

Indian Envoy Advocates for Nurturing H-1B Visa as Mutually Beneficial Partnership



Ambassador Shringla congratulated NASSCOM for the reports and emphasized the contribution of Indian IT companies to the US economy. Photo / Courtesy Indian Embassy, Washington

WASHINGTON (TIP): Pointing out that Indian IT industry has been an important stakeholder in promoting and supporting stronger bilateral business relations between the US and India, India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that programs such as the H-1B visa should be nurtured as a mutually beneficial partnership.

During the Roundtable on 'America's Highly Skilled Workforce, the Talent Pipeline and H-1B Visas' hosted by the Wilson Center in Partnership with NASSCOM on July 23, Ambassador Shringla congratulated NASSCOM for the reports and emphasized the contribution of Indian IT companies to the US economy. "The Indian IT industry has been an important stakeholder in promoting and

contd on Page 20

India Creates History with successful Launch of Chandrayaan-2: 4th Country Ever to attempt to Soft Land on Lunar Surface

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): On July 22 India created history when India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1, successfully launched the 3840 kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into an earth orbit. Launch of Chandrayaan-2 was originally scheduled for 14 July 2019 at 21:21 UTC (15 July 2019 2:51 IST) but was called off due to a technical snag noticed while filling the cryogenic engine of the rocket with helium. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the mission was launched from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre on 22 July 2019 at 2.43 PM IST (09:13 UTC) to the Moon.

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Developed by ISRO, the mission was launched from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre on 22 July 2019. Picture / courtesy ISRO

President Trump's Shocker for India: PM Modi asked him to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve Kashmir issue; A furious India stoutly denies



U.S. President Donald J. Trump shakes hands with Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan at the start of their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on July 22, 2019

Photo / Courtesy Reuters

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Donald Trump left India shell-shocked by turning the decades-long U.S. non-interference policy on its head when he offered to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the long-simmering Kashmir dispute.

contd on Page 20

"It is essential that the pressure is kept on to defeat the terror groups and support the host nations": General Petraeus



General (Ret) David Howell Petraeus (Left), former Director of CIA, during a conversation with Vikram J. Singh, Sr. Advisor on Asia at US Institute of Peace at the Consulate General of India in New York, July 23. Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment

NEW YORK (TIP): A day after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan claimed his country's spy agency ISI provided information that helped the US track down and kill Osama bin Laden, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) General David Petraeus said he is "convinced" that the Pakistani intelligence did

contd on Page 2

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Indian Origin Hindu Priest brutally attacked; Incident widely condemned

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian diplomats, US lawmakers and Community leaders in one voice condemned the brutal attack on a Hindu priest in New York City's Borough of Queens in open daylight.

According to available reports, around 11 a.m. Thursday, July 18, near the Shiv Shakti Peeth in Glen Oaks in Queens, while Swami Harish Chander Puri was

walking down the street in his religious attire, a man came up from behind and started hitting him, repeatedly.

The priest suffered bruises and abrasions all over his body, including his face during the attack. 52-year-old Sergio Gouveia, who reportedly screamed "this is my neighborhood" during the assault, was arrested by police in connection with the

attack. He's being charged with assault, harassment and criminal possession of a weapon.

contd on Page 2

India's Consul General in New York Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty met Swami Harish Chander Puri on July 21 to know details of assault and inquire after his health

Image / courtesy Twitter



contd from page 1

INDIAN ORIGIN HINDU PRIEST BRUTALLY ATTACKED; INCIDENT WIDELY CONDEMNED

"Swami Ji Harish Chander Puri spent this weekend recovering from a brutal, despicable act of hate. Our city is praying for him. But he says he's praying for his attacker", tweeted NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio.

"Glad that Hindu priest Swami Ji Harish Chander Puri is now recovering at home & that @NYPDnews has arrested the man who allegedly attacked him. We cannot & will not stand for this violence in our city. We all stand with our Hindu neighbors", said U.S. Rep. Carolyn B Maloney.

"I am disgusted over the violent attack on a Hindu priest in our borough. This type of brutal act is un-American and the person who committed this heinous crime is a coward. People from across the globe call Queens home and we are proud to embrace this rich diversity that exists in our communities and neighborhoods. I commend the NYPD for making a swift arrest in this case and I'm confident that justice will be served. I stand with the Hindu community and wish the victim a full recovery", said U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens).

"I will continue to stand in solidarity with the Hindu community in my district and across America. May god grant Swami Ji strength, so he may fully recover," Tom Suozzi, representing New York's 3rd Congressional District including parts of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties, said on Twitter.

Meanwhile India's Consul General in New York Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty met Swami Harish Chander Puri on July 21. "Met with Swamiji of Shiv Shakti Peeth who was attacked by a miscreant. He is at home, recovering well and resumed his spiritual duties. Thanks to the Police for quick arrest of the assailant. Many thanks to @RepGraceMeng & @RepTomSuozzi & the Indian Community for their support," Ambassador Chakravorty tweeted. The Hindu American Foundation urged police to investigate the attack as a hate crime. "Such an attack - occurring as it did in the borough of Queens, perhaps the most ethnically diverse place in the entire world - is particularly senseless and tragic. We're pleased that Swamiji is recovering from his injuries. We're also pleased that Representatives Tom Suozzi, Grace Meng, and Carolyn Maloney have offered their support to the local Hindu community. In addition, we praise the office of Mayor Bill de Blasio for its quick response, sending community liaison officer Rohan Narine to the mandir. HAF urges police to investigate the attack as a hate crime, and if it is determined that bias was indeed the motivation for the appropriate charges added to those of assault, harassment, and weapons possession that Gouveia already faces", HAF Director of Communications Mat McDermott, based in New York, said in a statement.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams condemning the assault on the Hindu Priest in Glen Oaks, NY, said in a statement sent to The Indian Panorama :- "This vicious, reprehensible assault was evil, plain and simple. If the reports indicating that the suspect viciously beat a Hindu priest for walking in his neighborhood in Glen Oaks, Queens, that is the textbook definition of a hate crime, and the perpetrator should be charged as such. We cherish our Hindu community, and while all violence must be condemned, it is particularly galling to see a man of faith beaten within an inch of his life for looking different.

"I spoke with Swami Ji Harish Chander Puri on Sunday over the phone and reiterated that we will always stand united against hate and will not tolerate attacks on our fellow New Yorkers. I was struck by his resiliency in the face of a horrific attack, and his willingness to forgive his assailant after all he had been through was truly awe-inspiring. We should all be inspired by his example and determination to move forward, and we should recommit ourselves to stopping the resurgence of hate in our city and beyond".

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE...

not know the Al-Qaeda chief was in Pakistan, even as he asserted that terror groups such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and other "internal extremists" are the real "existential threat" for Pakistan and are a "very



General (Ret) David Howell Petraeus (Left), former Director of CIA and Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, India's Consul General in New York at the Consulate General of India in New York
Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment



A view of the audience

Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment

diabolically difficult problem to deal with".

"The challenge for Pakistan, of course, is that the existential threat is not the country to its east, it is not India. It is the internal extremists. It is a very diabolically difficult problem to deal with," Petraeus said Tuesday during an interactive session at the Indian Consulate, following his address on the topic of the Indo-Pacific. Petraeus, a partner in the international investment firm KKR and Chairman of the KKR Global Institute, was the special guest for the 'New India Lecture' series organized by the Consulate General of India, New York in partnership with the US India Strategic Partnership Forum.

Responding to a question on US-Pakistan relationship, Petraeus said he has experienced the bilateral ties "on a very first hand basis" as the Commander of the US Central Command around the year 2009 and there have been some "positive" as well as "disappointing and frustrating periods" in ties between Washington and Islamabad.

He added that the US has always provided "enormous" support to Pakistan, recalling that he and former special adviser on Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke went to the US Congress and got 7.5 billion dollars for economic assistance for Pakistan over a five year period, which was in addition to the two billion dollars already extended in various categories of defense assistance and counter-terrorism support. "At the end of the day, of course there was a degree of disappointment," he said.

On a question from Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, editor of The Indian Panorama, about slain Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden living in Pakistan before he was killed, Petraeus asserted the US is convinced that the Pakistani intelligence was not aware that the terrorist leader was hiding in their country.

"We are quite convinced that the ISI, Pakistani intelligence, no one else knew that he (bin Laden) was there (in Pakistan). They were not harboring him or hiding him or anything like that. We have very good insights on that. We probably differ with those who said that the Pakistanis were allowing him to live in that particular compound" in Abbottabad.

Petraeus's assertion runs counter to claims made by Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan that Pakistan's powerful spy agency ISI provided information to the CIA which helped the US track down and kill the al-Qaeda chief. Khan's comments are a significant revelation as Islamabad had so far denied having any knowledge of the terror chief until he was shot dead in 2011. Khan, who is visiting Washington on his maiden official trip, revealed

this during an interview with Fox News when he was asked whether his country would release jailed Pakistani surgeon Shakeel Afridi who helped the CIA track down Osama. The Al Qaeda leader was killed in a covert raid by a US Navy SEAL team in Abbottabad, a garrison town north of Islamabad, on May 2, 2011.

"It was ISI that gave the information which led to the location of Osama bin Laden. If you ask CIA it was ISI which gave the initial location through the phone connection," Khan has said.

Petraeus said that during counter-insurgency campaigns, Pakistani authorities could never close in on North Waziristan where terror outfits such as the Haqqani network, Al Qaeda and others had their headquarters and some of their forces. He added that the US learnt later on that bin Laden was not in that area but near the Pakistan Military Academy in Abbottabad. "I figured out later that I had probably flown right over his compound in a

helicopter as I went to address the cadets at the military academy one time," he said referring to the Pakistan Military Academy.

Petraeus said he hopes Khan will be able to deal with the challenges of his country, where the economy is "very distorted" and where the "realities of the situation are really quite difficult."

On Afghanistan, the veteran and decorated US military officer said while the Afghans are fighting and dying for their country, "sadly the momentum of recent years has been against Afghanistan rather than for it. It's why I have some reservations about the prospects for a peace agreement that we would all support. What adds to my concern is the fact that the Taliban has not even been willing to allow the democratically elected government of Afghanistan to sit at the same negotiating table with them."

He however expressed hope that President Donald Trump's special adviser to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad "can produce magic here and can produce an agreement that would allow us to draw down further; still achieve our objectives and ensure that our Afghan partners are taken care of as well. "But yet I think it is a very challenging situation," he said recalling that the US was not able to get a negotiated agreement at a time when he commanded 150,000 coalition forces and "when we had the momentum on the battlefield... so it is a little difficult to see why the Taliban would agree to much more than our departure."

Petraeus also highlighted that what is more challenging is that the Taliban is just one group of many insurgent and extremist elements operating on Afghan soil. "You also have the Haqqani group. I am not at all confident that they are reconcilable, if some of the elements of the Taliban are. By the way, not all of them would necessarily agree to a peace agreement." He added that among the other groups operating in the region are the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, remnants of Al Qaeda, Islamic State. "And you even have the other Taliban - the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, the Pakistani Taliban which along with some other groups, I want to contend is the true existential threat to Pakistan, not Pakistan's neighbor to the east," again a reference to India.

Further, the challenge has always been putting pressure on an enemy whose senior leaders are "beyond our reach in sanctuaries either in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas or in Balochistan."

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Priti, Alok, Rishi included in New British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Cabinet



Johnson named Priti Patel as Home Secretary, Alok Sharma as the International Development Secretary and Rishi Sunak as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

LONDON / NEW YORK (TIP): New British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed three Indian-origin leaders in his top ministerial team.

Johnson named Priti Patel as Home Secretary, Alok Sharma as the International Development Secretary and Rishi Sunak as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Priti Patel, a fiery Brexiteer who was among the most vocal critics of Theresa May's Brexit strategy, had been a prominent member of the "Back Boris" campaign for the Conservative Party leadership. She was first elected as a Conservative MP for Witham in Essex in 2010 and gained prominence in the then David Cameron led Tory government as his Indian Diaspora Champion. Priti was Secretary of State for International Development from July 2016 to November 2017. Priti served as Minister of State for

Employment from May 2015 until July 2016. She was Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury from July 2014 to May 2015. In November 2013, the Prime Minister appointed Priti as the first ever UK Indian Diaspora Champion. Before becoming an MP, she worked in consultancy and worked internationally.

Rishi Sunak is the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy. The 38-year-old Conservative party MP for Richmond (Yorkshire) is a pro-Brexit campaigner who has now replaced Liz Truss as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The Oxford University and Stanford MBA graduate co-founded a £1 billion global investment firm and specialized in investing in small British businesses before his entry to the British Parliament in the 2015 general election. Rishi was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities

and Local Government from 9 January 2018 to 24 July.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma was Minister of State for Employment at the Department of Work and Pensions from 9 January 2018 until 24 July 2019. He was Minister of State for Housing and Planning, for the Department for Communities and Local Government from 13 June 2017 to 9 January 2018. Alok was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 17 July 2016 to 13 June 2017. He has served as a member of the Commons Treasury select committee, a member of the Commons Science and Technology select committee, a Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Treasury and from 2012 to 2015 as a Conservative Party Vice Chairman. Alok was appointed in 2016 as the Prime Minister's Infrastructure Envoy to India.

India-born Republican Harmeet Dhillon named co-chair of "Women for Trump 2020" campaign coalition



The Chandigarh-born Republican activist and leading campaign ethics lawyer is among seven women named as co-chairs of the newly formed Women for Trump Coalition

WASHINGTON (TIP): California lawyer Harmeet Dhillon has been named a co-chair of the "Women for Trump 2020" campaign coalition.

The Chandigarh-born Republican activist and leading campaign ethics lawyer is among seven women named as co-chairs of the newly formed Women for Trump Coalition that will work on courting female voters in supporting the second term reelection of President Trump. Lara Trump, President Trump's daughter-in-law and one of the key leaders of the campaign, announced the coalition.

"It's an honor to serve as a Co-Chair of the #trump2020 Women's Advisory Board with many friends including #RealDrGina, #deneenborelli and so many more. #MAGA2020." Dhillon tweeted.

As RNC National Committeewoman from California, Dhillon is one of the Golden State's three associates of the Republican Nationwide Committee.

Indian Origin Professor Wins Royal Society Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Science



Varinder is the winner of many awards, including the Corday-Morgan and Organic Stereochemistry awards of the Royal Society of Chemistry

LONDON/ NEW YORK (TIP): Professor Varinder Aggarwal, a Professor of Synthetic Chemistry at the School of Chemistry at the University of Bristol, has been named Davy Medal winner by Royal Society of UK 'For his ground-breaking methods coupling boronic esters creating 3-D architectures with full control over shape and functionality with broad ranging applications across the sciences.'

"The Royal Society gives an array of medals and awards to scientists who have done exceptional, ground-breaking work. This year, it is again a pleasure to see these awards bestowed on scientists who have made such distinguished and far-reaching contributions in their fields.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Rita Baranwal Sworn in as U.S. Department of Energy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry on July 11 officially swore in Dr. Rita Baranwal as the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. Dr. Baranwal, whom the U.S. Senate first confirmed on June 20, becomes the first woman to lead the Office of Nuclear Energy. In her new role, Dr. Baranwal will lead the office's efforts to promote



Dr. Baranwal, whom the U.S. Senate first confirmed on June 20, becomes the first woman to lead the Office of Nuclear Energy

research and development on existing and advanced nuclear technologies, maintain the existing fleet of nuclear reactors, and promote the development of a robust pipeline of advanced reactor designs and supply chain capabilities.

"It is an honor to be part of an organization that is leading the U.S. in game-changing, innovative nuclear technologies," said Dr. Baranwal. "Advanced reactors are smaller, cleaner, and more efficient, and will equip the U.S. nuclear energy industry to lead the world in deployment, supplying urgently needed clean energy both domestically and globally."

Dr. Baranwal has directed the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative at Idaho National Laboratory since 2016. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiative connects industry with national laboratories to help commercialize nuclear technologies. Under her leadership, GAIN positively impacted 112 projects and companies.

Prior to joining DOE, Dr. Baranwal worked for Westinghouse in the nuclear fuel division, leading a number of research and development programs. She started her career at Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory helping to develop advanced nuclear fuel materials for U.S. naval reactors.

Dr. Baranwal has a bachelor's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in materials science and engineering and a master's degree and PH.D. in the same discipline from the University of Michigan.

Source - U.S. Department of Energy

Indian American Owensboro Man Pleads Guilty to Health Care Fraud Conspiracy

LEXINGTON, KY (TIP): On July 15, an Owensboro man of Indian origin admitted in federal court that he participated in a conspiracy to defraud health insurance programs of more than \$1.3 million.

Dinesh Goyal, 60, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, before United States District Judge Joseph Hood. Goyal owned a toxicology laboratory in Owensboro, Kentucky called Tristate Medical Laboratory ("Tristate"). His co-conspirators, Mason Routt and Sam Ford, owned or were affiliated with a Nicholasville, Kentucky toxicology lab known as C.A.L. Laboratory Services ("CAL"). Among other things, CAL provided urine drug testing services for physician clients. Beginning in late 2015, health care organizations who administer the Kentucky Medicaid program placed payment restrictions on CAL's claims seeking reimbursement for urine drug tests, due to concerns about the legitimacy of those claims.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news



Handling Iranian challenge top priority, says new US Defence Secretary

WASHINGTON (TIP): Effectively addressing the challenge posed by Iran and ensuring freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz are some of the top priorities identified by new US Defence Secretary Mark Esper.

"One is maintaining freedom of navigation in the Strait—of course, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman—and then, secondly, is deterring provocative actions from Iran," Esper told reporters at the Pentagon on his first working day as Defence Secretary.

Esper was confirmed by the United States Senate on Tuesday and sworn-in as the Pentagon chief by President Donald Trump later in the evening. He replaces Gen. (ret) Jim Mattis, who resigned last year. The post had been lying vacant for last seven months.

A former executive from Raytheon, Esper (55) is travelling to the CENTCOM headquarters in Florida next week. The US, he said would be coordinating with the Europeans in the region.

"It's all sending the same messages we are trying to send. That is freedom of navigation and no provocative acts in the Strait, and we have seen provocative acts obviously in the last, what, week or two since the first shoot down of our drone," he said in response to a question. Most countries transiting through the Strait, he observed, should have an interest in freedom of navigation and should want to participate and provide some type of forces to ensure navigation of the Strait, freedom of the seas and to deter provocative behaviour.

"You plan to escort ships. Is that what you envision this being?" Esper was asked.

"You see it happening already. The Brits are trying to escort their ships, we will escort our ships to the degree that the risk demands it, right? And I assume that other countries will escort their ships," he said.

Esper added that the US will maintain constant surveillance in the Gulf, both by air and by sea.

"I am just saying that this is one of the things I want to go see in CENTCOM next week to understand their concept of the operations. Again, to the degree, of course, US vessels need an escort, we will be there, we will be available to them," Esper said. PTI

Library of Congress to Expand Popular Literary Event to Year long Series Known as National Book Festival Presents

Fall Lineup to Include Neil Patrick Harris, Joy Harjo, Edwidge Danticat, Dav Pilkey, Malcolm Gladwell and André Aciman

WASHINGTON (TIP): Neil Patrick Harris, Edwidge Danticat and Joy Harjo will be the first three authors featured in the new series National Book Festival Presents at the Library in September. Photos by Mark Veltman, Mark Dellas and Shawn Miller, respectively.

The Library of Congress National Book Festival will expand to include a yearlong series of events - to be known as National Book Festival Presents - featuring high-caliber authors, their books and related Library treasures beginning this fall, following the signature daylong festival on Aug. 31, the Library announced today.

Neil Patrick Harris, an accomplished actor, producer, television host, author and magician, will kick off the new series at the Library on Sept. 11 with his new book, "The Magic Misfits," a bestselling series that is his debut for middle school children.

National Book Festival Presents



Neil Patrick Harris, Edwidge Danticat, Joy Harjo

author events will be free to the public, though registration will be required. Subscribe here for email updates on ticketing and book sales, which will be announced in August. More information will be available at loc.gov.

Authors will be featured in conversation during special evening programs at the Library. Some children's events may also be held on Saturdays in the future.

Read more at www.theindianpanorama.news

New Rulemaking Brings Significant Changes to EB-5 Program

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a final rule on July 24 that makes a number of significant changes to its EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, marking the first significant revision of the program's regulations since 1993. The final rule will become effective on Nov. 21, 2019.

New developments under the final rule include:

- Raising the minimum investment amounts;
- Revising the standards for certain targeted employment area (TEA) designations;
- Giving the agency responsibility for directly managing TEA designations;
- Clarifying USCIS procedures for the removal of conditions on permanent residence; and
- Allowing EB-5 petitioners to retain their priority date under certain circumstances.

Under the EB-5 program, individuals are eligible to apply for conditional lawful permanent residence in the United States if they make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States and create or, in certain circumstances, preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers.

"Nearly 30 years ago, Congress created the EB-5 program to benefit U.S. workers, boost the economy, and aid distressed communities by providing an incentive for foreign capital investment in the United



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

States," said USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli. "Since its inception, the EB-5 program has drifted away from Congress's intent. Our reforms increase the investment level to account for inflation over the past three decades and substantially restrict the possibility of gerrymandering to ensure that the reduced investment amount is reserved for rural and high-unemployment areas most in need. This final rule strengthens the EB-5 program by returning it to its Congressional intent."

Major changes to EB-5 in the final rule include:

- Raising minimum investment amounts: As of the effective date of the final rule, the standard minimum investment level will increase from \$1 million to \$1.8 million, the first increase since 1990, to account for inflation. The rule also keeps the 50% minimum investment differential

between a TEA and a non-TEA, thereby increasing the minimum investment amount in a TEA from \$500,000 to \$900,000. The final rule also provides that the minimum investment amounts will automatically adjust for inflation every five years.

- TEA designation reforms: The final rule outlines changes to the EB-5 program to address gerrymandering of high-unemployment areas (which means deliberately manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency). Gerrymandering of such areas was typically accomplished by combining a series of census tracts to link a prosperous project location to a distressed community to obtain the qualifying average unemployment rate. As of the effective date of the final rule, DHS will eliminate a state's ability to designate certain geographic and political subdivisions as high-unemployment areas; instead, DHS would make such designations directly based on revised requirements in the regulation limiting the composition of census tract-based TEAs. These revisions will help ensure TEA designations are done fairly and consistently, and more closely adhere to congressional intent to direct investment to areas most in need.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Salvation Army Presents Lifetime Service Award to Sikh Religious Society, Palatine and "Making The Difference" Award to Sarwan Singh

PALATINE, IL (TIP): Sikh Religious Society, Palatine, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago was honored by Salvation Army with a "Lifetime Service Award" on Sunday July 14, 2019. Sarwan Singh Raju was also honored with "Making the Difference Award" by the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army International is a major Christian missionary organization serving worldwide for more than 150 years in more than 130 countries, working towards social justice, helping the elderly, homeless young people and more.

Sarwan Singh has been mobilizing Sikh community of greater Chicago area for over two decades to participate in the events organized by Salvation Army for feeding the poor on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day celebrations.

Major Nancy Powers of The Salvation Army, Chicago visited the Sikh Religious Society (SRS) Gurdwara in Palatine, Illinois on July 14, 2019, and presented plaques of honor to SRS and to Sarwan Singh for coordinating the Sikh Community in donating and serving food to the needy families on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day celebration events at Salvation Army in Chicago since 1992.

Sarwan Singh and Hardial Singh Deol have spearheaded these activities continuing the tradition of "Langar"



Major Nancy Power of Salvation Army Chicago presenting Making the Difference Award to Sarwan Singh at Sikh Religious Society Palatine
Photo / Asian Media USA



Major Nancy Power of Salvation Army Chicago with Sikh Religious Society members at Awards Ceremony at Palatine Illinois Gurdwara
Photo / Asian Media USA

started by Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikh faith.

Read more at www.theindianpanorama.news

Ground-breaking of \$1.2 million Columbus Ganesh Temple in Indiana on August 3

COLUMBUS, INDIANA (TIP); Ground-breaking ceremony of 8,000 square feet Sri Ganesh Mandir in Columbus, Indiana; complete with ancient Hindu rituals conducted by seven priests; will be held on August 3.



This upcoming Hindu Temple on a two-acre plot is planned to accommodate about 700 devotees on Hindu festivals and other special celebrations/ceremonies. It will include sanctuary with murtis of deities, a stage and open area for special events/performance, kitchen, etc.; and is proposed to be complete by next spring; reports suggest.

Besides a worship center, it will also reportedly function as Hindu community center catering to the recreational and social needs of the community. It will also host classes for India's classical music, dance, languages, etc.; and undertake various charitable activities.

All are welcome to attend the six-hour long ground-breaking ceremonies; which will include Bhumi Puja, Maha Ganapathi Homa Yagnam, Havan, Arati; ending with free prasad lunch.

Meanwhile, distinguished Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada, commended efforts of the temple leaders and area community towards realizing this temple complex.

Rajan Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, further said that it was important to pass on Hindu spirituality, concepts and traditions to coming generations amidst so many distractions in the consumerist society and hoped that this temple would help in this direction.

Existing Hindu Society of Southern Indiana (HSSI) temple in Columbus, inaugurated in 2015, opens daily; and besides worship services also conducts Bhagavad-Gita lessons, Balavihar classes, Gurukul, etc. Trustees include Anuja Mazgaonkar, Mandar Deo, Prasad Kondapi, Srikanth Padmanabhan, Vasu Iyer, Vijayagopal Subramaniam. Mission of HSSI, founded 2010, includes promoting "understanding and practice of Hindu faith".

Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion of the world, has about 1.1 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are about three million Hindus in USA. In Hinduism, Lord Ganesh is worshipped as god of wisdom and remover of obstacles and is invoked before the beginning of any major undertaking.

Facebook to Pay Largest Civil Penalty in Data-Privacy Case in United States History

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Department of Justice, together with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), announced July 24a settlement that requires Facebook to implement a comprehensive, multi-faceted set of compliance measures designed to improve user privacy and provide additional protections for user information. The settlement also requires Facebook to pay an unprecedented \$5 billion civil penalty - the most ever imposed in an FTC case and among the largest civil penalties ever obtained by the federal government.

In a complaint filed today, the United States alleges that Facebook violated an administrative order issued by the FTC in 2012 by misleading users about the extent to which third-party application developers could access users' personal information. The complaint further alleges that Facebook violated the Federal Trade Commission Act by deceiving users about their use of this and additional sensitive information.

As reflected in the stipulated order filed with the complaint, Facebook has agreed to settle these allegations by paying a \$5 billion civil penalty and implementing robust, new compliance measures that



will change how Facebook prioritizes and approaches user privacy issues. These new compliance measures include appointment of an independent assessor to monitor Facebook's conduct, privacy reviews for all new or modified Facebook products, establishment of a new Independent Privacy Committee on Facebook's Board of Directors, annual compliance certifications by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, and various reporting and record-keeping requirements. Under the stipulated order, the Department of Justice and FTC will share responsibility for monitoring and

enforcing Facebook's compliance.

"The Department of Justice is committed to protecting consumer data privacy and ensuring that social media companies like Facebook do not mislead individuals about the use of their personal information," said Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt for the Department of Justice's Civil Division. "This settlement's historic penalty and compliance terms will benefit American consumers, and the Department expects Facebook to treat its privacy obligations with the utmost seriousness."

"Despite repeated promises to its millions of world-wide users that they could control how their personal information is shared, Facebook took steps to undermine consumers' choices," said FTC Chairman Joe Simons. "The magnitude of the \$5 billion penalty and sweeping conduct relief are unprecedented in the history of the FTC. The relief is designed not only to punish previous violations but, more importantly, to change Facebook's entire privacy culture to decrease the likelihood of continued violations. The Commission takes consumer privacy seriously and will enforce FTC orders to the fullest extent of the law."

YEDDYURAPPA TAKES OVER AS KARNATAKA CM



NEW DELHI (TIP): BJP leader and former chief minister BS Yeddyurappa will take over as Karnataka Chief Minister at 6pm on Friday after Governor Vajubhai Vala accepted his claim to form the government, capping weeks of political turmoil in the state that saw the Congress-JD(S) coalition losing the trust vote.

"I just met the Governor, I will take oath as Chief Minister today at 6 pm," the BJP leader said.

Yeddyurappa, who is currently the leader of the opposition in the state assembly, earlier said: "Since I'm already the leader of the opposition there is no need for a legislature party meeting to nominate me as its chief."

A group of senior BJP leaders from Karnataka, led by former chief minister Jagdish Shettar, yesterday met Amit Shah and working president Jagat Prakash Nadda and briefed them on the latest situation in the southern state.

Karnataka is the only southern state where the BJP has been in power in the past and is currently the single largest party with 105 MLAs.

The HD Kumaraswamy government lost trust vote on the assembly this week after 15 MLAs of the ruling coalition rebelled against the chief minister along with a couple of other independent MLAs.

The BJP treaded with caution after that, trying to ascertain that the government it forms is stable.

Admitted to sheltering terror, now take action: India to Pak PM Imran Khan

NEW DELHI (TIP): India today termed Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks that his country was still hosting 30,000-40,000 armed men who had fought in Kashmir or Afghanistan a "glaring admission" of Islamabad's policy of using armed extremists as an instrument of state policy.

Many of these militants were sent to India and the international community is well aware of this, said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

"It is a glaring admission by the Pakistan leadership. We have been saying repeatedly that it is time for Pakistan to take credible and irreversible action against terrorists," he observed even as Khan, back in the country after a three-day visit to the US, said he felt like he had again won the World Cup. The Pakistan PM, while admitting that tens of thousands of people with dented records were still in Pakistan, also claimed previous dispensations had not been upfront about admitting the presence of 40 militant groups on Pakistani soil.

"They should make sure that the safe havens and sanctuaries in Pakistan should be neutralised. We feel that half-hearted measures to please the international community won't do," added Raveesh Kumar.

Despite Khan's claim that his



foreign trip was spectacularly successful, sources here pointed out that he had returned with no overt promises from the US of resuming aid that Pakistan desperately needs for its military and social sector. They pointed out that the overtly friendly gestures by US President were aimed at ensuring that Pakistan did not play spoilsport at a time when Washington wants to extricate itself from Afghanistan.

They also took on Khan for suggesting Pakistan had turned a corner in 2014 after the Peshawar school attack when he claimed all political parties decided to jointly combat terrorism.

The sources wanted to know why the ranks of militants had not depleted in these five years and despite this claimed political consensus, why did these militants

continued with their armed depredation in India.

The sources drew attention to Khan's entourage that included army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, and ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed to indicate the reality of rival centres of power in Pakistan. Khan was forced to be accompanied by army generals to signal to the US that Pakistan's rival centres of power were on the same page as him. However, Kumar sought to end the controversy over Trump's claim that PM Narendra Modi had asked him to mediate on the Kashmir issue.

"We should move on, we have moved on," he said, while drawing attention to the depth and breadth of Indo-US ties which, he suggested, was unlikely to be shaken by a stray comment that had already been clarified by the US State Department and denied in Parliament by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

The US media has already hauled Trump over the coals for undoing the achievements of his predecessors on India by "blundering" to volunteer to mediate over the Kashmir issue. Trump has committed "diplomatic malpractice of a high order" by revealing a privileged conversation with PM Modi, said the Washington Post.

Don't repeat Kargil misadventure: Army chief to Pakistan

DRASS (TIP): As India commemorated 20 years of the Kargil war, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on Thursday warned Pakistan to never attempt a repeat of the "misadventure".

Speaking at a ceremony for commemoration of 20 years of Kargil Vijay Diwas, he said, "My warning to Pakistan is do not ever attempt such a misadventure any time, in the future. Anywhere, anytime do not think of it."

"It was a big misadventure undertaken by the Pakistan army in 1999. They did not appreciate the will and the intent of the Indian political establishment and the Indian armed forces that we will never allow them to succeed," he said.

Referring to the advantageous position Pakistani infiltrators occupied during the Kargil war, General Rawat said, "No matter what heights they capture the Indian army will always get back to them and recapture those heights. This was evident during the Kargil war in 1999."

Commenting on the question of Pakistan's denial about its involvement in Pulwama terror attack, General Rawat said, "We are aware of the truth. So we are not carried away by any statement. The truth is known to us. Our intelligence agencies have given ample proof about what had happened in Pulwama."

When asked about manufacture of



arms in India, General Rawat said, "Make in India has already commenced. Guns, helicopters are being manufactured in India. We are also looking for ammunitions manufacturing in India. Now AK 203 with a joint venture with Russia will be manufactured in Amethi...We will be happy if anyone willing to share technologies with us. I would say they will be gainer as we have a huge market here. Once a weapon is tested here by the Indian army, it gets world famous."

On being asked about infiltration after Balakot air strike, General Rawat said, "Infiltration has come down because of two reasons one is because our troops are sitting alert and we have also inducted additional forces to strengthen the counter-infiltration grid."

'UNFORGETTABLE': PM SHARES PHOTOS OF KARGIL VISIT IN TRIBUTE TO HEROES



NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid tributes to the soldiers who defended India during the Kargil war, in 1999. In his post on the occasion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan, PM Modi said that the day should be remembered for the "courage, bravery and dedication" shown by the soldiers who took part in Operation Vijay.

"Operation Vijay" was the name

given to India's limited war against Pakistan after the neighbouring country captured high outposts Jammu and Kashmir's Kargil in 1999.

"I salute all the heroic sons of Mother India on Kargil Vijay Diwas. This day reminds us of the courage, bravery and dedication of our soldiers. On this occasion, my humble tribute to those mighty warriors, who favored all in the defense of the motherland. Jai Hind!," PM tweeted.

Lower House passes bill to make instant triple talaq a criminal act

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a bill that penalizes talaq-e-biddat (triple talaq), a practice of divorce in the Muslim community, amid strong protests by the Opposition which demanded that the bill be referred to a parliamentary panel for review as it criminalized a civil right issue.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019 was passed by a voice vote after the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, and key Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ally, Janata Dal (United), among other Opposition parties staged a walkout.

The bill, which will now be sent to the Rajya Sabha, makes the practice of instant triple talaq — under which a Muslim man can divorce his wife by uttering the word “talaq” thrice in succession — a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years’ imprisonment and a fine. A cognizable offence is one in which the police may carry out an arrest without a warrant, and is used for serious crimes such as theft, rape and murder.

The bill allows the wife or her relatives to file a complaint, and has a provision for a magistrate to grant bail to the accused. It also leaves scope for reconciliation between the couple.

NK Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, who led the Opposition charge, said that provisions to protect women already existed in form of the



Domestic Violence Act and Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, which penalized cruelty against a woman in her marital home. He alleged that the bill was discriminatory, because divorce among other faiths — regulated by personal laws — was not a criminal offence.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, who opposed the bill pointed out that if the husband was jailed, he would not be able to pay maintenance to his wife, which was also a provision in the bill.

However, law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, “The Indian Constitution is equal for all daughters. So the bill is needed.”

He pointed out that despite a 2017 Supreme Court ruling which struck down the practice and found it unconstitutional, hundreds of cases have been reported since then.

“When Hindus and Muslims are jailed under the dowry law [Dowry Prohibition Act] or the Domestic Violence Act, no one objects. What is the objection in penalising the practice? It is needed to provide gender justice and equality,” Prasad said.

In the 2017 Shayara Bano versus Union of India and Others case, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court held in a 3-2 majority verdict that instant triple talaq, polygamy and nikah halala (in which a woman must marry and divorce another man to re-marry her first husband) were unconstitutional practices.

The previous National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government then tabled a version of the bill, which was passed by the Lower House in December 2018, but remained pending in the Upper House.

AZAM KHAN'S REMARKS OVER LS CHAIR SPARK UPROAR



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Lok Sabha erupted on Thursday over remarks made by Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Rama Devi, who was briefly presiding over the House during the debate on the triple talaq bill.

Participating in the debate, Khan, who represents Rampur constituency in Uttar Pradesh, made statements that was termed as sexist, improper and unparliamentary by several members from the treasury benches. Union ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Arjun Ram Meghwal, who were furious over Khan's comments, urged the Chair to demand an apology from him.

When Rama Devi asked Khan to apologise, he said he had meant no disrespect. He had long been in politics, he said, and was ready to immediately resign if any remark he made was found to be objectionable.

At this point, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav rose to defend Khan, saying he did not intend to malign the chair, leading to further uproar from the treasury benches.

By this time, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla had returned to take over the proceedings.

The comments, and most of the exchange, between Khan and other members, were later expunged from the proceedings of the House.

The speaker said maintaining the dignity of the House was the responsibility of all members. “A party may have more numbers, but the House runs on consensus... members want remarks to be expunged. But we should not make statements that have to be expunged. When people hear such statements, they form an opinion about MPs,” he said.

Azam Khan walked out of the House saying he was feeling insulted.

Both the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) slammed Khan for his comments on Twitter and called for strict action against him.

Iran releases 9 Indians held from detained ship

NEW DELHI (TIP): Iran has released nine out of 12 Indians who were on board the ship MT Riah that was detained in early July, official sources said on Thursday.

However, 21 Indians are still in detention in Iran—three from MT Riah and 18 from British oil tanker Stena Impero which was seized last week by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in the Strait of Hormuz for alleged violation of international maritime rules.

Indian Embassy on Thursday got consular access to the 18 Indians who were on board Impero.

Also, 24 Indian crew members, who were on board shipping vessel ‘Grace 1’, which was detained by Gibraltar police authorities, are also under detention.

Rajya Sabha passes RTI amendment bill, Opposition walks out

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the contentious Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, amid uproar among the Opposition, which said the changes diluted the crucial transparency law.

The bill, which now awaits President Ram Nath Kovind's assent, will grant greater powers to the Centre in deciding the terms of the chief information commissioners (CICs) and information commissioners (ICs) at both the central and state levels.

Following protest during the voting, the Congress staged a walkout, saying the government was “undermining democracy” in the House. The bill will escape scrutiny, with 117 members voting against referring it to a select committee and 75 voting for it.

“There is no attempt, motivation or design to curtail the autonomy of RTI,” said Jitendra Singh, minister of state for personnel, public grievances and pensions.

The amendment bill provoked a

Govt extends budget session till August 7

The budget session of Parliament has been extended by eight working days till 7 August, Union parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The session, which began on 17 June, was earlier scheduled to conclude on Friday.

“I have an important proposal. Since government has more than 17 bills which are proposed to be

considered through this House, I propose through you that the session be extended till 7 August,” Joshi said in the House soon after the triple talaq bill was passed.

The decision is expected to draw a sharp protest from the Opposition parties who are against an extension.

There is a view in the government that after the ongoing session, crucial bills would be pending till the winter session.

sharp debate, with the Opposition, including Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress, K.K. Ragesh of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Binoy Viswam of the Communist Party of India, and Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and P. Chidambaram, vociferously demanding that it be referred to a select committee.

“The state government constitutes ICs. So, why are you taking the power to prescribe the tenure and terms and conditions of that appointment? Why can't the state government do that? Can't you trust the states to prescribe the tenure and terms and conditions of the appointment?” asked Chidambaram.

GUEST COMMENT

Moon Mission: Launch a measure of self-reliance, scientific prowess

It has been a remarkable journey for India as it launched its most complex and prestigious space mission on Tuesday when the Chandrayaan-2 took off from Sriharikota with the objective of understanding the dynamics of the Moon system and the lunar interior. Coming after the first launch, aborted due to a snag, the success is a tribute to the scientists who overcame all odds to make the country self-reliant in space technology. If everything goes as planned and the rover makes a soft

landing on the Moon's surface on September 7, India will become the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to have done so, putting it in an elite league.

From mythology to folklore, the Moon has captured attention. Scientists have long held the understanding of the Moon to be crucial for life on earth. The Earth's signature tilt on its axis is said to be because of the Moon keeping it in check which ensures that the planet is safe to live on. Without the Moon's gravity, the Earth would wobble more

violently on its axis. The Moon also is a factor behind the rhythm of the Earth, the reason behind the high and low tides. The study of lunar ice is likely to give an insight into the solar system.

Space is also the new frontier and India has tapped it to boost its capability in weather forecast, telecommunications and defense. The Mars Orbiter Mission, a military satellite besides launch of foreign satellites signified the capability. The focus on self-reliance is underlined by the fact that the Moon mission was

supposed to be a joint venture with Russia that could not provide the lander and rover, making Indian scientists come up with their own options. It is said India lagged behind economically because it missed the first industrial revolution powered by technology as it was under colonial rule. We seized our chance when the IT boom took place and now the desire for space foray is there despite the limitations of resources. The country and its scientists deserve plaudits for the success. *(Tribune, India)*

AS I SEE IT

Trump tweets & turmoil



By G Parthasarathy

Governments across the world and most notably the US use instruments of state power like military pressures, diplomatic isolation, travel bans and economic sanctions as instruments of persuasion. President Trump has, however, devised a new instrument of state coercion to express his displeasure and announce his proposed actions. This 21st century diplomatic innovation by Trump is his 'Twitter handle'.

Twitter was initially his mode of communication in domestic politics, during his bitterly fought presidential election campaign against Hillary Clinton. It has now become his favorite instrument to chastise America's foes and friends alike, ranging from China and Iran to neighbors like Canada and Mexico, apart from allies like the EU and partners like India. American friends, however, aver that Trump uses this unique method of addressing foreign rulers, primarily to cheer up his domestic base, apart from informing the world of his late-night thoughts!

Trump has excelled himself before, when he took on an exceptional target - his country's most loyal ally - the UK. He poured scorn on and ridiculed the serving British ambassador in Washington, Kim Darroch, who regards himself as the prima donna of Washington's diplomatic corps. Trump also hit out at British PM Theresa May, now resigned, for allegedly mishandling the Brexit negotiations to fashion a 'soft exit'.

His epithets included a description of Darroch as Britain's 'wacky ambassador', a 'very stupid guy' and a 'stupid fool'. May received her share of abuses for her 'failed Brexit negotiation'. He described her diplomacy as 'badly handled' and accused her of going 'her own foolish way', while leading her country into a 'disaster'. True to form, his tweet ended with inevitable boasting



Courtesy: CagleCartoons.com

about American military and economic might! All this followed leaks of confidential reports Darroch had sent to Whitehall, which were highly uncomplimentary about Trump's qualities of head and heart.

Only Israel and Saudi Arabia appear to be free from any 'Trump tirades and tantrums'. Many in Washington aver that this arises from the closeness of the Saudi and Israeli leadership to Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law. Kushner was recently in Bahrain, trying to sell his solution for Middle East peace to Arab leaders. The proposals were received coldly in Bahrain, with even Saudi Arabia making it clear that its approach to the Palestinian issue was distinctly different. Trump's approach to crucial contemporary issues enjoys little international support. Even NATO allies differ with him on important issues like climate change and sanctions on Iran.

Trump's desire to target India on trade issues became evident when Indian steel and aluminum products were hit with import duties of 25% and 10%, respectively, in March 2018. India's exports of steel to the US of \$761 million have fallen by 46% since. Trump also

abolished the preferential duties that India was getting as a developing country. India retaliated in a measured manner, just over a month ago, targeting industries and agricultural products produced by Trump's political/electoral supporters. They included new tariffs on imports ranging from almonds and walnuts to steel products.

The two sides decided to resolve these differences bilaterally, following the Modi-Trump summit in Osaka. Preliminary talks were held recently in New Delhi, with a visiting US delegation. India should, however, bear in mind that it is not the US alone that is unhappy with what it sees as growing Indian protectionist measures. India's annual exports to US amount to around \$54.3 billion while China's exports to the US amount to \$539.67 billion annually. Recent restrictions curb China's easy access to US high-tech products. The impact is being increasingly felt by China, whose remarkable industrial and technological transformation has been largely facilitated by access to US technology.

Resolving these issues is going to be more difficult than dealing with the

"Twitter was initially his mode of communication in domestic politics, during his bitterly fought presidential election campaign against Hillary Clinton. It has now become his favorite instrument to chastise America's foes and friends alike, ranging from China and Iran to neighbors like Canada and Mexico, apart from allies like the EU and partners like India."

protectionist restrictions that India faces now. While India's exports to China have shown signs of rising, New Delhi has to devise strategies on how it could best utilize Chinese 5G networks and encourage Chinese investments in its industrial sector, at the same time ensuring that its national security is not compromised.

India is going to face other challenges which are the creation of the US Congress. The most important of these are the prospects of sanctions flowing from India's acquisitions of Russian arms. India has let it be known that it has no intention of buckling under US pressure.

Banking and financial measures to bypass US sanctions were discussed during President Putin's visit to India. They have since been put in place. While the US has threatened Turkey with sanctions for acquiring S-400 missile systems by ending the proposed supply of F-35 fifth-generation fighters, India has wisely stayed away from attempting to acquire such equipment from the US. The US Indo-Pacific strategy is premised on receiving support from Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and India - a strategy which would have little relevance without the participation of India.

The US uses the dollar in international finance to coerce others by resorting to threats of financial sanctions, without securing international approval. The time has come to counter this coercive use of power by increasing the use of euro and Chinese renminbi for global transactions. The EU is not too happy at being tied up by unilateral US sanctions on Iran, despite Iran abiding by all provisions of an agreement the EU signed, together with Russia, China and the Obama administration.

(The author is a former diplomat)

Rising incidents of hate crimes point to the growing power of the lumpen

The national bar against hate crime has been lowered, but resolute corrective action is possible



By Radha Kumar

"Studies of hate crimes in India show that they have steadily risen over the past five years. Amnesty International India documented 721 such incidents between 2015 and 2018. Last year alone, it tracked 218 hate crimes, 142 of which were against Dalits, 50 against Muslims, 40 against women, and eight each against Christians, Adivasis, and transgenders. The more common hate crimes, they found, were honor killings - that have sadly occurred for decades - and 'cow-related violence', that was rare earlier but has become more frequent over the past five years."

"For Mr. Modi, there is an additional challenge. He has twice spoken out against hate crime, but his words of pain have not been backed by action, either by his party or by BJP-led administrations. Does he have so little influence over his own? We have to hope not."

Once again, the first weeks of the Narendra Modi administration have been marked by hate crimes - two Muslim men beaten by mobs in Jharkhand and Mumbai, demanding they shout 'Jai Shri Ram', one so mercilessly that he died. Another man, a tribal, lynched in Tripura on suspicion of being a cattle thief. Most recently, 24 men accused of being cattle smugglers, beaten and made to shout 'Gau Mata ki Jai', in Rajasthan.

This time, however, there is a rising tide of concern, both domestically and internationally. Domestically, there have been a number of editorials, OpEds and talk shows calling for action; internationally, India has begun to feature prominently on a growing list of countries marked by hate crime, including hate speech in electoral campaigns.

A RISING GRAPH: Studies of hate crimes in India show that they have steadily risen over the past five years. Amnesty International India documented 721 such incidents between 2015 and 2018. Last year alone, it tracked 218 hate crimes, 142 of which were against Dalits, 50 against Muslims, 40 against women, and eight each against Christians, Adivasis, and transgenders. The more common hate crimes, they found, were honor killings - that have sadly occurred for decades - and 'cow-related violence', that was rare earlier but has become more frequent over the past five years.

AMARTYA SEN SAYS 'JAI SHRI RAM' NOT PART OF KOLKATA'S CULTURE: According to Hate Crime Watch, crimes based on religious identity were in single digits until 2014, when they surged from nine in 2013 to 92 in 2018. Of the 291 incidents mentioned by the website, 152 occurred in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States, 40 in Congress-ruled States and the rest in States ruled by regional parties or coalitions. Rarely, if ever, did bystanders attempt to stop the violence or police arrive on time to do so. In both studies, Uttar Pradesh topped the list of States with the largest number of hate crimes for the third year, followed by Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Bihar. These facts are striking enough to concern any government. The Prime Minister expressed pain at the sickening murder of Tabrez Ansari in Jharkhand, but clearly far more is required. The Rajasthan administration is introducing a Bill prohibiting cow vigilantism, but that deals with only one hate crime. An omnibus act against all hate crimes, including hate speech, is required across India and should be a priority of the 17th Lok Sabha. Germany, for example, amended Section 46 of its Criminal Procedure Code, dealing with sentencing in violent crime, to say the sentence must be based on consideration of 'the motives and aims of the offender, particularly where they are of a racist or xenophobic nature or where they show contempt for human dignity'.

We have a number of sections in the Indian Penal Code that can be used to punish or even prevent hate crime, but they are disparate, and few policemen are aware of them. Those that are, fear to use them in areas whose political leaders mobilize through hate speech. Though some Indian analysts debate whether there is a correlation between hate speech and hate crime, worldwide data show that hate speech encourages or legitimizes acts of violence and a climate of impunity. France has a draft Bill to prohibit hate speech, and Germany has already enacted one. According to a study by NDTV there are at least 45 politicians in our newly elected union legislature who have indulged in hate speech over the past five years; 35 of them belong to the BJP. No action has been taken as yet by the party, though it is in such a position of strength electorally that it would lose little by acting against them.

COURT DIRECTIVES: In 2018, the Supreme Court directed Central and State governments to make it widely known that lynching and mob violence would 'invite serious consequence under the law' (Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. Union of India & Ors). Then Home Minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament that the government had formed a panel to suggest measures to tackle mob violence and would enact a law if necessary. The panel's recommendations are not in the public domain, and acts of hate



crime do not appear to have diminished in the year since Mr. Singh's promise.

In a May 2019 report, Human Rights Watch India pointed out that only some States had complied with the Supreme Court's orders to designate a senior police officer in every district to prevent incidents of mob violence and ensure that the police take prompt action, including safety for witnesses; set up fast-track courts in such cases; and take action against policemen or officials who failed to comply. Those State governments that did comply, the report commented, did so only partially. In several instances, the police actually obstructed investigations, even filing charges against the victims.

Whether it is political hate speech or police bias on the ground, there is little doubt that the national bar against hate crime has been lowered. On television, we see replays of hate speech and videos of lynching. Though the accompanying commentary is critical, repeated iterations normalize the hateful. Indeed, anchors themselves resort to invective far more often than before - note how Kashmiris are routinely heckled and abused on talk shows. The print media too is failing. Several newspapers now publish triumphalist opinion articles, including comments to articles that are hate speech by any definition. Criticism of blatantly communal government actions such as extension of refuge and citizenship on religious identity has grown increasingly muted.

KEY STEPS NEEDED: One of the policy issues that is high on the Modi administration's list is dealing with incitement to violence through social media. But the focus is on hate in relation to terrorism, and it is unclear whether government policy will extend to cover hate crime. Important as it is to do so, the digital media is not the only offender. In fact, there are several obvious steps which would be easier to take and yield more immediate results than regulation of the digital media. Parliament could enact an omnibus act against hate crime, and the Home Minister could set benchmarks for policemen and administrators to deal with hate crime. The legislature and political parties could suspend or dismiss members who are implicated in hate crimes or practice hate speech. The electronic and print media could stop showing or publishing hateful comments and threats. Priests could preach the values of tolerance and respect that are common to all religions and schools could revitalize courses on the directive principles of our Constitution.

For Mr. Modi, there is an additional challenge. He has twice spoken out against hate crime, but his words of pain have not been backed by action, either by his party or by BJP-led administrations. Does he have so little influence over his own? We have to hope not. For a demographically diverse country such as India, hate crimes - including crimes of contempt - are a disaster. Each of our religious and caste communities number in the millions, and crimes that are directed against any of these groups could result in a magnitude of disaffection that impels violence, even terrorism. Far less diverse countries than India are already suffering the result of hate 'moving into the mainstream', as UN Secretary General António Guterres recently highlighted. We can still contain its spread if we act resolutely. Or else our political leaders might find the lumpen tail wagging their dog.

(Radha Kumar is a writer and policy analyst)

Pakistan to send its first astronaut to space in 2022: Minister Fawad Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan on July 25 announced that it will send its first astronaut to space in 2022 using close ally China's satellite launch facilities.

Pakistan's decision came as India on Monday successfully launched its second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2.

Fawad Chaudhry, Minister for Science and Technology, said the selection process of the astronaut for the space mission would start from February 2020.

"Proud to announce that selection process for the first Pakistani to be sent to Space shall begin from February 2020. Fifty people will be short listed. The list will then come down to 25 and in 2022 we will send our first person to space. This will be the biggest space event of our country," Chaudhry said in a tweet.

Chaudhry said the Pakistani Air Force will play a lead role in the selection process of the astronaut for the space mission.

"The air force will be the custodian of the selection process. Globally pilots are selected for space missions," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn News website.

He said initially 50 pilots will be selected, from which the list will be brought down to 25 and then 10.

"Ten pilots will be trained and eventually one pilot will be sent to space," he said.

Last year, Pakistan launched two indigenously-built satellites into the orbit, using a Chinese launch vehicle.

The satellites were launched onboard the Chinese Long March (LM-2C) rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre located at the Gobi desert, China, The Express Tribune reported.

One of them was a remote sensing satellite (PRSS1) – a dual-purpose Earth observational and optical satellite. The second test satellite launched was a PAK-TES-1A to enhance satellite manufacture capabilities in the country. — PTI

Nepal police arrest Australian national on charges of child sexual abuse

KATHMANDU (TIP): An Australian national was arrested from a popular tourist spot in Nepal for allegedly sexually abusing two boys, police said here on Wednesday.

The man, identified as 63-year-old Berryman Thomas Alfred, was arrested on Tuesday from his rented accommodation in Pokhara, the tourist hub of western Nepal.

Two boys aged 12 and 14 were rescued from his flat during the operation, police said. A hunt is also on for other victims, if any, as part of the police investigation. PTI

Pakistan PM Imran Khan returns home 'exulting' after Washington visit

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan returned home from Washington on Thursday after a visit seen by supporters as a major diplomatic success, saying he felt like he had when he came back after winning the cricket World Cup.

US President Donald Trump's warm reception of Khan and a delegation including the army chief and the head of the powerful ISI intelligence service was a welcome relief to a government under increasing economic pressure at home.

Offering reassurance that Pakistan would help seal a peace agreement with the Taliban to allow U.S. troops to withdraw from Afghanistan, Khan went some way towards rebuilding Pakistan's image in Washington after years of US suspicions.

While there was no announcement that the United States would restore hundreds of millions of dollars in security assistance cut off last year, the visit sent a signal that relations had improved significantly.

"For now, I think the Pakistani side would be happy with what they got," said Umer Karim, a visiting fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London. He said the presence of the army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and ISI head General Faiz Hameed alongside Khan in Washington were a strong signal that US mistrust of Pakistan's security establishment had



eased.

"Those optics are optics of rehabilitation, re-engagement on a strategic level," he said.

By contrast, the US president managed to annoy India, Pakistan's longtime foe, with an unexpected offer to mediate in the decades-long dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Trump also caused outrage in Kabul with an apparently throwaway remark that Afghanistan could be "wiped off the face of the earth".

The United States has for years been doubtful about Pakistan's wholehearted commitment to the U.S.-led war on terrorism, largely because of suspicion that Pakistan sees some militants,

including the Afghan Taliban, as useful tools in its rivalry with India.

Trump has also been suspicious of Pakistan, saying last year that "they don't do a damn thing for us" despite receiving more than a billion dollars in aid a year.

However, the need to reach a settlement with the Taliban to end more than 18 years of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan's assurances that it would use its influence with the militant group helped change the mood.

Pakistani officials had laid the groundwork for the visit months earlier, with a visit to Islamabad in January by Senator Lindsey Graham, a staunch Trump ally who has argued strongly against any precipitous U.S. pullout from Afghanistan. He gave enthusiastic backing to Khan's government and publicly urged Trump to meet Khan. A visit to Pakistan in February by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman was also vital in securing the support of another leader on close terms with the Trump administration, one senior Pakistani official said.

"I feel like I am not coming here from a foreign trip but that I am returning after winning the World Cup," Khan said as hundreds of supporters cheered him on at the Islamabad airport. Khan led Pakistan to victory in the cricket World Cup in 1992. Reuters

Thai PM faces first Opposition challenge as he sets out plans



BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha faced Opposition questions in Parliament for the first time on July 25 as the former junta leader set out his government's plans.

Prayuth took power in a 2014 coup, but has stayed on as Prime Minister after a General Election in March held under a

system that Opposition parties say was engineered to ensure the military kept its hands on power.

Prayuth, who as junta leader developed a reputation for being dismissive of anyone who disagreed with him, greeted lawmakers by saying "I always missed you all." As soon as Prayuth started his introduction, he was challenged by a member of the opposition Pheu Thai party to stick to the 66-page policy document and not to offer extra comment.

"OK, I will read that out for you. And you will have to follow along," he responded.

The policy priorities, released in summary on Sunday, include trying to encourage economic growth and developing a medical cannabis industry. The top priority is protecting the monarchy.

The most senior figures in the new government are all members of the former junta, but Prayuth needed to build a coalition with 19 other parties to ensure a small majority in the lower house of parliament over those who oppose him.

Asked before his Parliament appearance if he was nervous, Prayuth said: "No, I've stayed for five years already." Reuters

3 bombs kill 15 in Afghan capital as US general visits

KABUL (TIP): Three bombs rocked the Afghan capital of Kabul on July 25, killing at least 15 people, officials said, as the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff was meeting top US and NATO officials in the city.

Eight employees of the ministry of mines and petroleum were killed and 27 injured in an attack on their bus, ministry officials said in a statement. Five women and a child were among the dead. Minutes after the blast, a suicide bomber blew himself up a few meters away, killing at least seven people and injuring 20.

"First a magnetic bomb pasted to a minibus exploded, then a suicide bomber blew himself near the bus attack site and the third blast happened when a car was blown up by unknown militants," said Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman of the interior ministry in Kabul.

"The death toll could rise from all the three blasts," he said.

The Taliban, fighting to restore strict Islamic law after their 2001 ouster at the hands of US-led troops, claimed responsibility for the car bomb alone.

Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said nine foreign forces were killed and two vehicles destroyed, but government officials did not confirm the Taliban claim. Reuters

Swaminarayan Gadi Hindu Temple opens in Chesapeake, Virginia, featuring a Silver Tula, Indian Bagpipers, and a Peace Parade

Opening of New Swaminarayan (Hindu) Temple for Spiritual, Cultural and Social Welfare in Chesapeake Brings a Message of Peace, Compassion and Benevolence to Virginia

CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA(TIP): From Friday, July 19 to Sunday, July 21, 2019, Shree Swaminarayan Mandir (Temple) - Chesapeake, Virginia, at 4210 Dock Landing Road, celebrated its grand opening with prayers, scripture recitals, cultural and devotional dance performances, and a peace procession through the streets of the City. Visitors from the entire county and indeed many from abroad gathered to witness the inauguration ceremony being performed by His Divine Holiness Acharya Shree Purushottampriyadasji Swamishree Maharaj, who is the spiritual leader of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan, a worldwide organization dedicated to the progression of spiritual, social and cultural values. With the opening of Chesapeake Temple, Acharya Swamishree Maharaj has established yet another chapter in the USA towards his mission to spread the message of peace, unity and tolerance towards all.

Dignitaries attending to the opening ceremony included Dr. Richard W. West, Mayor of Chesapeake City Council. Expressing his delight on meeting Acharya Swamishree Maharaj, Mayor West said, "I can sense the aura of peace when coming to this place and meeting Acharya Swamishree Maharaj. I realize that he is a very special individual and I welcome him and you all to Chesapeake. I have attended many ribbon cutting ceremonies, but nothing is as humbling as the event that I have the honor of seeing today." A cheque towards the Mayor's special charity appeal, and another to the Chesapeake Fire and Police Departments was presented by Acharya Swamishree Maharaj. The three-day event also included a Peace Procession, through the streets of Chesapeake, featuring the Shree Muktajeevan Swamibapa Pipe Band, North America's first and only Indian American bagpipe band.



The Imposing entrance to the Temple



The Peace Parade

Read more at www.theindianpanorama.news

Verandah Retirement Community Launches Clubhouse & Opens for Occupancy Shortly in Schaumburg Township, IL

HANOVER PARK, IL (TIP): Verandah Retirement Community celebrated the Grand Opening of the Verandah Clubhouse on July 14th, 2019 & announced they will be open for occupancy on September 15th. Verandah is the first multicultural community in the Midwest designed to celebrate both Indian & American lifestyles. The project is a planned unit development (PUD) with residential senior housing and a commercial lot fronting Irving Park road on a 12-acre property located in Schaumburg township. The senior living development will include townhomes & condominiums for sale with a clubhouse & medical services for use of the residents.

Read more at www.theindianpanorama.news



Rendering of Verandah Site Plan

Puerto Rico's Gov. Ricardo Rosselló resigns under threat of impeachment, public anger

WASHINGTON (TIP): After days of fierce protests in the streets of San Juan, the governor was presented with an ultimatum he initially failed to meet.

Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, in a statement apparently pre-recorded earlier in the day, announced that he would give into the demands of both lawmakers and the public and resign from office on August 2, at 5pm. He asked for the public to support his designated successor, Justice Secretary Wanda



Vázquez.

"During the past few days many of you have been exercising your right to freedom of expression. The claim has been blunt and I have received it with the highest degree of humility," he said.

Rosselló neither referenced nor apologized for the scandals that had brought him to this end.

Puerto Rico's Gov. Ricardo Rosselló was forced to resign under pressure from both the public and lawmakers

USCIS Announces Plan to Improve Naturalization Test



WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is revising the current naturalization test with improvements to ensure it continues to serve as an accurate measure of a naturalization applicant's civics knowledge and that it reflects best practices in adult education assessments. The goal is to create a meaningful, uniform, and efficient test that will assess applicants' knowledge and understanding of U.S. history, government and values.

This spring, the former USCIS director signed the Revision of the Naturalization Civics Test Memorandum (PDF, 202 KB). This memorandum announces the revision of the naturalization test and formalizes a decennial revision schedule of the naturalization test based on adult education best practices.

"Granting U. S. citizenship is the highest honor our nation bestows," said USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli. "Updating, maintaining, and improving a test that is current and relevant is our responsibility as an agency in order to help potential new citizens fully understand the meaning of U.S. citizenship and the values that unite all Americans."

In December 2018, USCIS formed a naturalization test revision working group with members from across the agency. The working group has been reviewing and updating the naturalization test questions. The working group will also assess potential changes to the speaking portion of the test. USCIS is soliciting the input of experts in the field of adult education to ensure that this process is fair and transparent. After careful analysis of the pilot, and thorough officer training, USCIS will set an implementation date in December 2020 or early 2021.

Section 312 of the Immigration and Nationality Act outlines the English and civics requirements for naturalization. By law, candidates for naturalization must have "...an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language..." and "...knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government, of the United States..." This test revision will comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements, and USCIS will pilot it this fall.

In Fiscal Year 2018, USCIS naturalized nearly 757,000 people, a five-year high in new oaths of citizenship. The naturalization test revision is a key part of preparing legal immigrants to fully exercise their rights and meet their responsibilities.



SONAKSHI REVEALS THAT SHE DATED A CELEBRITY AND THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT

The fact that Bollywood is slowly resorting to films that intend to strike conversations and break taboos, comes as a breath of fresh air. The latest example of this was Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon's *Luka Chuppi*, a film that revolved around live-in relationships and the stigmas associated with them. Now the latest to join the bandwagon is Sonakshi Sinha's upcoming film *Khandaani Shafakhana*. The film is a hilarious take on how Indians ban even the pronunciation of the word sex in public and more. Having said that, while Sonakshi's acting prowess has always been impressive, she still has not achieved BIG in a career spanning over 9 years. Even if you notice her personal life has never been the talk of the town. But if you thought that Sona's life is plain, boring and simple, guess not, as the actress recently made a revelation that she has dated a celebrity in the past. BOOM!

As per IANS, Sonakshi recently spilled beans on a chat show about her thoughts on dating someone from the film fraternity. The Dabangg actress replied, "My parents want me to date a susheel ladka and no one from the Bollywood film industry is like that." Well, that did not end there as she also talked about how she dated a celebrity, without revealing his name. Talking about her love life, she said, "I have dated a celebrity and the world doesn't know." When the actress was probed further if she ever gets to know that her partner is cheating on her, Sonakshi said, "He won't live to see the next day."

Rumour had it that Sinha allegedly dated Bunty Sajdeh, but the actress never accepted the same. "When it's fixed, I myself will announce it to the world. I don't believe things like these should be hidden. I'm too involved with my work to even consider marriage. I haven't even thought about it yet. So I don't know why people make such assumptions..," Sonakshi had said.

'83: HERE'S WHAT DEEPIKA DID TO GET INTO THE SKIN OF HER CHARACTER ROMI DEV

It goes without saying that Deepika Padukone's name is synonymous to success. Over the years, we have only seen her career-graph mounting and her flourishing career has been an inspiration to many. But, life isn't a bed of roses. Reaching the top of her game for the leggy lass, as we all already know, wasn't an easy task. Even today, the actor doesn't step back when it comes to giving heart and soul to her films. We say this after learning how she prepared to switch between two distinct and intense roles in a time span of less than 48 hours!

Deepika, currently, has two films in her kitty- *Chhapaak* and *'83*. While in *Chhapaak* she will be essaying an acid attack survivor Malti, the latter will see her portraying the role of Kapil Dev's wife Romi Dev. It was reported earlier that there was only a gap of two days between her shoots for the films as she left for the shoot of *'83* in London just a day after she wrapped up with *Chhapaak*. When asked how she did it, she was quoted as saying by DNA, "In fact, I've always believed that a character never really leaves your system entirely. This time around, I took to cleaning and organising things around my home to help me cope with switching from Laxmi to Romi Dev in *'83*. It helped me de-stress and clear my mind of any clutter."

Cleaning, indeed, can transform your life. DP seems to have taken inspiration from Japanese KonMari method of decluttering, which is a process of cleaning your house and keeping things only that useful to 'spark joy'. From clothes to utensils to paperwork and others that aren't required are discarded in the process.

Coming to *'83*, the film will see DP's husband Ranveer Singh playing the role of Kapil Dev and is scheduled to hit the screens on April 10, 2020. On the other hand, *Chhapaak*, helmed by Raazi fame Meghna Gulzar, also stars Vikrant Massey and is slated to be out in January 2020.



SHILPA SHETTY SHARES HER 'MARILYN MONROE' MOMENT

American actress Marilyn Monroe, who is known as one of the most popular sex symbols down West, may not be among us anymore, but it's her 'upskirt moment' that shall forever be iconic. So much that a plethora of actresses have tried their best to pull off the moment in their style, while some succeed, a lot of them, unfortunately, and unintentionally, ended up making it look hilarious. The latter is the case of Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty, who tried to pull a Marilyn Monroe moment amid her vacay.

Taking to her Instagram account, the Life in a Metro actor shared a video of herself imitating the Marilyn Monroe skirt moment, however, it didn't go as planned. In the clip, the stunning Shilpa could be seen standing on the cruise's edge, as she waited for the gust of wind to blow her dress up. While the beginning of the video made us think that Shetty will manage to pull it off, the climax turned out to be otherwise. Guess, the flow of the wind was so strong that only a part of Shilpa's orange maxi blew. The clip ended with Shilpa trying to adjust her dress, as she smiled to avoid the embarrassment. LOL! Though you handled it well, Shilpa!

Well, the gorgeous mommy of B-town is currently vacationing amid beautiful Spain. Not very long ago, the Dhadkan actor shared a picture of herself, as she stood on her balcony with a serene view. In her caption, Shilpa expressed her elation on getting to enjoy such a view. Okay, we are not feeling J!



NATALIE PORTMAN TO PLAY FIRST FEMALE THOR IN 'THOR: LOVE AND THUNDER'

Academy-Award winning actor Natalie Portman is all set to become the first female Thor in the fourth film from the franchise, 'Thor: Love and Thunder'.

She has been associated with the series as she has played Jane Foster in the first two films. Taika Waititi, film's director announced the same at the Comic-Con panel in San Diego, reported Deadline.

"That story line is incredible is full emotion, love and thunder and introduces for the first time female Thor," Waititi said during the panel. While describing the fate of Thor after 'Avengers: Endgame', Waititi said, "He's heading to the 7-11 for a little Netflix subscription and at this point, he might be on the couch, who knows."

BLACK WIDOW'S FIRST CONCEPT ART SHOWS SCARLETT JOHANSSON FIGHTING VILLAIN TASKMASTER

Marvel finally announced the Black Widow solo movie during their panel at the San Diego Comic-Con over the weekend. With the official announcement, a first bit of clip from the film was also shown to the 7,000 strong audience packed in Hall H.

Unfortunately, the clip did not make it out of that hall for anyone else to see. But, there is still a little treat for Marvel fans. The studios' director of visual development, Andy Park, shared the first concept art for the film on Monday.

The artwork shows Scarlett Johansson's Natasha Romanov in a fight against a hooded figure. The big bad guy is Taskmaster, apparently the main villain of the movie. He is seen carrying a shield much like Captain America and his entire face is covered in a steel mask.

"Check out the 1st reveal of the keyframe illustration I did for The Black Widow film... & TASKMASTER!!!" Park wrote on Instagram. Fans were delighted to see the Taskmaster's look in the art. "Taskmaster looks awesome! Great work!," wrote on fan. "Dude, that Taskmaster helmet looks incredibly badass," wrote another.

The Taskmaster first appeared briefly in The Avengers #195 (May 1980). He was born with the ability to mimic the physical movements of anyone he witnesses. He could watch someone in a track race on television and learn to run as fast as them the very next moment. While he is a supervillain in the comics, he also trains lackeys of other villains and members of evil organisations in combat.



Cats trailer has dropped and Twitter has never seen anything creepier



Everyone's worst fears came to life when the first trailer for Tom Hooper's Cats dropped on Friday. The internet is raving mad about how creepy the cast looks with digitally-created fur on actors' bodies and the anthropomorphic cats' human-like faces.

The film -- which stars newcomer Francesca Hayward, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Hudson, James Corden, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellan, Idris Elba and Rebel Wilson -- is a musical based on TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats' which follows the

story of the Jellicle cats.

The trailer features a number of cats who are eyeing their group leader, Old Deuteronomy (Dench) to select them and send to travel to Heavenside layer where they will have a new life. Each and every cat is trying to start afresh, a new life.

The big budget and the hyperrealistic CGI could still not save the film from internet's wrath and ridicule. Not many were comfortable with how the trailer took them deep into the uncanny valley and they voiced their disappointment on Twitter.



KATY PERRY'S NEVER REALLY OVER HAS A NEW NEVER-ENDING LYRICAL VIDEO

Creativity is Katy Perry's arena when it comes to music videos. She always comes up with fun and unusual ways to depict her songs. She released a new lyric video of her newest song titled Never Really Over and the video will definitely give you a laugh. Perry teased the song on her Instagram post stating that she had gone to a drug store to get one box of tissues for which she got a very long receipt. Never Really over was released as a single on May 31, 2019.

In the song's story-based video, Perry goes to a healing centre to get rid of negative energy from her previous relationships by hugging trees and

exercising. The song received positive reviews and opened up in the Top 10 on the Global Spotify Charts with 2.83 million streams. It also opened in the Top 10 charts of Australia, Canada, Israel, and Scotland. Perry credited the electropop song Love You Like That by Norwegian Singer Dagny Sandvik as her inspiration.

Never Really Over is her third song of the year after the Con Calma remix featuring Daddy Yankee and 365 featuring Zedd. Apart from singing, she also made a guest appearance in Taylor Swift's song You Need To Calm Down. Perry is also a judge on the reality show American Idol.

Boris Johnson formally becomes Britain's new prime minister

LONDON (TIP): Boris Johnson took office as Britain's new prime minister on July 24.

"The Queen received in audience The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP this afternoon and requested him to form a new administration," Buckingham Palace said.

"Mr Johnson accepted Her Majesty's offer and kissed hands upon his appointment as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury," it added.

Demonstrators from Greenpeace tried to block the wide ceremonial avenue leading to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday as Johnson was driving up it in a convoy to meet Queen Elizabeth to begin his term.

A group of mostly female protesters from the environmental group, dressed in red, linked hands across the road while others briefly unfurled a "Climate Emergency" banner as they sought to interrupt the passage of a car accompanied by police outriders.

The car moved slowly around them before reaching the palace shortly afterwards.

Greenpeace said it staged the protest to call Johnson to take action against climate change.

The group said it tried to hand him a 134-point manifesto listing actions to stop a "catastrophic climate breakdown" including scrapping plans for a new runway at London's Heathrow Airport and calling for action to achieve net zero emissions.

"The government is simply failing to tackle the climate crisis," John Sauven, executive director of Greenpeace UK, said in a statement.



Britains Queen Elizabeth II welcomes newly elected leader of the Conservative party Boris Johnson during an audience at Buckingham Palace, London, on Wednesday. Reuters

"It's not enough to point to world-leading climate targets when too often government policy ignores or worsens the situation by supporting fracking and banning onshore wind." Last month, Greenpeace demonstrators briefly interrupted a high-profile speech by then finance minister Philip Hammond to leaders of Britain's financial services industry.

Johnson enters Downing Street at one of the most perilous junctures in post-World War Two British history—the United Kingdom is divided over its divorce from the EU and weakened by the three-year political crisis that has gripped it since that referendum.

One of Britain's most prominent

Brexit campaigners, Johnson has repeatedly pledged to leave the European Union by October 31—"do or die"—and to inject a new optimism and energy into the divorce, which he argues will bring a host of opportunities.

But his Brexit strategy sets the United Kingdom up for a showdown with the European Union and thrusts it towards a potential constitutional crisis, or an election, at home.

"We are going to get Brexit done on October 31 and we are going to take advantage of all the opportunities it will bring in a new spirit of can do," Johnson, 55, said on Tuesday after he was elected by Conservative Party members.

To implement Brexit, Johnson will

appoint Dominic Cummings, the campaign director of the official Brexit Vote Leave campaign, as a senior adviser in Downing Street.

Wednesday's events combined arcane British political choreography with the realpolitik of appointing a new government—likely to be heavy on Brexit supporters.

Prime Minister Theresa May left Downing Street after a three-year premiership that was marred by crises over Brexit.

She formally tendered her resignation to Queen Elizabeth.

May appeared to be fighting back tears as she was applauded out of the House of Commons chamber. Her finance minister, Philip Hammond, resigned.

The queen requested he form an administration. His formal title is now "Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury".

Brexit government?

But 'Prime Minister Johnson'—a man known for his ambition, mop of blonde hair, flowery oratory and a cursory command of detail—must solve a series of riddles if he is to succeed where May failed.

The 2016 Brexit referendum showed a United Kingdom divided about much more than the European Union, and has fuelled soul-searching about everything from secession and immigration to capitalism, empire and modern Britishness.

The pound is weak, the economy at risk of recession, allies are in despair at the Brexit crisis and foes are testing Britain's vulnerability. (Reuters)

N Korea's Kim says missile test a warning to S Korean 'warmongers'

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea said on July 26 its latest missile launch was a warning to South Korean "warmongers" to stop importing weapons and conducting joint military drills, a message that analysts said was also aimed at the United States.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un personally watched the test-fire of two short-range ballistic missiles on Thursday, the first test since Kim met with U.S. President Donald Trump last month and agreed to revive denuclearisation talks. The missile tests raises doubts about the revival of denuclearisation talks, which stalled after the collapse of a second summit between Kim and Trump in Hanoi in February. "We cannot but develop nonstop super-powerful weapon systems to remove the potential and direct threats to the security of our country that exist in the south," Kim said, according to state news agency KCNA. An official at Seoul's defence ministry said the missiles were believed to be a new type of short-range ballistic missile.

Reuters

Paris sizzles as Europe grapples with heatwave

PARIS (TIP): Hot, hotter, hottest! Paris, London and points across Europe are bracing for record temperatures July 25 as the second heat wave this summer bakes the continent.

Climate scientists warn this could become the new normal in many parts of the world. But temperate Europe—where air conditioning is rare—isn't equipped for the temperatures frying the region this week.

So tourists frolicked in fountains to seek relief and authorities and volunteers fanned out to help the elderly, sick and homeless hit hardest by the heat. Trains were cancelled in Britain and France, and French authorities urged travellers to stay home.

One by one, heat records are being broken across Europe. On Thursday, the Paris area could be as hot as 42 °C as a result of hot, dry air coming from northern Africa that's trapped between cold stormy systems. London might see 39°C. And swaths of Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland could face temperatures exceeding 40 °C. And this is only the latest of several hot days. (AP)

Tunisia's first democratically elected president dies at 92

TUNIS (TIP): Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, the North African country's first democratically elected leader, died Thursday at the age of 92, his office said.

The veteran politician, the oldest head of state after Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, came to power in 2014, three years after the Arab Spring uprising toppled long-time despot Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and sparked revolts in several Arab nations.

He had been hospitalised with a severe illness in late June and was returned to intensive care on Thursday. — AFP



Billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein found injured in jail cell: Media

ATLANTA (TIP): Jeffrey Epstein, the financier facing charges of sex trafficking involving dozens of underage girls, was found unconscious in a Manhattan jail cell with injuries to his neck, media reported late on Wednesday, citing unidentified sources.

Epstein was found by guards sprawled on the floor of cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center on Wednesday, media reported. Some media reported that his face appeared blue.

The billionaire financier was taken to hospital, the New York Post reported, but it was unclear where he was taken or what his condition was.

It was not clear how he suffered his injuries.

Neither a representative for the correctional center nor Epstein's attorney returned calls or email inquiries from Reuters.

In denying him bail, U.S. District Judge Richard Berman in Manhattan said the government had shown by clear and convincing evidence that Epstein would pose a danger to the community if released pending trial. Reuters

CHIKMAGALUR – THE COFFEE LAND OF KARNATAKA

A scenic place in the Western Ghat of the versatile state Karnataka – Chikmagalur. The coffee land of Karnataka is a gorgeous hill station is a place that must feature on every tourists and travellers bucket list, thanks to the lush greenery all around, magnanimous views of the adjacent peaks and add to it the aroma of the coffee beans all over the town.

Chikmagalur in the local language means the town of the younger daughter. The name originates from a historically significant event. This small town was once gifted to a village chief as dowry when another village chief gave his younger daughter's hand in marriage. Thus, the name Chikmagalur.

One of the best getaways for a tranquil retreat, Chikmagalur is a place that is definitely a must at least once in a lifetime. Lush green mountains, mystical temples, cascading waterfalls, exotic trekking trails and picturesque coffee plantations make this place enchanting.

Here are a list places in Chikmagalur that you will absolutely love visiting while vacationing.

Mullayangiri

Mullayangiri is the highest peak of Karnataka, located on the Chandra Drona ranges, the Mullayangiri is also the highest peak between the Nilgiris and Himalayas. The quaint ambience, verdant grasslands, rugged rocks jetting out and nature's raw beauty will make you behold with the view. Just below the peak, you can spot a cave and if you are not feeling enough of the adventure this trekking trail has to offer, you can also explore this cave.

Kemmanagudi

Kemmanagudi, another towering mountain in Chikmagalur is another place that is not be missed out on when you are in Chikmagalur. The forests, gardens, waterfalls and springs in Kemmanagudi is simply mesmerising. Once a summer retreat to the royals of Mysore Wadiyar dynasty. With Mullayangiri and Bababudangiri in close proximity along with the twin Kallathi and Kalahasthi waterfalls is just beautiful. Kemmanagudi is also a haven for trekkers.

Kudremukh

Kudremukh is the most popular tourist destination in Chikmagalur, with pristine waterfalls, lush green landscape greenery everywhere, this place is an absolute haven for those who are in desperate need of peace away from the hustle-bustle of the city with alluring beauty of nature in abundance at Kudremukh. The Surimale Waterfall and the Kadambi Waterfall near Kudremukh are also a must visit place that mustn't be missed out.

Coffee Museum

If you are missing out on a place that is related to coffee is a crime in Chikmagalur. The Coffee Museum in Chikmagalur is run by Coffee Board of India, this museum offers a glimpse of the insight into the history of Coffee



plantations in India. You can also witness a thematic representation of how coffee is prepared in the museum.

Z Point

It would be an offence if Z point is missed out from this list. The Z Point is one of the must visit place in Chikmagalur, offering scintillating views of Chikmagalur from the peak of the Z Point. You can also opt for mountain biking if you want to add some adventure to the trek and ride on the rocky terrains leading up to the Z Point.

Dreaming of vacationing amidst this gorgeous place that is laden with all the beauty that mother nature can offer? Stop Dreaming and ring us on +91 7060 63063 to make your visit to Chikmagalur a memorable one.



THINGS EVERY WOMAN LOVES TO HEAR

There are endless ways you can compliment women. You can tell them their outfit is killer, that their eyes shine like the light from the sun, or that you love the way they're able to argue with you for an hour straight about why poha is the best breakfast. And yet, so many people (read: men) seem to get it wrong.

Actions speak louder than words, but that doesn't mean that what you say doesn't hold significance in your relationship. There are certain things women appreciate, and they don't always involve gifts and flowers. When it comes to making a woman feel loved, think simple, thoughtful, and sweet.

You smell really good

Whether it's your floral perfume, lavender essential oils, or the bold scent of fearlessness, it's nice to know that other people have noticed how good you smell.

You look so healthy

Instead of telling someone they look so "skinny," or "little," maybe you should just let them know they look healthy. Because ultimately, compliments should make a person feel good about themselves.

You are a genius

Even if it's something like suggesting a two-for-one pizza deal, someone's ingenuity must be recognised.

Your hair looks amazing

Many women will agree that it takes time and effort to look effortlessly good, so compliment away!

What's your skin regimen?

Asking what women do in terms of face and make-up is one of the biggest compliments. It makes women feel like Deepika Padukone,



which is not a feeling they can often get.

Can you share your recipe

This is an indirect way of saying, "I can't live without this thing you made" and that you're a good cook. Let it be known you appreciate a woman's culinary efforts, because we're telling you, it's not easy making a tasty salad.

I love your house

If you like what a woman's done with her place, totally let her know, because chances are she wants someone to appreciate her interior designing skills.

You're good at what you do

We should take pride in what we do for a living. Doesn't matter if it's teaching, cooking, singing, marketing, engineering, or writing. Everyone wants to be amazing. So yeah.

FOOD CORNER



RASMALAI

Ingredients

Milk - 1 litre
Paneer - 100 g
Sugar - 3/4 cup
Saffron Strands - 4
Almonds - 1 tsp, sliced
Pistachios - 1 tsp, sliced
Cardamom Powder - 1/4 tsp
Maida - 2 tsp

Method

- Crumble the paneer and mix with maida to a smooth dough.
- Make small balls and lightly flatten them.
- Heat 1 cup of water in a pan.
- Add 1/4 cup of sugar and bring to a boil until sugar has fully dissolved.
- Remove from flame.
- While it is still hot, add the paneer balls and cover with a lid.
- Keep aside for few hours.
- Boil the milk in a heavy pan until reduced in half.
- Add 1/2 cup of sugar and stir well until fully dissolved.
- Remove from flame.
- Add cardamom powder, saffron strands and mix well.
- Remove the balls from the sugar syrup and squeeze gently.
- Add to the hot milk.
- Garnish with almonds and pistachios.
- Keep it in the fridge for 2 to 3 hours.
- Serve chilled.

How to deal with a partner who can't stop cheating?

Count yourself out

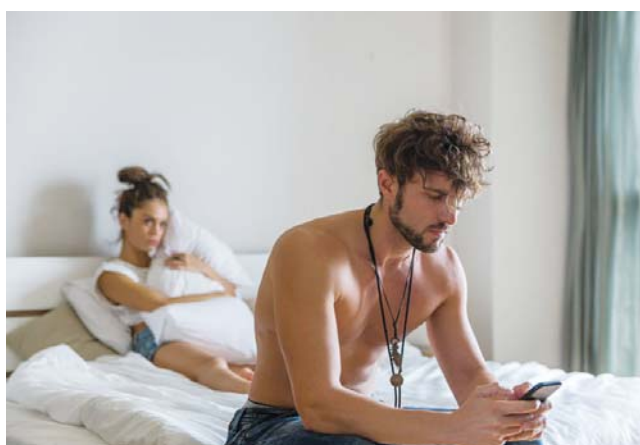
This is less about you and more about your partner. So, quit blaming yourself. Realise that it is a flaw in your significant other that got them to stray from the relationship, so spare yourself thoughts like, 'I am not good enough' or 'I should have been better.' Remember this, if you weren't good enough, they should have dumped you instead of keeping you as a backup while enjoying with someone else.

Confront the person

Yes, we know this sounds more difficult than it seems, but it is important no matter how hard it may be. You cannot let this go without hearing the words, 'Yes I cheated.' Address the person with your doubts (or proof) and let them know that you are aware of their 'fun' time. Make sure you have a face to face conversation about the same.

Get a confession

While confrontation may lead to this step, you've got to be assertive that you ask them clearly whatever is on



your mind, so you know the real deal. For instance, if you have a partner who is cheating on you by being just physical with someone, ask them why they did the same. Nonetheless, if your partner were both emotionally and physically available to someone else, that could be a red alert that your relationship has slipped out of your hand for good, and restoring it could take more effort and time.

Check if they are repentant

Going off on a guilt trip post cheating is normal... people do that all the time. But how genuinely sorry is your partner, that is for you to decipher. Is your partner taking it easy, behaving like 'well, cheating is just another thing in a relationship!' If so, he or she is a serial cheater who just doesn't feel sorry about doing you wrong. But if you're with someone who admits they're sorry, and makes efforts to mend their life and your relationship, maybe another chance (depending on how many you've already given them) would not be a bad thing.

Can you forgive

After hearing your partner out, ask yourself this question... Can you forgive them for what they did wrong? While we know this whole space resembles a religious doctrine, we must admit that forgiving your partner is step one of moving on to a healthier space in your relationship. Unless you do the same, there is just no sense in being together. Face it--- it is important to be okay with what went wrong before getting back on track.

AN APPLE CARRIES ABOUT 100 MILLION BACTERIA: STUDY

Besides containing fibre and vitamins, an apple also carries about 100 million bacteria, and whether these microbes are good or bad for health may depend on how the fruit was grown, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Microbiology*, shows that organic apples harbour a more diverse and balanced bacterial community—which could make them healthier and tastier than conventional apples, as well as better for the environment.

"The bacteria, fungi and viruses in our food transiently colonise our gut," said Professor Gabriele Berg, of Graz University of Technology, Austria.

"Cooking kills most of these, so raw fruit and veg are particularly important sources of gut microbes," Berg said.

To help us choose our colonic colonists wisely, the team analysed the microbiome of one of the world's favourite fruits: the apple.

"83 million apples were grown in 2018, and production continues to rise. But while recent studies have mapped their fungal content, less is known about the bacteria in apples," said Berg.

The researchers compared the bacteria in conventional store-bought apples with those in visually matched fresh organic ones.

Stem, peel, flesh, seeds and calyx—the straggy bit at the bottom where the flower used to be—were analysed separately.

Overall, the organic and conventional apples were occupied by similar numbers of bacteria.

"Putting together the averages for each apple component, we estimate a typical 240 gramme apple contains roughly 100 million bacteria," said Berg. The majority of the bacteria



are in the seeds, with the flesh accounting for most of the remainder. So, if the core is discarded, the intake falls to nearly 10 million, researchers said.

"Freshly harvested, organically managed apples harbour a significantly more diverse, more even and distinct bacterial community, compared to conventional ones," said Berg.

"This variety and balance would be expected to limit overgrowth of any one species, and previous studies have reported a negative correlation between human pathogen abundance and microbiome diversity of fresh produce," he said.

Specific groups of bacteria known for health-affecting potential also weighed in favour of organic apples. "Escherichia-Shigella—a group of bacteria that includes known pathogens—was found in most of

the conventional apple samples, but none from organic apples. For beneficial *Lactobacilli*—of probiotic fame—the reverse was true," Berg said.

"*Methylobacterium*, known to enhance the biosynthesis of strawberry flavour compounds, was significantly more abundant in organic apples; here especially on peel and flesh samples, which in general had a more diverse microbiota than seeds, stem or calyx," he said.

The results mirror findings on fungal communities in apples, researchers said.

"Our results agree remarkably with a recent study on the apple fruit-associated fungal community, which revealed specificity of fungal varieties to different tissues and management practices," said Birgit Wasserman, lead author of the study.

HEAD INJURY MAY CAUSE LOSS OF SMELL, ANXIETY

While it is already known that people who suffer a major concussion can lose their sense of smell temporarily, researchers have found that even minor head injuries may lead to olfactory and anxiety problems.

The study, published in the journal *Brain Injury*, found that even minor accidents like falling off a bike with a helmet on, taking a tumble on the ski slopes, slipping on ice and hitting one's head can provoke the same kind of problems as in major head injuries.

"A lot of people suffer a mild concussion at some point in their life, so realising they have trouble smelling is the first step to telling their doctor about it," said study lead author Fanny Lecuyer Giguere from the University of Montreal in Canada.

"It's important that patients report any loss of smell, because it's not something their general practitioners normally ask about," she said.

For the study, the researchers compared 20 hospital patients who had mild concussions with 22 who had broken limbs but had no concussion.

Within 24 hours of their accident, just over half of those with mild concussions had a reduced sense of smell versus five per cent of the patients with broken bones.



Smoking can trigger severe leg pain, poor wound healing

Researchers have found a strong link between smoking and peripheral artery disease—a circulatory condition in which narrowed blood vessels reduce blood flow to the limbs—and this elevated risk can persist up to 30 years after quitting smoking.

The study, led by researchers at the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, also found that the link between smoking and peripheral artery disease was even stronger than that for coronary heart disease and stroke.

"The study suggests that campaigns about smoking's health risks should emphasize the elevated risk of peripheral artery disease, not just coronary heart disease and stroke," said senior study author Kunihiro Matsushita.

The study found that compared with never-smokers, those who smoked for more than 40 pack-years had roughly four times more risk for peripheral artery disease, versus 2.1 times and 1.8 times more risk for coronary heart disease and stroke, respectively.

Take bath 90 minutes before bedtime for better sleep

Bathing one to two hours before bedtime in water about 41 degrees celsius warm may significantly improve your sleep, a study claims.

The researchers at the University of Texas at Austin in the US reviewed 5,322 studies.

They assessed the consistency between relevant studies and showed that an optimum temperature of between 104 and 109 degrees Fahrenheit (40 to 43 degrees Celsius) improved overall sleep quality.

When scheduled one to two hours before bedtime, it can also hasten the speed of falling asleep by an average of 10 minutes, according to the research published in the journal *Sleep Medicine Reviews*.

Much of the science to support links between water-based body heating and improved sleep is already well-established, researchers said.

For example, it is understood that both sleep and our body's core temperature are regulated by a circadian clock located within the brain's hypothalamus that drives the 24-hour patterns of many biological processes, including sleep and wakefulness, they said.

Body temperature, which is involved in the regulation of the sleep/wake cycle, exhibits a circadian cycle, being two to three degrees Fahrenheit higher in the late afternoon/early evening than during sleep, when it is the lowest.

The average person's circadian cycle is characterised by a reduction in core body temperature of about 0.5 to



1 F around an hour before usual sleep time, dropping to its lowest level between the middle and later span of nighttime sleep, according to researchers.

It then begins to rise, acting as a kind of a biological alarm clock wake-up signal. The temperature cycle leads the sleep cycle and is an essential factor in achieving rapid sleep onset and high efficiency sleep, they said.

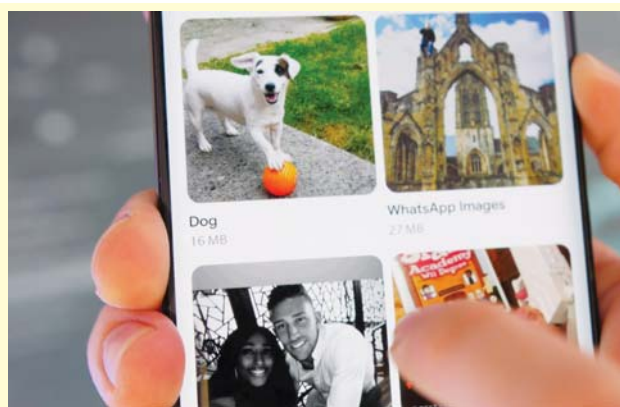
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GALLERY GO, A LIGHTER VERSION OF GOOGLE PHOTOS

To help users store photos in handsets having less storage and unreliable Internet connection, Google has introduced a lighter alternative to Google Photos called "Gallery Go" that weighs just 10MB.

The photo gallery app is designed to work offline and automatically organise photos using Machine Learning (ML) and help first time smartphone owners easily find, edit, and manage photos, without the need for Internet or Cloud backup.

"Gallery Go was designed to help you manage your photos using less data. And at just 10 MB, the app won't slow down your phone and leaves space to store more memories," Ben Greenwood, Product Manager, Google Photos wrote in a blog-post on Wednesday.

The light app comes with editing tools for instant fixes along with a variety of filters. Gallery Go is available in the PlayStore for devices running Android 8.1 (Oreo) or higher.

"While the app is available worldwide, some features such as 'organising photos' by people aren't available in all countries," Greenwood added.

Details about the wider roll-out of the features currently unavailable for everybody remain undisclosed as of now.

Previously, companies like Facebook and Twitter have also rolled-out "Lite" versions of their main apps.



Uber's new tools to help riders check driver identity fraud

To prevent driver identity fraud, ride-hailing giant Uber on Tuesday said it will send in-app reminders and a push notification so that riders can match the license plate, car make and model, and the driver photo with what is provided in the app before getting into the car.

The alert will go live on Tuesday and will progressively roll out nationwide in the days ahead, Uber said.

"Our goal is to make checking your ride before you get in the car synonymous with using Uber, every single time," Pavan Vaish, Head of Central Operations, Uber - India and South Asia, said in a statement.

"This new notification feature will remind people to complete these three steps every time they get in an Uber," Vaish added.

In addition to these steps, you can also ask the driver to confirm your name. Your driver sees your name in his app, and your driver's name is displayed in your app.

To safely exchange names, you can ask, "Who are you here to pick up?" The advisory further stresses upon not boarding the vehicle if the information in the app does not match up.

GOOGLE'S FAST PAIR TO SAVE WIRELESS EARBUDS' BATTERY

Google is aiming at making it easier to monitor the battery life of wireless earbuds in Android, with the next big update to its Bluetooth Fast Pair feature.

The search engine giant is adding a new interface in Android Q for managing Fast Pair-enabled headphones with device management features, Google Assistant settings, battery life information and links to third-party management apps all in one place, the Verge reported on Friday.

In October 2017, Google launched the Fast Pair technology to compete with Apple's quick AirPods pairing. Google's technology uses Bluetooth Low Energy and an Android phone's location to automatically discover Bluetooth accessories in close proximity and then automatically connects with a tap.

As part of a major feature update, the search engine giant is planning to add deeper support for truly wireless headphones.

Headphones that support fast pair would eventually be able to show individual battery life data for the case and each earbud independently, as well as pop-up that information when opening or closing the case.

In addition, to offer the option to unpair or ring the missing buds, the updated Fast Pair headphones would also start appearing in Google's Find My Device app, the report said.

Google spokesperson has



confirmed that the new features would reach all the Fast Pair-enabled headphones including the Google Pixel Buds, Bose's QuietComfort 35 II, JBL Live 220BT, 400BT and other existing headphones.

Without divulging further details, the company said the update to Fast Pair would be arriving "later this year", the report noted.

The Google Fast Pair Service

(GFPS) utilizes Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) to discover nearby Bluetooth devices without using significant phone battery, enabling "magical" scenarios based on device proximity. GFPS is initially aimed to facilitate first time pairing of audio sink devices, such as speakers, headphones and car kits, with as little user interaction required as possible. Subsequent pairing and reconnection will be seamless based on proximity.

TIKTOK TESTING INSTAGRAM INSPIRED FEATURES: REPORT



The wildly popular short video-sharing app TikTok is reportedly mulling to launch a host of new features that seem to have been inspired by Facebook-owned Instagram.

The features were discovered by reverse-engineering specialist Jane Manchun Wong who posted screenshots of the features on Twitter.

The purported Instagram-inspired features include a grid-style layout, an account switcher and a Discover page, among others.

"We're always experimenting with new ways to improve the app experience for our community," the spokesperson was quoted as saying by the TechCrunch on Saturday.

The TikTok spokesperson, however, declined to offer further details about the company's plans but confirmed the features were things the company is working on.

Earlier this week, speculation was rife that social networking giant Facebook was preparing the launch of a serious competitor to TikTok.

Owned by a Beijing-based start-up named ByteDance, TikTok saw its first-time installs grow about 28 per cent year-over-year for the first half of 2019 to nearly 344 million globally despite a two-week ban in India during the second quarter (Q2), revealed an estimate by mobile app intelligence firm Sensor Tower.

Facebook-like social media app launched in Vietnam

A Facebook-style social network was launched in Vietnam on Tuesday, following calls by the Communist-ruled government for domestic tech companies to create alternatives to US tech giants Facebook and Google.

Gapo, a mobile app that lets users create personal profiles and share posts to a Facebook style "news feed", has received 500 billion dong (\$21.55 million) in funding from tech corporation G-Group, its chief executive, Ha Trung Kien, said.

"Vietnamese users and enterprises are relying too much on Facebook as there are not so many social networks for them to choose from," Kien said, adding that Gapo plans to reach 3 million users in 2019 and 20 million by January 2021.

Govt plans \$10 billion global bond sale as early as October

MUMBAI (TIP): The government is considering an option to raise \$10 billion in one go from its first overseas bond sale as early as October, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The government would prefer to sell yen or euro-denominated debt so as to offer lower yields, the people said, asking not to be identified as the plan is still under discussion. A dollar bond isn't ruled out given there would be more liquidity, while it could also decide to sell the debt in multiple sales over a longer period.

India is banking on the novelty of a debut offering at a time when investors are desperate for returns as the world's pile of negative-yielding debt grows to a record \$13.4 trillion. While Saudi Arabia and Argentina have raised more money in recent years from international bond sales as emerging markets return in popularity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will be working to a tight timeline. "Market technicals are very strong, and the country is



on a positive political trajectory, so why not strike while the iron is hot," said Todd Schubert, the head of fixed-income research at Bank of Singapore Ltd. The surprise would be if there's no dollar tranche as "one would think that building an Indian sovereign curve would also be a strategic goal, and that can only be done in dollars." Finance

ministry spokesman DS Malik didn't immediately respond to calls. The maturity of the bonds could be 10 years or more, the people said. The current thinking among officials is that a larger sale would be more attractive to investors than breaking the fundraising task into smaller parts, because costs would be lower.



DEUTSCHE BANK SUFFERS \$3.5 BILLION LOSS ON ROAD TO REINVENTION

FRANKFURT (TIP): Deutsche Bank reported a bigger than forecast quarterly loss of 3.15 billion euros (\$3.5 billion), underlining the challenges it faces as it attempts to turn around its struggling business.

Deutsche Bank had this month flagged it would lose around 2.8 billion euros in the quarter when it announced a restructuring plan that will see 18,000 jobs go and cost 7.4 billion euros overall.

The scale of the loss, compared with a profit of 401 million euros a year ago, prompted the bank's shares to slide as much as 5.8% in Frankfurt. The bigger loss stemmed from higher goodwill impairment charges than foreseen when the bank announced its restructuring on July 7, it said.

The bank, Germany's largest, is considered one of the most important banks for the global financial system, along with U.S. heavyweights JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Citigroup.

But Deutsche has been plagued by losses and scandal, prompting it to embark on one of the biggest overhauls to an investment bank since the aftermath of the financial crisis.

Chief Executive Officer Christian Sewing said on Wednesday that the bank had already taken significant steps in implementing the strategy. More than 900 employees had given notice or been told they would be made redundant.

In a note to employees, Sewing said that the lender's underperforming investment bank faced "strong headwinds" in the quarter, including questions about the bank's future that spooked clients.

"Now we can look ahead with more optimism," he wrote.

Google settles job seekers' age-bias claims for \$11 million

Google agreed to pay \$11 million to end a lawsuit accusing the internet giant of discriminating against older job applicants, a deal that amounts to an average payout of more than \$35,000 for 227 people who joined the class action.

The settlement also calls for the Alphabet Inc. unit to train employees and managers about age bias, to create a committee focused on age diversity in recruiting and to ensure that complaints are adequately investigated.

Lawyers for the company and attorneys representing the over-40 job seekers who sued submitted a final settlement proposal Friday to a federal judge in San Jose, California. Lawyers will collect about \$2.75 million from the accord.

The case was brought by a woman who claimed she was interviewed by Google four times over seven years and was never offered employment despite her "highly pertinent qualifications and programming experience" because of her age. Cheryl Fillekes accused the company of "a systematic pattern and practice of discriminating" against older people.

"Age discrimination is an issue that needs to be addressed in the tech industry, and we're very pleased that we were able to obtain a fair settlement for our clients in this case," Daniel Low, a lawyer for Fillekes, said in an email.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise to invest \$500 m in India



NEW DELHI (TIP): Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) on Wednesday announced its plans to invest USD 500 million in India over the next five years to expand its operations, strengthen manufacturing capabilities and hire more people in the country.

The company plans to increase its workforce in India by 20 per cent over the next three to five years. It will hire new engineering talent with expertise in areas of critical importance to customers such as artificial intelligence (AI) and networking, HPE said in a statement.

It will also begin construction of a high-tech extension to its Mahadevapura campus in Bengaluru that will be able to house more than 10,000 employees, as well as state-of-the-art R&D facilities, it added.

When complete, the 1.3-million sq ft campus will support a broad range of functions including R&D, engineering services, finance and sales. "This strategic investment (of USD 500 million) underscores HPE's long-term commitment to India and will enable the company to grow its operations, manufacturing and employee base in the country, increase its R&D and services exports, as well as invest in technology initiatives to drive positive change for local Indian communities," the statement said. HPE said it also plans to commence manufacturing in India.

The company is scheduled to start manufacturing its subsidiary Aruba's portfolio of mobility and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions in India before the end of this year.

Rare Nike running shoes fetch more than \$400,000 at auction

A pair of 1972 running shoes, one of the first pairs made by Nike, has sold for \$437,500, shattering the record for a pair of trainers at public auction.

The so-called Nike "Moon Shoe," designed by Nike co-founder and track coach Bill Bowerman for runners at the 1972 Olympics trials, was the top lot in the first-ever auction dedicated to sneakers at Sotheby's auction house in New York on Tuesday.

Sotheby's said the price was a world auction record for a pair of running shoes. The buyer was Canadian investor and car collector Miles Nadal, who paid \$850,000 for 99 other pairs of rare or limited collection sneakers offered by Sotheby's.

The highest previous price fetched at public auction for sneakers was \$190,373 in California in 2017 for a pair of signed Converse shoes said to have been worn by Michael Jordan in the 1984 Olympic basketball final, Sotheby's said.

Sotheby's, better known for selling art works fetching tens of millions of dollars, teamed up with streetwear marketplace Stadium Goods to auction 100 pairs of the rarest sneakers ever produced in a venture that reflects their fast-growing status as collectibles.

The handmade "Moon Shoe," with a waffle sole pattern, was one of only 12 pairs ever made and the pair that were auctioned on Tuesday are the only ones known to exist in an unworn condition, Sotheby's said.

Nadal, the founder of investment firm Peerage Capital, said in a statement he was thrilled at his purchase, calling the "Moon Shoe" a "true historical artefact in sports history and pop culture". "I think sneaker culture and collecting is on the verge of a breakout moment," he added, saying he plans to display them, along with the other 99 pairs he acquired in a private sale last week, at his private automobile museum in Toronto.



contd from page 1

India Creates History with...

Chandrayaan 2 Indian lunar mission will boldly go where no country has ever gone before - the Moon's south polar region. Through this effort, the aim is to improve our understanding of the Moon - discoveries that will benefit India and humanity as a whole. These insights and experiences aim at a paradigm shift in how lunar expeditions are approached for years to come - propelling further voyages into the farthest frontiers.

Chandrayaan 2 is:

1st space mission to conduct a soft landing on the Moon's south polar region

1st Indian expedition to attempt a soft landing on the lunar surface with home-grown technology

1st Indian mission to explore the lunar terrain with home-grown technology

A successful landing would make India 4th country ever to soft land on the lunar surface after the space agencies of the USSR, US and China

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Team ISRO for the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2.

ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan congratulated the launch vehicle and satellite teams involved in this challenging mission. "Today is a historical day for Space Science and Technology in India. I am extremely happy to announce that GSLV MkIII-M1 successfully injected Chandrayaan-2 into an orbit of 6000 Km more than the intended orbit and is better."

"Today is the beginning of the historical journey of India towards Moon and to land at a place near south pole to carry out scientific experiments to explore the unexplored. On July 15, 2019 ISRO intelligently observed a technical snag, Team ISRO worked out, fixed and corrected the snag within 24 hours. For the next one and a half day, the required tests were conducted to ensure that corrections made were proper and in right direction. Today ISRO bounced back with flying colours." Dr. Sivan said.

The Moon is the closest cosmic body at which space discovery can be attempted and documented. It is also a promising test bed to demonstrate technologies required for deep-space missions. Chandrayaan 2 attempts to foster a new age of discovery, increase our understanding of space, stimulate the advancement of technology, promote global alliances, and inspire a future generation of explorers and scientists.

Moon provides the best linkage to Earth's early history. It offers an undisturbed historical record of the inner Solar system environment. Though there are a few mature models, the origin of Moon still needs further explanations. Extensive mapping of lunar surface to study variations in lunar surface composition is essential to trace back the origin and evolution of the Moon. Evidence for water molecules discovered by Chandrayaan-1, requires further studies on the extent of water molecule distribution on the surface, below the surface and in the tenuous lunar exosphere to address the origin of water on Moon.

The lunar South Pole is especially interesting because of the lunar surface area here that remains in shadow is much larger than that at the North Pole. There is a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it. In addition, South Pole region has craters that are cold traps and contain a fossil record of the early Solar System.

Chandrayaan-2 will attempt to soft land the lander - Vikram and rover- Pragyan in a high plain between two craters, Manzinus C and Simpelius N, at a latitude of about 70° south. Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon. It comprises a fully indigenous

Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan). The Rover Pragyan is housed inside Vikram lander.

Former Prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee announced the Chandrayaan project on course in his Independence Day speech on 15 August 2008. The mission was a major boost to India's space program. The idea of an Indian scientific mission to the Moon was first mooted in 1999 during a meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences. The Astronautical Society of India (AeSI) carried forward the idea in 2000. Soon after, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) set up the National Lunar Mission Task Force, which concluded that ISRO has the technical expertise to carry out an Indian mission to the Moon. In April 2003 over 100 eminent Indian scientists in the fields of planetary and space sciences, Earth sciences, physics, chemistry, astronomy, astrophysics and engineering and communication sciences discussed and approved the Task Force recommendation to launch an Indian probe to the Moon. Six months later, in November, the Indian government gave the nod for the mission.



A look at major differences between Chandrayaan-1 which was launched by ISRO in October 2008 and Chandrayaan 2 launched on 22 July 2019

Now the whole world is waiting for September 7 - a successful landing of Chandrayaan-2 would make India 4th country ever to soft land on the lunar surface and will boldly go where no country has ever gone before.

President Trump's Shocker for...

Even more shocking was his claim, during an Oval Office meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on July 22, that it was India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has suggested that he get involved and help both New Delhi and Islamabad resolve this problem.

India reaction to President Trump's remarks were fast and furious. The spokesman for Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar flatly denied that Prime Minister Modi had ever made such a suggestion and asserted that "No such request has been made by Prime Minister to the U.S. President. It has been India's consistent position that all outstanding issues with Pakistan are discussed only bilaterally. Any engagement with Pakistan would require an end to cross border terrorism."

"The Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration provide the basis to resolve all issues between India and

Pakistan bilaterally," Kumar's statement added.

Even long-time career diplomats dealing with South Asia, including those in his own administration, and other diplomatic sources India Abroad spoke to were also shocked by Trump's offer to mediate and found his contention that it was Modi himself asked him to do so "incredulous and incredible."

Immediately after news broke of Trump's offer of mediation in Kashmir, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah was quick to react, with a tweet that said, "Is Govt of India going to call @realDonaldTrump a liar or has there been an undeclared shift in India's position on third party involvement in #Kashmir?"

Another erstwhile J&K chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti welcomed Trump's offer to mediate the Kashmir issue, saying, "Welcome such a positive development laden with potential to establish permanent peace in the subcontinent."

The diplomatic bombshell came during Trump's meeting with Prime Minister Khan in the Oval office, when a reporter asked about the other security threat in South Asia - besides Afghanistan - the Kashmir dispute which has remained "unresolved even by the United Nations and even by the U.S.," and if President Trump is "going to make any kind of submission and intervention?"

Khan taking the question first, said, "I will be asking President Trump. He's - it's the most powerful country in the world, the United States. It can play the most important role in bringing peace in the subcontinent."

"You know, there are over a - over a billion and a quarter people in the subcontinent. They are held hostage to the issue of Kashmir. And I feel that only the most powerful state, headed by President Trump, can bring the two countries together," he said.

Khan added, "From my point, I can tell you, we have tried our best. We've made all overtures to India to start dialogue, resolve our differences through dialogue. But unfortunately, we haven't made headways as yet. But I'm hoping that President Trump would push this process." And this was where Trump jumped in, recalling that "I was with Prime Minister Modi two weeks ago, and we talked about this subject. And he actually said, 'Would you like to be a mediator or arbitrator?' I said, 'Where?' He said, 'Kashmir.' Because this has been going on for many, many years. I was surprised at how long; it's been going on a long -"

Khan chimed in, pointing out, "Seventy years," to which Trump replied, "And I think they'd like to see it resolved. And I think you'd like to be a mediator. It shouldn't be - I mean, it's impossible to believe two incredible countries that are very, very smart, with very smart leadership, can't solve a problem like that."

"But if you want me to mediate or arbitrate, I would be willing to do that," he reiterated.

And, now, there was no stopping Trump, and obviously, not just the mandarins in New Delhi, but all South Asia watchers and the D.C., who have followed the Kashmir issue for decades, were probably listening in horror, when he declared, "It should be resolved. So, it - but he (Modi) asked me the same, so I think there's something. So maybe we'll speak to him or I'll speak to him, and we'll see if we can do something because I've heard so much about Kashmir. Such a beautiful name."

"It's supposed to be such a beautiful part of the world. But right now there's just bombs all over the place. They say everywhere you go; you have bombs and it's a terrible situation. Been going on for many years. If I can do anything to help that, let me know," he added. (Source: Agencies)

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VEDIC RITUALS AND SACRIFICES FROM SRAUTA SASTRAS

Hinduism has a ritual dimension which dates back to the Vedic times (2500 BC) or earlier. Its rich body of rituals is drawn from Brahmanism, Shavism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism, Tantra and numerous other folk traditions and teacher traditions. Their common thread is the priesthood, who for over 4000 years served God with their ritual knowledge and priestly services.

Ancient Indians excelled in magical rituals, invoking gods to resolve human problems. The Purva Mimamsa school considered rituals even superior to God. For them, knowledge of the rituals was all that mattered since it was the source of all creation, diversity, and fulfillment of desires. In the following discussion, we will focus upon the various dimensions of Vedic rituals, how they were practiced and what role they played in the religious and social lives of common people.

Importance of sacrifices in Vedic religion

On the surface, you may find a divergence between the ritual and spiritual practices of Hinduism. However, upon close examination you will realize that both are complimentary rather than contradictory and play an important role in balancing the material and spiritual aspirations of people. Vedic Indian practiced various rituals or sacrifices, which were known as Yajnas (Yagnas). Other names given to them are homa, havana, and yaaga or yagya. The last two are corrupted forms (vikrti) of Yajna. The other two minor variations of yajna arise from the nature of offerings and the scale of functions. Etymologically, the word Yoga may have its origin in "Yajna" or "Yagya" since the essential purpose of Yajna in internal rituals (antaryajna), using pranagni or the fire of breath is the same as that of Yoga, which is the union between God and Soul.

Each sacrifice involved an intention (sankalpa), an altar (yajnakunda), a host (yajamana), sacrificial offerings of various kinds (kratuvu, bali), utensils, sacred fire (yagagni), one or more officiating priests (purohita), gifts (dakshina) for the priests and guests, expiation ceremony (prayaschitta) and other concluding rituals. They were performed in open or in a house, temple, palace or a temporary structure (yajnavatika) built for the purpose. Their purpose essentially was to fulfill desires, nourish the gods, obtain their favors, overcome adversity, resolve problems or wash away sins. People believed in the sanctity of the rituals and their ability to change the lives of people upon earth. Hence, they frequently resorted to them and used them to resolve issues which arose from the actions of others (adhibhautika), from fate (vidhi) or the acts of God (adhidaiva). In their worldview, the Yajna constituted an important aspect of God's eternal Dharma (set of duties) upon earth, which humans were expected to uphold since they were delegated to them.

In today's increasingly materialistic



world and instant gratification, the word ritual may convey a rather mechanical approach and attitude, any action in your daily life such as greeting another person or expressing gratitude, which you perform without putting your attention or emotion in it. Vedic people had a different approach to the sacrificial rituals. They genuinely believed in the efficacy and divine nature of the sacrifices and attributed every event and activity upon earth to some divine cause or the activity of the gods. For them, the idea of sacrifice constituted a way of life and a convenient means to feel assured that they had some control over their lives and circumstances and could invoke the power of gods to change them if necessary. They had almost childlike faith in the efficacy and importance of the rituals, which they believed gave them the power to live like gods upon earth. Hence, you will find that in the Vedic world, the sacrifices defined every aspect of their lives and permeated their consciousness.

Vedic people also viewed life itself as a continuous sacrifice in which they offered their lives and possessions as offerings. They relied upon them to express their allegiance to gods through prayers and chants and achieve the four aims of human life namely Dharma, wealth, sexual pleasure and liberation. As part of it, they practiced various sacrifices in all the four phases of human life namely, Brahmacharya (studentship), Grihastha (householder), Vanaprastha (forest dwelling), and Sanyasa (renunciation). Ritual knowledge constituted a major part of the curriculum for students of Vedas. They had to recite the hymns by heart and preserve the knowledge for their survival and that of their progeny.

For priestly families, ritual knowledge was the main source of livelihood. Through that they derived power, name, fame, prestige and social status.

Brahmanas of great repute were employed by kings. They were respected in society for their knowledge and judgment and dispensed with justice. Ritual knowledge helped them earn the confidence of the elite and win their approval, appreciation and material favors.

By establishing elaborate and complicated rules and procedures, precluding other castes from knowing them, and defining a strict code of conduct and establishing rules of social engagement through the authority of scriptures, they minimized competition from others, monopolized priestly duties, and guaranteed their job security. It was not that they had no concern for others. They prayed for peace and prosperity, and for a prosperous and bountiful world, so that they could find more patrons and have more opportunities to practice their profession and earn their livelihood.

Sources of ritual knowledge

The knowledge of the rituals comes to us mainly from the Vedas and the Srauta Shastras (or Kalpa Sutras which form

part of Kalpa, one of the six Vedangas). They contain information about the methods and the manner in which the Vaidik sacrifices were meant to be performed so that their purity and efficacy could be guaranteed. The knowledge was crucial for the continuation or preservation of Dharma, the survival of the priesthood and of those who depended upon it for their survival and success.

Since no one doubted the efficacy of the Vedic hymns or the rituals or the power of gods, priests had to take extra precautions to preserve their reputation and ensure that the sacrifices which they performed yielded the right results. Probably it also led to the idea of karma yoga that one should engage in ritual or obligatory actions without the desire for their result. The priests went to extreme lengths and took elaborate precautions to ensure that the rituals were performed under their supervision with utmost care and purity. If the rituals failed, they attributed it to the displeasure of the gods or fate or karma rather than their own failings.

Source: Hinduwebsite.com

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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."

Three youngsters to watch out for in India's tour of West Indies

After much speculation, the squad for India's tour of West Indies was announced some days back. The focus was firmly put on youngsters as the likes of Navdeep Saini, Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Chahar, Rahul Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed were picked by the selectors. Unlike some of the reports, senior members of the team like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma also opted to play in the series against West Indies rather than take rest after a gruelling World Cup schedule.

With MS Dhoni opting out, Rishabh Pant will be the first choice wicket-keeper in all three formats. It is time for India to reboot their team and start looking forward to the 2023 World Cup and the selectors have done the same by keeping faith in the young brigade. It will be a chance for the youngster to show their mettle and grab the chances that have been put in front of them by the team management and the selectors. Let's look at the 3 of those young players who could leave their mark and cement their place in the Indian side for the foreseeable future.

Shreyas Iyer

His lack of opportunities in the international arena has even infuriated the fans and critics, who have clamoured for his inclusion in the side. Iyer has himself continued to produce the goods in the domestic circuit as well. In the Indian Premier League (IPL), where he guided Delhi Capitals to the knock-outs after a long gap. Iyer led the India A side to a 4-1 triumph against the West Indies A recently and scored 210 runs at an average of 42 with a strike-rate of almost 97. He has also been phenomenal in the Ranji Trophy and the Vijay Hazare tournament where he has continued to score bucketloads of runs. So can this precocious talent prove his worth at the international stage? We will find out in West Indies.

Rahul Chahar

This 19-year-old leg spinner from Rajasthan has had a quick rise in stature in his career. Cousin of Deepak Chahar, Rahul was picked in the T20I squad for the tour of West Indies after some spectacular performances for Mumbai Indians in the 2019 IPL where he picked up 13 wickets at an impressive economy rate of 6.55. He then played in two Tests against Sri Lanka for India A and continued his wicket-taking spree. He had 14 wickets in two Tests and followed it up with a good display against the West Indies 'A'. With Yuzvendra Chahal coming under scrutiny after the World Cup, the 'younger' Chahar has a big opportunity at hand to nail down a



Shreyas Iyer



Rahul Chahar



Navdeep Saini

place in Team India.

Navdeep Saini

The speedster from Karnal turned heads with his raw pace in the 2019 IPL with Royal Challengers Bangalore (under the captaincy of Virat Kohli). Consistently touching the mark of 145 kmph, Saini has even clocked 152 during the IPL. He was selected to be a part of the travelling contingent for the

recently-concluded World Cup in England where he must have impressed the likes of Kohli and Rohit with his pace. It is highly likely that he might get his maiden India cap on the tour to West Indies with Bumrah not playing in the limited-overs. Indian team management would hope they are able to unleash another pace sensation on the world during their Caribbean Tour. *Source: HT*



Dhoni to serve in Kashmir, to do patrolling, guard duty: Army

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Indian skipper MS Dhoni has begun his two-month training with Indian Army's Parachute Regiment. On Wednesday, Dhoni joined a battalion, which has its headquarters in Bengaluru.

Speaking to IANS, sources in the know of developments said the plan was in the pipeline for a while.

"Just like Dhoni has been one of the greatest servants of Indian cricket, his love for the armed forces is also well-known. This idea that he would go and spend time with his regiment was in the pipeline for a while but it took a backseat due to his cricketer commitments."

"This will also help increase awareness among the youth about the armed forces and that is what Dhoni wants," the source said.

The 38-year-old holds the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army unit of the Parachute Regiment (106 Para TA battalion).

The unit is in Kashmir Valley as part of Victor Force. As requested by the officer and approved by Army Headquarters; he will be taking on the duties of patrolling, guard and post duty and would be staying with troops.

The honour was accorded to him by the Indian Army in 2011.

Dhoni was given this honour along with Abhinav Bindra and Deepak Rao.

In 2015, the Ranchi lad became a qualified paratrooper after having completed five parachute training jumps from Indian Army aircrafts in the Agra training camp.

Earlier, the veteran wicketkeeper-batsman had made himself unavailable for the West Indies tour where India will be playing three T20Is, three ODIs and two Test matches beginning August 3.

Messi banned for one match

ASUNCION (TIP): Lionel Messi was suspended from Argentina's first qualifying match for the 2022 World Cup and fined \$1500 by South American soccer's governing body.

CONMEBOL said its decision on Tuesday resulted from Messi's red card during Argentina's 2-1 win over Chile on July 6 in the third place match of the Copa America. Messi was ejected in the 37th minute after an altercation with Chile's Gary Medel, who also received a red card. South American qualifying starts in March.

Argentina's chief punished

South American football's ruling body CONMEBOL on Tuesday sanctioned Argentine federation president Claudio Tapia over an attack on a Copa America referee.





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 29 - August 4, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says this is a great period. The stars are smiling on you. You will be receptive to ideas, influences, ideals and new suggestions. You are at your creative best. The results could be breath taking. You invest in people and are immensely popular. Ganesha promises you that whatever you have aspired for could happen. All your efforts now start to yield dividends.

TAURUS: There is success, happiness and achievement. You will do well at the workplace and have a contented, fulfilled family life. You will also be very creative and those in the arts, literary fields, even technology, research, the whole of the world of information, will be at their best. You look at links, associations, friendships, popularity, socializing and friendships, even marriage.

GEMINI: There are many new trends and they pan out slowly starting this period. There is a changed attitude, progress and sustained growth in all areas of your life. You are receptive to new ideas and this helps a lot. The domestic scene occupies you, says Ganesha and you will be drawn closer to home and hearth. There will be many demands on the home front and there could be many expenses too.

CANCER: Keep your head cool, and don't over-react to stressful situations, says Ganesha. This is a period of joyousness. You realize the value of domestic commitments and feel happy and contented when you are able to meet all the demands of family members. But you will have to strive for objectivity. In this period, work, family and filial responsibilities will all be handled with sensitivity and grace.

LEO: There are joys and achievements. The negative aspects of life can also be energized and so you should steer very clear of shady deals. Those in the creative fields do well. You will be inspired and brilliant and will look to move into a higher level of consciousness. There will be creativity of the highest order.

VIRGO: You will have great intuition and insights into life and all kinds of ties will be forged. You will have the magic touch in forging relationship. I've already said this, but in terms of importance it needs to be said again. It is all about ties and bonds this period. Ganesha bids you to do your best. There will be many sensitive and emotionally charged moments.

LIBRA: This is not a particularly low phase but many doubts will assail you. There will be romance in the air and many meets, conferences and family gatherings. There will be fresh achievements and successes. The 5 F's of family, finance, fun, fortune and food hog your attention. A wide spectrum of business and professional transactions, deals and negotiations will have to be handled.

SCORPIO: You also look at expanding your consciousness. There could be sudden windfalls, great wealth or luck, and all kinds of wonderful opportunities that take you many rungs up the ladder of success. You break all records of endurance and have fun too in the process. There are a few glitches and roadblocks you have to watch out for as you push yourself to limits you didn't know existed.

SAGITTARIUS: Ganesha is happy that you are putting in your best efforts and ensures that you get the necessary rewards; perks, benefits, accolades and approval are all yours. A tremendous surge in confidence, enthusiasm and energy comes to you now. The theme / trend is definitely huge efforts and matching results.

CAPRICORN: There will be new circumstances that give you increased freedom or an opportunity to do something different. You could even be cheated in some recent deal and so it will be worth your while to scrutinize the fine print with a magnifying glass. This is party time. You charm everybody and your popularity soars.

AQUARIUS: Your inherent kindness, caring and generosity take you places. More importantly, you are liked for what you are as a person and not just for what you can do in terms of work and achievement. That is saying a lot, and I mean it. Ganesha points out that partnerships and collaborations and your bonding at family and personal levels reach the high point of achievement.

PISCES: This is a period of hard toil but there are also just rewards and that is the best part of work. You set your sights very clearly on whatever needs to be done and you go ahead and accomplish all your tasks with single-minded zeal. There could be new international associations and overseas projects. Your creative potential is also unleashed and you blaze the marquee.

Birthday Horoscope July 29 - August 4, 2019

JULY 29TH: Ganesha says relationships are stressful; money may be the issue. In social situations, comfort levels could be challenged. Do your best to avoid or limit awkward situations; focus on areas of commonality.

JULY 30TH: Conflicts can seem to take on David-vs Goliath proportions and have potential to be over-powering, calling for smart planning and strategy. Don't try to fight City Hall.

JULY 31ST: There's likely to be little accord as

you go about your daily business or face a bit of push-back in your personal life. Face obstacles calmly and without bitterness.

AUG. 1ST: Whether it's because of recent relationship tensions or another reason, people have a need for personal space, which should be respected. Some quirky people could enter the scene.

AUG. 2ND: It's possible to get your life back on an even keel. You can turn to others for advice that is reliable. Educational pursuits succeed.

Make travel and other arrangements with confidence.

AUG. 3RD: It may take some effort for you to know where you stand with a friend or a business alliance today. Everyone may be dealing with setbacks that are out of their control, leaving you to make do with what you have.

AUG. 4TH: Harmonious to your sign starting today and continuing for the next three weeks, your star brings the possibility of meeting people, travelling or making an alliance legal / official.

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