awarded a total of \$1.8 million in CityDoctors scholarships. In return, awardees commit to practicing primary care medicine for at least two years at one of the 11 public hospitals in New York City following their medical training. Since its inception in 2012, the CityDoctors scholarship program has awarded 113 aspiring and current doctors with scholarships worth a total of \$12.3 million through the NYC Health + Hospitals partnership.

"Our commitment to delivering excellent care is reflected in our continued participation in the CityDoctors scholarship program, which provides young doctors, who have expressed an early commitment to primary care along with a heart-felt connection to the citizens of New York, the necessary support to become physicians," said Mabelle Allen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, NYC Health + Hospitals. "As we expand access to health care services to more New Yorkers through initiatives like NYC Care, our partnership with St. George's University is a great example of our accountability, and active role in ensuring we have a

reliable pipeline of well-trained primary care physicians joining NYC Health + Hospitals."

"We're thrilled to provide scholarships to these outstanding future doctors," said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President of St. George's University. "It's a priority for us at St. George's to make medical school accessible and affordable to aspiring doctors from a variety of backgrounds who are intent on returning home to New York City to serve in the city's most vulnerable communities."

(Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news)

A Legalization Investing Boom in NJ: The next Gold Rush



BY H.S. PANASER

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Before I take you to the information on opening of Marijuana legalization for medicinal usage in NJ, let me place here a story published in a publication The Motley Fool about a young, hotshot CEO who issued a stark warning for those looking to invest in legalization. But are some not heeding his words? Adam Bierman, the 37-year-old founder and CEO of MedMen Enterprises, one of the largest dispensaries in America, issued this alert to a packed crowd at the 2019 South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas. After he detailed the growth of his small business, from tiny apartment in Glendale to the first ten figure legalization company in the United States, Bierman revealed the potential he sees in this industry...and it's huge. I'm talking to the tune of an estimated \$146.4 billion.

Legalization is descending over North America - 11 states plus Washington, D.C., have all legalized recreational usage over the last few years, and full legalization arrived in Canada in October 2018. And since experts have projected the U.S. industry to skyrocket to \$146.5 billion by 2025, it's time for investors to start paying attention. And Bierman agrees. So imagine the potential of this industry if legalization comes to pass. And this is where the stark words come in from Mr. Bierman. Because while the industry is still filled with small businesses, mom

and pop shops, local corner stores, it's only a matter of time before the big dog's step in. And he sees it as a do-or-die situation; eat or be eaten. It's that important for potential investors.

"I saw a thing today from Cramer, the Mad Money host...[he] goes online and said, 'If Heinz wants to be successful, they have to sell off some brands and invest into legalization.' I read it twice." He concluded with this harsh warning: "If you're Big Alcohol and you don't get a piece of legalization, legalization is going to take a piece of you." Now, there's no denying that the green industry is booming, and attracting interest from savvy investors like yourself. But it's also a relatively new industry. Untested, unproven and while investing companies love being on the cutting edge of new investing trends.... Just take a look at how one of them has done:

- 34.8% increase in stock price after announcing a partnership with Tilray
- \$55 billion in sales growth in 2018 alone
- Estimated 28% of market share in 2016

But now that there's an estimated \$146.4 billion industry emerging from the woodwork, their prospects are positively mouthwatering - and we think you'll regret not getting invested now. Forget penny green stocks. Forget untried, inexperienced legalized farms. New Jersey on Monday announced a

plan to issue up to 108 additional medical marijuana licenses, an exponential increase that would significantly boost business opportunities in the once highly restricted program.

To date, the state has issued only 12 vertically integrated licenses, and six aren't yet in operation.

The plan, announced by the state health department, will offer up to 54 separate dispensary licenses, 30 processing permits and 24 cultivation licenses, including three tiers of grower permits. Applications will be available July 1.

The plan comes at a time that the New Jersey Legislature was on the verge of passing MMJ expansion legislation after efforts to legalize recreational cannabis stalled.

Scott Rudder, president of the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association, predicted last week that Gov. Phil Murphy would announce an additional round of MMJ licensing before the Legislature gave final passage to a similar expansion effort. State officials said the number of licenses it plans to issue is based on the department's assessment of the market.

New Jersey Health Commissioner Shereef Elnahal said in a statement that "by allowing for three sizes of cultivation endorsements (5,000 square feet, 20,000 square feet and 30,000 square feet), we are increasing opportunities for small- and medium-sized businesses to participate in the program." In addition, the state is specifying the geographic makeup of the licenses, calling for:

- Up to 38 in the northern region of the state.
- As many as 38 in central New Jersey.
- Up to 32 in the southern part of the state.

The state health department said it will hold an August 2nd pre-application webinar, with submissions due Aug. 21st, 2019. Current license holders are eligible to participate in the new application round.

Wait for the next week edition where we will put more information for investors and entrepreneurs, until then keep asking...this is just a start.

For more information on consultants, attorneys, application specialist you can email at hwpconsultants@gmail.com.

Indian American Hedge Fund Founder Convicted of Securities Fraud



Anilesh "Neil" Ahuja, co-founder and chief executive officer of Premium Point

NEW YORK (TIP): Anilesh Ahuja, a/k/a "Neil," the founder, chief executive officer, and chief investment officer of Premium Point Investments LP ("PPI"), a Manhattan-based investment firm that managed hedge funds, and Jeremy Shor, a former trader at PPI, were found guilty July 11 of securities fraud-related offenses, Audrey Strauss, the Attorney for the United States, Acting Under Authority Conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 515, announced.

Ahuja and Shor were convicted after a six-week trial in Manhattan federal court presided over by U.S. District Judge Katherine Polk Failla, for their participation in a scheme to inflate the net asset value ("NAV") reported to investors for hedge funds managed by PPI, by more than \$100 million.

Ahuja, 51, of New Rochelle, New York, and Shor, 44, of New York, New York, were each found guilty on all four counts of the indictment: one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud, which carries a maximum potential sentence of five years in prison, and one count each of securities fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and wire fraud, each of which carries a maximum potential sentence of 20 years in prison.

Rep. Greg Meeks urges Ocasio-Cortez to end 'intolerable' feud with Democratic leadership

QUEENS, NY (TIP): Queens Democratic boss and 11-term congressman Greg Meeks took a thinly veiled jab at fellow Big Apple Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on Friday, July 12, urging her to back off her racially tinged feud with party

leaders or face a fight for her political life.

Meeks stressed there weren't any current plans to challenge Ocasio-Cortez but left the door open: "If you get in the ring, expect that people are going to start throwing punches."

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GUEST COMMENT

Rudderless Congress: Party desperately needs strong leadership

Rahul Gandhi made an impassioned speech in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, July 11, contrasting the plight of indebted farmers with pampered businessmen who are regularly offered lifelines and write-offs. No doubt, it struck a chord and would make Prime Minister Narendra Modi sit up and act. Parliamentary performance - interventions, speeches and sloganeering - is important, but more important is the organizational integrity of a party within and outside legislative bodies. In post-independent India, there has not been a

worse phase for the Congress, which now desperately needs strong leadership to steer it in the choppy waters of electoral and structural turbulence.

The split in the Congress legislature party of the Goa unit is immensely significant. The Leader of the Opposition and nine other MLAs have quit the Congress to join the BJP, reducing the party to just five MLAs in the state. Merely blaming the split on the BJP would be to shirk the responsibility to guard one's flock and ring-fence it ideologically and organizationally. The BJP would try all the

tricks in the book and invent newer ones, and that is par for the course in today's power politics, which is devoid of all moral qualms. Opportunism is the hallmark of our day-to-day dirty politics and being less opportunistic and hence less successful is no virtue at all in this dog-eat-dog business.

Rahul Gandhi's sloganeering inside the Lok Sabha over the defection of the Congress MLAs in Karnataka does not make any difference. He has a responsibility to get a new party president appointed at the earliest. If he believes that

he is more of a communicator than an apparatchik or an organization builder, he should leave the party in strong hands and start touring the states where the BJP is poaching his party leaders and elected representatives. A Nehru-Gandhi name still is a political magnet, which can work wonders for the party and his career. But a leadership vacuum and an absentee leader are the worst that can happen to the Congress now. Also, the Congress deserves a better leader in the Lok Sabha with a pan-India appeal and a reasonable education. (*Tribune, India*)

AS I SEE IT

India is still a developing country because of inefficient management**INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE CORPORATIONS CAN SOLVE INDIA'S PROBLEMS**

By Ven Parameswaran

There is not a single Indian city that can provide potable water from its taps. In fact, a 2018 report from global advocacy group, WaterAid put India at the top of its list of countries with the worst access to clean water close to homes-163 million Indians live this way. 21% of communicable diseases in India are due to unclean water.

India today faces a water emergency of historic proportions, with an estimated 600 million people - about half the population - grappling with either severe water shortages or polluted water supplies.

India has been independent since 1947, that is 72 years. If India has not been able to solve the water shortage, India should be ashamed.

I am not an engineer. I studied business administration, political science and international relations. Let us apply our commonsense to determine why India has failed. Indians have very high IQ and are highly educated. There is no shortage of all kinds of engineers and scientists in India. I keep asking why India has failed.

I keep wondering why India took 15 years to build the New Delhi metro. Why India did not test its nuclear bomb in 1959 when Dr. Homi J Bhabha had equipped India to test. India tested in 1974, ten years after China tested. Why did India wait till China tested?

India did not have modern airports for many years till ten years ago. India kept talking about wanting to build modern airports. But why India took so long to build modern airports in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, etc.?

India has been building metropolitan rail transportation in Bangalore for the past ten years or so, and it may take another ten years to complete.

I keep wondering why India takes many years to decide. After deciding, it takes many years to start executing. And it takes many years to execute. Why?

India has not provided electricity throughout India. Where there is electricity, power cut continues. Why only in India?

India has built the best and the most modern luxury 5 star hotels second to none in the world. These hotels were built by private corporations and within a short time. This proves that India can do it, if it wants. But when the Government of India is responsible, all projects get delayed. The governments in India specializes in DELAYING PROCESS TO HELP CORRUPTION. The delay is not due to lack of financial resource. The World Bank found out that it costs more to build road in India than in the USA? Why? The World Bank approved loan to India to build Mumbai-Pune highway. Why it started executing only after ten years, paying interest on loans?



Women in an Indian town with pots waiting for their turn to get water

I can keep on enumerating several examples of failure of the process from identifying the problem to completing the execution. I firmly believe unless India changes its attitude towards management and efficiency, the delaying process will continue. We have to find out why everything is being delayed? Who is behind in the management of DELAYING PROCESS? I cannot say it is the elected officials because irrespective of the parties, the common denominator is the DELAYING PROCESS. Of course it is the bureaucracy at the local, district, state, and federal levels. The bureaucracy in India is more powerful than any Prime Minister or his government. The Prime Minister and his cabinet have become servants of the powerful bureaucracy. The bureaucracy prospers because of corruption. They cannot be separated.

Therefore, in my humble opinion, there is only one solution to solve major critical problems of India, be it water shortage, electricity, building huge factories to manufacture consumer products on a par with China for export, etc.

India cannot afford to waste its precious time listening to ultra liberal economists and philosophers from the London School of Economics, Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and others. They had the chance to spoil India for the past 72 years. This is not the time to criticize the past inefficient rulers of India.

Prime Minister Modi, who has the largest mandate after the recent election, should take full charge and control. He should be prepared to identify major problems and make decision. For example, water shortage can be solved if India selects the best choice.

CHOICES:

1. **USE RIVER WATER:** India has many rivers - Indus, Brahmaputra, Ganges, Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery, Narmada, etc. One river, Brahmaputra alone creates enough water to meet the needs of the entire South Asia and more. Can we not store the river water in reservoirs all over India? Can we not process it and purify for drinking? Can we not construct pipelines to distribute its water all over India? I am not an engineer, and would like to know whether this is practicable or not?

2. **DESALINATION OF SEA WATER:** Singapore, Israel, All Arab countries in the Middle East located on deserts all have 24/7 running water made possible thru desalination. India should be prepared to invest and spend to solve the water crisis once and for all.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SOLVE MAJOR PROBLEMS: India is a nuclear power and has ambitious plans in Outer Space. The credit of the Government of India is excellent. India can raise multi trillions of dollars by floating 50- or 100-year INDIA TREASURY BONDS. In addition, the World Bank, the United Nations and many nonprofit international foundations are ready to help India to solve its basic problems. If India complains lack of resources, it is not an acceptable excuse to delay process of decision and execution.

RECOMMENDATION: Prime Minister Modi must take full charge. He should create his own machinery within his own Secretariat to invite the reputed private corporations of the world to solve major problems of India such as Water, Electricity, Building of Large Factories to produce consumer goods, Port Development, Mass Transportation in Mumbai and other cities, Eliminate Waste of Food production valued at 40 billion dollars per year, etc.

Water problem must be solved within the next five years. 1.2 billion people should have access to clean drinking water for 24 hours, seven days. WILL PRIME MINISTER MODI ACT? India cannot afford not to feed the 300 million poor when India is wasting 40% of its food production. Will Prime Minister Modi take charge and solve this problem?

(The author, an Indian American, is MBA from Columbia School of Business, and Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)

Using ad spending to 'reward or punish' Indian media

Government of India decides not to buy advertisements in three major newspaper groups

The Indian government's decision to stop buying adverts in three major newspaper groups has drawn a spotlight on a system that critics say is used by the state to control media coverage.

It has been reported that prime minister Narendra Modi's administration had frozen all advertising spending with the publishers of the Times of India, The Hindu and The Telegraph, three of the country's highest circulation English-language outlets. The decision appears to have come after all three papers published articles or a series of articles that irritated the central government.

The government has strongly denied using advertising expenditure to influence editorial content, saying the existence of critical stories in Indian media is evidence enough that this does not happen. But speaking to The Independent, Reporters Without Borders' Asia-Pacific bureau head, Daniel Bastard, said: "Rewarding or punishing media outlets through the allocation or non-allocation of advertising by the government is common practice, and an effective way to [make them] toe their editorial line."

He added that it was this political leverage over the media that has seen India under Modi constantly drop places in the organization's World Press Freedom Index. India ranked 80th of 139 countries surveyed when the index began in 2002. This year it ranked 140th, behind the likes of Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Myanmar and South Sudan.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, a senior MP with the opposition Congress party, called the move "undemocratic and megalomaniac", telling parliament it appeared to be "a message to media from this government to toe its line". The scale of government advertising in Indian newspapers would be unthinkable in many developed nations.

Reuters, which first reported on the



THE TIMES OF INDIA



Times of India, The Hindu and The Telegraph are the publications fallen out of Government's grace.

The Telegraph

freeze, estimated government spending accounted for 15 per cent of all advertising revenues for the Times of India newspaper group and for the ABP Group, which publishes The Telegraph. Some of this comes in the form of government tenders for contracts, but a lot of it is to publicize and extol the virtues of government schemes, often accompanied by an image of Modi himself.

The administration went on an advertising blitz in the 10 days before campaigning rules kicked in for the May general election, placing more than 160 adverts in just three leading papers, of which 93 were full-page. "Most featured a picture of Modi and highlighted government initiatives," the Reuters news agency reported at the time, but they also highlighted party-political campaign issues, including that Modi was "putting farmers first" and "national security is top priority".

In a nation where all political parties invest in newspaper advertising, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become "one of, if not the largest advertiser in the country" in its own right, according to Bastard. To an outsider, the extent of government advertising in India has to be seen to be believed, according to one Indian American journalist who worked at another leading English-language daily, The Hindustan Times.

"It's just considered normal here for full-page adverts to be the front cover of a newspaper - you'd have to turn the page to get the real front-page stories underneath," he said, preferring to remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of the issue. "These

could even be political ads - often by the government. Nobody really questions it or what it says about the state of Indian media."

In March, its creative "WANTED: JAWAHARLAL NEHRU" poster front page was widely seen as mocking Modi for blaming all India's recent troubles on Nehru, India's first prime minister, who died in 1964. Two company executives told Reuters their advertising revenues from the government had been waning for around six months.

"Once you don't toe the government line in your editorial coverage and you write anything against them, then obviously the only way they can penalize you (is) to choke your advertising supply," an ABP official said. The government rejected the accusations and the Supreme Court decided against ordering an inquiry.

The Times of India is the country's largest circulation English daily, and the Times Group also publishes another major paper, The Economic Times. "There is a freeze," one executive told Reuters. "Could be (because of) some reports they were unhappy with."

Bastard claims the most clear-cut case of the government withdrawing funding from newspapers over their editorial coverage comes in Kashmir, where two major regional papers that had been closely following separatist agitation in the valley were then "deprived of state advertising". Rouf Bhat, a communications and media studies academic at the University of Kashmir, told The Independent that The Greater Kashmir and Kashmir Reader had not published any single "scathing" story

critical of the government that could have led to a ban on their own.

"But we also have to understand that the media and state administration do not share a very healthy relationship in Kashmir," he said. "The state has on and off resorted to different means, including economic sanctions and an [outright] ban on publishing, to make Kashmiri media fall in line.

Bhat said a nadir was reached in 2016 when the government invoked a colonial law to stop the Kashmir Reader going to print, saying that the newspaper's coverage of riots was itself "inciting violence". "Bans on media in Kashmir have a direct link to the conflict. It is a potent tool to stop the world from knowing about the situation in Kashmir," he said.

A spokesman for the BJP, Nalin Kohli, said the press in India remained fully free, pointing to the ample criticism against the ruling party in newspapers and on TV news channels. "That's testimony to freedom of speech," he said. "The suggestion that the BJP is throttling free press is ridiculous."

But in his resignation speech as leader of the opposition Congress party this week, Rahul Gandhi cited the freedom of the press as an example of a "capture of power" perpetrated by the BJP over national institutions. Gandhi argued that May's election, in which Congress was badly beaten, was not free and fair.

"A free and fair election requires the neutrality of a country's institutions; an election cannot be fair without arbiters - a free press, an independent judiciary and a transparent election commission." Modi had, Gandhi claimed, "marshalled every institution [of the state] against the opposition" on his way to winning an emphatic second term. "It is now crystal clear that our once cherished institutional neutrality no longer exists in India," he said. (Source: Independent)

READER'S WRITE

AMERICA IS A LAND OF EXCEPTIONALISM

I enjoyed reading Ravi Batra's OPED titled AMERICA PERFECTED THE MARCH FROM MAGNA CARTA TO DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO THE GETTYSBERG ADDRESS written to commemorate July 4th. I have known Ravi for many years, and I am proud to say that I met his dad first, who was the pioneer in starting the Little India on Lexington Avenue. Ravi and I belong to different political parties, but I respect Ravi for his deep knowledge of history and political science. Ravi is an established leader of the Democratic Party and his influence on the judiciary of the New York State is outstanding. Many of the judges informally nominated by Ravi have been elected. I am impressed with his timely analysis of America today. After reading it, I am inspired and motivated to share my comments with the readers of the Indian Panorama.

The central idea of Ravi's essay is enshrined in the opening sentence: "To truly celebrate America, one has to know who we are, where we came from, where we are now,

where we are going, and that well-intentioned Communism and its light-weight sibling, Socialism, are WHOLLY INCONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM. And then there is the many "I's together to be "We": E Pluribus Unum."

America is a land of opportunity. The principles of capitalism have made America great and the superpower of the world. The immigrants want to come to America seeking freedom and opportunity. No other country in the world has so many educational institutions. Indian Americans, within a short period have become the highest educated and also earning the highest. American exceptionalism has made this possible, thanks to the capitalistic tool of fair competition.

Ravi Batra has aptly said, and no one can put in a better language: "One-half of us love Donald J. Trump and one-half of us can't get rid of him fast enough. That's our America since 2016 - even without foreign meddling - especially President Putin's return "gift" to Hillary for her

meddling in his prior re-election; and Putin won despite her: Hillary lost by cheating Bernie Sanders of a "fair-fight," and got the wrath of his ardent supporters and Trump's supporters voting in lockstep to elect "The Donald," to be president of these United States of America." Ravi Batra, again, gives real meaning to immigration when he says they come to EMBROIDER AMERICA! "All those who came to America, was because we loved what America was and wanted to live and blossom here. We did not come to change her; even as we have the duty of citizenship to protect her from enemies foreign and domestic. Immigrants come to embroider America, not conquer her."

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION : I agree with Ravi's analysis and perspective. I quote Ravi: "Our 2020 presidential sweepstakes are on, and socialism and communism - like in the 1920's and 1930's - is trying to make a comeback - even as the USSR, and now Russia have abandoned both; Let me state, what to me is obvious: No Democrat running can win and become

POTUS even after Bob Mueller's Testimony - if s/he embraces socialism or communism. President Trump is a New Yorker, and as Frank Sinatra said: If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere.

IMPRESSED WITH RAVI'S CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH -NO OPEN BORDER : "We have the greatest nation in human history - we call "home." We need to make friends and family love and honor America. We need to treat America as our home: windows open, and door closed. Only those we want to come in, are allowed in. Compassion is a "safety valve" that ought to be used sparingly when the "law" becomes an ass". DACA is an example. Congress, are you listening? HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA! WE LOVE YOU..."

Thus, Ravi Batra gives meaning to American citizenship, freedom, opportunity, capitalism, immigration, and how we elect our President.

Ven Parameswaran, Scarsdale, New York
vpwaren@gmail.com

21 killed in Pak train collision

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD (TIP): At least 21 passengers were killed and more than 89 others injured on July 11 when an express train rammed into a stationary freight train in Pakistan's Punjab province, officials said. The Quetta-bound Akbar Express collided with the stationary freight train at the Walhar Railway Station in Sadiqabad tehsil.

The freight train was on the loop line when the speeding passenger train instead of running on the main line entered the wrong track.

In another accident, 13 persons were killed and 34 others injured after a speeding passenger bus overturned near Pakistan's capital city Islamabad. The bus was going to Lahore from Swat when the accident took place at an interchange near Hassan Abdaal, about 45 km from Islamabad, the police said. — PTI

13 killed in road accident in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): An over-speeding passenger bus turned turtle near Pakistan's capital city Islamabad on July 11, killing at least 13 people and injuring 34 others, the police said.

The bus was going to Lahore from Swat when the accident took place on at an interchange near Hassan Abdaal, about 45 km from Islamabad.

The police said that over-speeding caused the accident that killed at least 13 people and injured 34 others as the driver lost the control while negotiating a turn.

The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals of Hassan Abdal, Texila and Wah.

Road accidents are common in Pakistan, mostly caused by untrained drivers, bad roads and poorly maintained vehicles. PTI

Nawaz Sharif's daughter summoned by anti-graft court in fake trust deed case

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz has been summoned by an anti-corruption court to appear before it on July 19 for allegedly submitting a fake trust deed in the high-profile Avenfield Apartments case.

The Avenfield properties case was one of three filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) last year in light of the Supreme Court's verdict against Sharif in the Panama Papers case.

The case pertains to the ownership of the Sharif family's apartments at Avenfield House, London.

Accountability court Judge Muhammad Bashir issued the notice to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice-President Maryam, asking the 45-year-old political leader to appear in court on July 19.

PTI

Bangladesh's first Hindu chief justice charged with graft

DHAKA (TIP): Surendra Kumar Sinha, Bangladesh's former chief justice and the first Hindu to hold the position, has been charged by anti-graft commission for laundering about USD 475,000, nearly two years after he left the country saying he was forced to resign, according to a media report.

Sinha, who appointed 21st chief justice of the country in January 2015, was charged by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Wednesday along with 10 others for laundering money from the then Farmers Bank in 2016, The Daily Star reported.

He came under fire after the Supreme Court on August 1, 2017 released its verdict scrapping the 16th amendment to the constitution that had empowered parliament to remove judges for misconduct or incapacity.

Following the verdict, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and senior ministers came down heavily on Sinha, with many of them calling for his resignation.

On October 2, 2017, the law minister said the then chief justice would go on a month's leave from October 3 on health grounds. However, while leaving the country for Australia on October 13 the same year, Justice Sinha said he was not sick and was forced to resign.

After he left the country, the Supreme Court in a statement said Justice Sinha was facing 11 charges including "graft and money laundering".

The accused in the graft case include the bank's former MD AKM Shamim, Senior Executive Vice President and former head of Credit Division Gazi Salahuddin, First Vice President of Credit Division Swapan Kumar Roy, Senior Vice President and former



branch manager Zia Uddin Ahmed, First Vice President Shafiuddin Askary and Vice President Lutful Haque.

They were charged with using fake credit papers to launder 40 million taka (USD 475,000) and transfer it to the account of Sinha.

The other accused are one Shahjahan of Tangail's Sreehoripur village; Ranjit Chandra Saha of the district's Jodunathpur village, his wife Santri Roy and nephew Niranjana Chandra Saha.

According to the case, Shahjahan and Niranjana opened two current accounts with Farmers Bank's Gulshan Branch on November 6, 2016.

The next day, each of them applied for loan. The two used the same residential address in their bank documents, including loan applications. The ACC, during investigation, found that the house is owned by Sinha, the statement said.

The two account holders mortgaged 32 acres of land, owned by Santri Roy, in Savar against the loan applications, the statement said.

"Without any scrutiny, any analysis of records and with disregard to banking rules, the then manager of Gulshan branch of the bank Zia Uddin Ahmed, operation manager Lutful Haque and credit in-charge Shafiuddin Askary prepared a loan proposal within hours," it said.

A day after the loan money arrived in the two accounts, two pay orders, each worth Taka 2 crore, were issued from the bank branch, it said.

On November 9, 2016, the pay orders were deposited to Sinha's account with Sonali Bank's Supreme Court branch, the statement said, adding the ex-CJ withdrew the money on different dates.

"Accused former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha misguided them, used Ranjit Saha and took signature on bank documents. They misappropriated Tk 4 crore and the money is yet to be paid," the statement said.

"For the ill purpose of his own benefit, former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, abusing his power and with the help of others, took a loan [using fake documents] and transferred the money to his account for misappropriation ... thus [he] committed offence under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012," it added.

On completion of enquiry, ACC Assistant Director Gulshan Anowar Pradhan filed a report to the three-member anti-corruption commission which approved filing of the case. ACC Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with his office on July 10. — PTI

US, Taliban talks end after rival Afghans agree on 'roadmap for peace'

KABUL (TIP): The US special envoy for peace in Afghanistan wound up on Tuesday the seventh round of talks he has held with the Taliban in Qatar, after signs of progress in efforts to end the longest war the United States has ever fought. The US envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, met Taliban officials briefly a day after a delegation of Afghan citizens and the militants agreed on a "roadmap for peace", in particular a joint call to end civilian casualties in the 18-year war.

"Khalilzad will now brief his bosses and they will make an announcement. The seventh round has ended," said a senior official privy to the talks.

The United States and the Taliban are getting closer to a deal that is expected to be centred on a US promise to withdraw troops in exchange for a Taliban promise not to let Afghanistan be used as a base for terrorism, officials say.

Last week, Khalilzad said the latest round of talks, which began on June 28, was the "most productive" since the

effort began late last year, with progress on a counter-terrorism assurance, a troop withdrawal, dialogue between rival Afghans and a ceasefire.

Khalilzad, in a post on Twitter, said he was heading to China then back to Washington "to report and consult on the Afghan peace process". He did not elaborate. Taliban officials were not immediately available for comment.

Senior Western officials and diplomats in Kabul who are privy to the talks, said the US government was expected to make an announcement after a briefing from Khalilzad. "The stage is now being set for a political settlement between the US and the Taliban," said a senior western official who is privy to the negotiations. While a deal between the United States and the Taliban might let the United States extricate itself from a war President Donald Trump is eager to end, it might not bring peace between the US-backed government based in Kabul and the militants.

Zero civilian casualties

The Taliban have refused to negotiate with the government, denouncing it as a US puppet, but in an effort to foster Afghan reconciliation, a 60-strong delegation of citizens met the Taliban for two days of talks in Qatar from Sunday. The two sides said in a joint statement late on Monday they had agreed to a roadmap and were both "committed to respect and protect the dignity of people, their life and property and to minimize the civilian casualties to zero".

The two sides also promised to guarantee the security of public institutions such as schools, hospitals and markets. But on Sunday, as the Afghan rivals sat down for talks in Qatar, Taliban fighters detonated a car bomb outside a government compound in the central town of Ghazni, killing 14 and wounding more than 100, including scores of children in a school.

Reuters

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Indian American Illinois Student Awarded Boren Scholarship



Sivaguru has been awarded \$20,000 to study Arabic for the 2019-20 academic year at Qasid Institute

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): University of Illinois undergraduate student Barghav Sivaguru is among 244 students nationwide awarded David L. Boren Scholarships.

The National Security Education Program selects undergraduate students to add international and language components to their educations by studying overseas in world regions critical to U.S. interests. In the 2019-20 academic year, Boren Scholars and Fellows will live in 39 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America and the Middle East, studying 30 different languages.

Sivaguru, of Mahomet, Illinois, and a graduate of Mahomet-Seymour High School, has been awarded \$20,000 to study Arabic for the 2019-20 academic year at Qasid Institute. A senior double majoring in communication and political science, Sivaguru was named a member of the Senior 100 Honorary. He has served as a peer mentor at the LAS Life + Career Design Lab, as a project manager in Illinois Business Consulting, and as a member of the Program in Arms Control and Domestic and International Security. In summer 2018, he worked as an intern at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., editing scholarly articles analyzing politics and international relations in the Middle East and policy papers discussing regional counterterrorism efforts.

Indian National Extradited to Germany for Raping a Minor

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian national was extradited to Germany July 5 by Deputy Marshals and transferred to German law enforcement custody for raping a minor, according to a release by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO).

On April 7, a citizen and national of India, lawfully admitted into the U.S. as a visitor, with authorization to remain until Oct. 6, 2019, had his visa cancelled by the U.S. Department of State. The Indian national was found to have been wanted in Germany for the rape of a minor, and it was discovered that he may have been residing in the New York City metropolitan area. *Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news*

'Sea of Protesters' on Boston Common Protests Immigration Laws

BOSTON (TIP): Hundreds of people or more gathered on Boston Common Friday, July 12, for an immigration protest and a candlelight vigil, an Associated Press report said.

The sea of demonstrators was protesting the status of immigration laws in the U.S. ahead of expected raids this weekend by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

At the vigil, participants also planned to honor the lives of immigrants who have died fleeing to the U.S.

The Boston rally was part of a series of events across the country by "Lights for Liberty: A Vigil to End Human Concentration Camps."

An ICE operation to arrest thousands of undocumented immigrants in major cities is scheduled to begin Sunday after it had been postponed by President Donald Trump over two weeks ago, two senior officials with the Department of Homeland Security confirmed to NBC News.

The raids, which are sparking outrage and concern among immigrant advocates and opposition from Democrats, will take place over multiple days and include "collateral" deportations, The New York Times first reported, citing two current and one former homeland security officials who were not named. In those cases, ICE agents might detain people who were not initially targeted but happened to be there during the raids. The final details of the operation "remain in flux" for security reasons,



Hundreds rally in Boston against Trump's immigrant policies

the report said.

Officials not authorized to discuss the matter publicly also told The Associated Press it's possible the operations could start later.

Still, activists ramped up efforts to prepare by bolstering know-your-rights pocket guides, circulating information about hotlines and planning public demonstrations. Vigils outside of detention centers were set for Friday, to be followed by protests Saturday in Miami and Chicago.

At least 2,000 immigrant families, including many who face final deportation orders yet remain in the country illegally, are expected to be

targeted in the operation, the unnamed officials said.

The raids are expected to target 10 cities that were previously revealed, though some of the cities may change before Sunday, a source told NBC News. Previously named cities were Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco and New Orleans.

In New Orleans, any operations were put on hold due to severe weather. The city tweeted that it confirmed with ICE that enforcement would be suspended through the weekend as the region braced for the first hurricane of the season.

Former Pharmacy Owner Pleads Guilty to Fraudulently Dispensing Opioids

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (TIP): A former pharmacy owner of South Asian origin pleaded guilty July 10 to fraudulently filling and dispensing thousands of prescription medications, including opioids, outside the usual course of professional practice.

According to court documents, Latif Mohamed Chowdhury, aka Gulam Latif Chaudhury, 28, operated, managed, directed, and controlled two now-defunct pharmacies known as Alexandria Care Pharmacy LLC (ACP-1) and Alexandria Care Pharmacy Store #2 LLC (ACP-2).

Chowdhury has never been qualified to serve as a licensed pharmacist and has no medical qualifications. Nonetheless, between August 2015 and February 2016, Chowdhury fraudulently operated ACP-1 and ACP-2 by personally filling and dispensing thousands of dosage units of medications, including opioids, without a licensed pharmacist on-site. Chowdhury used the identities of licensed pharmacists, without their

Chowdhury pleaded guilty to unlawful distribution of Schedule II controlled substances outside the usual course of professional practice, and also agreed to forfeit \$500,000 as proceeds of his illegal conduct. He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison when sentenced on September 27.

permission, to carry out his scheme.

Chowdhury admitted to fraudulently billing health insurance benefit programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, for refills of prescription medications that were not delivered to customers even though his pharmacies received payment for these prescriptions. Chowdhury also submitted fraudulent health insurance claims in the names of pharmacy customers for

medications that were not authorized by any physician, and were not dispensed to any of the customers, in order to enrich himself through illicit profits generated by ACP-1 and ACP-2.

Furthermore, on several occasions, Chowdhury dispensed Schedule II controlled substances in the names of minors, including children as young as 7 and 8-years-old, outside the usual course of professional practice. During the execution of a search warrant, a loaded Colt .38-caliber firearm that belonged to Chowdhury was located in plain view on the pharmacy department shelves.

Chowdhury pleaded guilty to unlawful distribution of Schedule II controlled substances outside the usual course of professional practice, and also agreed to forfeit \$500,000 as proceeds of his illegal conduct. He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison when sentenced on September 27.

GPR Engineering College Alumni Association North America Chapter Conference held

CHICAGO, IL(TIP): About one hundred members from G Pulla Reddy Engineering College (www.gprec.ac.in) alumni and friends from all cities of the United States, travelled to Chicago on weekend of July 7, 2019 to join the GPREC Alumni Association North America conference held at Fairfield Marriott, 700 National Pkwy, Schaumburg, IL.

This growing community of engineers and professionals from North America region, enjoyed two such events in the past including the first grand inauguration of GPREC Alumni North America Chapter in 2014 at Silicon Valley, CA & Washington DC followed by one in Dallas in 2017. Apart from this special event the Alumni events were previously held in NATA convention as well.

Local Chicago chapter members Mr. Naveen Aduma and Mr. Achyut Kodali welcomed the guests and Mr. Siva Shankar Reddy from Washington DC metro area, conducted the all-day program. The program started with a speech by Mr. KV Reddy, President of the Association explaining the vision, mission of the Association and the distinguished members of the first batch from the institution Mrs. Surekha Nadella, Mr. Srinivas Chada, Mr. Venkatarami Reddy Yerrabolu(2nd batch) & 3rd batch Mr. Raju Datla, Mr. Nagendra Singamsetty, Mr. Veer Karri, Mr. Venu Pajjuri, lighted the lamp and remembered the GPREC founder Late Sri G Pulla Reddy, his vision to provide affordable and quality professional education to all.

The association recognized several successful professionals and business leaders of the community, including Mr. Raju Datla & Mr. Veer Karri of Vistex, Mr. Venkat Pasula of R3 Technology, Mrs. Malathi Karri from the State of Wisconsin, Mr. Kiran Vankamamidi of Driscoll.

The afternoon program was packed with fun and professional activities like speed connect, Technology and Leadership Panel Discussion, and recognition of Women in Engineering.



Members from G Pulla Reddy Engineering College alumni and friends from all cities of the United States



Lighting Lamp Ceromancy



Women in Engineering; Women Empowerment

The festive all-day program was concluded by Mr. Guru Charan Chitna with recognition and acknowledgements to GPREC Chicago team members Mr. Ajit Gurajala, Mr. Rajeev Gunukula, Mr. Anil Chitreddy, Sreedhar Babu. The Schamburg/WoodField event center was

filled with GPREC College atmosphere for the weekend and concluded with a Tech Toast celebration honoring the members worked in the formation of GPREC Alumni North America Chapter.

(Photographs and Press release /Asian Media USA)

Indian National Sentenced to One Year in Prison for Role in Conspiracy to Smuggle Foreign Nationals into USA

NEWARK, N.J (TIP): An Indian national, on July 9, 2019 was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison for his role in an international conspiracy to smuggle foreign nationals into the United States via commercial airline flights, New Jersey U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced.

Bhavin Patel, 39, of India, previously pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge John M. Vazquez to a superseding information charging him with conspiracy to smuggle foreign nationals into the United States for private financial gain. Judge Vazquez imposed the sentence in Newark federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Agents for the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) received information that a smuggling operation run by Patel was attempting to find methods to bring foreign nationals from India into the United States. The investigation revealed that the smuggling organization recruited Indian nationals and others to pay fees in exchange for passage to the United States.

Beginning in October 2013, an undercover law enforcement officer posing as a smuggler began meeting with Patel in Bangkok, Thailand. Patel told the undercover law enforcement officer that he wanted to smuggle Indian nationals into the United States. On three different occasions, Patel or his conspirator transported the Indian nationals to an airport in Thailand, at which point the undercover law enforcement officer would presumably use his contacts to smuggle them into the United States via commercial airline flights. Patel agreed to wire down payments for each individual to be smuggled into the United States and to pay a balance of tens of thousands of dollars for each individual once the foreign nationals arrived in the United States.

Over the ensuing months, Patel arranged for six Indian nationals to be brought to Thailand for smuggling into the United States via Newark Liberty International Airport. Patel was arrested on Dec. 7, 2018, upon his arrival at Newark.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Vazquez sentenced Patel to one year of supervised release.

ICE Raids Indian Restaurant in DC, SAALT initiates outreach effort

WASHINGTON (TIP): South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national, nonpartisan, non-profit organization that fights for racial justice and advocates for the civil rights of all South Asians in the United States, issued the following statement after getting community reports that ICE raided an Indian restaurant in DC.

"Earlier this week, we put out a call for

volunteers to assist with an outreach effort to provide food and restaurant workers from the South Asian community with "know your rights" resources. The alert was prompted by community reports about an immigration enforcement action targeting workers in the restaurant industry over the past week in DC. Out of respect for those directly affected, we are

not providing any additional information at this time. We will continue our work to protect and defend our communities, especially at a time when immigrants are being targeted, whether at workplaces and homes or at the border.

An Indian restaurant in DC was raided by ICE last week. Several Hindi speaking employees were taken to the Montgomery County jail in Maryland.

Given the prospect of immigration raids in the DC area, we are calling for volunteers to join us for an outreach effort on July 13th and 14th. SAALT is seeking volunteers to help with outreach, translation, and legal counsel."

INDIA DOWNPLAYS AL-QAIDA CHIEF'S THREAT ON KASHMIR

NEW DELHI (TIP): Downplaying Al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahiri's call to terror groups in Kashmir to inflict "unrelenting blows" on the Army and ensure that India suffer sustained loss of manpower and equipment, the government today said the terror group banned by the United Nations (UN) had been issuing such threats now and then and security forces were capable of dealing with such threats.



Ayman al-Zawahiri

In response to the al Zawahiri's video message focusing on Kashmir, which surfaced yesterday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said he did "not want to dignify" what the Al-Qaida terrorist had said.

"Such threats we keep listening to, and have been issued time and again. I don't think we should take it seriously. The Al-Qaida is a UN proscribed organisation, its leader is a UN designated terrorist and we all know our security forces have the capability and are equipped to tackle such threats and will not be cowed down," he said.

The al Zawahiri's video was posted by the Al-Qaida's media wing As Sahab. Officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said they also had come across the video and found it to be genuine.

Source: *The Tribune*

India continues to pursue extradition request of Zakir Naik

NEW DELHI (TIP): India continues to pursue its request for extradition of Zakir Naik and it has been informed by the Malaysian government that its appeal is under consultation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said India is pursuing the matter not only through the Malaysian government but also through its High Commission.

"We have requested for his extradition and time and again not only through our consultation with the Malaysian government but also through our High Commission. We have asked them to expedite the process. We have been told that it is under consultation and it is a process that will take time," he said in response to a question.

Naik, a 53-year-old radical television preacher, left India in 2016 and subsequently moved to Malaysia, which has reportedly granted permanent residency to him.

Source: *PTI*

10 Cong MLAs from Goa formally join BJP, allies jittery

NEW DELHI/PANAJI (TIP): A day after switching to the BJP, a group of 10 rebel Congress legislators from Goa on Thursday officially joined the party at its headquarters in the national capital in presence of its Working President JP Nadda.

Earlier, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant along with two of the legislators met BJP President and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament.

Ten Congress legislators, led by Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Chandrakant Kavlekar, joined the ruling BJP, increasing its strength to 27 in the 40-seat house.

Talking to reporters, Sawant, who reached the capital on Wednesday night with the defected Congress legislators, said the declaration on dropping any minister from the coalition partners in Goa would be taken by senior party leaders and that the announcement regarding that would be made after his arrival back to the state.

Sawant also said that the Congress legislators had themselves expressed willingness to join the BJP.

The Congress, which emerged as the single-largest party after the 2017 Assembly polls in the coastal state, is now reduced to five legislators.

The legislators who joined the BJP along with Kavlekar are Atanasio Monserrate, Jennifer Monserrate, Francis Silveira, Philip Nery Rodrigues, Cleofacio Dias, Wilfred D'Sa, Nilkant Halarankar, Isidor Fernandes and Antonio Fernandes.

The BJP-led state government currently enjoys the support of three legislators of the Goa Forward Party and three Independents. Besides, there are five legislators of the Congress and one each of the NCP and the Maharashtra Gomantak Party in the House. After the 2017 polls, a hung Assembly emerged, with the Congress winning 17 seats and the BJP 13.

The switchover is expected to have repercussions on the current composition of the BJP-led coalition government in Goa, with the fresh



BJP Working President JP Nadda with Chandrakant Babu Kavlekar and Pramod Sawant in Delhi.

induction of Congress legislators already making coalition alliance partner Goa Forward jittery.

Goa Forward leader and Deputy Chief Minister Vijai Sardesai, who has blown hot and cold against the performance of Mr Sawant as Chief Minister, on Thursday made emotional overtures to the BJP's top and state leadership, pleading that the coalition cobbled together in 2017 under the leadership of then Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar not be tampered with.

"Some people came together to form this government. The central figure (Parrikar) is no longer alive. He knew how the government was formed. Some people, including national leadership of the BJP were also there," Sardesai said, adding that Goa Forward's support had not even "budded an inch" during political turmoil in Goa earlier this year, which followed when Manohar Parrikar was bedridden with cancer.

Sardesai and his two other legislators, all of whom are ministers, face removal from the cabinet. While the three-member strength of Goa Forward was critical to the survival of the coalition in the past, the fresh infusion of Congress MLAs into the BJP makes their support

irrelevant.

BJP sources also said that Revenue Minister and Independent legislator Rohan Khaunte could also be dropped from the cabinet along with Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude, in order to accommodate some Congress rebels into the ministry.

"The final decision will be taken by Amit Shah, after discussing the issue with the Chief Minister and the state BJP president," a source said.

The Congress meanwhile dispatched its Secretary in-charge of Goa A Chellakumar to take stock of the situation. Chellakumar who met the remaining five legislators and state Congress officials said, that the party would file a disqualification petition against the 10 legislators.

Over the last two years, 15 legislators, including 13 of the Congress, have joined the BJP.

However, Wednesday's induction of 10 legislators has triggered outrage in a section of the BJP, especially senior leaders like former Speaker and state President Rajendra Arlekar. "Most party workers are deeply hurt and we will fight out this wrong trend within the party," Arlekar told reporters.

KARNATAKA CRISIS

Kumaraswamy wants floor test, SC asks Speaker to not act on resignations

NEW DELHI (TIP): The political crisis in Karnataka refuses to die down even after a week. Exactly seven days after the whole turmoil started with 13 MLAs of the JDS-Congress coalition resigning, Karnataka remains on the boil.

On Friday, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy sounded confident and called for a floor test to prove the government's majority even though a total of 16 MLAs of the coalition have resigned.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court restrained Karnataka Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar from taking any decision on the resignation and disqualification of 10 rebel MLAs.

The Supreme Court on Friday asked Speaker Ramesh to not take any decision on the disqualification or resignation of the 10 MLAs whose resignations were found not in the right order.

Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said

the matter will be considered by it on July 16 and status quo as of Friday should be maintained.

As his government teetered on the brink, Kumaraswamy on Friday announced that he would seek a trust vote and sought time from the Speaker.

Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar Friday said a slot would be allotted whenever the Karnataka Chief Minister opted for it. Speaker Ramesh on Friday said a slot would be allotted whenever Kumaraswamy opted for it.

Four of the fourteen rebel MLAs from Karnataka who are camping in Mumbai, on Friday visited the famous Siddhivinayak temple and offered prayers to Lord Ganesh.



Karnataka speaker KR Ramesh Kumar

On Friday all three parties moved their MLAs to different resorts. As

Kumaraswamy called for a floor tests, BJP also moved its MLAs to the Ramada resort. The JDS has chosen the serene surroundings of Nandi Hill on the city outskirts while its partner Congress opted for the Taj Yeshwantpur in Bengaluru to horde its MLAs.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi said, "BJP uses money to bring down state governments. They have been doing that. We saw that in the North east as well."

The coalition government, which has been shaky since it came into being last year after a post-poll arrangement in the wake of a hung verdict, is facing a serious crisis now with 16 MLAs - 13 of the Congress and three of the JD(S) - resigning their assembly membership.

India lifted 271 mn people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016: UN report

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index values during the period with strong improvements in areas such as “assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition”, a report by the United Nations said.

The 2019 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) was released on Thursday.

The report said that in the 101 countries studied—31 low income, 68 middle income and 2 high income—1.3 billion people are “multidimensionally poor”, which means that poverty is defined not simply by income, but by a number of indicators, including poor health, poor quality of work and the threat of violence.

The report identifies 10 countries, with a combined population of around 2 billion people, to illustrate the level of poverty reduction, and all of them have shown statistically significant progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1, namely ending poverty “in all its forms, everywhere”.

The 10 countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru and Vietnam.

The report said that within these 10 countries, data show that 270 million people moved out of multidimensional poverty from one survey to the next.

“This progress was largely driven by South Asia. In India, there were 271 million fewer people in poverty



in 2016 than in 2006, while in Bangladesh the number dropped by 19 million between 2004 and 2014,” it said.

The report noted that of the 10 selected countries for which changes over time were analysed, India and Cambodia reduced their MPI values the fastest—and they did not leave the poorest groups behind.

India’s MPI value reduced from 0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.123 in 2015-16.

Noting the examples of pro-poor reduction, where the poorest regions improved the fastest, the report said Jharkhand in India reduced the incidence of multidimensional poverty from 74.9 per cent in 2005-06 to 46.5 per cent in 2015-16.

Mondol Kiri and Rattanak Kiri in Cambodia reduced it from 71 per cent to 55.9 per cent between 2010 and 2014.

Ethiopia, India and Peru significantly reduced deprivations in all 10 indicators, namely nutrition, sanitation, child mortality, drinking water, years of schooling, electricity, school

attendance, housing, cooking fuel and assets.

In 2005-2006, the population in India living in multidimensional poverty stood at about 640 million people (55.1 per cent) and this reduced to 369 million people (27.9 per cent) living in poverty in 2015-16. India saw significant reductions in number of people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived in each of the 10 indicators over this time period.

India reduced deprivation in nutrition from 44.3 per cent in 2005-06 to 21.2 per cent in 2015-16, child mortality dropped from 4.5 per cent to 2.2 per cent, people deprived of cooking fuel reduced from 52.9 per cent to 26.2 per cent, deprivation in sanitation from 50.4 per cent to 24.6 per cent, those deprived of drinking water reduced from 16.6 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

Furthermore, people gained access to electricity as deprivation was reduced from 29.1 per cent to 8.6 per cent, housing from 44.9 per cent to 23.6 per cent and assets deprivation from 37.6 per cent to 9.5 per cent. *Source: PTI*

APEX COURT SEEKS AYODHYA MEDIATORS’ REPORT IN WEEK

NEW DELHI (TIP): Four months after referring the Ayodhya land dispute to a mediation panel headed by Justice FM Ibrahim Kalifulla, the Supreme Court today said it would commence day-to-day hearing from July 25 on cross-appeals in the case if mediation didn’t lead to an amicable solution to the vexed issue.

“We... make it clear that if this court comes to a conclusion that, having regard to the report of Justice FM Ibrahim Kalifulla, the mediation proceedings should be ordered to be concluded, the court will do so and order for the commencement of hearing of the appeals before it, tentatively, on and from July 25, for which hearings, if required, will be conducted on day-to-day basis,” said a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

The Bench asked the mediation panel to submit a status report on the mediation proceedings by July 18 when it intended to pass further orders. “We deem it proper to request Justice FMI Kalifulla (retd) to inform us about the progress of mediation till date and the stage at which the said process is presently at,” it said. The dispute over 2.7 acres has been on since 1961 when the Sunni Wakf Board took the matter to the court.

INDIA FOR QUICK COMPLETION OF KARTARPUR WORK

NEW DELHI (TIP): The external affairs ministry Thursday said India is fully committed to the Kartarpur Sahib corridor project and wants the work to be completed expeditiously. The assertion came after a section of media reported that India is lagging behind in the construction of the Kartarpur corridor.

“We are fully committed to this project and want it to be expeditiously completed,” Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said at the weekly media briefing. He said the government is aware of the sentiments of people and pilgrims for the Kartarpur Sahib.

Kumar said the work on two important aspects — the state of the art passenger terminal and the four-lane highway which is going to connect the zero point of the Kartarpur corridor to the national highway — will be completed in time. “One (should be completed) by September 2019 and the other by October 2019. So the reports that we are slow on work is not the correct depiction,” Kumar said. The first meeting to finalise the modalities for the corridor took place on the Indian side of the Attari-Wagah border on March 14.

India bans pro-Khalistani group SFJ over ‘anti-national’ activities

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union Cabinet on Wednesday announced to ban Sikh fundamentalist organisation Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for its alleged anti-national activities, officials said.

Elaborating on the reasons for the ban, the gazette notification by the government said, “Whereas the Sikhs for Justice has been indulging in activities prejudicial to the internal security of India and public order and have the potential of disturbing peace and unity and integrity of the country.”

The SFJ, headed by Avtar Singh Pannun and Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, was formed in 2007, but has come to prominence only in the last 5 years as it started advocating a separate Khalistan state. It also started an online secessionist campaign, the ‘Sikh Referendum 2020’. The group’s primary objective is to establish an ‘independent and sovereign country’ in Punjab.

Home Ministry officials said 8 to 10 people comprise the SFJ. However, its online support is close to 2 lakh. “Present government is very clear that anything which might simmer in future needs to be contained,” a senior MHA official said.

Punjab Police has registered 10 different cases against the SFJ and its members, while the NIA is also probing the group in one case. “In all 11 cases, investigators have



found that the SFJ was providing money and logistical support to local terrorists in Punjab to carry out

subversive activities,” a senior MHA official dealing with the matter told CNN News18.

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has welcomed the ban, but also said that Punjab government would have preferred if the SFJ was labelled as a terror organisation and not just under Section 3 which makes membership of the SFJ unlawful. He termed the move as the first step towards protecting the nation from “anti-India or secessionist designs” of the ISI-backed organisation.

Explaining the decision of not labelling the SFJ as a terror organisation, MHA officials said, “As of now the activities of the SFJ fitted the definition under Section 3 and not under Schedule 1 for declaring a terror organisation. We have to keep a standard of proof since the matter will go to a tribunal.”

Pakistan had, in April this year, claimed that it has also banned the SFJ. But India’s Ministry of Home Affairs said they haven’t received any formal communication from Pakistan in this regard. The government’s decision comes just ahead of the next meeting on Kartarpur. Indian intelligence agencies have warned that Sikh fundamental organisations like SFJ plan to use the Kartarpur corridor to further their secessionist agenda by radicalising pilgrims who travel to Pakistan.

NJPAC Elects Board CO-CHAIRS

By Mabel Pais

RWJBarnabas Health President and CEO Barry H. Ostrowsky and Steven M. Goldman, Esq., a senior partner in the Corporate Department at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, have been elected co-chairs of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Board of Directors, succeeding John R. Strangfeld, retired chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, Inc.

The co-chairmanship, effective July 1, brings together the leader of New Jersey's largest, most comprehensive integrated health care delivery system, and one of the nation's finest legal minds, to ensure a sound and smooth volunteer leadership transition of the state's anchor cultural institution. NJPAC, opened in 1997, is the country's most diverse performing arts center in terms of programming, audience and staff.

"From the time of its first imagining by Gov. Tom Kean and Ray Chambers, the Arts Center has been blessed with extraordinary volunteer leaders. Their business expertise and civic activism have positively informed the exponential growth of NJPAC's work and mission over a generation," said NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber. "I extend great gratitude to John Strangfeld for his service during the transformation of our business model over the last five seasons, and I look forward to partnering with Barry and Steve, who put wisdom and heart into everything they do."

Many of New Jersey's most prominent corporate executives, public administrators and cultural leaders comprise the Arts Center's Board of Directors.

Elected to the NJPAC board in 2017 and a current member of its Executive Committee, Barry H. Ostrowsky has championed a strong partnership between RWJBarnabas Health and the Arts Center for promoting wellness in the community.

"I'm incredibly impressed with NJPAC's commitment and mission," Mr. Ostrowsky said. "I think NJPAC's greatest gift is its willingness to invest in the lives of the people who reside in the community, and it does so



L-R: Barry Ostrowsky, John Schreiber, Steven Goldman
Photo / Yasmeen Fahmy-NJPAC

in a culturally competent way. Its program is led - and has been led - by people who are genuinely devoted to elevating lives."

Mr. Ostrowsky cited arts education as a unique ingredient provided by NJPAC to engage students, families and educators. Barry H. Ostrowsky is a resident of South Orange.

Steven M. Goldman was an early advocate for the creation of the Arts Center, beginning about a decade before its opening in 1997. His nine-year tenure on the board includes chairmanships of the Operations and Finance Committee and of the Board of Managers of Theater Square Development Co., the subsidiary for NJPAC's real estate projects. He also serves as assistant treasurer of the NJPAC board.

He identified some of the priorities on leadership's agenda as: the growth and enhancement of arts education programs; the continued advancement of NJPAC's five-year, \$175 million capital campaign, and other redevelopment opportunities, building on the success of last year's completion of the One Theater

"I extend great gratitude to John Strangfeld for his service during the transformation of our business model over the last five seasons, and I look forward to partnering with Barry and Steve, who put wisdom and heart into everything they do"

John Schreiber, NJPAC President and CEO

Square luxury residential tower on NJPAC's campus.

"In particular, I think a lot of the initiatives in arts education are very important. We can continue to expand the availability of these programs not only in Newark but around the state as we continue to develop the campus," Mr. Goldman said, referencing a \$20 million gift to NJPAC from the Leon and Toby Cooperman Family Foundation for construction of an arts education and community center." Steven M. Goldman is a resident of New York City.

About John Schreiber

Termed a "visionary producer" and "impresario of brand names" by The New York Times, Emmy- and Tony Award-winning producer John Schreiber is President and CEO of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

The State's largest cultural institution, NJPAC presents over 600 events each season. Via its best of class arts learning programs, the Arts Center reaches over 100,000 students annually. John Schreiber is a resident of Newark. For more information on John Schreiber, visit njpac.org/about-njpac/staff

To learn more about NJPAC, visit

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WIPA APPOINTS NEW EXEC DIRECTOR



Peter H. Gistelink
Photo / WIPA-Alice Hamlet

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) Board of Directors announced the appointment of Peter H. Gistelink as its new Executive Director, effective July 1, 2019. This took a six-month nationwide candidate search.

"Peter's passion for music education combined with his strong track record in guiding organizations will serve to take our already excellent programs to even higher levels of positive impact for all," said WIPA's Board President Bob Hamburger.

Gistelink joins WIPA from Kalamazoo

where he was President and CEO of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra from 2014 through 2019. Prior to that, from 2006 through 2014, he was Executive Director of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Before immigrating to the United States in 2006, Gistelink was Director of Sales and Marketing and Co-Artistic Director for the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra in Belgium and General Manager of Business Affairs at one of France's leading Baroque orchestras, Le Concert Spirituel in Paris.

Says WIPA Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo, "It is rare to have an opportunity to work with such a well-rounded arts executive leader as Peter. I am excited to join my efforts with him in furthering our mission to create life-changing experiences for young people through performing arts education."

"I am absolutely honored to have been chosen as the next leader of the renowned Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts," said Gistelink. This institution, because of its commitment to diversity in the arts, outstanding leadership, and nationally-praised educational programs with sweeping community impact, is poised to become even more prominent in the field of performing arts education. I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to be part of this endeavor."

For more than 30 years, Gistelink has made a difference within the music entertainment industry, not only as a seasoned arts administrator and turnaround professional but also as an accomplished music producer, composer, and arranger. He has numerous credits to his name having worked as Executive and Artistic Producer on recording projects and concert productions including those for Le Concert Spirituel, Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra, I Fiamminghi, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Marvin Hamlisch, Michel Legrand, Francis Goya, Alberto Iglesias, Plácido Domingo, Phil Ramone, Philip Webb, J. Mark McVey, Jessye Norman, Gamble & Huff, Paul Schaffer, All-4-One, and Kevin Cole among many others.

Gistelink currently serves as a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (The Recording Academy/Grammy Awards), Santa Monica, CA; International Academy of Jazz, Pittsburgh, PA; International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA), New York, NY; American Film Institute (AFI), Los Angeles, CA; and Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards, New York, NY; in addition to his affiliations with several music publishing and author rights organizations.

He served as professor of composition, arranging, and orchestration at the Royal

Music Conservatory in Antwerp, Belgium and has lectured at Towson University, Peabody School of Music at Johns Hopkins University, Drexel University, Pennsylvania University, Curtis Institute of Music, and the Haworth College of Business at Western Michigan University.

Gistelink holds degrees in music theory and history, composition, orchestration and arranging from the Royal Music Conservatory in Ghent, Belgium and a BA in history of arts and MA in musicology from the State University in Ghent, Belgium. He speaks Flemish/Dutch, French, English, and German.

About WIPA

WIPA comprises the Performing Arts School, New Jersey Youth Symphony, and Paterson Music Project. Its Mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those it teaches to the communities it serves.

To learn more about WIPA and its projects, visit whartonarts.org.

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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Estimated monthly lease payment based on 36 months, 12,000 miles per year, and \$1,950 due at signing. Estimated payment includes estimated taxes, title, and fees. Lessee pays for excess wear and tear at a rate of \$0.15 per mile over 12,000 miles per year and a \$0 disposition fee at lease end. Offer expires on 7/8/2019.

We speak Punjabi & Hindi ! Ask to speak with Ranjit Singh

CONTACT INFORMATION
Rsinghnissan@gmail.com
631-439-7052





BIPASHA: IF I GET GOOD CONTENT, I WON'T THINK ABOUT THE MONEY

Last seen on the big screen four years ago in *Alone* (2015), Bipasha Basu Singh Grover is yearning to be a part of content-driven projects even if it means less money.

Talking about it, she told *Hindustan Times*, "If they give me good content, I won't think about the remuneration. But those kind of roles have not come to me yet. I think half of them probably avoid me because they think I charge a bomb. But that's clearly not the reality."

The 40-year-old, who is best remembered for her roles in horror films like *Raaz*, *Darna Zaroori Hai* and *Raaz 3D*, says she has been pigeonholed into the horror space despite having starred in several films belonging to other genres too.



'Monogamy has to be a choice made every day'

Radhika Apte says she loves too many people at the same time on various levels and in various ways.

The actor opened up about her philosophy around love when she appeared on an episode of *BFFs* with *Vogue* Season 3, aired on *Colors Infinity*. According to a statement, when host Neha Dhupia asked Radhika about the 'temptations' on-sets, she said, "Of course you get tempted. You don't have to be an actor to be tempted. In life, you meet so many people and there are so many wonderful people and you get tempted."

"Sometimes it's a physical attraction, sometimes it's just admiration and that can be very potent also and I think that's beautiful. Why would you not address that aspect of your life?"

'NO APOLOGY', KANGANA RANAUT TO BE BOYCOTTED AFTER SPAT WITH REPORTER

The Entertainment Journalists' Guild of India has decided to boycott Kangana Ranaut, a delegation from the group told producer Ekta Kapoor on Tuesday, two days after the actor's spat with a PTI journalist at a promotional event.

Members of the Guild also demanded a public apology from both Kapoor and Ranaut, journalists present at the meeting said.

Kapoor, who is producing Ranaut's upcoming film "Judgementall Hai Kya", agreed to issue the apology and expressed regret over Sunday's incident, which has prompted a backlash against the star on social media, the journalists said.

"We, as a guild, have collectively decided to boycott Ms Ranaut and not give her any media coverage," the delegation said in its letter to Kapoor, adding that the boycott will not affect the film or the rest of the cast.

The journalists conveyed to the producer that they have decided to "boycott" Ranaut from future events until the actor apologises for Sunday's incident.

The members said in the letter that Ranaut had lashed out at PTI journalist Justin Rao even before he could complete the question that he was asking at the press conference to promote the film on the pretext that he was running a "smear campaign" against her.

Ranaut had also accused Rao of



writing negatively about her film "Manikarnika".

The journalist denied the allegations and the actor's claim that he personally

messed her and spent three hours in her vanity van. He said he met the actor briefly for an interview and there were no personal messages.

KATRINA KAIF RECEIVES LUSCIOUS OFFERS FROM AD WORLD



Since the last couple of releases, Katrina Kaif has been riding high on adulation. The actress got rave reviews for her turn as a glamorous actress, Babita Kumari, who suffers from heartbreak and alcoholism in *Zero* (2018). In her latest release, *Bharat*, which saw her reuniting with Salman Khan after *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017), the leggy beauty was praised for her turn as the fiery Kumud. The movie also churned out a business of Rs 200 crore at the BO. Now, we hear that the success of the *Partition* drama has fetched Katrina more endorsements.

Currently the face of over a dozen ad campaigns, from eyewear to soft drinks, she will be adding more brands to her kitty. Apparently, she has been approached by six new labels, who are willing to shell out a much bigger amount than her fees to get her on-board. The products that companies want her as the ambassador for range from beauty and fitness to real estate, tourism and cars.

Says a source close to the actress, "Apart from being one of the most sought-after names in the brand world, Katrina is also a regular on most 'search' and 'popularity measurement' lists, speaking volumes of the kind of reach the star has. She appeals to a wide demography of audience, and brands have seen a considerable boost in sales post her association. After *Bharat*, she has been approached in the F&B and lifestyle spaces, all of whom are offering almost 40 per cent more than her brand fee. She is also the fastest-growing Indian celebrity on social media, which connects directly with millennials."



Sarah Jessica Parker reports 'countless' cases of on-set harassment

Sarah Jessica Parker has spoken about “countless” incidents of men behaving inappropriately on film and TV productions, including one with a “big movie star” that was only resolved after her agent threatened she would walk off the set.

In an interview on the NPR show *Fresh Air*, the *Sex and the City* star commented on the impact of the #MeToo campaign and said: “It really wasn’t ... until about six or eight months ago that I started recognising countless experiences of men behaving poorly, inappropriately ... I don’t know why I either wasn’t courageous or more destroyed by some of the things that I was privy to, that I was on the receiving end of.”

Parker often felt intimidated, to the extent that she did not feel able to confront her harasser.

ANGELINA JOLIE RETURNS TO HER WICKED WAYS IN DISNEY'S 'MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL'

Angelina Jolie unleashes her wrath in the new trailer for Disney’s “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil.” “Don’t ruin my morning,” Jolie’s Maleficent barks when offered a bit of news about Princess Aurora’s (Elle Fanning’s) plans to wed. She quickly shuts down the prospect of marriage, telling Aurora that “love doesn’t always end well.”

The sequel picks up several years after the events of 2014’s “Maleficent.” The relationship between Aurora and the eponymous horned fairy gets even more complicated as new threats loom for the formerly cursed princess who is next in line to become Queen of the Moors. New alliances are formed in the struggle to protect the magical realm and the creatures that reside within.

The new footage also shows Michelle Pfeiffer’s character Queen Ingrith attempt to stake her claim as Aurora’s guardian.

“You have done an admirable job going against your own nature to raise this child,” Queen Ingrith says to Maleficent. “But now she will finally get the love of a real mother. Tonight, I consider aurora my own.”

Later in the clip, Ingrith tells Aurora, “Maleficent is a threat to everyone. We will do our best to protect you.” Sam Riley and Lesley Manville are among returning characters, while Pfeiffer, Ed Skrein and Chiwetel Ejiofor all joined the cast. Harris Dickinson is replacing Brenton Thwaites as Prince Phillip from the first film.



Mindy Kaling promotes body positivity, challenges idea of 'perfect bikini body'



Mindy Kaling in her latest social media post has challenged the idea of a perfect bikini body. The American comedian and actor shared a series of Instagram posts absolutely rocking some stunning bikinis.

“IDK who needs to hear this, but wear a bikini if you want to wear a bikini. You don’t have to be a size 0. Swipe for my storytime and have a great summer,” the actor wrote in the caption.

In the pictures, the *Late Nigh* actor donned a pair of chic bikinis as she embraced her curves and encouraged others to do the same by asking her 4

million Instagram followers to tag her on their own swimsuit photos.

Mindy has always been a promoter of positive body positivity. She even wrote about the issue in her 2015 book *Why Not Me?*. She will produce an upcoming wedding-themed comedy set in India, with Priyanka Chopra. Sharing the news, Priyanka wrote on Instagram, “Two women with a passion for telling good stories, just got the green light to THEIR story THEIR way. So proud of this incredible partnership with @mindykaling and #dangoor! We are about to show you what it means to be modern, global, and Indian. See you at the cinema!”



Gwyneth Paltrow has been introduced to Sebastian Stan thrice but still doesn't remember him

You only get one shot to make a first impression, but this was not the case with actor Sebastian Stan, who luckily had three opportunities to introduce himself to Academy-award winning actor, Gwyneth Paltrow. The actors who had starred together approximately three times were not well-acquainted surprisingly. In fact, the actor who plays the character of Bucky Barnes in *Avengers: Endgame* said that he has met the renowned actor at about three different spots but she isn’t familiar with him.

So when the actors bumped into each

other at the Valentino Couture Show in Paris, Sebastian probably wasn’t surprised when the Gwyneth didn’t recognise him, reported E Online. He joked on Instagram, “Also glad I got to reintroduce myself to @gwynethpaltrow for the third time. We are in the same film... [shrug emoji]”

This wasn’t the first time that the 46-year-old actor forgot something vital. Most recently, she forgot that she appeared in a small role in the Marvel film, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. It was on Jon Favreau’s Netflix show, *The Chef Show*, where she was asked, “Remember we were in *Spider-Man*?”

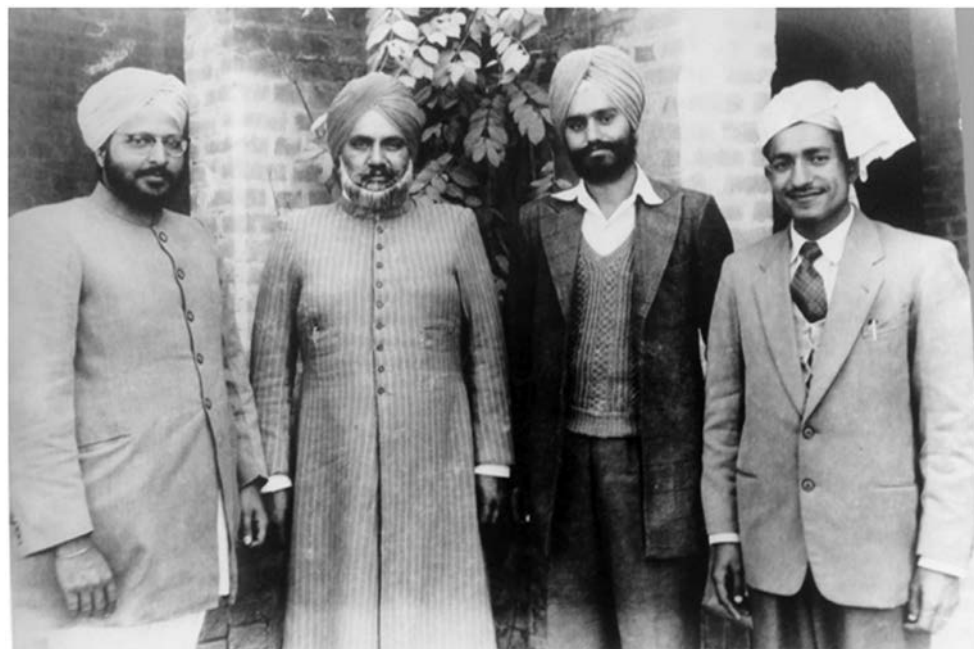
Connecting the Dots of AISSF: Dr. Santokh Singh - Motivator of Sikh Youth



By Dr. Bhai Harbans Lal

Dr. Santokh Singh, the chief founder of All India Sikh Students Federation, passed away in Bhopal on May 18. He was 96 years old.

Dr. Santokh Singh was one of the very well-regarded members of the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF). Firstly, he was one of the founders and, then, he continued to be one of the motivators of the AISSF family. What is praiseworthy of him is that he excelled many others in carrying out his AISSF mission. Not only, that he served AISSF throughout his college days, as is usually expected of the AISSF leadership, but he continued to be the AISSF motivator throughout his professional life, and without any slowdown until his last days on this earth.



Left to right: Dr. Santokh Singh, Sardar Sarup Singh, Sardar Gurmeet Singh and Bhai Harbans Lal

Thoa Khalsa Birth

Santokh Singh was born in the historic Sikh village of Thoa Khalsa.

During the riots of 1947, in Thoa Khalsa, the neighbors turned looters and attacked the Sikh villagers. They flashed clear signs of molesting Sikh women of the town in spite of the Sikhs paying ransoms in advance.

As a consequence, the visibly outnumbered Sikhs resorted to sacrificing their own womenfolk to save them from disgrace and injury of molestation. A courageous Sikh woman, Maan Kaur, led 93 remaining Sikh women to jump into the village well in order to commit mass suicide in order to save their honor.



Dr. Santokh Singh (1923-2019)

Some of these women were carrying their children.

One of those women jumping in the well was a sister of Santokh Singh. Later, I remember our addressing her with the title "Zinda Shaheed" meaning a living martyr. She was among very few who

ophthalmology until 1954. Following the completion of the highest level of training and all specialization in ophthalmology that was available in India, he dedicated full time to medical teaching and practice. After serving at several teaching posts in Bombay and Gwalior, Santokh Singh moved to Bhopal where he progressed through several teaching positions until becoming the Dean of the Gandhi Medical College. Before he retired, he also held the position of the Director, Medical Education, and, finally the Advisor in Ophthalmology, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in India.

During the same period (1967-1968), Dr. Santokh Singh served as the Visiting Professor at International School of Ophthalmology in London, UK.

It is on account of his long professional career that one meets his students everywhere in the world. All of them now miss him profoundly.

My Reminiscence with Santokh Singh

It is in Bombay, that I had a pleasure of Santokh Singh's continued association for over two years. Before, I moved to Koliwada township I lived almost across

the street from him in Parel. His cousin and an untiring servant of the Panth, Sardar Khazan Singh with his loving wife, Harnam Kaur, kind of took me in as their family member in their home for a part of my stay in Bombay. I moved out only when Khazan Singh was transferred to Bawa Glass Co., in Calcutta.

It is on account of that proximity that Santokh Singh and I were together every evening either at his place or with Khazan Singh. There, our conversations were totally about AISSF, Sikhi and the Sikh youth. Often, we spent the weekends at Vihar Lake on the invitation of Sardar Amrik Singh Bhandari. Bhandari Sahib was Dr. Santokh Singh's brother-in-law and a contractor there building roads.

Most evenings and weekends, together we visited active members of AISSF in the area as well as the supporters of AISSF in the greater Bombay Sikh community. Our contacts mostly included the Sikh philanthropists, management of the Khalsa College Bombay as well as the leadership of the major gurdwaras in the area. We visited with everybody as much as we could since we needed their patronage to promote our mission of bringing Sikh youth of Bombay closer to Gurmat. Our visiting team often included late Sardar Sohan Singh Sokhey, sometime late Professor Dalip Singh of Khalsa college Bombay, and for a period late Master Ajaib Singh.

Expansion of AISSF Branches Outside Punjab

To the credit of Dr. Santokh Singh is the formation of several branches of AISSF in the central and western India. He founded the Bombay branch of AISSF in 1947, and Gwalior branch of AISSF in 1954. Dr. Santokh Singh guided the Sikh students in Bhopal to found AISSF branch in 1959. The Bhopal AISSF became the Madhya Pradesh AISSF in 1978 under the presidentship of Sardar Attinderpal Singh.

The Madhya Pradesh AISSF is known for its yearly Sikh youth training camps or retreats of AISSF. The camps were mostly held in the Daata Bandi Chorh Gurdwara in Gwalior. They were well subscribed and continued uninterrupted

survived in the well for several days and was later recovered alive from the infamous well.

I remember the story well as I always asked her (cannot recall her name) to share with me more and more of her memories of the awful ordeal. Please do visit this well when visiting Pakistan. It is still kept alive by the villagers as a memorial of that unforgettable event.

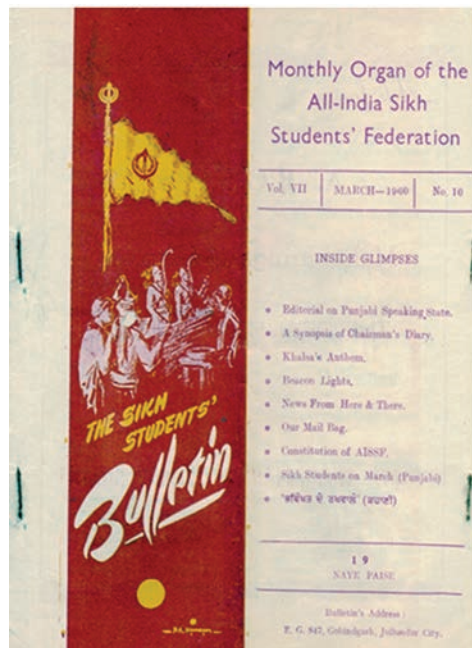
Santokh Singh, the Ophthalmologist

Santokh began his medical college in Lahore in 1944 and completed his medical degree in Bombay in 1949. Also, in Bombay, he continued his successive post-doctoral fellowships in



An honest tourist guide showing the well which, in 1947, was full of Sikh women and children.

CONTD FROM PAGE 20



Front cover of the Sikh Students' Bulletin dated March 1960



AISSF leadership in the history. Dr. Santokh Singh is 6th from the left in front row.

until 1983 when the Blue Star attack on Sikh institutions forced the Sikhs to suspend all public programs.

It is only in 1990 that the Sikh youth retreats were resurrected as the Gurmat Retreats under the sponsorship of Madhya Pradesh Kendri Singh Sabha. Even though I was living then in the USA, I had the opportunity to teach in those retreats twice on the invitation of Dr. Santokh Singh. It is in one of those Gurmat retreats that I first met the Sikh activist of USA, Dr. Rajwant Singh. He was around 13 years old then and he had enrolled as a trainee in one of the Sikh Youth Retreats.

Dr. Santokh Singh was the Founder Pattern of Guru Nanak Medical Center at Gurdwara TT Nagar Bhopal. This Medical Center is now a full-fledged multi-specialty facility. Similarly, Santokh was the Founder Pattern of Hazuri Singh Welfare Trust which is actively involved in the betterment of Siklighar Sikhs.

Eventually, Dr. Santokh Singh retired from teaching but continued to serve the Sikh Youth Retreats as a senior guide as well as their inspiration. He also promoted and contributed in the periodical, Singh Sabha Patrika, published by the Kendri Singh Sabha of Madhya Pradesh. I often read his editorials and articles in that magazine. I was also a guest speaker of the Singh Sabha during my visits with Dr. Santokh Singh.

Sikh Students' Bulletin

When in Bombay, I inaugurated the publication of the Sikh Students Bulletin, the official organ of AISSF. On the instance of Dr. Santokh Singh and others, I accepted to be the Editor-in-Chief of that monthly publication. Every month I composed the Bulletin and took it to Dr. Santokh Singh for his going over the contents before the Bulletin was published.

After I left for the USA, Sardar Bharpur Singh and Sardar Surjit Singh of Jullundur took over the editorship. The publication work was moved to Delhi under the care of Captain Kanwar Harbhajan Singh (1936-2011). He continued to publish the Bulletin until he moved to the USA in 1985 to found the International Institute of Gurmat Studies.

Sikh Educational Conference Bombay 1954: Sehajdhari Sikh Representation and Resolution on Sikh University

During the period when both Dr. Santokh Singh and I were in Bombay, the 38th Sikh Educational Conference of the Chief Khalsa Diwan was held there. A couple of years earlier, AISSF had passed a resolution towards the establishment of a Sikh University. Accordingly, I began to work on the project during my AISSF presidential years.

I went ahead and wrote an extensive article on the need for a Sikh university in the forthcoming issue of the Sikh Students' Bulletin. Dr. Santokh Singh and I formulated a resolution to be considered by the subject committee of the forthcoming Sikh Educational Conference in Bombay.

Bhai Jodh Singh was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the earlier Sikh Educational Conference held in Kanpur, India. I presided over the Sehajdhari Sikh Conference on that occasion in 1953 and got further acquainted with the distinguished leadership of the conference. I found everyone supportive of the idea of establishing the Sikh University. Bhai Jodh Sahib was particularly supportive of the idea, but we were struggling to come up with the path leading to that goal.

Bhai Sahib supported the idea of bringing the issue to the attention of the Sikh Educational Conference. To our great satisfaction, the 38th Sikh Educational Conference held at Bombay unanimously passed the resolution toward the establishment of the Sikh University.

The Sikh Educational Conference at Bombay was very successful. Malik Hardit Singh presided. The Abhinandan Granth with golden binding was presented to Bhai Vir Singh. Both Santokh Singh and I found ample opportunities to meet with Bhai Vir Singh when he was in Bombay.

Because of the large population of Sindhi community in Bombay, significant attention was paid to enhance the relationship of Sehajdhari Sikhs and Nanak Panthis with mainstream Sikhi. Along with Dr. Santokh Singh, we continually cultivated relationships with the Sindhi communities of the Greater Bombay. We attended the Sindhi managed gurdwaras and I often spoke there on Gurmat. We were pleased that the Sindhi community responded. They attended the educational conference in large numbers as well as they actively participated in the conference.

Bhai Mangal Das, governor of Bombay inaugurated the conference. He emphasized the need to imbibe the teachings of Guru Nanak and follow Guru Nanak by serving humanity. I remember him complimenting Bhai Vir Singh for his spiritual poetry.

Mohamad Ali Chagla, an Ismaili Muslim who felt proud to be a mureed of Guru Nanak spoke at the conference and emphasized the need for expanding Sikh schools and the Khalsa College of Mumbai. The same Mr. Chagla was later the Indian Ambassador to the USA in 1961.

TM Advani, Principal of Hind College forcefully spoke for the establishment of Guru Nanak University. His proposal aroused loud jaikaras, the Sikh way of expressing enthusiasm. WM Wadmani was recognized with an award for his melodious kirtan. Bhai Hari Ram Safari won a similar award in Sikh Poetry.

All India Sikh Women Students Federation



From left to right: Sardar Narinder Singh Sethi now living in Japan, Sardar Bhan Singh, Sardar Amar Singh Ambalvi, Miss Kuldip Kaur, and Bhai Harbans Lal. Sikh students in the back row are the officials of the Ambala Circle of AISSF in 1948.

Dr. Raghbir Singh, inspired his sister to join Kuldip Kaur of Gandhi Memorial National College Ambala Cantt in promoting the All India Sikh Women Students' Federation. The idea of the women's wing of the Federation was promoted in Punjab by Kuldip Kaur, a student in the Gandhi Memorial National College. Kuldip was first inducted in the Executive Committee of AISSF to promote the separate wing of the Sikh woman students. This new organization took birth in Ambala in 1948 and expanded to Bombay and Bhopal under Dr. Santokh Singh's urging.

The idea was taken to Bhopal by Dr. Santokh Singh. Bibi Ramnik Kaur of the medical college was elected as the first President of this wing. She added several Sikh girls to the fold of the AISSF over time. Then the units of the women wing were established at Bombay, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Bathinda, Mohali, Patiala, Amritsar, Jullundur, Jammu-Kashmir, etc. Later, when Bibi Ramnik Kaur moved to Chandigarh, the women's wings of the AISSF expanded their activities. Bibi Upkar Kaur of Karnal (martyr June 1984), Prof. Gurdip Kaur, Bibi Rapinder Kaur, and others played a remarkable role.

Unfortunately, the women wing of the AISSF did not flourish account of the local cultures which did not permit young girl students to take time off and move around on their own.

AISSF Abroad

During his visiting Professorship in London, Dr. Santokh Singh guided the AISSF branch in the UK. The first UK branch of AISSF was founded by Sardar Gurcharan Singh and Sardar Kashmir Singh. Gurcharan later moved to Canada and led there the World Sikh Organization of Canada. Similarly, Sardar Harbhajan Singh was another untiring worker of the AISSF London. He later migrated to the USA to take up a job with the World Bank.

Dr. Raghbir Singh, a colleague of Dr. Santokh Singh was active in supporting the Sikh students in London, and then in Delhi. There were others from the medical professions but I do not recall the names.



AISSF-UK at Khalsa Jatha Gurdwara at Sinclair Road, London. Top (L to R)- Name not remembered, Paramjit Sandhu, Kashmir Singh (VP of AISSF) Dr. Santokh Singh, Gurcharan Singh (President), name not known, Surjit Singh Gupta. Sitting- Manmohan Singh Lamba, Harbhajan Singh (Secretary), name not known.

The AISSF UK units known to be active at one time or the other included the AISSF branches at Leicester, Southall, London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Reading, etc. The UK circle of AISSF held several small scale Gurmat training retreats in different parts of England. The first such camp was held at Oxford in 1976. There was one held in Malaysia as I recall.

Several of the senior Federationists had moved abroad. The prominent among them were: S. Harcharan Singh, S. Ganga Singh Dhillon, S. Shahbeg Singh, Dr. Gurbaksh Singh, Dr. Harjinder Singh Dilgeer, Dr. Tarlochan Singh, S. Kuldip Singh of Sikh Youth Federation, Yogi Harbhajan Singh Khalsa, S. Sewa Singh, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapani, Bhai Harbans Lal, Prof. Mohinderpal Singh, S. Manohar Singh Marco, S. Ajit Singh Bagha, Prof. Sher Singh Kanwal, Dr. Gurcharan Singh Kanwal, Dr. Pargat Singh, Dr. Jasdev Singh Rai, S. Parminder Singh Bal, S. Parminder Singh Soch, S. Karamjit Singh Bhau, S. Satinderpal Singh, S. Kabal Singh, S. Sukhminder Singh Cheema, S. Balkaran Singh, Prof. Rajinder Singh and others. There are others that I may not recall now. **The readers are invited to add to those in the list.**

37 hurt due to turbulence on Air Canada flight

OTTAWA (TIP): At least 37 people were injured when an Air Canada flight from Vancouver to Sydney encountered sudden and severe turbulence, the airline said.

Flight AC33 was diverted to Honolulu's international airport at around 6.46 am on Thursday morning, reports the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

Air Canada spokesperson Peter Fitzpatrick said 35 people sustained minor injuries. That number was later updated to 37 by emergency officials in Honolulu.

The Boeing 777-200 was carrying 269 passengers and 15 crew members and was about two hours past Hawaii when it hit "severe clear air" turbulence, Fitzpatrick said.

The turbulence happened at 10,973 metres (36,000 feet) about 966 km southwest of Honolulu, said US Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Ian Gregor.

A passenger said she was jolted awake by the turbulence.

"We hit turbulence and we all hit the roof, and everything fell down...People went flying," she said.

Another passenger, who was awake on the plane, said he was "quite terrified" after the aircraft suddenly dropped.

The flight to Sydney is expected to resume on Friday, Air Canada said. IANS

N Korea calls S Korea's F-35 jet purchases 'extremely dangerous action'

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea's acquisition of American F-35 stealth fighter jets will force North Korea to develop and test "special armaments" to destroy the new weapons, North Korea's state media said on July 11, citing a government researcher.

South Korean authorities are "impudent and pitiful" for "talking loudly about reconciliation and cooperation between the north and the south" while buying more weapons from the United States, an unnamed policy research director at the Institute for American Studies of North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement carried by state news agency KCNA.

"There is no room for doubt that the delivery of 'F-35A', which is also called an 'invisible lethal weapon', is aimed at securing military supremacy over the neighbouring countries in the region and especially opening a 'gate' to invading the north in time of emergency on the Korean peninsula," the statement said. "We, on our part, have no other choice but to develop and test the special armaments to completely destroy the lethal weapons reinforced in south Korea." South Korea took delivery of its first two F-35 jets in March, with more slated to arrive this year. (Reuters)

Iranian boats 'tried to impede' UK tanker in Gulf

Revolutionary Guards deny blocking British ship in Strait of Hormuz

LONDON (TIP): Three Iranian vessels tried to block a tanker passing through the Strait of Hormuz but backed off when confronted by a Royal Navy warship, the British government said on July 11, raising the stakes in a test of nerves between Tehran and the West.

Britain urged Iran to "de-escalate the situation in the region" after the British Heritage oil tanker operated by BP was approached. The incident took place exactly a week after British Royal Marines seized an Iranian tanker, which London said was violating sanctions by bringing oil to Syria.

The 1,000-foot Grace 1 tanker, capable of carrying two million barrels of oil, was halted by police and customs in Gibraltar with the aid of a detachment of British Royal Marines.

Iran condemned the detention as an "illegal interception," but Gibraltar officials said that the cargo was believed to be destined for Syria, which is subject to European sanctions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned Britain on Wednesday of the "consequences" of what he described as "a foolish act". "I point out to the British that you initiated insecurity (on the seas) and you shall grasp the consequences of it later on," Rouhani said in comments to



the cabinet broadcast by state TV.

"HMS Montrose was forced to position herself between the Iranian vessels and British Heritage and issue verbal warnings to the Iranian vessels, which then turned away," a UK government spokesman said in a statement.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif dismissed as "worthless" the

British allegation that Iran had sought to block the ship. Iran's Revolutionary Guards denied they had impeded a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, the force's Sepah news agency said. "There has been no confrontation in the last 24 hours with any foreign vessels, including British ones," the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement. — Agencies

South Korea seeks US help in bitter trade spat with Japan

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea is seeking US help in a bitter diplomatic row with fellow American ally Japan over its moves to tighten controls on high-tech exports. The government said on Thursday that Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha discussed the issue with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by phone and conveyed Seoul's view that Japan's "undesirable" trade curbs could disrupt global supply chains and hurt trilateral cooperation among the countries.

The ministry said Pompeo expressed an "understanding" of South Korea's position and agreed to help facilitate communication through diplomatic channels among Washington, Seoul and Tokyo. "(Minister Kang) expressed concern that Japan's trade restrictions would not only inflict damage to our companies, but could also disrupt global supply chains and cause negative effects not only to US companies but also to the global trade order," the ministry said in a press release.

"This would not be ideal for the bilateral friendship and cooperation between South Korea and Japan and also the three-way cooperation between South Korea, the United States and Japan."

Kim Hyun-chong, deputy chief of South Korea's presidential National Security Office, arrived in Washington

South Korea, an export-reliant economy that is the world's biggest supplier of computer chips and displays, sees the Japanese trade curbs as retaliation for court rulings that ordered Japanese firms to compensate aging South Korean plaintiffs for forced labor during World War II.

on Wednesday and told reporters he would discuss the trade spat with Japan with US officials.

His trip came a day after South Korean President Moon Jae-in urged Japan to refrain from pushing the situation to a "dead-end street" and respond to Seoul's efforts to resolve the matter diplomatically.

"I came because there are a lot of bilateral issues between South Korea and the United States to be discussed in meetings with the White House and also the Senate and House,"

Kim told South Korean reporters at the Dulles International Airport. When asked whether South Korea would ask the United States to mediate in the trade dispute with Japan, Kim said, "That issue will be discussed too."

Tokyo last week tightened the approval

process for Japanese shipments of photoresists and other sensitive materials to South Korean companies, which need the chemicals to produce semiconductors and display screens used in TVs and smartphones.

South Korea, an export-reliant economy that is the world's biggest supplier of computer chips and displays, sees the Japanese trade curbs as retaliation for court rulings that ordered Japanese firms to compensate aging South Korean plaintiffs for forced labor during World War II.

Japanese officials say such materials can be exported only to trustworthy trading partners, hinting at security risks and illegal transfers of sensitive materials to North Korea, without citing specific cases.

South Korea has denied the claims, saying that an inspection of companies that process and export chemicals imported from Japan found no sign of illegal transactions that allowed them to reach North Korea or any other country affected by U.N. sanctions.

South Korea plans to file a complaint with the World Trade organization. It raised the issue at a WTO Goods Council meeting in Geneva on Tuesday, calling on Japan to withdraw its tighter restrictions, which it says have repercussions for electronics products worldwide. — AP

Vatican to dig up graves in search of teen who went missing 36 years ago

VATICAN CITY (TIP): The Vatican will dig up two graves on July 11 after an anonymous tip-off that they may contain the remains of an Italian teenager who went missing 36 years ago.

Emanuela Orlandi, the daughter of a Vatican employee, was last seen leaving a music class aged 15, and theories have circulated for decades about who took her and where her body may lie.

Orlandi's brother Pietro, who has campaigned tirelessly for the Vatican to open an investigation into her disappearance, will be present when the graves are opened at the Teutonic Cemetery.

The exhumation comes after the family's lawyer received a tip-off with a picture of an angel-topped grave in the cemetery, and a message which simply read: "Look where the angel is pointing".

The small, leafy cemetery, located on the original site of the Emperor Nero circus, is usually the last resting place for German-speaking members of Catholic institutions.

Beyond St Peter's Basilica, in an area off-limits to tourists, neat rows of tombstones lie behind a wrought-iron gate, some shaded by palm trees, others bordered by pink roses.

The tombs that will be opened belong to two princesses, buried in 1836 and 1840.

The remains found within will be removed and examined on-site by Italian forensic anthropologist Giovanni Arcudi.

He expects to be able to roughly date the bones within about five hours, he said in an interview published by the Vatican on July 10.

"The state of conservation of the bones is what will determine the time required.

"Much depends on the environmental conditions, on the microclimate in which



they are found, on the humidity, on the presence of infiltrations, on possible actions of microfauna," he said.

It will be possible to say "whether a bone has been there 50 years or 150 years".

He expects to be able to determine the gender and whether or not the remains belong to more than one person per tomb. Arcudi will extract material for DNA analysis, regardless of his initial findings.

"The DNA test will be done in any case, in order to be certain and to exclude definitively and categorically the chance that any remains in the two tombs are attributable to poor Emanuela," he said.

Results could take up to 60 days, he added.

"I've always hoped she's alive, and to find her alive," 60-year-old Pietro Orlandi, whose mother still lives within the Vatican walls, told AFP on Wednesday.

"But if Emanuela is dead and is buried there, it's right that what has been hidden for so many years comes to light".

According to some theories widely

circulated in Italian media, the teen was snatched by a mobster gang to put pressure on the Vatican to recover a loan.

Another claim often repeated in the press was that she was taken to force the release from prison of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981.

The family braced for a possible breakthrough last year, when human remains were found at a Vatican property in Rome.

In 2017, conspiracy specialists were driven into a frenzy by a leaked -- but apparently falsified -- document, purportedly written by a cardinal and pointing to a Vatican cover-up.

Five years earlier, forensic experts exhuming the tomb of a notorious crime boss at a Vatican church uncovered some 400 boxes of bones.

Enrico De Pedis, head of the Magliana gang, was suspected of involvement in her kidnapping and some speculated the youngster may be buried alongside him -- but DNA tests failed to find a match. — AFP

I dead in Russian plant blaze

MOSCOW (TIP): A woman was killed and 13 persons were injured in a major fire at a power station in the Moscow region on July 11 that was put out by firefighters, the emergencies ministry and Russian media said.

"The open flames have been extinguished," Interfax news agency cited the emergencies ministry as saying.

Earlier, huge flames could be seen leaping into the sky and black smoke belched from Thermal Power Station-27 in Moscow's Mytishchi district. .

The Mosenergo power generation company said the fire broke out in a natural gas pipeline outside the power station and the facility's power generating equipment was not damaged.

The blaze had spread to a warehouse and nearby buildings including a youth hostel, Interfax said. — Reuters

6 tourists die in Greece storm

NEA PLAGIA, GREECE (TIP): At least seven persons, including six tourists, were killed and more than 100 others injured when a violent, short-lived storm lashed northern Greece, felling trees and ripping off rooftops.

Witnesses said the storm had come and gone in a matter of minutes. Winds of over 100 kph were reported on the Halkidiki peninsula, popular with tourists in the summer.

Two elderly Czech tourists were killed when strong winds and water overturned their travel trailer. A woman and an eight-year-old from Romania were killed when a roof collapsed on a restaurant in the beach resort of Nea Plagia. And a man and a young boy, both Russians, died when a tree fell near their hotel.

A seventh, unidentified victim's body, was found in the sea later. — Reuters

Vega rocket fails after takeoff in French Guiana

KOUROU (TIP): A rocket carrying a satellite for the United Arab Emirates failed shortly after taking off from French Guiana on July 10 night, launch company Arianespace said.

"About two minutes after takeoff a major anomaly occurred, leading to the loss of the mission," said Luce Fabreguettes, director of operations in Kourou, on the northern coast of the French territory in South America.

It is the first failure after fourteen successful launches of Vega—Arianespace's lightweight launcher—since operations began at the Guiana Space Centre in 2012.

"On behalf of Arianespace, I wish to express our deepest apologies to our customers for the loss of their cargo," Fabreguettes added. AFP

Woman shot dead by her 7-yr-old son in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR (TIP): A 39-year-old woman was accidentally shot by her seven-year-old son in western Mongolia, police said on July 10.

The incident occurred in Govi-Altai province on Tuesday, according to the province's police department.

Preliminary investigation leads investigators to believe that the boy accidentally shot and killed his mother, the police department said, adding that the boy's five-year-old sister was seriously wounded in the shooting, reported Xinhua news agency.

The investigation is still ongoing, the police said, urging citizens to keep their guns out of the reach of children. As of 2014, a total of around 47,000 guns were registered in Mongolia as a legal property of individuals, with 94 per cent for hunting purposes, according to official data from the country's National Statistics Office. IANS

Freed Australian denies North Korean spy charges, says no plans to return

SEOUL (TIP): The Australian student released last week after being detained in North Korea said on July 9 Pyongyang's accusation that he was a spy was "pretty obviously" false, but that his work in the country was probably over.

Alek Sigley, 29, who was studying in the North Korean capital, had been missing since June 25 before he was abruptly expelled from the country on July 4 after Swedish officials helped broker his release.

North Korean state media later issued a statement saying Sigley had admitted to committing "spying acts" by working with foreign media, including NK News, a website that specializes in North Korea.

"The allegation that I am a spy is (pretty obviously) false.

The only material I gave to NK News was what was published publicly on the

blog, and the same goes for other media outlets," Sigley said in a Tweet on Tuesday.

Sigley went on to say "the whole situation makes me very sad", since he would be unable to complete the master's degree he had been pursuing at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung University.

"I am still very interested in North Korea and want to continue academic research and other work related to the country," he said in another tweet. "But I currently have no plans to visit the country again, at least in the short term." His company, Tongil Tours, would be cancelling all tours to North Korea until further notice, Sigley added. "I may never again walk the streets of Pyongyang, a city that holds a very special place in my heart," he wrote. "I may never again see my teachers and my partners in the travel industry, whom I've come to consider close friends. Reuters

AMAZING TIPS TO PREVENT HAIR LOSS

For many women, there are few things more alarming than a noticeably sparser hairline or lackluster locks that seem to have lost their volume. While it's normal to lose anywhere from 50 to 100 strands of hair a day, more than that can indicate an issue. The culprit is usually harmless and can be caused by anything from genetics to how you are styling your hair. Luckily, thinning hair is usually more of a cosmetic concern rather than a healthy one.

Because this is an issue that increasingly affects women as they get older, there are also a variety of products and tips that can help combat hair loss in women. If you've noticed your hair seems to be on the thinner side lately, try using some of the tips below to remedy the problem. If you don't start seeing results within a few months, a simple blood test by your doctor can determine if the hair loss is caused by an underlying health condition.

Avoid hairstyles that pull on the hairline

Tight ponytails, cornrows, braids, and anything else that pulls on the small hairs that make up your hairline can cause hair loss. The stress caused by these tight hairstyles pulls too strongly on the delicate hairs of your hairline and hair loss/thinning can occur. If you do need to put your hair up in a ponytail, use an elastic that doesn't have metal like the Goody's Ouchless line of hair products. It helps ensure your hair won't get tangled in the elastic and pull out your hair when removing your ponytail.

Ditch hair tools that use high heat

Heat is always hard on hair. It causes bonds within the hair strands to fracture, causing brittle hair that breaks and falls out. If you decide to use a hair straightener or curling iron, make sure not to leave it on one area of your hair for too long and move it every ten seconds or so. Also keep in mind that if you hear sizzling or burn your fingers, the heat setting is too high and you are also burning your hair. Try to let your hair dry naturally as often as possible and when you do use styling tools, make sure to use a heat-protecting spray that will lessen the damage the tools are inflicting on your hair.

Be wary of chemical processing

Just as heat is very harmful to the hair, so are a variety of chemical processing treatments offered by salons. Chemically straightening your hair, bleaching, and lightening your hair can all cause damage to



the hair shaft, weakening the hair and causing hair loss. Always try to stick to your natural style and color as closely as possible if you are experiencing hair loss or thinning or the problem will just get worse. If you regularly use chemical processing, make sure you treat your hair to a deep-conditioning treatment at least once a week for optimal results.

Peruse your pantry

Foods high in vitamins and minerals such as iron, zinc, and vitamin B12 can all help revitalize thinning strands. Make sure your diet includes plenty of leafy greens, nuts, beans, fish, and lean meats. If you're having a hard time getting enough nutrients in your daily diet, a good dietary supplement can help cover whatever your diet is lacking.

Use hair products targeted to restore hair growth

Because thinning hair and hair loss is a huge cosmetic concern for women, many companies are now creating products specifically aimed at restoring hair growth. This list of hair loss shampoos offers a variety of products that contain numerous oils and minerals that may aid in hair growth, destroy bacteria that can cause hair breakage and loss, increase blood circulation to the scalp, and more.

Consider a topical medication Minoxidil, the active ingredient in Rogaine, is an over-the-counter medication that can be applied to the hair in liquid or mousse form. The medication works by

stimulating the hair follicles and promoting regrowth in as little as six months. If six months seems a little long for results, you can also use a hair-thickening spray in the meantime that coats the existing hair and gives the appearance of a more voluminous mane.

Don't skip the scalp massage

An easy way to incorporate a scalp massage into your hair care regimen is to perform it while in the shower, after applying shampoo or conditioner. Scalp massages have been found to improve circulation to the scalp, stimulating hair growth. By moving your fingertips in a slow, circular movement around the whole head, you'll reduce stress and promote hair regrowth at the same time.

Consider essential oils

Essential oils have long been touted for their natural benefits and they might just be the ticket to help your hair. Oils such as carrot seed, cypress, lavender, and rosemary - just to name a few - all have regenerative, soothing, and balancing properties that can improve the condition of the scalp and promote hair growth. Because essential oils are increasingly popular as a healthier alternative, these are easy to find online or in health stores. A few drops added to your scalp during your scalp massage is a great way to enhance your massage's effectiveness and take advantage of all the benefits the oils have to offer.

FOOD CORNER



Vegetable Biryani

Ingredients

400 g Basmati rice, 7 tbsp ghee, 2 large Onions, sliced, 1 tsp Black cumin seeds (shahi jeera), 8 cloves, 2 *1-inch sticks cinnamon, 1 whole piece Mace (javitry), ¼ tsp grated nutmeg, 3 tbsp Ginger paste, 3 tbsp Garlic paste, 100 g Shelled green peas, 100 g baby potatoes, 100 g Small cauliflower, 100 g French beans, cut into 1-inch pieces, 100g Carrots, sliced diagonally, Salt to taste, 1 tsp Black pepper powder, ½ cup yoghurt, 4 Black cardamoms, 4 Green cardamoms, 2 bay leaves (tej patta), ½ fresh mint leaves, finely chopped A few drops of rose water, A few drops of screw pine (kewra) water, 2 tbsp Unsalted butter, Wheat flour dough, to seal the dish, 250g Yoghurt, 5-6 garlic cloves, crushed, ½ tsp Salt, ½ tsp chilli flakes

Method

- Wash the rice and soak in water for half an hour.
- Heat 4 tablespoons of ghee in a pan; fry the sliced onion in batches to a golden brown and remove with a slotted spoon.
- Drain on absorbent, paper.
- In the same pan, saute half the black cumin seeds till they begin to sizzle.
- Add 2 cloves, 1 cinnamon stick, half the mace, the nutmeg and peppercorns and saute till fragrant.
- Add the ginger and garlic pastes and saute for one minute.
- Add salt pepper and the vegetables and saute over a low heat for 1-2 minutes.
- Add salt, pepper and yoghurt and cook till the vegetables are almost tender.
- In the meanwhile, in a separate large pan, bring 8 cups water to a boil with 2 teaspoons of salt.
- Tie the remaining cloves, cinnamon stick, mace and black cumin seed the black cardamoms and 2 green cardamoms in a piece of muslin to make a small bundle (potli), and add to the water with bay leaves.
- Cook on a low heat for 15-20 minutes to allow the spices to infuse the water with their flavor.
- Drain the rice and add to the pan and cook till half done. Remove from the heat and strain.
- Reserve the strained water.
- Stir the remaining ghee into the rice and set aside.
- To assemble the biryani, spread half the fried onions at the base of a deep heavy-bottomed heatproof casserole. Spread half the rice over the onions. Spread a layer of the vegetables and the chopped mint over the rice.
- Cover with the remaining rice and top with the fried onion.
- Sprinkle the rose water and the kewra water over the rice.
- Dot the rice with unsalted butter.
- Pour in a cup of the strained water.
- Cover with a lid and seal it with the dough. Place on a hot tawa or griddle and cook on a low flame till steam begins to escape.

DIABETES CAN INCREASE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

People with diabetes are at a higher risk of suffering heart attack, experts say and recommend routine health checkups and lifestyle modification to keep the condition in check.

With 69.2 million people suffering from diabetes, India is among the top 10 countries in the world suffering from the condition, according to International Diabetes Federation's Diabetes Atlas. Apart from that, 36.5 million people suffer from pre-diabetes conditions.

"Diabetes damages blood vessels, making a person more prone to cardiovascular diseases. It is strongly recommended that all people with diabetes have their heart disease risk factors checked as aggressively and routinely as people who have already had heart attacks," said Dr RN Kalra Cardiologist, Medical Director and CEO of Kalra Hospital.

Dr Ajay Kumar Ajmani, Endocrinologist at BLK Super Speciality Hospital said studies have proven that diabetic patients are prone heart disease at a young age. "A new study has also revealed that people with undetected diabetes have a higher risk of a heart attack. Hence, routine health checkups to detect a diabetic condition can help in reducing the risk of heart diseases as well," he said. Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj, gynaecologist, obstetrician and IVF expert at Nurture IVF Centre said



diabetes puts pregnant women at high risks of congenital malformations in the fetus including heart defects, genital urinary defects, caudal syndrome and multiple others defects.

Maternal diabetes also carries an increased risk of fetal loss and major congenital malformations. High blood pressure during pregnancy and preeclampsia are more common in women with diabetes, she said.

"In severe cases, there may be risk

of heart failure. The effects of gestational diabetes in the growing fetus can be minimised by proper antenatal care, strict sugar control, lifestyle modifications, and care during delivery," the doctor explained.

Experts recommend regular check-ups, lifestyle modification which includes regular exercise, at least 30 minutes brisk walk five days a week, nutritious diet, quitting smoking and alcohol to keep diabetes at bay. *Source: PTI*

Study finds possible link between sugary drinks and cancer

People who drink a lot of sugary drinks have a higher risk of developing cancer, although the evidence cannot establish a direct causal link, researchers said on Thursday.

The findings of a large study in France do suggest, however, that limiting intake of sugar-sweetened drinks may help to cut the number of cancer cases in a population, the scientists said.

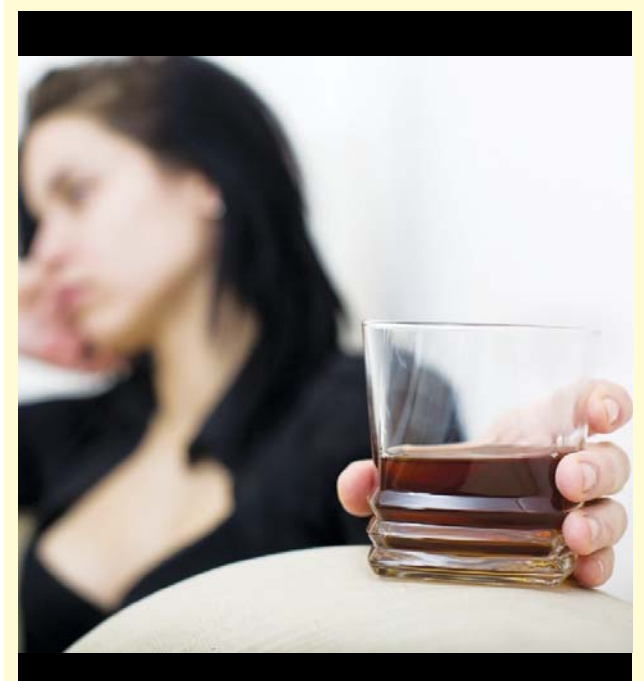
Consumption of sugary drinks has risen worldwide in the last few decades and is linked to obesity, which itself increases cancer risk. The World Health Organization recommends that people should limit their daily intake of sugar to less than 10% of their total energy intake, but also says a further reduction to below 5%, or about 25 grams a day, would be healthier.

Many countries, including Britain, Belgium, France, Hungary and Mexico, have introduced, or are about to introduce, taxes on sugar with the aim of improving people's health. Published in the BMJ British medical journal, this study analysed data from 101,257 French adults - 21% of them men and 79% women - and assessed their intake or sugary



drinks. It followed them for a maximum of 9 years, between 2009 and 2018, to assess their risk for all types of cancer, and for some specific types including breast, colon and prostate cancer.

The researchers also adjusted for several confounding cancer risk factors, including age, sex, educational level, family history, smoking and physical activity levels. *Source: Reuters*



GIVING UP ALCOHOL MAY BOOST MENTAL WELL-BEING

Women who quit alcohol may have an improved health-related quality of life, especially their mental well-being, according to a study unveiled on Monday.

"More evidence suggests caution in recommending moderate drinking as part of a healthy diet," said Michael Ni from the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

The study, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, included 10,386 people from the FAMILY Cohort in Hong Kong who were nondrinkers or moderate drinkers between 2009 and 2013.

Moderate drinkers meant 14 drinks or less per week for men and seven drinks or less per week for women.

The researchers compared their findings with data from a representative survey of 31,079 people conducted by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism in the US.

The mean age of participants in the FAMILY Cohort was 49 years and 56 per cent were women.

About 64 per cent of men were nondrinkers (abstainers and former drinkers) and almost 88 per cent of women were nondrinkers.

Men and women who were lifetime abstainers had the highest level of mental well-being at the start of the study (baseline).

For women who were moderate drinkers and quit drinking, quitting was linked to a favourable change in mental well-being in both Chinese and American study populations.

These results were apparent after adjusting for sociodemographic characteristics, body mass index, smoking status, and other factors.

"Global alcohol consumption is expected to continue to increase unless effective strategies are employed," said Ni.

"Our findings suggest caution in recommendations that moderate drinking could improve health-related quality of life. Instead, quitting drinking may be associated with a more favourable change in mental well-being, approaching the level of lifetime abstainers," Ni said. *Source: PTI*

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com



YOUTUBE TO BE AVAILABLE ON FIRETV AS AMAZON-GOOGLE SPAT ENDS

About a year and a half after their spat, YouTube will be available on Amazon's Fire TV devices while Amazon Prime Video will be available on Google's Chromecast and Android TV devices from Tuesday.

In 2018, YouTube was removed from Fire TV devices by Google, after Amazon had stopped sales of Chromecast devices on its website.

In April this year, Amazon and Google seemed to have reached truce when they announced that in the coming months, the two companies would launch the official YouTube app on Amazon Fire TV devices and Fire TV Edition smart TVs.

"The official YouTube app for Amazon Fire TV is launching today in India on Fire TV Stick and Fire TV Stick 4K, both of which include the Alexa Voice Remote. Also beginning today, the Prime Video app is available for streaming to Chromecast, Chromecast built-in devices, and Android TV devices," a statement Tuesday said.

The official YouTube app will also work with Alexa.

With expanded Alexa voice controls, users can search, launch, and control their content by saying "Alexa, open YouTube" to get started.

Users can also ask Alexa to play videos, pause, resume, fast-forward and rewind, or skip to the next video.

Source: PTI

Brighter, long-lasting smartphone screens in the offing

Scientists have developed a new technique that could make smartphone and TV displays brighter, with better contrast and longer life.

The pixels in many modern screens for TVs, smartphones, tablets, and laptops are lit by little devices called organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs).

To ensure that it is possible to see the images from such screens on a bright sunny day, OLED screens are covered with an anti-glare filter, said researchers at Imperial College London in the UK.

However, because of the physics of how the anti-glare filter works, half of the light generated by each OLED pixel remains trapped within the display, which halves the energy efficiency of the OLED.

The manufactures of these displays have therefore chosen to sacrifice energy efficiency to increase usability.

Now, a team of scientists at Imperial College London has developed a new type of OLED that avoids this shortcoming.



NOVEL SYSTEM FOR 'AUTOPILOT' AIRCRAFT LANDINGS DEVELOPED

Scientists have developed a vision-assisted navigation system which lets smaller aircraft land without assistance from ground-based systems.

Automatic landings have long been standard procedure for commercial aircraft, said researchers at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany.

While major airports have the infrastructure necessary to ensure the safe navigation of the aircraft, this is usually not the case at smaller airports.

At large airports the Instrument Landing System (ILS) makes it possible for commercial aircraft to land automatically with great precision.

Antennas send radio signals to the autopilot to make sure it navigates to the runway safely.

Procedures are also currently being developed that will allow automatic landing based on satellite navigation. A ground-based augmentation system is required, researchers said.

However, systems like these are



not available for general aviation at smaller airports, which is a problem in case of poor visibility -- then aircraft simply cannot fly, they said. "Automatic landing is essential, especially in the context of the future role of aviation," said Martin Kugler, research associate at the TUM.

This applies for example when automated aircraft transport freight and when passengers use automated flying taxis.

The researchers partnered with Technische Universität Braunschweig in Germany to develop a landing system which lets smaller aircraft land without assistance from ground-based systems.

The autopilot uses global positioning system (GPS) signals to navigate. However, GPS signals are susceptible to measurement inaccuracies, for example due to atmospheric disturbances.

Over 1k Android apps gain your data even if denied permission



Researchers from the International Computer Science Institute (ICSI) in the US identified 1,325 Android apps that were gathering data from devices even after people explicitly denied them permission, news portal CNET reported on Tuesday.

Serge Egelman, Director of Usable Security And Privacy research at the ICSI, presented the study at the Federal Trade Commission's privacy conference.

He said the researchers had notified Google about these issues in September 2018, as well as the FTC. One of the apps mentioned by name was Shutterfly, which is used for editing photos. It had been gathering GPS coordinates from photos and sending that data to its own servers.

In a statement, Shutterfly said: "Like many photo services, Shutterfly uses this data to enhance the user experience with features such as categorization and personalized product suggestions, all in accordance with Shutterfly's privacy policy as well as the Android developer agreement." The study published on the FTC website cited 153 apps, including Samsung's Health and Browser apps, which are installed in more than 500 million devices.

APPLE TO LAUNCH FOUR IPHONES IN 2020: REPORT

Apple is expected to launch four iPhones with significant specifications in 2020, a report has said.

The Cupertino-based company is expected to launch three iPhones with OLED screens, with display sizes of 5.4-inch, 6.1-inch, and 6.7-inch. The devices will also have 5G connectivity and advanced 3D sensing camera technology, news portal GSMarena reported on Tuesday.

The fourth iPhone is expected to feature an iPhone 8-like design and come without 5G connectivity or OLED panel, the report said. The new line-up would help the company sell 195 million units in 2020, up from an estimated 180 million in 2019, the report quoted a JP Morgan Chase note as saying.

Apple will also have its own 5G modem ready by 2022-23 which should reduce the iPhone-maker's dependence on Qualcomm, it added.



Walmart got a \$10 billion surprise after buying Flipkart

Flipkart's board recently authorized PhonePe Pvt Ltd. unit to become a new entity and explore raising \$1 billion from outside investors at a valuation of \$10 billion

When Walmart Inc. paid \$16 billion for control of India's e-commerce pioneer Flipkart Online Services Pvt. last year, the American retail giant got a little-noticed digital payments subsidiary as part of the deal. Now the business is emerging as one of the country's top startups, a surprise benefit for Walmart from its largest-ever acquisition.

Flipkart's board recently authorized the PhonePe Pvt Ltd. unit to become a new entity and explore raising \$1 billion from outside investors at a valuation of as much as \$10 billion, according to people familiar with the matter, asking not to be named because the discussions are private. The funding may close in the next couple of months, although the talks are not finalized and terms could still change, they said. The unit would then become independent with a distinct investor base, although Walmart-owned Flipkart would remain a shareholder. Walmart and Flipkart didn't respond to emails seeking comment.

PhonePe -- which means "on the phone" in Hindi and is pronounced "phone pay" -- has grown into one of India's leading digital payments companies. Its volume and value of transactions have roughly quadrupled over the past year as the country's consumers adopt the technology to transfer money digitally to businesses and each other. PhonePe is gaining ground on Paytm, which leads the field and is backed by Warren Buffett.

PhonePe is an "underappreciated asset," Edward Yruma, an analyst from KeyBanc Capital Markets, wrote in a recent research note. He estimated the business may be worth \$14 billion to \$15 billion, separate from Flipkart's e-commerce operation.

The startup was founded in December 2015 by three friends who left Flipkart to get it off the ground. Within a year, Flipkart founders Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal decided to acquire PhonePe, realizing that solving payments friction would make it easier for consumers to buy online. Less than a year later, the Indian government made the unprecedented move to ban large banknotes to curb corruption and boost digital transactions. With this "demonetization," Paytm, PhonePe and other fledgling services flourished.

Cheap smartphones and cut-rate wireless data plans have brought millions of Indians online in the years since, boosting the whole industry. In June, the PhonePe app reached 290 million transactions with an aggregate value of \$85 billion, compared with 71 million transactions at \$22 billion a year



Digital payments in India are projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2023 from about \$200 billion now, said Credit Suisse Group AG. Beyond PhonePe and Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and the soon-to-launch WhatsApp payments service will compete for customers. They're taking advantage of India's Unified Payment Interface, a technology backbone that includes 140 of the country's banks and digital payments companies

earlier, according to the company.

The service gained momentum by offering an array of services, including mutual funds, movie tickets and airline bookings. Earlier this year, it began using Bollywood star Aamir Khan in its advertising.

"Globally, hardly any privately held fintech company has reached PhonePe's scale on both sides of the network so rapidly," Sameer Nigam, PhonePe's co-founder and chief executive officer, said in a statement, pointing to its 150 million plus customers and more than 5 million merchants. "That's why the strong investor interest."

Walmart debated for months whether to keep funding the payments business internally or whether to separate the operation so it could raise outside funds. After plowing nearly \$300 million into PhonePe, the U.S. retailer opted for the latter course. Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. made a similar decision when it split off its Alipay business, helping growth by allowing it to work with a broader range of merchants.

Walmart is still grappling with whether to bring in strategic or financial investors, according to one of the people familiar. While a strategic investor would likely be better for growth, senior Walmart executives are concerned that such backers typically want more voting rights, the person said. Walmart wants to use the lessons from

PhonePe in other operations around the globe. Also unresolved are the future roles for Flipkart's outside investors. Tiger Global Management and Tencent Holdings Ltd. each hold board seats and equity stakes of about 5%, while Walmart holds about 80%. The board will have to navigate the companies' varied interests before any deal can be finalized.

The new funding is aimed at helping PhonePe's growth. The company plans to delve deep into the country's heartland, where rivals have yet to expand, with the goal of reaching profitability, one person said.

The market has vast potential. Digital payments in India are projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2023 from about \$200 billion now, said Credit Suisse Group AG. Beyond PhonePe and Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and the soon-to-launch WhatsApp payments service will compete for customers. They're taking advantage of India's Unified Payment Interface, a technology backbone that includes 140 of the country's banks and digital payments companies.

"The market is getting bigger and fintech startups are becoming innovative," said Kunal Pande, partner, advisory services at KPMG. "The accelerated growth in many fintech areas is attracting investor interest."

Source: Bloomberg

INDIA TO OFFER AMNESTY FOR COMMERCIAL TAX DISPUTES



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union government is set to open a three-month window for taxpayers to resolve existing excise and service tax disputes on a "no penalty, no interest, no prosecution" principle in a new one-time scheme that aims to monetise a chunk of the Rs 3.75 lakh crore of disputed taxes stuck in various tribunals, according to two officials familiar with the matter.

The Union finance ministry, which is working on the details of the scheme, will announce it soon to fulfil two objectives — augment its revenue in the current financial year, and settle old legacy issues from the previous indirect tax regime — added the officials who asked not to be identified.

Announcing a legacy dispute resolution scheme, Sabka Vishwas, in the Union Budget last Friday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "GST (Goods and Services Tax) has just completed two years. An area that concerns me is that we have huge pending litigations from the pre-GST regime."

One of the officials cited above said that, even at a conservative estimate, the government can recover about 40% to 50% of the amount currently under litigation to make up for any shortfall in indirect tax collection at a time when the GST regime has not fully stabilised.

Source: HT

Maruti Suzuki cuts production in June for fifth month in a row

NEW DELHI (TIP): The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has cut vehicle production for the fifth consecutive month in June, according to a regulatory filing.

The auto major said it slashed total vehicle production, including Super Carry LCV, by 15.6 per cent last month to 1,11,917 units as compared to 1,32,616 units in the year-ago month.

Total passenger vehicle production stood at 1,09,641 units last month, down 16.34 per cent from 1,31,068 units in June 2018.

The auto major cut production of mini segment vehicles, including models like Alto, by 48.2 per cent to 15,087 units last month as against 29,131 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, it slashed production of compact segment cars like WagonR, Swift and Dzire by 1.46 per cent to 66,436 units in June from 67,426 units earlier.

Production of utility vehicles witnessed a decline of 5.26 per cent to 17,074 units, as against 18,023 units in June last year. The company said production of vans declined by 27.87 per cent to 8,501 units last month compared to 11,787 units in June 2018.

The car market leader had cut total production by over 18 per cent in May. Similarly, it had slashed production by around 10 per cent across its factories in April.





Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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

Weekly Horoscope - July 15 - July 21, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says ideas flow out of the cupboard in a deluge. You are at your creative best and win the applause of all those who hear you out. You are filled with wisdom and brilliant, zany solutions to office problems. You resolve matters that have so far seemed insurmountable. There are happy moments too with family and friends.

TAURUS: You are communicating with all comers and reaching out with a vengeance. You also work well in a team and are able to meet all deadlines and make substantial profit. Your fantasies have takers now and people around you are finally beginning to see sense in whatever you are doing. Ganesha wishes you well. Go with the flow and nothing will block the ideas swarming out of your head.

GEMINI: There is a lot of fine tuning left and many loose ends to tie up on the personal and professional fronts. Projects that you had embarked on in the middle of the period need to be completed now. You have lobbied hard for them and now you have to go through with them; you have to see that they are completed and deadlines are met. As we all know, you are still working hard.

CANCER: There is travel foretold and you have many new interactions with people. The mood is happy but along with it are many issues that still need solving. You need to prioritise your commitment and take on only those that you feel you can fulfil. Sometimes you feel that you are over-stretched and may snap like a worn out rubber band.

LEO: You will have to guard against making enemies as you could be very forthright during this period. Watch your tongue. There will also be enormous expenses and you will shop till you drop buying classy and expensive gifts for love ones and pampering yourself too in the process. Ganesha wishes you happy times anyway!

VIRGO: The period has had many facets to it and as it ends you are richer and wiser, thanks to all that you have been through. You have learnt many valuable lessons and are indebted to Ganesha for having protected you and given you so much. You have had a fair share of the happiness pie. You have had work, love, laughter, passion, money, travel and a few discordant notes too but that is a part of the package of life.

LIBRA: You are happy. Your cautious and conservative nature has been well fed with success and riches. Since you are ambitious, you make plans for the future. You are a plodder and no work is too small if it pays you well. You thrive on hard, sustained toil that sometimes also becomes your undoing as people take advantage of your temperament and load you with work that you are not really keen on.

SCORPIO: You have great determination and stamina and look for both material and spiritual goals. The next period promises to be even better. It is party time and you go all out. You make time for friends and family all new work is put on the backburner. Now, you just want to have fun. However, despite all the good tidings, your mind is busy conjuring plans for future growth.

SAGITTARIUS: You are intelligent enough to see where you have faltered and wise enough to make the necessary changes in your life. You want to be a success in life. Everyone wants it, but you I dare say, and Ganesha agrees with me, are possessed with a desire to excel. You burn with a scorching light that wants to make the planet happy place.

CAPRICORN: There are many things on your mind as the period unfolds. Your personal status, the perks and prestige that are your due, your professional desires and several other issues crowd your mind. There are also many domestic issues that need to be resolved. You start the period well and are capable of taking many risks. Your ego is highly developed and you may think too highly of yourself.

AQUARIUS: This period the focus will be on money and making your life as secure as possible. You are generally restless and are forever on the lookout for action. These in the media will do exceptionally well. Your creative outbursts will meet with monetary success. Towards mid-period, you could be lost in the throes of passion. You may also look at spirituality with new eyes and may go guru shopping.

PISCES: There is more stability as the period ends. You will display the fun-loving, generous and passionate side of your personality. There will be improved ties at home, and family life will give you great joy and harmony. Your self-belief is immense and you feel that you can do anything, that nothing is impossible. Many ideas crystallize into real-time action. You are inspired to do big things and you get along well with people.

Birthday Horoscope July 15 - July 21, 2019

JULY 15TH: Ganesha says if you follow your intuition, you can't go wrong, even concerning practical concerns. Imaginative conversations inspire. Idealism has its place now.

JULY 16TH: You can unobtrusively boost your career prospects and personal reputation by staying discreetly on the sidelines.

JULY 17TH: You're in an advantageous position where your career or status is concerned. Keep applying yourself. It's not time to sit on your laurels.

JULY 18TH: If you give in to your feelings, it's likely you'll overreach. Sidestep those whose morals are questionable. Keep discussions private, discreet.

JULY 19TH: This is a good day to use your psychological insights and visionary gifts

to tie up loose ends. "Off with the old, on with the new" is an approach to follow.

JULY 20TH: Be willing to take a chance. Be spontaneous. Doing so allows you to combine your personal agenda with that of adventurous friends.

JULY 21ST: Spending and other financial moves may have an unpredictable element to them. If something doesn't feel quite right, don't do it.

TANTRA TEMPLES

The followers of the tantra path attach more significance to certain Hindu temples. These are not only important for tantriks but also for people of the "bhakti" tradition. In some of these temples "bali" or ceremonial sacrifice of animals is carried out even today, while in others, like the Mahakaal temple of Ujjain, ashes of the dead are used in the "aarti" rituals; and tantrik sex attained inspiration from the ancient erotic carvings on the temples of Khajuraho. Here are some tantrik shrines, some of which are prominent "Shakti Peethas" or places of worship consecrated to the Goddess Shakti, the female half of Lord Shiva.

Kamakhya Temple, Assam

Kamakhya is at the center of the widely practiced, powerful tantrik cult in India. It is situated in the north-eastern state of Assam, atop the Nilachal Hill. It is one of the 108 Shakti Peethas of Goddess Durga. Legend has it that Kamakhya came into existence when Lord Shiva was carrying the corpse of his wife Sati, and her "yoni" (female genitalia) fell to the ground at the spot where the temple now stands. The temple is a natural cave with a spring. Down a flight of steps to the bowel of earth, is located a dark, mysterious chamber. Here, draped with a silk sari and covered with flowers, is kept the "matra yoni". At Kamakhya, tantrik Hinduism has been nurtured by generations of tantrik priests down the centuries.

Kalighat, West Bengal

Kalighat, in Calcutta (Kolkata), is an important pilgrimage for tantriks. It is said that when Sati's corpse was cut into pieces, one of her fingers fell at this spot. Many goats are sacrificed here before the Goddess Kali, and innumerable tantriks take their vows of self-discipline in this Kali temple. Bishnupur in Bankura district of West Bengal is another place from where they draw their tantrik powers. Intent on worshiping the Goddess Manasa, they make their way to Bishnupur for an annual snake worship festival held in August every year. Bishnupur is also an ancient and well-known cultural and crafts center.

Baitala Deula or Vaital Temple, Bhubaneswar

In Bhubaneswar, the 8th-century Baitala Deula (Vaital) temple has a reputation of being a powerful tantrik center. Inside the temple stands the mighty Chamunda (Kali), wearing a necklace of skulls with a corpse at her feet. Tantriks find the dimly lit interior of the temple an ideal place for absorbing age-old currents of power that emanate from this spot.

Ekling, Rajasthan

An unusual four-faced image of Lord Shiva carved from black marble can be seen at the Shiva temple of Eklingji near Udaipur in Rajasthan. Dating back to AD 734 or thereabouts, the temple complex draws a steady stream of tantrik worshippers almost throughout the year.

Balaji, Rajasthan

One of the most interesting and popular centers of tantrik rites is at Balaji, near Bharatpur off the Jaipur-Agra highway. It's the Mehandipur Balaji Temple in the Dausa district of Rajasthan. Exorcism is a way of life at Balaji, and people from far and near, who have been "possessed by spirits" flock to Balaji in large numbers. It requires nerves of steel to watch some of the



exorcism rituals that are practiced here. Often the wails and screams can be heard for miles around. Sometimes, 'patients' have to stay on for days on end to be exorcised. Visiting the temple at Balaji leaves one with an eerie feeling.

Jwalamukhi Temple, Himachal Pradesh

This spot is of particular significance to tantriks and attracts thousands of believers and skeptics year after year. Guarded and cared for by the fierce-looking followers of Gorakhnath — who is known to have been blessed with miraculous powers — the spot is no more than a small circle of about three feet in circumference. A short flight of stairs leads down to the grotto-like enclosure. Within this grotto are two small pools of

crystal-clear water, fed by natural underground springs. Three orange yellow jets of flame flare continuously, steadily, from the sides of the pool, barely inches above the surface of the water, which appears to be on the boil, bubbling away merrily. However, you will be amazed to discover that the apparently boiling water is in fact refreshingly cold. While people try to unravel the marvel of Gorakhnath, tantriks continue to draw upon the powers that are centered in the grotto in their quest for self-realization.

Bajjnath, Himachal Pradesh

Many tantriks journey on from Jwalamukhi to Bajjnath, nestling at the foot of the mighty Dhauladhars. Inside, the 'lingam' of Vaidyanath (Lord Shiva) has long been a symbol of veneration for the vast number of pilgrims who visit this ancient temple the year around. The temple priests claim a lineage as old as the temple. Tantriks and yogis admit that they travel to Bajjnath to seek some of the healing powers possessed by Lord Shiva, the Lord of Physicians. Incidentally, the water at Bajjnath is reputed to possess remarkable digestive properties and it is said that until the recent past, the rulers in Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh would drink only water obtained from Bajjnath.

Mahakaleswar Temple, Madhya Pradesh

The Mahakaleswar Temple is another famous tantrik center of Ujjain. A flight of steps leads down to the sanctum sanctorum that houses the Shiva lingam. Several impressive ceremonies are held here during the day. However, for tantriks, it is the first ceremony of the day that is of particular interest. Their attention is focused on the "bhasm aarti" or the ash ritual — the only one of its kind in the world. It is said that the ash with which the Shiva lingam is 'bathed' every morning must be that of a corpse that has been cremated the day before. If no cremation has taken place at Ujjain, then the ash must be obtained at all costs from the nearest cremation ground. However, the temple authorities assert that though it was once customary for the ash to belong to a 'fresh' corpse, the practice had long been discontinued. The belief goes that those who are fortunate to watch this ritual will never die a premature death.

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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."

U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta resigns amid questions about handling of Epstein case



"As I look forward, I do not think it is right and fair for this administration's labor department to have (Jeffrey) Epstein as the focus rather than the incredible economy we have today", Acosta said.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Embattled Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta announced he is resigning Friday, July 12 morning. Acosta made the announcement himself, accompanying the president out of the White House residence before the president's departure for a trip to Milwaukee, CBS News reported.

I look forward, I do not think it is right and fair for this administration's labor department to have (Jeffrey) Epstein as the focus rather than the incredible economy we have today."

Acosta had defended his handling of a decade-old plea deal with financier Jeffrey Epstein on sex crime charges when Acosta was the U.S. attorney in Florida's Southern District. Acosta faced renewed scrutiny over the case after Epstein was arrested on new federal sex trafficking charges in New York last week.

The president also defended Acosta's handling of the 2008 plea deal Acosta's office made with Epstein. Mr. Trump said people were initially happy with it, then changed their minds. Still, the president thought Acosta, in his press conference Wednesday, had ably defended the actions taken by federal prosecutors. The deal demanded Epstein register as a sex offender, pay restitution to the victims and serve 13 months in a county jail, though he was able to leave six days a week to work. Acosta will leave the administration in seven days.

President Trump Drops Demand for Citizenship Question from Census

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump has dropped his effort to include a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

Instead, Trump says he's ordering every federal department and agency to provide the Commerce Department with all records it requests pertaining to the number of citizens and noncitizens in the country.

Trump says he will sign an executive order to put this new plan into effect "immediately."

Trump's plan to include a citizenship question on the 2020 census was thwarted by a recent Supreme Court ruling on legal challenges to the effort.

AAPI Convention Concludes: Dr. Suresh Reddy Assumes Office as President of AAPI

CMEs, Women's Forum, CEO Forum, Obesity Awareness Walk, Entertainment, Mehfil, Research Contest, Spiritual & Political Discourses, Fashion Parade, Speech Contests, AAPI Has Got Talent, Networking, Fellowship, Honoring of Past Presidents & BOTs Were Highlights of the Convention



Dr. Suresh Reddy delivering his inaugural Presidential address in Atlanta, GA

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Dr. Suresh Reddy, a young and dynamic Neuro-Interventional Radiologist by profession, assumed charge as the 36th President of the President of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) for the year 2019-20, at the 37th annual convention in Atlanta, GA on July 6th, 2019.

"I promise to align all the energies to make AAPI an enormous force," Dr. Suresh Reddy declared immediately after assuming charge of the largest ethnic medical association in the country. As the curtains drew at the fabulous and world-famous Omni



New Executive Team under Dr. Reddy: Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, President-Elect of AAPI; Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Vice President; Dr. Vijay Kolli, Secretary; Dr. Raj Bhayani, Treasurer of AAPI



Passing of the Gavel from Dr. Naresh Parikh to Dr. Suresh Reddy

Atlanta at CNN Center and Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, the over 2,000 delegates from across the nation cheered and wished him well in his new

role, leading the dynamic and vibrant organization.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Pro-India Provisions in 2020 National Defense Authorization Act Passed by Senate

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Hindu American Foundation hailed the passage of the Senate Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last month, which included an amendment strengthening US-India relations.

Introduced by Senate India Caucus Co-Chair Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), with the support of Senate India Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), the amendment provides for increased US-India defense cooperation in the western Indian Ocean in the areas of humanitarian assistance, counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, maritime security, and other areas.

The Cornyn-Warner amendment to the NDAA was added to the 'managers package' put forth by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK), which was adopted by voice vote. The full Senate then passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 NDAA later that day.

"The Hindu American Foundation commends Sens. Cornyn and Warner for their hard work in advancing the US-India strategic partnership," stated HAF Managing Director Samir Kalra. "Elevating India to non-NATO status is vital, now more than ever, for the US, for India, and for the entire region," Kalra said.

Also last month, House India Caucus Co-Chair Brad Sherman (D-CA), along with Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Ami Bera (D-CA), Ted Yoho (R-FL), George Holding (R-NC), Ed Case (D-HI), and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), introduced an amendment to the House FY2020 NDAA

that would greatly enhance the US-India relationship.

"The Hindu American Foundation commends Sens. Cornyn and Warner for their hard work in advancing the US-India strategic partnership," stated HAF Managing Director Samir Kalra. "Elevating India to non-NATO status is vital, now more than ever, for the US, for India, and for the entire region," Kalra said.

"Whether we do that with free standing legislation or whether we do that with an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act matters, I think, very little. What matters is that we recognize the importance, in a tangible way, of the US-India alliance," Rep. Sherman said at the HAF Capitol Hill Reception on June 24th.

The House is expected to take up its version of the NDAA sometime in July before legislators adjourn for the month-long August recess on July 29.

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The Indian Panorama is a South-Asian English newspaper with print editions in New York City, the Tristate area and now also as the first English Asian Newspaper from Dallas, printed weekly every Friday.

contd from page 1

House Passes Bill to Remove...

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in a letter to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives expressed hope that some inadequacies of this legislation are addressed as the legislative process continues. "These quotas cause a significant amount of uncertainty for employers that hire highly-skilled, highly-educated immigrant workers that were born in India and China. Oftentimes, workers from these two countries wait for years, and in many cases, decades, to receive their green cards. During that period of time, these arbitrary caps on visa issuance hamstringing the ability of employers to promote their immigrant workers to new roles within their companies. This policy is neither fair nor wise; eliminating these caps would provide much needed relief for companies and their workers", it wrote.

The bill also establishes transition rules for employment-based visas from FY 2020-22 by reserving a percentage of EB-2 (workers with advanced degrees or exceptional ability), EB-3 (skilled and other workers) and EB-5 (investors) visas for individuals from other than the two countries that get the largest number of such visas. But the bill has to be passed by the Senate before it can be signed into law by the US president.

The Society for Human Resource Management, who has supported this initiative since 2011 and reiterated that support in a letter to congressional leaders in February, welcomed the move and strongly encouraged the Senate to consider and pass this legislation in the same bipartisan fashion.

"This bill is an important first step in addressing workplace immigration issues. However, much work remains to be done. SHRM, our 11,000-member advocacy team, and our remaining members and partners will continue to find ways to assist and work with Congress on taking important steps toward modernizing our workplace immigration system", they said in a statement.

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi hailed the House Passage of the Bipartisan Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, saying it not only keep families together but also help American companies retain top talent.



“As an original cosponsor, I’m glad to see that both parties came together to resoundingly pass the Fairness For High-Skilled Immigrants Act, legislation that will strengthen business development and economic expansion in America” said Congressman Krishnamoorthi. “By leveling the playing field for high-skilled applicants regardless of their country of birth, this legislation will keep families together while helping American companies retain top talent.”

Nationwide U.S Immigration...

The deportations will be "collateral," meaning "authorities might detain immigrants who happened to be on the scene, even though they were not targets of the raids." Also, ICE agents will be targeting at least 2,000 immigrants who have been ordered to be deported and will be carrying out this operation in at least 10 major cities.

Take collective action against...

as 'Safe Haven' for all illegal activities against India which are 'real and present danger.'

"In our own region, we have seen the mutation of Dawood Ibrahim's criminal syndicate into a terrorist network known as the D-Company. The D-Company's illegitimate economic activities may be little known outside our region, but for us, such activities as gold smuggling, counterfeit currency, as well as arms and drug trafficking from a safe haven that declines to acknowledge even his existence, are a real and present danger" he said.

"The success of collective action to denude ISIL is a pointer that the Council's focused attention can and does yield results. A similar degree of interest in addressing the threats posed by proscribed individuals, such as Dawood Ibrahim and his D-Company, as well as proscribed entities, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Toiba, listed as affiliates of Al-Qaeda, under the 1267 sanctions regime, will serve all of us well", he further added.

Ambassador Akbaruddin also strongly advocated for the need to sensitize the private and public enterprises involved in facilitating legitimate transboundary financial flows and harness their support, so that they do not fall prey to malevolent objectives, in the vein of Osama bin Laden's string of retail honey shops.

New Jersey Governor Phil...

Speaking to The Indian Panorama about the Governor's proposed visit, Mr. H. S. Panaser, a social activist and Global Marketing and Business Development Consultant recalled that it was in one of the meetings organized for the then "candidate" for Governor that Phil Murphy met during the election campaign a group of 100 plus Indians. The meeting had three generations of the community. Each and every one talked to Mr. and Mrs. Murphy. It seemed to be a family dinner. Mr. Panaser had spearheaded the event. A visit to India was the talk then. Mr. Frank Pallone was a big voice with Mr. Panaser at that event for the visit to make NJ and Indian States do direct trade.

It was early August 2018 when Mr. Panaser and the Commissioner of Health Dr. Shareef Elnahal interacted and initiated to make the Governor's visit to India a reality. This conversation between two healthcare professionals was very fruitful with NJ Choose and NJEDA. The selection of top professionals in the new administration was so open and people friendly could be vividly seen as all in administration working for bringing results.

This primed Mr. Jose Lozano, President and CEO Choose NJ, Chair, Global Indian Trade & Cultural Council (GITCC), the Commissioner of health and Mr. Tim Sullivan, CEO, NJEDA get together, along with EDA Office of International Trade and Investment Mr. Wesley S. Mathews. Now after one full year we see the initiation turning to reality.

Mr. Panaser gives credit to the Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, his deputy Shatrughna Sinha, and the Consul Trade and Commerce D.P. Mishra for making the event possible.

The goal is to create a dialogue with educational

institutions and possible open the door for collaborations, as well as build relationships with trade organizations and to make sure that we have a connection for both New Jersey and India to grow businesses and have an ecosystem for Indian businesses.

Mr. Wesley S. Mathews said that India's ties to the U.S. have been strong and remained unchanged, regardless of which party has been in the White House. But New Jersey has not had a similarly strong relationship at the state government level. "Now, every decently-sized city in America has an Indian community and a population," Mathews said, adding there are also now politicians of Indian descent.

"We are also now becoming a wealthier diaspora group that is the cement under the relationship. "And, while the relationship has relied largely on the people-to-people ties in the state, the governor is anxious to do more, Mathews said.

"We're planning a business attraction mission, (but) I hesitate to call it a business attraction mission, because no New Jersey governor in an official capacity has ever visited India," he said.

GITCC is planning the first US India Trade and cultural Council healthcare Summit 2019 later this year to give shape to the economic relationship. We believe that Gov. Murphy is very excited to get to India. He wants a robust trip, all around the country. We wish him all success

F.T.C. Approves about\$5 billion...

according to two people briefed on the vote, in what would be a landmark settlement that signals a newly aggressive stance by regulators toward the country's most powerful technology companies, says a New York Times report published on July 12.

The agency approved the settlement in a 3-to-2 vote along party lines, with the two Democrats voting against it, said the people, who would speak only the condition of anonymity.

The deal still needs final approval from the Justice Department, which rarely rejects settlements reached by the agency. If approved, it would be the biggest fine by far levied by the federal government against a technology company, easily eclipsing the \$22 million imposed on Google in 2012. The size of the penalty underscored the rising frustration among Washington officials with how Silicon Valley giants collect, store and use people's information.

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VICE PRESIDENT: Chitagam Saluja
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ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bidisha Roy
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The Indian Panorama
P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419,
Tel: 646-247-9458
Email: editor@theindianpanorama.com
DALLAS EDITION
P.O. BOX 121695, ARLINGTON, TX 76012
Lovlien Kaurr, VP & Bureau Chief

Bureau Chief Phone: 972-330-3139
E-mail tipdallas01@gmail.com; Phone: 646-247-9458
www.theindianpanorama.news
Published by Prof. Indrajit Saluja

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BEST HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

Honeymoon is a much-awaited vacation for the newlyweds that the lovebirds have been dreaming about. But the typical honeymoon destinations in India are generally crowded and may not be a good option for those who are looking for a solemn serenity.

Coorg

Coorg is one of the top names in the list of offbeat honeymoon destinations in India. This hilly retreat, located near Bangalore, is known for aromatic coffee estates, spice plantations, sizzling waterfalls, and enchanting hills.

For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Stroll through the fragrant coffee plantations, sail in coracle in Cauvery River, trek up to Abbey Falls, or star gaze while camping overnight in coffee estates

DON'T MISS: Nagarhole National Park, Dubare Elephant Park, and Namdroling Monastery

Hampi

Rejuvenate in your new life by reliving the past glories and visiting this vibrant historical town of Karnataka. Hampi, located by the banks of Tungabhadra, is a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. The rocky beauty is a mesmerizing place to rejoice love and bliss. For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Explore the remnants of Vijayanagara Kingdom hand-in-hand and rejoice the spell-binding artwork & sculptures of more than 500 architectural splendors

DON'T MISS: Monkey Temple, Archeological Museum, Vijaya Vittala Temple, Royal Enclosure, Virupaksha Temple, Queen's Bath, and Riverside Ruins

Lakshadweep

If it is solemn happiness and some intimate time amid breath-taking scenic splendor that the couples are looking for, Lakshadweep is the place to be. Surrounded by quaint islands, sun-kissed beaches, and crystal clear lagoons, this picture-perfect island group is an abode of sheer romance. The tropical climate is so suitable throughout the year. But October to February is ideal for a honeymoon.

For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Laze on the sparkling sandy beaches, take a romantic stroll, and sunbathe on the pristine beaches of Kalpeni, Kavaratti, and Minicoy islands.

DON'T MISS: Snorkeling at Agatti Island, scuba diving at Bangaram Island, and fishing at Kadmat Island

North Kerala: Wayanad, Bekal, and Silent Valley

Kerala is quite a popular as a honeymoon place, but not every part of this charming state is crowded with tourists and honeymoon couples. Northern Kerala, particularly Wayanad, Bekal, & Silent Valley, is an emerging name as a honeymoon destination in India for those in search of privacy & peace. Wayanad is a picturesque destination surrounded by lofty Western Ghats, pristine valleys, lush forests, and sparkling lake. And there are numerous tourist places in Wayanad to cover on your honeymoon.

Bekal boasts of its vintage fort, charming shoreline, and super amazing weather.

Silent valley is another enchanting but extremely unconventional honeymoon destination. Located within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, it is known for lush biodiversity, serenity, and wonderful



scenic splendors.

For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Stroll along the Silent Valley with your beloved, rejoice the splendid sunset from Bekal Fort, go for kayaking in Nombili River & rejuvenating couples' spa at Rejuve, and take a spice plantation tour in Wayanad

DON'T MISS

Wayanad: Thusharagiri Waterfalls, Thirunelli Temple, Banasura Hill, Lakkidi View Point, Kabini, Papanashini River, and Padinjarathara Dam

Bekal: Kappil Beach, Fort Beach, and Valiyaparamba Backwaters

Silent Valley: Expansive forests

Anamalai Trail: Topslip, Parambikulam, and Valparai

Topslip, Valparai, and Parambikulam are another set of unique and offbeat honeymoon destinations in India for the jungle loving couples.

Snuggled at the Anamalai Hills, Topslip is a refreshing and lush green wildlife sanctuary. Located by the Anamalai Mountain Range, Valparai is characterised by lush & expansive forests, majestic valleys, and sizzling lakes. This divine stretch of land is adjacent to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve that boasts of its tranquillity, richness and magic.

For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Relax & rejoice in these natural wonders, spend some quality time, and ooze out romance in the serene & heavenly backdrops

DON'T MISS: Wildlife safari and animal spotting

FOR A ROMANTIC STAY: We recommend you to stay in Coimbatore and make day trips to these national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Kodaikanal

Kodaikanal is known for its charming & cozy surroundings of oak & pine forests and romantic weather. Perched in the upper slopes of Palni Hills, this is a wonderful paradise for the newly married lovebirds.

For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Go for a fun-filled boating in the star-shaped Kodai Lake, trek upto the Pillar Rock, or spend some lovely time bathing in the Silver Cascade Falls

DON'T MISS: Lush green meadows, fruit orchards, and luxuriant Eucalyptus forests

Khajuraho

Khajuraho is amongst the most famous historical places in India. However, it is yet to be explored as a honeymoon destination. The sculptures & artwork depicting romance & sensuality and the numerous statuettes reflecting love & beauty will make the new love bloom in full vigour.

For that ultimate romantic honeymoon: Hold hands and roam around these sculptures & temples to feel the romantic aura of the destination.

DON'T MISS: The Sound and Light Show depicting the story of the Chandela dynasty.

New champion awaits as England book final date with New Zealand



England entered the final of the World Cup after registering an eight-wicket victory over Australia in the second semifinal in Birmingham on Thursday



England's Chris Woakes (R) exults after dismissing Australia's David Warner in Birmingham on Thursday.

BIRMINGHAM (TIP): Hosts and top contenders England stormed into their first World Cup final in 27 years after an eight-wicket thumping of their Ashes rival and defending champions Australia in the second ICC Cricket World Cup semifinal in Birmingham on Thursday.

At the Home of Cricket, Lord's, in London on Sunday, England will face New Zealand for the title. Whoever wins, a first-time world champion will emerge on Sunday.

While it is England's fourth entry into a World Cup final, New Zealand have entered the title round for the second successive time after ending second best to Australia in 2015.

Chasing down a paltry target of 224 after bundling out the holders for 223, England raced home losing just two wickets.

On the face of it, England look favourites to win the Cup. Following back-to-back setbacks in the league phase to Sri Lanka and Australia, England have bounced back, beating top sides on the trot: India by 31 runs, New Zealand by 119 and Australia by eight wickets.

Back from injury, Jason Roy's presence has given fellow opener Jonny Bairstow the freedom to play his shots. Also working in England's favour is the form their bowlers led by Jofra Archer, who is their leading wicket-taker with 19 scalps, are in.

That said, New Zealand cannot be taken lightly. They have just beaten hot favourites India in the first semi-final. While their bowling – swing and pace – matches man to man with the Englishmen, it is the batting that they fall behind on.

Martin Guptill can't seem to find form. They are heavily reliant on captain Kane Williamson and senior batsman Ross Taylor to post runs. That they keep doing match after match is credit to their consistency. But, like it happened with India, the law of averages may catch up with them.

What's your bet for Super Sunday?

After World Cup exit, it's time for middle-order overhaul; could be end of road for Kedar, Karthik

LONDON (TIP): A complete revamp of the brittle Indian middle-order is expected with stop-gap solutions like Dinesh Karthik and Kedar Jadhav gone for good in the upcoming Indian squads as focus will firmly shift from ODIs to the shortest format, keeping next year's World T20 in mind.

The policy from the time when Mahendra Singh Dhoni took over as captain has been to prepare teams at least two years in advance for ODIs and may be around 18 months for T20s.

India's next big limited-overs assignment will be the World T20 in Australia next year and it will be happening after a gap of four years.

The selection committee, led by MSK Prasad, will be in charge till the BCCI elections are held but it is expected that it will handle the transition phase with focus for the next 14 months being more on the shortest format.

A fragile middle-order with over-the-hill players like Jadhav and Karthik, completely ill-equipped to handle pressure situations outside the sub-continental conditions, has been the current team's biggest weakness and the World Cup semi-final result was a disaster waiting to happen.

It was only human that the troika of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul would have an off day in unison and too bad, that it happened on a knock-out day.

The Indian ODI team's nucleus was formed just after their defeat in the 2017 Champions Trophy final to Pakistan with two wrist spinners being match winners as the core philosophy of coach Ravi Shastri and Kohli.

It gave India tremendous success in bilaterals even though Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal didn't exactly set the World Cup on fire with their performances.

It was not that World Cup was the only event where India didn't have a Plan B. They have not had a Plan B in place for two years. It didn't matter till Kohli and Rohit would notch up one hundred after other.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's waning abilities at the death could be papered over despite the absence of a solid middle-order due to Hardik Pandya's consistent at No.7 final assaults.

Players like Manish Pandey and Shreyas Iyer were dumped from the World Cup scheme of things without being given a proper run which could have boosted their confidence.

Young Shubman Gill, touted as one of the biggest batting



Virat Kohli tosses his bat in frustration after being declared LBW in the first semi-final against New Zealand.

hopes of the next decade and half, was given a game in New Zealand and set aside.

However, the World Cup has been a lesson that players like Karthik or Jadhav may have an odd Nidahas night or a rampaging evening in Pune but that would be more of an exception than the rule.

Karthik of 2019 didn't have the game for English conditions and was persisted with on the basis of his wicket-keeping skills, while Jadhav, despite lack of explosive power-hitting abilities at the death, was heavily invested upon even after factoring in his dodgy hamstrings.

For Dhoni's game to succeed, one needs players like Jadeja and Pandya at the other end, who are much more than "bits and pieces". But the team management certainly got it wrong as they tried to make specialists out of real "bits and pieces" players such as Kedar and Karthik.

It didn't help that the five-member selection committee, with a cumulative experience of less than 20 Tests, couldn't always assert what it would have ideally wanted as it's the captain who needs to be comfortable with the selected players. However, with the World T20 approaching and Kohli making it clear that some introspection will be done, significant revamp is expected even though the nucleus is expected to be intact.

Source: PTI

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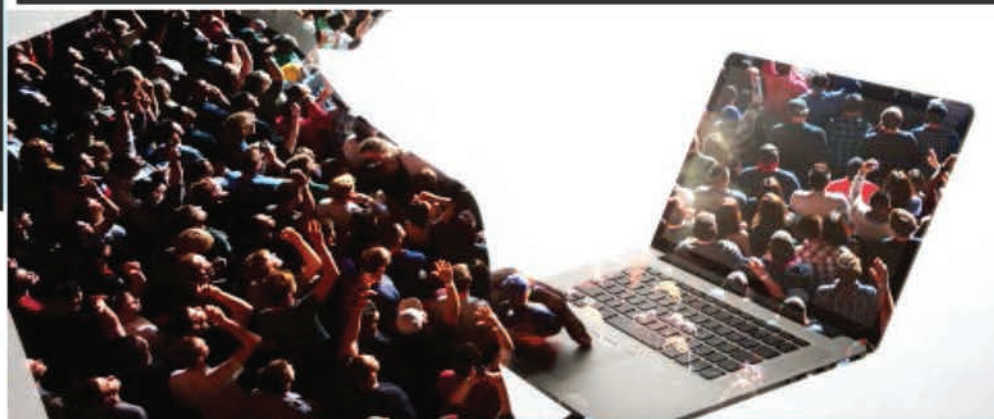
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