

We wish our Patrons a Happy Independence Day of India

Trump has made it clear mediation offer on Kashmir not on table anymore: Shringla



India's Ambassador to the United States Harsh Vardhan Shringla
Photo / Twitter@DDNewsLive

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has made it clear that his offer of mediation on Kashmir is not on the table anymore, a top Indian diplomat said on Monday.

India's Ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, said America's decades-old policy on Kashmir had been no mediation but to encourage India and Pakistan to resolve their differences bilaterally. "President Trump has made it very clear that his
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40,000 people register for 'Howdy, Modi' community summit in Houston

HOUSTON (TIP): Around 40,000 people have registered themselves for Indian American community summit "Howdy, Modi!" here, which will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 22 during his visit to the US for the UN General Assembly session, organizers of the event said.

"Howdy", short for 'How do you do?', is a friendly greeting commonly used in southwestern United States.

Attendance to the summit is free, but passes have to be obtained which is now open for public, said the host Texas India Forum, a Houston-based non-profit body, which expects around 50,000 people to attend the prime minister's address to the Indian diaspora at the sprawling NRG football stadium in the U.S.' fourth most populous city.

Houston, which has one of the largest concentrations of over 5,00,000 Indian American community in the U.S., is the energy capital of the world. Energy



The Prime Minister is scheduled to address the Indian American community event on September 22

security is a priority area for the prime minister.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said, "I look forward to welcoming PM Modi to Houston, home to one of the biggest and most vibrant Indian communities in the U.S."

'Visit will strengthen ties'

"This historic visit will strengthen the already robust bonds between Houston and India on trade, culture and tourism - all of which benefit every Houstonian."

Over 39,000 people have signed up in the first two weeks. There are more than 1,000 volunteers and 650 Welcome Partner organizations for the event, the Texas India Forum said.

According to convener of the organizing committee Jugal Malani, before the prime minister's address, the event, with the tagline 'Shared Dreams, Bright Futures', will include a cultural program that puts a spotlight on Indian-American contributions to the United States.
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Congressman Tom Suozzi's anti-India letter angers Indian Americans

Community demands retraction of the letter and apology



Congressman Tom Suozzi explaining his position to Indian American community representatives at Apna Ghar in Hicksville, August 11. Seen in the picture from L to R: Jagdish Sewhani, Varinder Bhalla, Tom Suozzi and Bobby Kalotee.

I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): The strong Indian American community in New York on August 11 reacted angrily to a letter Congressman Tom Suozzi wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, alleging India's highhanded in Kashmir, and that the human rights of Kashmiris were being violated.

The moment the letter surfaced on August 11, the word spread like wildfire

in communities across the Tri-states area of NY, NJ, CT that a Congressman who the Indian community has been supporting during the last more than two decades has turned against India.

Some Indian American friends of the Congressman spoke with Tom Suozzi and suggested that he give an explanation and apologize to

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ANUPAM RAY



भारत का प्रधान कंसल
ह्यूस्टन
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
HOUSTON
08 August 2019

MESSAGE

The 15th of August is a special day for all Indians. It is a day in which we commemorate the long and hard struggle that led India to become a free nation. It is a day in which we remember the sacrifices of those who fought to bring liberty and democracy to our people.

It is a day during which we also take stock of the progress that we have made, the challenges that we face and how we will overcome them collectively.

I convey my greetings and warm felicitations to all the readers of The Indian Panorama on the 73rd Independence Day of India.

Anupam Ray
(Anupam Ray)

Local Group of Indian Americans Helps North Texas Food Bank Provide More Than 4 Million Meals

DALLAS (TIP): With a rally cry of "Hunger Mitao" -meaning wipe out hunger- the North Texas Food Bank's Indian American Council (NTFB-IAC) has quickly mobilized and engaged the Indian-American community through issue awareness, increasing volunteerism and raising critical funds to benefit the mission of the NTFB. In less than two years the Council has helped provide access to more than 4 million meals. Fueled by a passionate Indian American community, the group originally planned to provide support for one million meals annually. Thanks to an outpouring of support the group exceeded their year goal in a mere 7 months and now in their second year, has shown no signs of slowing down.

In celebration of India's Independence Day, the NTFB-IAC is launching the Second Annual Hunger Mitao Week, their signature campaign which works to showcase the unity, philanthropy and spirit of the Indian-American community by conducting peanut butter and fund for food drives all over the region served by the North Texas Food Bank. The week will conclude with a special volunteer shift on August 17 while the call for peanut butter donations continues throughout the month of August.

"It is gratifying to see how much the IAC has grown in two short years," said Raj Asava, co-founder of the NTFB-IAC alongside his wife, Aradhana "Anna" Asava. "We have known this community to be compassionate and generous problem solvers, but to see the momentum that started in North Texas translate into a major national-level movement is thrilling.



The NTFB-IAC is the original Indian American Council that was created to benefit Feeding America Member Food Banks. Thanks to the success in North Texas, the concept is now being replicated in other US cities including Houston, New York City, Atlanta, Seattle, New Jersey, and Washington DC.

"When we launched the IAC in North Texas, we were confident that the community would galvanize around the issue of hunger," said Anna Asava, NTFB-IAC co-founder. "What we couldn't have predicted is how quickly the movement would grow and how dedicated the community is to fighting hunger; it truly is all about the spirit of 'give where you live.'"

As the NTFB-IAC works to plan for the

next 4 million meals, those that have benefitted the most from their efforts are the people facing food insecurity in North Texas.

"Hunger is a complex issue, and it takes a community to ensure that we have the resources in place to feed those that need our help," said Trisha Cunningham, President and CEO of the North Texas Food Bank. "The Asavas and each of the families and companies that make up the NTFB-IAC have played a critical role in ensuring our neighbors have the foods that they need to thrive. We can't thank them enough for their efforts to provide 4 million meals in less than two years and can't wait to see what the next two years will bring for this tenacious group!"

To find out more about Hunger Mitao Week and how to get involved with the NTFB-IAC visit ntfb.org/iac

About the North Texas Food Bank

The North Texas Food Bank(NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit hunger-relief organization operating a state-of-the-art volunteer and distribution center in Plano-the Perot Family Campus. Last year, the Food Bank worked hard in partnership with member agencies from our Feeding Network to provide access to almost 77 million nutritious meals across a diverse 13-county service area- this means more than 200,000 meals per day for hungry children, seniors and families. But the need for hunger relief in North Texas is complex, in order to meet the need, the NTFB is working to increase our food distribution efforts with a goal of providing access to 92 million nutritious meals annually by 2025.

NTFB is a member of Feeding America, a national hunger-relief organization.

About the Indian American Council

The Indian American Council was formed to raise awareness, improve engagement, as well as channel resources and contributions of the Indian American community towards the overall mission of a hunger-free United States. In less than two years since its launch, the purely volunteer-run Indian American Council has helped enable over 6 million meals for those served by the North Texas Food Bank, Houston Food Bank, and Food Bank for New York City.

(Source: Globe News Service)

Andhra CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to visit Dallas on family tour



VIJAYAWADA/ DALLAS (TIP): Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will leave for Dallas on August 15 on a personal visit and return to the State on August 24. After participating in the Independence Day celebrations in the city on August 15, he will leave for Hyderabad and from there for the US along with his family members. It is learnt that Jagan

is going to the US for the admission of his younger daughter Varsha Reddy in a graduation course. The CM will also address the Telugu people in Dallas on August 17.

NEW TEXAS GUN LAWS THAT GO INTO EFFECT SEPT. 1

DALLAS (TIP): Texas lawmakers have passed several measures protecting the rights of gun holders. From protecting licensed gun holders during natural disasters to raising the number of armed school marshals allowed on school campuses, Texas lawmakers have passed several measures protecting the rights of gun holders.

Those licensed to carry firearms will soon be able to do so in places of worship, such as a synagogue or a church.

Legislators also created laws prohibiting residential or commercial property owners from restricting possession of firearms by residents or their guests.



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www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Priya Aiyar named Senior Vice President and General Counsel of American Airlines

NEW YORK (TIP): American Airlines Group announced Aug. 5 that Priya Aiyar will join the airline as Senior Vice President and General Counsel, succeeding Paul Jones, who retired from American earlier this year.

"We are thrilled to welcome Priya to American Airlines," said Steve Johnson, American's Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs. "Priya is an outstanding lawyer and an extraordinary intellect, and her strategic perspective, integrity, energy, unique experience, passion for the law, and demonstrated ability to build and inspire teams make her the perfect person to lead our legal strategy and team over the coming years. We remain focused on evolving our culture and attracting the best and brightest to American and, in both respects, we could not have found a better person."

"We are enormously proud of what Paul and our terrific legal team have accomplished," continued Johnson. "I'm looking forward to working with Priya to build on that work and take us to the next level."



Aiyar will lead American's Legal Affairs team and its legal strategies

In this role, Aiyar will lead American's Legal Affairs team and its legal strategies. This includes the company's corporate governance, securities and corporate finance, business and commercial, litigation, competition and antitrust, compliance, privacy,

environmental, employment, and intellectual property legal issues and work.

Aiyar joins American from Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, where she has been a partner, and brings more than 18 years of government and private sector experience. She served as Acting General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. Department of the Treasury as well as Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy. Earlier in her career, Aiyar held senior legal roles within the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the Federal Communications Commission, and was a partner at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel PLLC. She began her legal career as a clerk to Judge Merrick Garland of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and to Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Aiyar holds a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School, a master's degree from the University of Oxford and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

Indian Origin Bhasha Mukherjee Crowned Miss England 2019



Bhasha has a bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Nottingham

LONDON (TIP): Bhasha Mukherjee, a 23-year-old Indian-origin doctor has been crowned Miss England, 2019. As winner of Miss England, she will be entered into the Miss World contest.

Bhasha who was born in India, relocated to the UK with her family when she was nine. She has two bachelor's degrees: one in medical sciences and one in medicine and surgery from the University of Nottingham. She speaks five languages - English, Bengali, Hindi, German and French.

"Bhasha is an incredibly hard-working young woman, an ideal candidate to represent the multicultural country of England," said Angie Beasley, director of the Miss England contest.

Bhasha was about to start her new job as a junior doctor in a hospital in Boston, Lincolnshire, just hours after the Miss England final ended on August 8 evening.

Indian American led Research Discovers Novel Proteins in Human Gut



Ami Bhatt MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine and of genetics, is the senior author

small that they've previously gone undetected.

Ami Bhatt and her collaborators found that the bacteria in our gut make thousands of tiny, previously unidentified proteins that could shed light on human health and advance drug development.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Aman Bhutani named CEO of GoDaddy

SCOTTSDALE, AZ (TIP): GoDaddy, an Internet names and registrations management company and its Board of Directors has named Aman Bhutani, previously President of Brand Expedia Group, as the company's new CEO, effective September 4th, 2019. Scott Wagner, Chief Executive Officer, will step down for health reasons.

"Aman is a proven, extraordinary leader with a strong track record at Expedia for delivering operational excellence in a complex, global business. His extensive knowledge and experience in product and engineering teams, and his belief in culture and leadership as differentiators will serve GoDaddy well," said Chuck Robel, Chair of the GoDaddy Board of Directors.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this incredible company," said Bhutani. "GoDaddy's extraordinary focus on constantly innovating and improving for its entrepreneurs has built a devoted and rapidly growing customer base. I look forward to working closely with everyone at the company to seize the



A nine-year veteran of Expedia Group Inc., Bhutani most recently served as the President of Brand Expedia Group

vast opportunities that lie ahead."

A nine-year veteran of Expedia Group Inc., Bhutani most recently served as the President of Brand Expedia Group, the largest contributor to the company's 19% annual growth over the last five years. The Brand Expedia Group encompasses the flagship Expedia brand, Travelocity, and Orbitz, among others. In his prior role as Chief

Technology Officer and Senior Vice President of Engineering, Bhutani led the vision and development of a single global technology platform designed to support multiple brands and partners, serving 90 million monthly unique visitors and driving more than \$50 billion in annual gross bookings value. Under his leadership, Brand Expedia grew revenue healthy double digits through a mixture of organic and inorganic growth. The organic growth strategy was driven by extending the product portfolio, offering more options to travelers, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of a \$1 billion annual performance market spend through automation and machine learning.

Indian American Pranav Kothari to Serve on Illinois Board of Higher Education

CHICAGO (TIP): On August 2, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced nine appointments to Illinois Board of Higher Education, including an Indian American.

Pranav Kothari is the Founder and CEO of Revolution Impact, which focuses on helping empower social sector organizations to achieve their goals. He also serves as Adjunct Lecturer of Social Impact at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, teaching both MBA and executive education courses on the education sector, social sector performance measurement and board governance.

Pranav has held prior leadership roles with KnowledgeWorks, StriveTogether and Mission Measurement and has served as Board President of the National College Access Network. He currently is the board vice president of MORTAR and is a member of the UChicago Consortium on School Research Steering Committee. Kothari received his Master of Business Administration in Corporate Strategy and Organizational Behavior from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan and an A.B. in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis.



Kothari speaks nationally on measuring social impact, education data, education philanthropy, and nonprofit effectiveness.

Delaware becomes first no-kill state after saving over 90% of its shelter animals, according to nonprofit

DELAWARE (TIP): Last year over 700,000 cats and dogs were euthanized in America's animal shelters - but Delaware is working to combat what animal advocates believe are unnecessary deaths. The First State is living up to its nickname, becoming the first no-kill state in the nation, according to the nonprofit Best Friends Animal Society.

"When every shelter in a community achieves a 90% save rate for all cats and dogs, that community is designated as no-kill," the nonprofit noted on its website. The 10% margin of error factors in euthanasia for pets "who are suffering from irremediable medical or behavioral issues that compromise their quality of life and prevent them from being rehomed."

Delaware boasts a 92.9% save rate, meaning about 12,000 of the approximately 13,000 pets in its shelters were saved. Best Friends Animal society defines "saved" as if the pets are "returned to their owners or provided with expert care and safe places to call home."

"Delaware put a policy emphasis on animal issues," Holly Sizemore, the Chief Mission Officer of Best Friends Animal Society, told CBS News. "There are some terrific organizations working collaboratively there and the residents care deeply about the issue and have stepped up to help."

The news was announced at the organization's annual national conference in Texas late last month, a representative confirmed to CBS News.

Best Friends Animal Society hopes to eventually find homes for every shelter animal "by helping end the killing in America's animal shelters through building community programs and partnerships all across the nation." Its goal is for every shelter in the U.S. to reach no-kill status by 2025.

"All communities have something unique about them and each community has unique challenges as it relates to achieving no-kill," said Sizemore.

"However, with about 4,300 no-kill communities across the U.S. achieving the no-kill benchmark, we know that it can be done. It can be done in rural communities, urban communities, East Coast communities, West Coast communities and everywhere in-between."

The United States, on average, is far behind Delaware, boasting a save rate of just 76.6%. Texas and California are the farthest from the goal, with save rates under 75%.

(Source; CBS News))

New regulation can deny green cards for immigrants using public benefits

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration rolled out a key item in its hardline immigration agenda that had been months in the making, issuing a sweeping rule on Monday that targets legal immigrants who use welfare benefits like food stamps and government-subsidized housing.

The new regulation - detailed in a more than 800-page document - would dramatically expand the government's definition of the centuries-old term "public charge," effectively making it more difficult for certain low-income immigrants to secure permanent residency or temporary visas. The final and enforceable version of the rule is scheduled to be officially published on the Federal Register Wednesday and slated to go into effect in October.

The rule affects most aspects of life for immigrants - from medical care and English language proficiency, to food stamps and other welfare programs. Critics say discussion of the rule's rollout had already been having a "chilling effect" on many immigrant communities, including households and families who are not directly affected by it on paper.

Ken Cuccinelli, the acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency which administers benefits for immigrants, touted the change as a way to promote "self-sufficiency" and "success" among immigrant communities.

"Through the public charge rule, President Trump's administration is re-enforcing the ideals of self-sufficiency and personal responsibility ensuring immigrants are able to support themselves and become successful here in America," Cuccinelli told reporters at the White House on Monday.

What is a public charge?

The "public charge" standard was first codified into U.S. immigration law in 1882 - the same year the U.S. enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred the entry of Chinese laborers into America on the premise that immigration from China endangered "the good order of certain localities." The term essentially means being a burden on society.

It was also included in the Immigration and Nationality Act of



1952, which stipulated that those who were deemed a "public charge" would be subject to deportation or barred from entering the country.

In the 1990s, the Clinton administration issued guidance effectively saying that only cash benefits - like the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program - could be considered when determining whether an immigrant was a "public charge."

What would the new regulation do?

Immigration authorities currently ask green card applicants to prove they won't be a burden on the country, but the new regulation, if enacted, would require caseworkers to consider the use of government housing, food and medical assistance such as the widely-used Section 8 housing vouchers and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The rule would subject immigrant households who fall below certain income thresholds to the "public charge" test - which would also consider how well applicants speak, read and write English. Under the proposed rule, any diagnosed medical condition that requires extensive medical treatment would also "weigh heavily" in evaluations by caseworkers.

Asylum seekers and refugees would be exempt from this "public charge" test.

What have researchers, doctors and lawmakers been saying?

When the 60-day public comment window on the proposed rule closed last December, more than 260,000 comments - nearly all critical of it - were submitted.

A study in May by the Urban Institute found that more than 13% of adults in immigrant families said they were not participating in public programs such as food stamps and subsidized housing due

to concerns that the so-called "public charge" rule would hinder their ability to obtain green cards. The number of immigrants reporting this fear rose to 20.7% among low-income families.

Although the proposed rule would affect immigrants in the U.S. who are not citizens or permanent residents - as well as people seeking to immigrate to the country from abroad - the report by the Urban Institute detailed a "spillover effect" in which both green card holders and U.S. citizens reported avoiding public benefits because of the proposal's expected implementation.

Nearly 15% of immigrants in families in which all members had green cards and 9.3% of adults in families comprised of naturalized U.S. citizens said they did not participate in government assistance programs within the past 12 months due to concerns about the proposed rule's impact on their and their family members' ability to qualify for permanent residency.

Another study late last year by the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center predicts that as many as 6.8 million U.S. citizen children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) with parents who are non-citizens could be affected by the new regulation.

Although the proposal does not include Medicaid and CHIP assistance in its "public charge" considerations, researchers at the Health Policy Center believe immigrant parents, particularly in Latino and Asian American communities, will drop these benefits due to concerns surrounding their immigration status and ability to remain in the U.S. legally with their children.

The big picture: Advocates, doctors, civil servants and Democrats fear that the regulation will punish poor immigrants for using essential government benefits and prompt some parents to halt their children's enrollment in nutritional and medical programs - even if the children are U.S. citizens in mixed-status households.

Will the rule be challenged in court?

As soon as the final rule was unveiled, several groups vowed to file lawsuits to try to block it. (Source: Agencies)

India-U. S. Defence Policy Group Discusses Defense Cooperation

WASHINGTON (TIP): Defense Secretary of India, Sanjay Mitra, and U. S. Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Mr. John Rood, jointly chaired the 15th meeting of the India-US Defense Policy Group (DPG) on 2nd August 2019 in Washington D. C. The DPG is the apex official-level meeting mechanism between the Ministry of Defense of India and the U.S. Department of Defense, comprehensively reviewing and guiding all aspects of bilateral defense cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting took stock of the progress made in various fields of defense cooperation in recent years, including in defense trade, technology, procurement, industry, R&D and mil-to-mil engagement. They recognized the benefit of the enabling defense agreements concluded by the two sides and appreciated India's designation as a Major Defense Partner of the U.S. They underlined the importance of collaboration between the defense industry and start-ups in the two countries and agreed to pursue a policy environment conducive to this.

Various working groups and mechanisms under the DPG briefed the Co-chairs of the progress made in their respective areas and got the latter's guidance on addressing process issues for meaningful, sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two sides reaffirmed the role of the DPG as an important part of the Ministerial 2+2 mechanism, helping translate the shared strategic vision of cooperation into reality. They agreed to hold the next meeting of the DPG in India at mutually convenient dates.

Remembering Oak Creek Shootings

MILWAUKI (TIP): August 5 marks the seventh anniversary of the shooting at the Oak Creek Gurdwara in Wisconsin where the Sikh community lost six members; Satwant Singh Kaleka, Paramjit Kaur, Suveg Singh Khattrra, Prakash Singh, Ranjit Singh, and Sita Singh.

A spokesman for SALDEF said: "This tragic day highlighted the need to combat hate and to also understand gun control. Yet today we are still faced with the same issues. This past weekend there were two major mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio; leaving behind 29 dead and 53 injured. Today, we not only remember the six-members of the Sikh American Sangat we lost seven years ago on this day; but we also mourn with our brothers and sisters who lost friends and family members in other shootings across the country."

The SALDEF statement further said: "To pay respect to the six courageous men and women lost in the Oak Creek attack, SALDEF requests you to spread awareness about the history and significance of the Sikh religion.



In Remembrance



Sharing about who Sikhs are with your local communities will help combat hateful comments and attacks. Also, please write to your representatives to encourage them to create legislation that recognizes the Sikh community and expands our right to publicly follow our

religion. Additional ways to spread awareness and bring our community together include working with SALDEF to host a Know Your Rights seminar at your local Gurdwara or a Law Enforcement Partnership Program (LEPP) at your local police station."

Illinois Governor Signs New Law Designating April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month

PALATINE, IL (TIP): Joined by Sikh community members and elected officials at the Sikh Religious Society of Palatine, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed a new law August 3 designating April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in the state of Illinois.

"As we shape our state to be a place that embraces our future with open arms, we would do well to take a page from the Sikh community. That's why I'm proud to sign this legislation designating the month of April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month," said Governor JB Pritzker. "As Sikhs throughout the world celebrate the 550th anniversary of the birth of their first guru, we celebrate you as an integral part of the Illinois community. We are tremendously proud that so many Sikhs call this state their home."

House Bill 2832 sets aside time to recognize the many ways that Sikh Americans have influenced American history, achievement, culture and innovation. The law takes effect on January 1, 2020.

"Sikhs are a vital part of Illinois' cultural and economic fabric, particularly in Chicago and the suburbs. It is important that we make an effort to better understand and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans," said Sen. Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights).

"I am pleased to be part of making April an annual recognition of our Sikh community, to shine a light on the vital contributions they have made to our state and nation as a whole, and to create an opportunity to educate our neighbors about their rich history, to foster greater understanding and respect among all of us," said Rep. Michelle Mussman (D-Schaumburg).

(Press Release and pics / Asian Media USA)

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signing a new law August 3 designating April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in the state of Illinois. "We are tremendously proud that so many Sikhs call this state their home", said Governor JB Pritzker



APRIL IS SIKH AWARENESS & APPRECIATION MONTH

Join us in celebrating the Sikh community and their values of justice, selfless service and equality for all!



USCIS to Maintain Operations at New Delhi, Will Adjust International Footprint to Seven Locations

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced plans to maintain operations at its international field offices in Beijing and Guangzhou, China; Nairobi, Kenya; and New Delhi, India. Previously, Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli directed the agency to continue operating in Guatemala City, Guatemala; Mexico City, Mexico; and San Salvador, El Salvador, as part of a whole-of-government approach to address the crisis at the southern border.

While retaining these seven international offices, USCIS plans to close the remaining thirteen international field offices and three district offices between now and August 2020. The first planned closures are the field offices in Monterrey, Mexico, and Seoul, South Korea, at the end of September. These organizational changes will allow more effective allocation of USCIS resources to support, in part, backlog reduction efforts.

"This cost-effective and high value international footprint allows USCIS to efficiently adjudicate complex immigration petitions that require in-person interviews, to enhance integrity through fraud detection and national security activities, and to liaise with U.S. and foreign government entities to improve migration management capacity," said Cuccinelli. "In the months ahead, USCIS will close its other international offices on a staggered schedule, ensuring a smooth transition of workloads to USCIS domestic offices and State Department consular sections, while mitigating impacts on USCIS staff who will rotate back to domestic positions."

Many functions currently performed at international offices will be handled domestically or by USCIS domestic staff on temporary assignments abroad. As part of this shift, the Department of State (DOS) will assume responsibility for certain in-person services that USCIS currently provides at international field offices. In addition to issuing visas to foreign nationals who are abroad, DOS already performs many of these service functions where USCIS does not have an office. USCIS is working closely with DOS to minimize interruptions in immigration services to affected applicants and petitioners.

DELHI-LAHORE BUS SERVICE CANCELLED: DTC



NEW DELHI (TIP): The DTC on Monday cancelled the Delhi-Lahore bus service as Pakistan has decided to discontinue it in the wake of India revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status, said a senior official of the public transporter.

On Saturday, a senior Pakistani minister has announced to suspend the friendship bus service from Monday.

A Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus was scheduled to leave for Lahore at 6 am on Monday. However, it did not leave due to the Pakistan's decision to suspend the bus service, the official said.

"Consequent to Pakistan's decision to suspend the Delhi-Lahore bus service, DTC is not able to send bus (from Delhi to Lahore) from August 12," said a statement from DTC.

Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) had on Saturday also telephonically informed the DTC about suspension of the service from Monday.

The last bus for Lahore left Delhi on Saturday morning carrying two passengers while the return bus from the other side reached the National Capital carrying 19 passengers in the evening of the same day.

The bus service did not operate on Sunday.

The Delhi-Lahore bus service was first started in February 1999 but suspended after the 2001 Parliament attack. It was restarted in July 2003.

The bus service was first started in February 1999 but suspended after the 2001 Parliament attack. It was restarted in July 2003.

It had, however, continued with a depleted number of passengers even when bilateral relations between the two countries had worsened following the Pulwama terrorist attack and Balakot surgical strikes in February this year.

The Lahore-Delhi bus service is operated from the Ambedkar Stadium terminal near Delhi Gate. DTC buses ply every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and PTDC buses every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from Delhi to Lahore.

No exchange of sweets along Indo-Pak border on Eid

NEW DELHI (TIP): The customary exchange of sweets between the BSF and Pakistan Rangers along the International Border did not take place on Monday on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, officials said.

The unilateral downgrading of diplomatic ties by Pakistan with India in the wake of the Modi government's decision to revoke provisions of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir is being seen as a reason for the non-conduct of the ceremony.

They said the Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony after the Border Security Force (BSF) sent across official communication to exchange sweets and greetings along the IB running through Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

"The customary event did not take place at any location along the India-Pakistan border on the occasion of Eid al-Adha on Monday," a senior official said. The two forces that are deployed along the over 3,000 km of this border exchange sweets on major festivals such as Eid, Holi, Diwali and their respective national days.

No claims beyond J&K: Jaishankar to China

NEW DELHI (TIP): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday reassured China that New Delhi's decision to exercise greater administrative control over Ladakh would have no implications for India's external boundaries or the Line of Actual Control with China.

"The legislative measures were aimed at better governance and socio-economic development," he told his Chinese interlocutors, referring to India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and making Ladakh, which borders China, a Union Territory.

"There was no implication for the external boundaries of India or the Line of Actual Control with China. India was not raising any additional territorial claims. The Chinese concerns in this regard were misplaced," he said.

Jaishankar's remarks follow the Chinese Foreign Ministry's earlier response that India had "continued to damage China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally modifying the form of domestic law." The Chinese Foreign Office had also said that this practice was "unacceptable" and it would not have any effect.

Speaking to the Indian media, Jaishankar said he had pointed out that regarding the boundary question, the two sides had agreed to a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement based on the 2005 Political Parameters and Guiding Principles.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told the Indian media on Monday that in his talks, China had raised the question of Aksai Chin — a territory claimed by India, but which is under Chinese control.

Regarding India's decision to withdraw special status to Jammu and Kashmir, M. Jaishankar said



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a meeting with Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan in Beijing on Monday.

that he had told his hosts that "this was an internal matter for India." "The issue related to changes in a temporary provision of the Constitution of India and was the sole prerogative of the country."

He said his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi had also referred to rising tension between India and Pakistan as a result of these changes. In his response, Jaishankar said he had emphasised that "these changes had no bearing on Pakistan as it was an internal matter."

"It did not impact the Line of Control (LoC). Where India-Pakistan relations are concerned, the Chinese side should base its assessment on realities," he had told Wang. "India as a responsible power had shown restraint in the face of provocative Pakistani rhetoric and actions. India has always stood for normalisation of the ties in an atmosphere free of terror," he noted.

Asked if he had objected to

China's reference to the UN charter and UN Security Council resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue following Wang's talks with visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday, Jaishankar said: "I am not here to have an argument with something they (the Chinese) did with Pakistan or some other country. I am here to represent my position and have a conversation with my counterpart. My counterpart raised certain issues related to legislative changes in India. I replied to that."

Jaishankar said discussions were also held on the situation in Afghanistan. "The Chinese Foreign Minister shared his assessment because they have been talking to various parties. He gave his assessment. We had a fairly detailed conversation." There was also a dialogue on the Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor, he added.

'Will send you a plane, come here, then speak': J-K Guv to Rahul Gandhi

JAMMU (TIP): Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Monday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks that there have been reports of violence in Kashmir, saying he will send him an aircraft to visit the valley and observe the ground situation.

The governor said Gandhi should feel ashamed about the behaviour of one of his leaders who was talking like an "idiot" in Parliament. "I have invited Rahul Gandhi to come here. I will send you a plane, to observe (the situation) and then speak up. You are a responsible person and you should not speak like this," Malik said. Malik was replying to a question about statements and reports by some leaders and the media about the



violence in Kashmir. On Saturday night, Gandhi said that some reports had come in from Jammu and Kashmir about the violence there and Prime Minister Narendra Modi must assuage concerns over the matter in a transparent manner. The governor said there was no communal angle in scrapping

provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Scrapping of Article 370 and Article 35-A was for everyone. There is no communal angle (for scrapping it) in Leh, Kargil, Jammu, Rajouri-Poonch and not here either (Kashmir). There is no communal angle to it," he said.

Malik said that the issue was being fanned by some people but they were not successful in it.

"Foreign press has made an attempt (of wrong reportage) and we have warned them. All hospitals are open for you and if even a single person has been hit by a bullet, prove it. But only four people were hit by pellets in legs when there was violence by youths and there were no serious injuries to anyone," he said.

To keep 'main enemy' out, Congress may strike deal with Mamata Banerjee in Bengal

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress has initiated informal talks with senior Trinamool Congress leaders to explore the possibility of a pact for the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections so as to halt the march of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state.

In the last week of the budget session of Parliament, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi spoke to Trinamool's Lok Sabha chief whip Kalyan Banerjee for almost half an hour. In the course of the conversation, he asked Banerjee whom the TMC saw as its main enemy in the state, HT learns. Gandhi also spoke about enhancing the coordination between the Congress and Trinamool.

To be sure, a final call will have to be taken by the top leadership of the party, TMC chief and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

The conversation between Rahul Gandhi and Kalyan Banerjee came close on the heels of another informal talk between Trinamool's Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay and former union minister P Chidambaram on the same issue, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

The Congress and the Trinamool Congress entered into an alliance in 2009 for the Lok Sabha polls after the CPIM-led Left parties withdrew their support to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government over the Indo-US nuclear deal. The parties also fought the 2011 assembly polls together but parted ways in 2013 over various issues.



One of the people cited above, a senior Congress leader maintained that the Congress has to rethink its poll strategy in Bengal, the third-largest electoral state in the country, which sends 42 representatives to the Lok Sabha. "In the last state assembly polls in 2016, we partnered with the Left but the communists are a spent force. We also have to admit the Congress alone is not powerful enough to take on the BJP in the state."

In the last Lok Sabha polls, the Trinamool bagged 43.3% of the popular vote in the state while the BJP came a close second with 40.3%. The CPIM's share slumped to 6.3% while the Congress got 5.6% votes. In terms of seats, the Trinamool's tally reduced to 22 in 2019 from 34 in 2014 even as the BJP's rose to 18 MPs as against just two in 2014. The Left couldn't open its account and the Congress won two seats.

The people familiar with the matter said that Gandhi's talks with Banerjee, a trusted lieutenant of the

West Bengal chief minister, took place after both sides expressed interest. According to two leaders close to Mamata Banerjee, she has kept her communications channel open with Congress president Sonia Gandhi (with whom she shares a warm personal relationship) and senior Congress leaders such as Ahmed Patel and Anand Sharma.

Describing the meeting with Gandhi, Kalyan Banerjee said, "I told him that just like the Congress, we too see the BJP as the main enemy. But I also told him that while he is keen to enhance cooperation, many other leaders including their Lok Sabha floor leader Adhir Chowdhury and state president Somen Mitra are vehemently opposed to the Trinamool."

According to the senior Congress leader cited in the first instance, Chowdhury has already been told by senior party colleagues to "go soft" on Mamata and the Trinamool. *Source: HT*

MEWAR ROYALS CLAIM TO BE RAM DESCENDANTS

UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN (TIP): A day after BJP MP and member of the erstwhile Jaipur royal family Diya Kumari claimed to be a descendant of Lord Ram's son Kush, another erstwhile royal family in the state has made a similar claim.

Mahendra Singh, a member of erstwhile Mewar-Udaipur royal family claimed on Monday to be a descendant of Lord Ram saying "I got to know through media that Supreme Court has apparently asked whether there were any descendants of Lord Ram in the world. If this is the case, then the Supreme Court can directly contact us and all the evidence and documents will be produced in the court following proper legal procedure."

The claim comes a day after, BJP MP and member of Jaipur royal family Diya Kumari on Sunday made her claim to be a descendant of Lord Ram.

"When the Supreme Court questioned whether there is any descendant of Lord Ram in the world or not, then I replied that we (Jaipur royal family) are descendants of Lord Ram's son Kush. I also said that just like us, there are many more people in the world who come from his lineage. It is a matter of pride that we are descended from him," Diya Kumari told reporters.

She was responding to an ongoing debate in the Supreme Court over the Ram Janmbhoomi temple issue, in which the Bench had apparently asked whether there were any descendants of Lord Ram in the world.

On being asked about proof to back up her claims, the BJP MP said that her family had documents from the ancient times, which traced their lineage back to Lord Ram and his direct descendants.

"I have been listening to it from childhood in our household. Also if you search about the Kachwaha clan online, it traces our lineage back to Kush," she said.

"We have documents, manuscripts and the genealogical tree in our library and museums too on whose basis we claim our descendants from Lord Ram's family, and we are not unique in this. The Rathores claim they are the descendants of Kush's brother Luv," Diya Kumari said.

She, however, clarified that her statements were not made with an attempt to interfere in the proceedings of the top court but she was ready to provide them with the documents if the need arises.

"I do not want to interfere in the proceedings of the court but if they demand these documents from us, we will definitely provide all of them. There are many of his descendants, and the whole of India should be proud of it," Diya Kumari said.

According to the genealogical document provided by her family, King Dashrath appears on the 62nd number in the family tree, while Lord Ram and Kush appear on the 63rd and 64th number respectively.

Modi, Shah are like Krishna, Arjuna, says Rajinikanth

CHENNAI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are like Lord Krishna and Arjuna, said actor Rajinikanth here on Sunday.

Congratulating Shah on his 'Mission Kashmir' (revocation of Article 370 which conferred special status on Jammu and Kashmir), Rajinikanth termed it as a 'fantastic' move.

The actor said: "We don't know who is Krishna and who is Arjuna. It is only they know (Modi and Shah)." Hindu God Krishna is incarnation of Lord Vishnu and Arjuna his disciple in the epic Mahabharat.

Rajinikanth was speaking at a function organised to release the book titled "Listening, Learning and Leading" which chronicles two years in office of Vice President M.Venkaiah Naidu.

He praised Naidu as a complete spiritual person who is interested in the welfare of people.

The function is being hosted by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister K. Palaniswami, and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam were also present on the occasion.

PM Modi walks in the wild with Bear Grylls, talks about conserving nature

NEW DELHI (TIP): Walking through the wild and taking a ride on a cold river in a makeshift boat were some of the things that Prime Minister Narendra Modi put up with as he teamed up with survivalist Bear Grylls to promote a cause close to his heart – protecting nature.

On Discovery channel's, "Man Vs Wild with Bear Grylls and Prime Minister Modi", he braved the rain and cold in the jungles of Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, and as the host put it, the PM was a "great sport".

"You are the most important man in India and my job is to keep you alive," Grylls joked.

During the conversation, Modi said fulfilling people's dreams gave him happiness and his focus is on development. "My position never goes to my head," he said, in reply to a question.

Grylls, who has had celebrity guests, including former American President Barack Obama, on his show earlier asked Modi about his childhood, dreams as the prime minister, whether he feared anything in life and if he ever felt nervous before a political rally.

Modi said he never had a good answer about "nervousness" as it was not a part of his temperament.

"My problem is that I have never experienced such



fears. I am unable to explain it to people what nervousness is and how to deal with it because my in-built temperament is very positive. I see positivity in everything. And because of that reason, I am never disappointed." Grylls said this was a strong message for the young.

"If I have to tell anything to the young generation, then I will say we should not think of our life in pieces. If we think of our life as a whole then there will be ups and downs. If you are going down, don't think about it because the way up starts from there," he said.



COMMENT

Prof I.S.Saluja

A Nation on the March

What a great feeling to find Indian Independence is 72-year-old, stepping in to 73rd year. Let us congratulate each other that India has withstood all weathers for 72 years and has come a long way from being an impoverished nation of .4 billion in 1947 to becoming a strong and self-sufficient nation of 1.3 billion in 2019.

From being one of the underdeveloped countries 72 years ago, India has steadily marched on to become one of the fastest developing countries. If the size of economy is an indicator of growth of a nation, India today is among the top 7

economies of the world. Projections are that she will be a USD500 trillion economy by 2024, and move on to become one of the top 3 economies of the world, behind China and Japan. What a coincidence that all top 3 economies in coming years will be from Asia.

India has dared to explore the mysteries of space, as Indians in the distant past did. India is the fourth country, after Russia, USA and China to explore the outer world in a big way. Recently, India created quite a flutter by sending Chandrayan 2 to Moon, which is expected to soft land on Moon in

September.

When it comes to diplomacy, India has proven its mettle, time and again. India today is a potent voice in the comity of nations. She is heard with respect and her views and policies on international issues are often admired and followed which explains her presence in most alliances and organizations in the world.

Indian scientists, technologists, professionals and businessmen are leading figures in their respective fields across the world. In USA, some of the Fortune 500 companies are headed by persons of Indian origin. A Sundar Pichai

is CEO of Google. A Satya Nadella is CEO of Microsoft. There are many more.

A lot has been achieved. Yet, a lot is to be done. India must ensure the benefits of growth percolate down to the lowest, the humblest and the poorest. The battle against poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy has yet to be won. India must work relentlessly to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of "wiping every tear from every eye". Hope and wish, India will grow from strength to strength to become Vishwa Guru- World leader- in not too distant a future.

Happy Independence Day!

AS I SEE IT

Inviting Investors: Trump World Top Resort in Kashmir

By Robinder Nath Sachdev & Ven Parameswaran

On August 5, 2019, the government of India took a historic step, executed in an elegant manner, to reorganize the governance of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir, into a Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with a far-reaching vision of peace and beautiful ecology in the vales and rooftops of the Himalayas. To students of history, governments and policies, and international relations, this is a landmark step in the chronicles of India about which historians shall write a hundred years hence. Whereas in the now and present, over 1.3 billion people of India are feeling as if a burden of the past has been lifted, with a new dawn in the one-ness of India. No doubt there are also some voices within India that disagree with this decision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. But that is the strength, beauty, and challenge that any democracy must navigate. By reasonable estimates this step and way forward has more than overwhelming goodwill in India, and the few dissenting voices will always be welcome to contribute to a healthy argument and debate which will help shape a more perfect Union of India.

The Opening Gambit

Above being said, what none should doubt is that this gambit by India has opened the gateways to peace and prosperity for the people of Kashmir, and for the people of India to contribute and participate in the harmony and its dividends, as within any territory of India. The next 6-12 months are critical and important as the security blanket in Kashmir is slowly lifted and life returns to normalcy. As the routine of lifestyles and business kicks back into gear, the challenge for the Modi government will be to deliver a seamless and smooth transition concurrent with an economic take-off in the Kashmir region. Within one-year Kashmir should be vibrant with peace, culturally colorful with life, and Mother Nature's vast and gorgeous abundance of the region being shared by Indian and foreign tourists, nature enthusiasts, and seekers of calm and



spirituality, minus its image as a region of "bombs-bombs-bombs", that President Donald Trump talked about in his presser couple weeks ago.

The entire might of India, strategic, and military, is now applied to ensuring the success of Kashmir as a peaceful, culturally vibrant, and the most beautiful of Himalayan region as captured in the simple words of the German philosopher F. Max Muller when he said that if there is a heaven anywhere on this earth - then it is only, and only, in Kashmir.

The Business Opportunity for the Trump World Top Resort in Kashmir

Based upon the expectation that positive scenario as above shall unfold, and that the alternative scenario of bombs and violence in Kashmir will be a thing of the past, this column proposes creative thinking and an unprecedented business opportunity for top investors of India.

Though the chances of what we propose are slim, yet it must also be remembered that when ideas, audacity, and the universe align, then the returns on investments are beyond imagination and shape the tomorrow of history and generations. It is also well acknowledged

that the project may be a non-starter due to the nuances and vagaries of geopolitical and security issues, and the associated financial risk.

Therefore this opportunity that we suggest is squarely and aimed at only such Indian investors and promoters who have accumulated significant corporate and personal wealth, and who are nationalist in their worldview, and would like to bring positive change in Kashmir, and, who will be patient and long term in their returns. So, what are we proposing? As a new age think tank and incubator that has seeded and succeeded in pioneering out-of-the-box initiatives over the past 20 years between countries globally, and including experience of over 40 years in investment banking deals on Wall Street, we believe that the historic opportunity in Kashmir can also be converted into a business opportunity.

The Trump World Top Resort at Kashmir

Nestled in the high woods and forests of the Himalayas, a vast estate that sprawls over the mountains, with its own airport and helipad, green and clean energy, conventions, conferences, festivals and arena facilities, hotel and villas, golf course, wellness and relaxation centers, lakes, rivers and

springs, adventure sports, skiing and hiking trails, flower and herbal gardens, organic farms, art and cultural fairs, horse-riding, and more, the resort can be marketed very well as a destination for the upper income and rich of the world, and for world summits, global and national conferences, meetings, and retreats.

A combination of Indian investment and the Trump brand, situated in one of the most exquisite locales virtually on the roof-top of the world, with savvy networks for worldwide promotion, coupled with unparalleled comfort, luxury and service.

Some readers of this column may have visited the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC. There is no hotel in this world which can compare to the luxury, service, and experience - the large reception and lounge area, rooms and beds are better than best of anywhere in the world.

Of course, part of reason that the Trump International Hotel makes sense for visitors in DC to stay is that for businessmen and diplomats this is the best place to collect intelligence and make contacts. No need to make an appointment - you may run into a senior administration official at the bar, or at the lobby, or while sitting down for dinner. Liberally sprinkled with glamour of music, beauty, and dance shows that are unparalleled, this is where the elite and rich of America confabulate and shape the America and world of tomorrow.

While the Trump International is famous for its excellence in luxury and networking with mere mortals, the Trump World Top Resort will be famous for the luxury and joy of living in the clouds of Himalayas. The Trump World Top Resort can truly be and become the elusive Shangri-La up in the Himalayas that the world travelers have been searching.

And if not the Trump brand, then why not an Indian brand, with Indian promoters?

(Robinder Nath Sachdev is president of The Imagindia Institute and Ven Parameswaran is Senior Advisor of Imagindia. The views expressed are those of the authors)

An abrogation of democratic principles



By Navnita Chadha
Behera

"The BJP government's move has, however, not only completely swung the pendulum but is also antithetical to the very idea of inclusivity. By turning J&K, especially the Valley, into a virtually open air prison, with a full clampdown and information blackout, the message is clear: that New Delhi alone will decide the political future of the people of J&K with no room for any consultative process and no space for dissent."

The recent abrogation of Article 370 ending the special status of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in the Indian Constitution along with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, bifurcating the State into two Union Territories (J&K and Ladakh), have delivered a knock-out blow to the long-drawn-out peace process in Kashmir.

These moves also herald a paradigm shift in the fundamental premises and parameters of India's approach towards the Kashmir issue, with long-term implications for its political strategy of tackling such internal conflicts. There are three cardinal principles which successive political regimes have hitherto followed in addressing internal conflicts and seeking political reconciliation with alienated segments of the populace. These in turn have bolstered the robust and resilient nature of Indian democracy. The future, however, appears much more uncertain. Here is why.

Accommodative parameters

The first principle entails adhering to the letter and spirit of the Indian Constitution. Its far-sighted and malleable nature has stood the test of time. Since 1947, India has faced a wide-ranging nature of political demands ranging from secession, to the creation of a separate State for Jammu, Union Territory status for Ladakh and others seeking affirmative discrimination for the Dogri language, Scheduled Tribe status for Gujjars and Paharis and so on.

In response, the central leadership has tried finding ways and means within the overarching parameters of the Indian Constitution and have rarely been disappointed. In view of the difficult circumstances under which the Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh had acceded to India, Article 370 itself offered an excellent example as to how the special needs and political aspirations of the people of J&K could be politically and constitutionally accommodated by India's Constitution makers.

Decades later, when Ladakhi

The Kashmir move affects the robust nature of Indian democracy in addressing internal conflicts and alienation

Buddhists launched an agitation in 1989, demanding Union Territory status, the Indian Constitution once again made space for political experimentation by introducing intermediate state structures - the creation of two autonomous hill councils for Leh and Kargil.

Weakening federalism

Against this backdrop, it is for the first time in independent India's history that the Bharatiya Janata Party government has used constitutional provisions for opposite ends: to undermine and weaken India's federal character by downgrading a State and territorially dividing it into two Union Territories without the consent of the people of J&K.

The method adopted to execute this decision is of special concern because by equating or replacing the Constituent Assembly of J&K (which was dissolved in 1957) with the Legislative Assembly of J&K, and Parliament appropriating the latter's powers since the State is under President's rule, the Central government has acted unilaterally to reorganize the State of J&K.

This rests not only on legally shaky ground but also flies in the face of constitutional norms and propriety. If this passes judicial scrutiny, it can then be done to any State in India, with drastic implications for its federal character.

The second principle pertains to the maxim of 'inclusivity', that is, a political demand being made must be inclusive in terms of representing the interests of all those in whose name it is made. This supported bridge building and coalition-making among different communities certainly helped in shaping the peace process, in turn bolstering India's deeply diverse and plural character.

In J&K's context too, it has also proven to be a critical common factor helping to explain the failures and successes of various political demands. The Kashmiri idea of self-determination in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual society, for instance, was to call for a plebiscite as mandated by the UN resolutions of 1949 or seek an independent and sovereign State of J&K, but this was not the approach taken by other communities such as the Dogras, Kashmiri Pandits, Gujjars, Bakkarwals, and Ladakhi Buddhists. In the 1950s, as indeed in the 1990s, the demand by Kashmiri Muslims for a right to self-determination or azadi was politically checkmated by these communities as their political choices were very different; time and again, an exclusively Valley-focused approach has doomed the prospects of the peace process.

Demographic impact

The BJP government's move has, however, not only completely swung the pendulum but is also antithetical to the



Security alert in Kashmir

very idea of inclusivity. By turning J&K, especially the Valley, into a virtually open air prison, with a full clampdown and information blackout, the message is clear: that New Delhi alone will decide the political future of the people of J&K with no room for any consultative process and no space for dissent.

The decision to divide the State is particularly fraught with the risk of deepening regional and communal fault lines. While Ladakhi Buddhists, for instance, are now celebrating the fulfilment of their long pending demand for Union Territory's status, the voices of Kargilis who are still under a strict curfew are yet to be heard. They may not support this decision because 'a Union Territory without a legislature' not only negates the idea of decentralization of power to the grassroots (the undergirding principle of the autonomous hill council) but could well lead to a shifting of the loci of power to Leh, resulting in losing whatever gains they have assiduously made over the years.

The celebrations by Kashmiri Pandits are anticipated because of the gross injustice and displacement they have suffered since their forced exodus from the Valley in the early 1990s. It remains to be seen whether the abrogation of Article 370 by itself, would facilitate their return to the Valley without the support of local Kashmiri Muslims and rising violence.

Instead of making all communities equal stakeholders in the peace process, the BJP government's decision may well end up pitching one community against the other. A deepening of societal fissures and communal fault lines do not go hand in hand with the agenda of peace-making.

The third principle refers to a promise and the practices of holding a dialogue process and sharing political power with opponents of all hues. In Kashmir, successive Central governments have until now never shut the door of dialogue in the face of political opponents who have ranged from the Sheikh Abdullah-led Plebiscite Front in the 1960s to the Muslim United Front in the 1980s to the Hurriyat leadership since the 1990s. This also holds true for militant groups.

While the bottom line of Congress

The Modi government faces an uphill task in identifying credible local partners in ushering in peace to the Valley, which may well end up in facing yet another impasse.

governments has been a commitment by their opponents to abjure the path of violence and abide by the Indian Constitution, the erstwhile Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime was even more generous in offering the broad framework of 'insaniyat, jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat'.

Political fallout

In a significant point of departure, the present government is pursuing a hard, top-down approach. The Home Minister has categorically ruled out any dialogue with militants and the Hurriyat and has even castigated the mainstream regional political leadership of the National Conference and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party for being corrupt, promoting family rule and fomenting separatism and violence. This move has nullified the very idea of a process of dialogue and runs the risk of discrediting the mainstream politicians and obliterating the middle ground between the militants and mainstream politicians.

The Prime Minister in his recent address to the nation, expressed hope that new leadership in Kashmir would emerge from grass-roots politics. It is important to note that in 1,407 out of 2,135 halqas or village clusters, there was no voting at all in the panchayat elections that were held in 2018. This does not lend credence to youth being optimistic about joining mainstream politics especially after the abrogation of Article 370, a move which is only likely to deepen the alienation. The Modi government faces an uphill task in identifying credible local partners in ushering in peace to the Valley, which may well end up in facing yet another impasse.

(Navnita Chadha Behera is the author of 'Demystifying Kashmir' and 'State, Identity and Violence: Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh')

Rajapaksa names brother Gotabhaya for presidency

COLOMBO (TIP): Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, former Sri Lankan defence secretary, was on Sunday named as the presidential candidate of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party for the election scheduled for later this year. Brother of former strongman President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Gotabhaya, 70, headed Rajapaksa's military campaign against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam between 2006 and 2009.

He attained super hero status among the Sinhala Buddhist majority of the country for ending the three-decades-long civil war with the LTTE.

Ending months of speculation, Rajapaksa on Sunday named his younger brother Gotabhaya as the presidential candidate and additionally took over the leadership of the new political party formed by the Rajapaksa family, the SLPP.

Rajapaksa thus ended his long association with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of which he had been a member since the mid 1960s, and elected twice as the president from the SLFP. "My brother is your brother now, we need discipline and law to uphold, Gotabhaya is the man for that," Rajapaksa said while addressing the gathering.

Gotabhaya Rajapaksa was a Colonel in the Sri Lanka Army before migrating to the US in 1992. — PTI

28 killed as monsoon wrecks havoc in Pak

KARACHI/PESHAWAR (TIP): Heavy monsoon rains have wreaked havoc in Pakistan, killing at least 28 persons, including women and children, and triggering flash floods and landslides in several parts of the country, officials said on Sunday.

At least 12 persons were killed and over 22 others injured in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to flash floods, landslides and rain-related accidents, said a spokesman for the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

Three people were killed each in Bajaur and Swat district. One person was killed each in Dir Lower, Buner, Malakand, Shangla, Aurakzai and Torghar districts, the spokesman said, adding that the deceased included two women and two children. PTI

Shah Mehmood Qureshi asks Pakistanis to unite against removal of Article 370

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Monday asked Opposition parties to come together on Kashmir, saying the country should have a united stand on the issue.

Addressing the media in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir where he celebrated Eid al-Adha and visited a refugee camp, Qureshi said the entire "Pakistani nation and political leadership is united on the issue of Kashmir and one voice will be sounded on August 14 in support of Kashmiris.

"Pakistan has announced that it will observe August 14 as 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' and August 15 as 'Black Day' after India scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Qureshi urged for unity among political parties in Pakistan on Kashmir and warned that doing politics on the issue would harm the cause.

He urged political parties to come together on the Kashmir issue, saying that Pakistan must have a united stance on the matter.

"We have our differences...But there is no difference on the issue of Kashmir. If there was any difference, a joint resolution would not have been passed," he said.

Last week, a joint sitting of Parliament was marred due to differences between treasury and opposition over language of resolution against India Opposition



lawmakers last week condemned the arrest of Maryam Nawaz, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter and vice-president of Opposition PML-N, saying the Imran Khan government's action amounts to dividing the nation at this crucial juncture when unity is required to give a befitting response to the Indian government for scrapping the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qureshi said India's "unilateral" abrogation of the special status of Kashmir has left Kashmiris with no option but to stand against it.

India has reiterated that its move to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution removing special status to Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and advised Pakistan to not create an alarming environment after the move.

To a question about giving status of

province to Gilgit-Baltistan, Qureshi said that doing so would harm Kashmir cause and Pakistan's stance.

"It was discussed in the cabinet as there is popular demand for it. But we will not do anything which can harm our legal position on Kashmir," he said.

Earlier, Qureshi offered Eid prayers in Muzaffarabad to express "solidarity" with Kashmiris.

Qureshi said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would visit PoK on August 14 and also address its legislative assembly.

He said Pakistan has decided to take the issue of Kashmir again to the UN Security Council and China has assured to extend full support for this purpose.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also spend Eid al-Adha in Muzaffarabad to show "solidarity" with Kashmiris. PTI

Death toll in Myanmar landslide climbs to 56

YANGON (TIP): The death toll in a landslide that buried more than a dozen village houses in southeastern Myanmar has climbed to 56, an official said Monday.

The landslide hit a village in Paung township on August 9.

Zaw Zaw Htoo, a member of parliament from Paung who arrived at the scene over the weekend, said three more bodies were recovered on Monday morning, bringing the death toll to 56.

The top official in Mon state, Aye Zan, had visited the site and villagers who were evacuated to a relief camp to

escape floods following torrential rains.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that monsoon flooding had displaced more than 7,000 people last week in Mon state.

Apart from the landslide in Paung, houses and a school in other townships were washed away, roads were blocked and villages were submerged.

Nearly 12,000 people have been displaced in Myanmar last week alone, bringing the total number of those in evacuation centers to more than 38,000, the UN said.

Singapore to ban sale of elephant ivory from 2021

SINGAPORE (TIP): Singapore said Monday it will impose a blanket ban on the domestic sale of elephant ivory and products from 2021 as the government tightens its campaign against illegal wildlife trade.

The announcement on World Elephant Day followed two years of consultations with non-government groups, ivory retailers and the public.

Authorities in the city-state made their largest ever seizure of smuggled ivory last month, impounding a haul of nearly nine tonnes of contraband tusks from an estimated 300 African elephants valued at USD 12.9 million. PTI

Newly discovered lake in Nepal likely to become world's highest

KATHMANDU (TIP): A newly-discovered lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake replacing Tilicho, which is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in the Himalayan nation and currently holding the title.

The Kajin Sara lake in Manang district was discovered about a few months ago by a team of mountaineers, the Himalayan Times reported. It is located at Singarkharka

A NEWLY-DISCOVERED LAKE IN NEPAL IS LIKELY TO SET A NEW RECORD OF BEING THE WORLD'S HIGHEST LAKE REPLACING TILICHO, WHICH IS SITUATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 4,919 METRES IN THE HIMALAYAN NATION AND CURRENTLY HOLDING THE TITLE.

area of Chame rural municipality.

"As per the measurement of the lake

taken by the team, it is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, which is yet to

be officially verified. It is estimated to be 1,500-metre-long and 600-metre-wide," Chame rural municipality Chair Lokendra Ghale was quoted as saying by the report.

"The lake would be the world's highest lake if its altitude of 5000-plus metres is officially verified," he said.

The Tilicho lake, situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres, is 4 km long, 1.2 km wide and around 200 metres deep.

Indian-Origin Family Killed in Small Plane Crash in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (TIP): An Indian American doctor couple and their teenage daughter were killed when their small plane crashed in backyards in a Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, neighborhood shortly after takeoff on Aug 8 morning.

Dr Jasvir Khurana, 60, a Temple University doctor, his wife, 54-year-old Dr Divya Khurana, a Drexel University doctor and their daughter, Kiran Khurana were all on board a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza at Northeast Philadelphia Airport. Jasvir Khurana, who had a pilot's license, was the pilot of the aircraft.

Dr. Jasvir Khurana was a pathologist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is affiliated with Temple University Hospital. He received his medical degree from All India Institute of Medical Sciences and has been in practice for more than 20 years. Divya S. Khurana was a pediatric neurologist at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and a professor at Drexel



Dr Jasvir Khurana, 60, was a Temple University doctor, his wife, 54-year-old Dr Divya Khurana, was a Drexel University doctor



University College of Medicine. Kiran, their younger daughter, graduated last year from Harriton High School in Bryn Mawr.

Indian Origin Tracy Resident Convicted of Visa Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): A federal jury convicted Abhijit Prasad of 21 counts of visa fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft. U.S. Attorney David Anderson for the Northern District of California and U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott for the Eastern District of California made the announcement. The verdict was handed down August 5 after a one-week trial before Charles R. Breyer, United States District Judge.

According to the evidence at trial, Prasad, 52, of Tracy, filed 19 petitions for H-1B nonimmigrant visas containing false statements, made under penalty of perjury, as to purported work projects to be performed at locations in California, including Cisco Systems. The evidence at trial showed that Cisco had no expectation that the foreign workers who were the beneficiaries of the visa petitions would actually work at Cisco on an existing work project. The evidence at trial further showed that the defendant knowingly submitted forged Cisco documents to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in support of his claims that the beneficiaries would work at Cisco. The evidence at trial also showed that Prasad fraudulently used the digital signature of a Cisco employee, who was not authorized to sign Cisco employment documents, to create a document that would leave the impression that two of the H-1B workers had an existing work project at Cisco. Prasad obtained two of the H-1B visas using this fraudulent document that purports to be a fully executed Cisco contract.

Judge Breyer scheduled Prasad's sentencing hearing for October 16, 2019. Prasad faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the visa fraud. He faces a two-year mandatory prison sentence and a \$250,000 fine for the aggravated identity theft counts.

Indian Student's Boyfriend Sues Utah State University over her Suicide

UTAH (TIP): A complaint was filed in federal court last week involving the suicide death of Jerusha Sanjeevi, onetime Ph. D candidate of Indian origin at Utah State University's Psychology Department.

The lawsuit, filed by Matthew Bick, her boyfriend and personal representative in the complaint, names USU, plus students and staff from the school's Psychology department - including assistant professor Melissa Tehee, Clinical Assistant Professor (Emeritus) Carolyn Barcus, and Professor Gretchen Peacock, and Ph.D. candidates Tamara Barrett and Amanda Blume - as defendants.

According to the lawsuit, Psychology department allowed Sanjeevi to be verbally abused, intimidated and subjected to discrimination by other students, leading to her suicide in April 2017.

But USU denied the allegation saying that 'it is grossly inaccurate to say that USU did nothing.'

"Jerusha Sanjeevi's suicide was a tragic event that had a huge impact on the Utah State University Psychology Department and on our entire university.



Jerusha Sanjeevi was a Ph. D candidate at Utah State University's Psychology Department

She was a promising student, and her death tremendously affected her fellow students, as well as staff and faculty in the department. It is inappropriate to wage litigation through media, and as with all student matters and pending

litigation, Utah State University is limited in what it can say. The facts should, and will ultimately guide, the outcome of this matter, and it is grossly inaccurate to say that USU did nothing. Over a period of several months, USU faculty in the combined clinical/counseling psychology program and other administrators worked to address Ms. Sanjeevi's reports of bullying and the interpersonal conflict between the students in the doctorate program. They intervened in a manner that was consistent with the graduate program's educational objectives and with Ms. Sanjeevi's requests.

As noted in the complaint: faculty members directly engaged with Ms. Sanjeevi and the other student in response to allegations of social exclusion and gossip, monitored the situation and proactively reached out to students to check on their well-being, and reassigned labs and mentors. The Office of Equity also provided training on respectful interactions in a professional environment to Ms. Sanjeevi's entire student cohort " Utah State University officials posted on the school's website.

Indian entrepreneur-author Radha Bhatia brings taste of lassi to London

LONDON (TIP): An Indian entrepreneur-author brought the taste of lassi to London with a special taster session to launch her new book on the Indian yogurt drink, already popular at curry restaurants across the UK.

Radha Bhatia, Chairperson of the Bird Group travel conglomerate, has written 'Lassis of India - Smoothies with a Twist' as an amalgamation of recipes and stories after extensive research to explore the

cultural roots, local customs, climate and cuisines behind the drink.

It features a compilation of 17 traditional recipes from various Indian states, blending with the local food and climate. An additional set of 57 recipes involve lassis with a twist - prepared with herbs, fruits and nuts, which are aimed at striking a wider global appeal. According to the author, all the recipes in the book are simple to follow and intended for those who

love to cook at home. "Lassis of India is an attempt to revive our age-old elixir with a twist of contemporary blends along with the traditional recipes to suit the modern lifestyle. While unearthing the recipes, it led me to many mythological stories and interesting folklore - starting from the mythical story of the origin of Charnamrit (holy water) by churning of the oceans by Gods and Demons and thus making a delightful discovery," said Bhatia. (PTI)



ARBAAZ KHAN'S GIRLFRIEND GIORGIA ANDRIANI TO MAKE HER DEBUT

Actor Arbaaz Khan's girlfriend Georgia Andriani is set to follow the footsteps of the actor to make her acting debut in India. While he made his digital debut with online chat show Pinch, Georgia will be seen in a Tamil web series, Karoline Kamakshi.

According to a report in Mid-Day.com, Georgia told the portal, "I sent a short video [enacting a Hindi scene] to the production house, but since they aren't well-versed with the language, I re-enacted the scene in English. The team then sent me a one-page sequence in Tamil, as part of my audition. I learned the dialogues and the makers loved it."

She claims to have shot for several action sequences, including hand-to-hand combat for the web series. She will be seen playing a French undercover agent named Karoline, who is forced to take up an assignment during her vacation in Puducherry.

TALENT IS IRRELEVANT IN BOLLYWOOD: KANGANA

Three-time National Award-winning star Kangana Ranaut, who has had her share of struggle in the initial years, says she now finds that talent is irrelevant in Bollywood.

"I have become tough. Initially, when I came in, I'd think that talent was everything and you got to prove yourself. I did many things (and) I struggled on my way up. I learnt filmmaking and scriptwriting. I did everything, thinking talent is everything. When I made it big, I realised talent is not relevant in this industry," Kangana said.

"People who play power politics and games have woven their little web of contacts and a small mafia. They work in sync with each other," she added.

Kangana stepped into the world of acting with the thriller Gangster. Over a decade later, she is tagged as one of the top actresses in the Hindi film industry.

The actress, who is often surrounded by controversies, hit the headlines in 2017 when she called filmmaker Karan Johar "intolerant" towards outsiders and a "flagbearer of nepotism" who only backed industry kids, on his popular chat show.

"It flustered me, I was not ready for this and I feel mafia anywhere is not healthy," Kangana said of the trend of promoting mediocrity just because it comes with a bloodline.

Kangana says she had to take bold steps to break the system. The JudgeMentall Hai Kya star says a lot of uncertainties make a person insecure in the acting profession.

"I don't know about other professions but this profession comes with a lot of insecurities. You do one project (and) then you are not sure when the next project will come your way. Sometimes, you don't know the future of a great film. It's shocking the kind of film that might just work," she said.



AFTER DEEPIKA'S EXIT, RANBIR-AJAY DEVGN'S NEXT WITH LUV RANJAN STALLED AGAIN



The news of Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone being paired again spread like a wildfire. The film which is said to be helmed by Luv Ranjan who is known for films like the Pyaar Ka Punchnama franchise, Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti, De De Pyar De has been the talk of the town for days. The yet-untitled film was said supposed to star Ajay Devgn, Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone. But their fans were disappointed when the actress walked out of the film stating that she wouldn't want to work with a person who has been accused of sexual misconduct.

And now, new reports have surfaced on the development of the film. A report in Mid-Day read that the Ajay Devgn-Ranbir Kapoor starrer might be delayed yet again. And it's because of a major reason. As per the report, the story of Luv Ranjan's film is yet in the scripting stage. Also, the lead stars Ajay and Ranbir are busy with their respective projects. While Ranbir is caught up with Ayan Mukherjee's Brahmastra and on the other hand, Ajay is prepping for the historical

biopic Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior.

"According to the original plan, the film was expected to kick off this year. But the script is yet to be locked. Couple that with the lead actors' choc-a-block schedule and the film has been pushed by a year now." A source revealed to Mid-Day.

"Luv will utilise the time to finish the final draft and take it on floors by mid-2020. There is no truth to the allegations that the film has been shelved owing to his #MeToo complaint. Ranjan came clean on the matter and apologised for his said misconduct, citing that it was never his intent," the source further added.

When the rumours of Deepika joining Luv's film came broke out, fans of the actress took the social media by a storm with a trend #NotMyDeepika. Apparently, fans were not happy and didn't want the actress to work the director who was accused of sexual misconduct. However, the source clearly stated that the filmmaker came out clean of the accusations and had also apologised. For more scoops and updates, stay tuned to BollywoodLife.



Cyrus, Hemsworth split after 7 months of marriage

Pop star Miley Cyrus and actor Liam Hemsworth have parted ways just seven months after they tied the knot. The on-again, off-again couple married in a private ceremony in December.

A representative of Cyrus confirmed, "Liam and Miley have agreed to separate at this time. Ever-evolving, changing as partners and individuals, they have decided this is what's best while they both focus on themselves and careers."

They still remain dedicated parents to all of their animals they share while lovingly taking this time apart. Please respect their process and privacy." Rumors of Cyrus, 26, and Hemsworth, 29, parting ways started doing the rounds on Saturday after the singer posted a photo in which she was not wearing her wedding ring.

GWYNETH PALTROW'S MCU MEMORY IS VAGUE

Actor Gwyneth Paltrow left everyone surprised when she revealed that she forgot she was in *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. According to Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige, Paltrow is having a hard time remembering her Marvel days, reported People.

Feige revealed that Paltrow didn't know that actor Samuel L. Jackson was part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) despite the two of them appearing in a couple of same films such as *Iron Man 2*.

Feige shared some new details about filming *Avengers: Endgame*, which brought together numerous Marvel stars from across different movies, in a recent interview with *Empire*, as cited by People. In 2017, the cast gathered in one place to shoot the funeral scene at the end of *Avengers: Endgame*.

Feige explained that the gathering caused confusion among some of the cast members who didn't recognize the other MCU characters, especially because Marvel movies including *Black Panther*, *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Captain Marvel* had not released at that time.

One of those confused cast members was Paltrow, who played Pepper Potts, the romantic partner of Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark. In the interview, Feige said that the actor didn't know why Samuel L. Jackson, who played Nick Fury in the Marvel movies, was there.

"Tom Holland [was] coming up to me, saying, 'Is that Michelle Pfeiffer? What is happening?'" he said. "Gwyneth Paltrow was asking why Sam Jackson was there, and the other actors were jumping in saying, 'What are you talking about? He's Nick Fury! You've been in movies with him.' But it was really something special," he added.



Rape & abuse not our fault, says Jane Fonda



Veteran actor Jane Fonda believes the biggest take away from the #MeToo and Time's Up movement has been that women have realised it is not their "fault" if they are sexually assaulted or raped.

In an interview with a magazine, the 81-year-old actor said she has gone through a lot in her life and is happy that finally women are being heard. "I've been raped, I've been sexually abused as a child and I've been fired because I wouldn't sleep with my boss, and I thought it was my fault, that I didn't do or say the right thing. One of

the great things, the women's movement has done is to make us realise that rape and abuse is not our fault. We were violated and it's not right," Fonda said.

The actor, who has been a keen advocate of women's rights, confessed that it took her a 'long time to apply feminism' to her own life.

"I grew up in the 50s and it took me a long time to apply feminism to my life. The men in my life were wonderful but victims of a patriarchal belief system. Eventually I decided I wasn't going to give up on who I was."



SELENA GOMEZ DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT HER NEW MUSIC PROJECT

She isn't making a lot of public appearances these days after having several health setbacks over the years. Selena Gomez, who has been battling a number of health issues, has been noticeably away from the spotlight. However, if reports are to be believed, the young singer/actress is all set to make a comeback to the music scene.

At a recent event that she attended, Selena was asked about her upcoming music projects, but said she can't talk much about the same because she ends up revealing too much and subsequently gets into trouble. Selena also admitted that she

took a deliberate break from the limelight because she needed the time away.

She revealed that she wasn't stepping out too much because she needed a break from work, but was excited to see how things pan out in the future. The 'Taki Taki' singer's last release was 'I Can't Get Enough', a collaboration with J Balvin, Tainy and Benny Blanco.

Over the last few years, Selena was in the news for a kidney transplant after suffering from complications due to Lupus, an autoimmune disorder that causes damage to the body's organs and tissues.

Queen dismayed at UK politicians' inability to govern: Report

LONDON (TIP): Queen Elizabeth II is reportedly "dismayed" at the inability of Britain's political class to govern properly, according to a UK media report.

The 93-year-old monarch, who traditionally stays publicly neutral on political matters, is believed to have made the comments at a private event shortly after David Cameron's resignation as British Prime Minister following the Brexit referendum in June 2016.

A royal source described by 'The Sunday Times' as "impeccable" told the newspaper that the Queen's frustration has only grown since then.

"I think she's really dismayed. I've heard her talking about her disappointment in the current political class and its inability to govern correctly," the source is quoted as saying.

"She expressed her exasperation and frustration about the quality of our political leadership, and that frustration will only have grown," said the senior royal source, who claims to have witnessed the Queen's rare conversation on politics.

The revelation comes as there is growing media speculation amid Buckingham Palace and Downing Street holding discussions about how to keep the monarch out of any looming constitutional crisis over Brexit and Prime Minister Boris Johnson's pledge to leave the European Union (EU) by the October 31 deadline, with or without a deal.

There are fears that politicians will try to force the Queen to get involved if Johnson loses a no-confidence vote early next month and refuses to step aside.

It is feared he would instead call a General Election after a forced no-deal Brexit, leaving MPs with no recourse of preventing the EU crash-out without any agreement in place.

UK shadow chancellor John McDonnell has threatened to send Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to Buckingham Palace "in a cab" to tell the Queen that the Opposition party is "taking over" if Johnson were to refuse to resign after losing such a no-confidence vote.

Under the UK's Fixed-term Parliaments Act, the Queen could be required to ask Corbyn or another senior politician to form a government that can command the confidence of the House of Commons.

Buckingham Palace has declined to formally comment on what is feared to further mount into a constitutional quandary in the coming weeks. — PTI

Hong Kong mops up after weekend of violence, braces for more protests

HONG KONG (TIP): Metro stations in Hong Kong resumed regular service on August 12 and streets were being cleaned of debris as the city recovered from another night of violent clashes between anti-government protesters and police, with more protests planned this week.

Police fired volleys of tear gas at protesters across the territory on Sunday and staged baton charges in flashpoints in downtown Hong Kong and in working class districts.

Protesters threw two petrol bombs, which police said injured an officer, and used flash-mob strategy, withdrawing when pressed to reappear elsewhere, to combat police.

At one stage police stormed some underground train stations, firing tear gas and arresting protesters.

The protests blocked multiple roads in key commercial and shopping districts and shuttered public facilities across the Asian financial hub.

Protesters are expected to gather at the city's international airport for a fourth day in a row on Monday and plan to rally outside police headquarters on Monday night.

The increasingly violent protests since June have emerged as Hong Kong's most serious crisis in decades and become one of the biggest challenges to Chinese leader Xi Jinping since he took power in 2012.

What began as opposition to a proposed bill to allow people to be extradited to mainland China to stand trial in Communist Party-controlled courts has evolved into calls for greater democracy in Hong Kong.



Pro-democracy protesters wearing gas masks and goggles use umbrellas to shield themselves during a demonstration against the controversial extradition bill in Hong Kong. AFP

Demonstrators say they are fighting the erosion of the "one country, two systems" arrangement enshrining some autonomy for Hong Kong when China took it back in 1997. They are calling on the government to listen to public demands particularly an independent investigation into the handling of the protests.

Beijing says criminals and agitators are stirring violence, encouraged by "interfering" foreign powers including Britain, but the protests seem to enjoy broad support in the city of more than 7 million people.

North Korea said late on Sunday it fully supports China on the situation in Hong Kong, which it also said was caused by "foreign forces" interfering

in an internal affairs of China to encroach on the security and order of the Chinese city.

China is the main diplomatic ally and economic benefactor of isolated North Korea, which has been under international sanctions for its nuclear and ballistic missile development.

No country, entity or individual should be allowed to "destroy the sovereignty and security of China and 'one country and two systems' as Hong Kong is Hong Kong of China," the North's foreign ministry spokesman said in comments carried by the official KCNA news agency.

Police have arrested more than 600 people since the protests started more than two months ago.—Reuters

5 children killed in fire at Pennsylvania day care centre

ERIE (TIP): A day care centre where children could stay overnight as their parents worked was ravaged on August 10 by a fire that killed five and sent the owner to the hospital, authorities said.

The victims in the lakeside city of Erie ranged in ages from 8 months to 7 years, Chief Guy Santone of the Erie Fire Department said.

At least four of the victims were staying overnight at the residential house that had been turned into a day care centre, Erie Chief Fire Inspector John Widomski told the Erie Times-News.

The fire, reported at about 1:15 am Sunday, was funneling out of every first-floor window when firefighters arrived, Widomski said.

Valerie Lockett-Slupski, standing across the street from the fire-damaged house, told the newspaper she was the grandmother of four of the children, and that they were staying at the day care

center because their parents were working overnight. She said the family had two boys and two girls and had used the center for almost a year.

"So we are all at a loss, trying to figure out how this happened," Lockett-Slupski said.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation Sunday afternoon, Widomski told the newspaper.

The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership lists the Harris Family Daycare as "a 24 hour, 7 days a week childcare service including holidays." The state Department of Human Services Office of Child Development and Early Learning listed the day care as in compliance with requirements following a December 28, 2018, inspection. But a January 3, 2019, inspection note on that listing highlighted "ashes and cigarette or cigar butts" in "a child care space, play space or food preparation area."

The day care centre's response to the note reads, "I will make sure it will be cleaned up and remain that way," and the department listed the issue as corrected.

Another department note from the same date reads "protective receptacle covers shall be placed in electrical outlets accessible to children 5 years of age or younger," to which the day care's response was, "I turned the outlets so they were closed. I will make sure that they are turned closed when not in use." That issue was also listed as being corrected.

Widomski told the newspaper that the fire appeared to have started in the living room area on the first floor. The department's two fire inspectors and three Erie police detectives trained in fire investigations are working to determine the cause of the blaze.

The owner of the center was flown to UPMC Mercy for treatment, Santone said. AP

RISHIKESH: YOGA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Situated along the convergence of Ganga and Chandrabhaga, Rishikesh on the foothills of Himalayas is the hub of many ancient temples, popular cafes, yoga ashrams and adventure sports.

Rishikesh is the most beautiful blend of spiritual and adrenaline pumping experiences. With Whitewater Rafting industry growing and a number of camping and cafe spots springing up, Rishikesh has grown immensely as a favourite, catering to people with different needs.

Rishikesh, over the years, has become extremely popular as the top spiritual destination in the world, especially after the Beatles association with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi here in the late '60s. As it lies on the holy banks of river Ganga, this place has been a hub of Sadhus (saints) and there are numerous ashrams teaching spirituality, yoga, meditation and Ayurveda. With the tourists coming in, there has been a surge in the number of cafes and restaurants in the town and there a lot of cafes serving English and American food and beverages. However, in the last few years, Rishikesh has also been developed as the hub of Adventure Sports in India as there is a multitude of options including White Water Rafting, Bungee Jumping, Flying Fox, Mountain Biking, etc. here. It also serves as the gateway to many Himalayan treks and is used as a popular camping site. Rishikesh is a must visit for everyone visiting India to truly experience something new.

Rishikesh is believed to be the holiest place for Hindu pilgrims. The numerous temples, the holy ghats, and the serene ambiance provide a natural calmness to the body and soul. The land of yogis, Rishikesh is popular for the several yoga ashrams present in the city. Visited by numerous people worldwide, the yoga camps in Rishikesh are known to rejuvenate the tourists and help them break free from the stress of daily life. From the evening arti in the Triveni Ghat to the simple culture of the ashrams, exploring Rishikesh is a treat to the mind and a trip to the inner self.

Adventure Activities

Rishikesh is also a brilliant spot for white water rafting. Other adventure activities include mountain biking, canyoning and even bungee jumping. However, the rates and availability differ from season to season.

Neelkanth Mahadeva Temple

Neelkanth Mahadev Temple is dedicated to Shiva as Neelkanth is his another name. This temple is located around 7km from Swarg Ashram and the route is a 3 hour long walk along a forest path.

Geeta Bhawan

Also popularly known as the Guru Shri Ram Sukh Daasji, the Geeta Bhawan is a vast and spacious complex that is located on the banks of the river Ganga in Swargashram in Rishikesh, at the



foothills of the mighty Himalayas. The Ashram is renowned as an important institution that preserves Hindu literature since it houses the Gita, which symbolizes the Hindu Vedas and epics. The Geeta Bhawan is visited by a large number of people each year, who flock to here to take a dip in the holy waters of the Ganges, listen to the discourses and meditate.

Other than airy and large discourse halls, the ashram also has over one thousand rooms that are available free of cost for the devotees to stay at. The pious devotees are also served with simple vegetarian food and Indian sweets at nominal prices during their stay at the Geeta Bhawan. Be it a mere two-hour visit to the ashram, or a stay there for a few days, the experience imbues the devotee with tranquillity, peace and devotion.

The visitors gladly indulge in the devotion of the River Ganges every evening, and the bathing ghats in front of the Geeta Bhawan offer them with an opportunity to take a holy dip in its waters. The ancient Banyan tree that is located within the complex is also worthy of notice since this spot has been the site of penance for numerous saints. All in all, the Geeta Bhawan comes across as a place that is overflowing with religious fervour and calmness, and is a must visit while in Rishikesh.

Triveni Ghat

Situated on the banks of the holy river Ganges, Triveni Ghat is the biggest ghat in Rishikesh. 'Maha Aarti' happens every evening at Triveni Ghat.

Triveni Ghat plays an essential role in Hindu Mythology and is also mentioned in the epics Ramayan and Mahabharat. The Triveni Ghat is also where the chattri of Lord Krishna was constructed.



In fact, the ghat is considered to be the cremation ground for the great Lord Krishna. Along with the holy dips, the devotees also make offerings to the river in the form of milk, while feeding the fishes in the Ghat too.

Jadh Ganga Trek

Since past many years, the region and the trail has been able to maintain its raw beauty accompanied by virginity and tranquility of the place. The gushing streams, pristine glaciers and splendid landscape adds charm to the beauty of this already beautiful place.

Regarded as one of the most strenuous and difficult trek of north Uttarakhand, the route of Jadh Ganga Trek was taken by Heinrich Harrer and his companions

during May 1944 while escaping the prison in Dehradun. They traversed the Aglar valley followed by going over Nag Tibba ridge, they ultimately arrived at Nelang in Jadh Ganga. From there on, they proceeded further towards Naga, Sonam, Dosindhu, Tirpani and finally Pulamsunda. They, then ascended upwards along the first tributary of Jadh, the Mendi, to reach Tsangchok La, which they crossed seven after leaving Dehradun.

Another kind of adventure awaits you if you decide to go further towards Mana Pass and Saraswati Tal and finally terminating the trek at Badrinath Temple. Tiring yet exhilarating, the trek is an experience you will cherish throughout your life.

PERFUME ETIQUETTE IN THE WORKPLACE

Don't bathe in perfume before work

We've all encountered coworkers who seem to think "more is more" when it comes to perfume. It doesn't matter whether they are dousing themselves in a drugstore brand or Chanel: An overpowering scent is distracting – and it can even make you sick. Most of us enjoy subtle perfume, but in the workplace, be careful. If you aren't following proper etiquette, you might as well have a dead fish in your office.

Less is More

The cardinal rule of perfume at work is that a little goes a long way. If you choose to wear perfume – and your office allows it – use it sparingly. Save heavy, musky and sexy scents for after work; light floral and citrus scents are best for the office. A light spritz on your wrists or behind your ears is sufficient. You may also spray a mist in front of you and walk through it to disperse the scent. Ideally, others should only be able to smell your perfume if they come within a couple of feet. If coworkers can smell you before you enter a room or after you leave, step away from the perfume bottle.

Don't Reapply

You applied perfume before work, but now you can't smell it. Or perhaps you hit that Korean joint for lunch, and now all you smell is kimchi. Resist the urge to reapply your perfume. Over time, our noses become used to smells. Even if you can't smell your fragrance anymore, others still can. Spraying on more can make your once-subtle



scent overpowering.

Confronting Others

Telling someone she's wearing too much perfume can be excruciatingly awkward. If your great aunt Sally wears too much Chanel No. 5, you may let her slide. But at work, you can – and should – speak up, especially if the scent is preventing you from getting your work done.

Avoid bluntly telling your coworker she stinks. Instead, gently say you like her perfume, but you are really sensitive to scents and would appreciate it if she could wear less. Most people will comply

because they don't realize they are using too much. If your coworker refuses to stop bathing in her perfume, you may need to get your boss or human resources involved.

Policies

Fragrance allergies are a serious concern in the workplace, and many employers have opted for a fragrance-free environment to keep employees healthy. Before you spritz on that delicious-smelling scent your husband bought you for your birthday, check your company's policies. If perfume is banned, you'll have to save the scent for the weekend.

FOOD CORNER

Kesar Peda



Ingredients

500g Soft white milk fudge (khoya)
300gms sugar powdered
½ tsp cardamom powder
1 tsp cardamom seeds semi crushed
1 tbsp slivered or crushed pistachios
A few strands of saffron
1 tbsp warm milk
2 drops saffron color (optional)

Method

- Soak the saffron in warm milk.
- Crumble the milk fudge. If very hard, grate the fudge. Add powdered sugar and mix well.
- Put mixture in a large heavy or nonstick pan. Heat on medium high for few minutes. Reduce the flame and cook till soft and gooey.
- Make sure to stir continuously, while on heat. When mixture is thick and gooey, add cardamom and saffron. Add the color if desired.
- Mix well, and take off fire. Allow to cool, gently turning occasionally.
- Use cookie molds, or shape pedas with palms into patty rounds. Mix pistachios and cardamom seeds and press a bit on top of each.
- If using molds, first sprinkle some at bottom. Take some mixture and press into mold. When set well, invert and carefully, unmold.

Peach Almond Suji Halwa



Ingredients

1/2 cup almonds, 1/2 cup suji, 2 tsp ghee, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 1/2 cups water, 8 peach halves, chopped, 1-2 peach halves, sliced for garnish

Method

- Blanch the almonds in boiling water for 5 minutes, peel, and slice. Reserve
- Place sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Stir to mix sugar. Simmer until suji is ready, 2-3 minutes
- In the meantime, roast the suji in a heavy bottom kadhai/wok over low heat until light golden brown. Reserve in a bowl
- Heat ghee in the same wok and add the almonds and roast for 2-3 minutes. Next add the suji and continue to roast for 1-2 minutes over low heat
- Gently pour in the boiling sugar syrup, keeping heat to low, and stir to mix
- Increase heat to medium, and stir until the water is absorbed and the halwa begins to thicken and leave the sides of the wok
- Add the peaches and stir well until the halwa leaves the sides, 1-2 minutes
- Transfer peach almond suji halwa to serving dish
- Serve hot garnished with peach slices and slivered almonds

MUSTARD OIL CAN MAKE YOU LOOK MORE BEAUTIFUL

- It works wonders on the skin as a natural cleanser. It can be used as a make-up remover as well, making sure that it doesn't clog pores. This helps the skin to get cleansed naturally within minutes.
- Mustard oil is considered one of the best natural ingredients for brushing and when applied with lemon drops and a bit of salt, it makes your teeth shine and become stronger.
- Think about the condition of your hair after you get them styled using chemical based hair products. The adverse effects on one's hair after those curls and buns can be managed well with a massage of hot mustard oil. It provides adequate nutrients to the hair and prevents situations like frizziness and hair fall.
- In case of acne and rashes, apply a few drops of mustard oil for 10-15 minutes daily. It keeps the skin healthy and glowing.
- Massaging mustard oil on your face regularly can help reduce tan and lighten dark spots and pigmentation. Make a face mask by mixing mustard oil with besan or gram flour, one teaspoon of curd and a few drops of lemon juice. Mix the ingredients well and apply it on your face and neck. Wash your face after 10 to 15 minutes and try



applying the face mask at least thrice a week for best results.

- Dry patchy skin is a common problem that we all face during harsh winter season. One can apply a few drops of mustard oil and rub it along the face. Let it remain for a few minutes before washing it in water. The skin becomes smooth.

WANT TO LIVE LONGER? TAKE A STAND: STUDY

Sitting down most of your waking hours is as likely to kill you as base jumping, indicate a gaggle of studies released this year that found sitting to be an early marker for heart disease, diabetes, cancers and early death. This makes sitting a lifestyle risk factor along with smoking, overweight, high blood pressure, among others.

Irrespective of how much you exercise the rest of the time, spending a lot of time sitting ups your risk of heart disease, diabetes, cancer and dying prematurely, concluded a large review published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* this week. It's not enough to exercise for one hour a day and be sedentary for 23 others, said the study, which found people spend half their day sitting at workstations or hunched over smartphones.

This study echoed the findings of a 2012 review of 18 studies that included 794,577 people, which had found that sitting for long periods raises the risk of diabetes, heart disease and death. The study, published in *Diabetologia*, the journal of the European Association of the Study of Diabetes, also found that the risk remained even when people met physical activity guidelines.

Trouble ahead

Apart from leading to weight gain, sitting down raises calcification in the heart's arteries, which is an early marker of heart disease. Again, the study found no association between coronary artery calcification –calcium in plaques deposited within the heart's arteries that cause narrowing and obstruction of blood flow measured through a heart CT scan -- and the amount of exercise a person does, suggesting too much sitting cannot be countered by exercising.

Sitting also shows a gender bias. Spending leisure time sitting raises women's cancer risk by 10 per cent, specifically for multiple myeloma (a



type of blood cancer), breast, and ovarian cancers. The risk for women remained after adjusting for physical activity, body weight and other factors.

There was association between sitting time and cancer risk in men, showed the study – published in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, and Prevention* -- of more than 146,000 men and women (69,260 men and 77,462 women) who were part of the American Cancer Society Cancer Prevention Study II Nutrition Cohort.

Fix it

An average adult spends 50-70% of their waking hours sitting down, and by limiting the time spent sitting, the risk of diabetes, heart disease and death can be reduced. Breaks in sitting time improve markers of good health, such as lower body weight and improve diabetes control.

Even healthy adults who exercise and sleep for eight hours each night should target to lower sitting time by two to three hours in a 12-hour work day, say experts. Cutting back on sitting time -- for example, standing up or moving for one to three minutes every half hour and fidgeting when you can't -- should be a companion strategy to exercising an hour a day to lower risk of disease and death, show studies.

A study in *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* reports that fidgeting counters the adverse health impacts of sitting for long periods. The study, from the University of Leeds and University College London, found that while women who spent time sitting ranked high on risk levels, those who fidgeted a lot while sitting had the same low risk of disease as active women, showed data from more than 35,000 women aged 35 to 69 in the UK.

Get smart

Targeting sitting time, rather than physical activity, is the most effective way to reduce prolonged sitting, showed another review of strategies designed to reduce sitting time.

The research, from King's College London, searched the current existing literature on interventions that sought to reduce sitting time. Of the 38 interventions assessed, 23 (60 per cent) were found promising whilst 15 (39 per cent) were found to be worthless.

Among things that work are offering employees sit-stand desks at work, keeping a record of individual sitting time, setting individual goals for limiting sitting time, and using prompts and cues on smartphones and fitness gadgets to remind you to get moving.



3 CUPS OF COFFEE A DAY MAY INCREASE MIGRAINE RISK

Drinking three or more cups of coffee daily may be associated with a higher risk of migraine, according to a study published on Thursday.

Afflicting more than one billion adults worldwide, migraine is the third most prevalent illness in the world, said researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in the US.

In addition to severe headache, symptoms of migraine can include nausea, changes in mood, sensitivity to light and sound, as well as visual and auditory hallucinations.

The study, published in the *American Journal of Medicine*, evaluated the role of caffeinated beverages as a potential trigger of migraine.

Led by Elizabeth Mostofsky, from the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) in the US, the researchers found that, among patients who experience episodic migraine, one to two servings of caffeinated beverages were not associated with headaches on that day.

However, three or more servings of caffeinated beverages may be associated with higher odds of migraine headache occurrence on that day or the following day. "While some potential triggers—such as lack of sleep—may only increase migraine risk, the role of caffeine is particularly complex, because it may trigger an attack but also helps control symptoms," said Mostofsky.

Reduce 'ugly cholesterol' for stroke prevention

Reducing high levels of remnant cholesterol or 'ugly cholesterol' can significantly cut the risk of stroke and myocardial infarction, suggest researchers.

In a study, published in *Atherosclerosis* journal, the researchers from University of Copenhagen observed that levels of remnant cholesterol in the blood of adults are just as high as the amount of the "bad" LDL cholesterol.

There are three types of cholesterol found in the blood -- remnant cholesterol or 'ugly cholesterol', LDL cholesterol or 'bad cholesterol' and HDL cholesterol or 'good cholesterol'.

"Our results show that the amount of remnant cholesterol in the blood of adult Danes is just as high as the amount of the bad LDL cholesterol. We have previously shown that remnant cholesterol is at least as critical as LDL cholesterol in relation to an increased risk of myocardial infarction and stroke, and it is therefore a disturbing development," said a Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Vitamin A intake linked with lower skin cancer risk

Intake of vitamin A may be associated with a lower risk of a common type of skin cancer, a study claims.

The study of about 125,000 Americans found that people with the highest intake of vitamin A lowered their risk of squamous cell skin cancer by around 15 per cent.

Most of the vitamin A they consumed came from foods, according to the study published in the journal *JAMA Dermatology*.

"These findings just add another reason to have a healthy diet with fruits and vegetables. Vitamin A from plant sources is safe," said Eunyoung Cho, an associate professor at Brown University in the US.

Healthy food sources of vitamin A include sweet potato, cantaloupe, carrots, black-eyed peas, sweet red peppers, broccoli, spinach, dairy foods, fish and meat, especially liver, according to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Vitamin A is a fat soluble vitamin. That means it can



collect in the fat cells.

However, when taken in large amounts -- like those in supplements -- people can potentially reach an unsafe level of vitamin A, according to the NIH.

Adults shouldn't consume more than 10,000 international units (IU) of preformed vitamin A daily, the NIH said.

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FACEBOOK OFFERING 'MILLIONS' TO PUBLISHERS FOR NEWS: REPORT

Facebook is reportedly in talks with news publishers to offer “millions of dollars” for the rights to publish their material on its site. The move follows years of criticism over its growing monopolisation of online advertising to the detriment of the struggling news industry.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that Facebook representatives had told news executives that they'd pay as much as USD 3 million a year to license stories, headlines and other material.

Facebook declined to comment but confirmed that the company is working on launching a “news tab” for its service this fall. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg began talking about a news section on the service in April.

A person familiar with the matter confirmed that Facebook had approached News Corp about paying to license Wall Street Journal stories. The person requested anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly about the matter.

The Journal report was not clear as to whether Facebook was offering USD 3 million to individual publishers or in total to all news organisations.

Many in the news industry have long blamed Facebook and Google for using their content for free while the social network slurped up the majority of digital ad dollars, imperiling the news industry.



TARDIGRADES – THE 'INDESTRUCTIBLE' BEINGS MAY BE ALIVE ON MOON

There may be life on the Moon after all: virtually indestructible beings that can withstand extreme radiation, sizzling heat, the coldest temperatures of the universe, and decades without food.

These terrifying-sounding creatures aren't aliens but in fact microscopic Earthlings known as tardigrades, who likely survived a crash landing on the lunar surface by Israel's Beresheet probe in April, the organisation responsible for their trip said Tuesday.

Based on an analysis of the spacecraft's trajectory and the composition of the device the micro-animals were stored in, “we believe the chances of survival for the tardigrades...are extremely high,” Nova Spivack, founder of the Arch Mission Foundation, told AFP.

The non-profit is dedicated to spreading backups of human knowledge and Earth's biology throughout the Solar System, a quest it likens to the creation of an “Encyclopedia Galactica” as a gift to the future.

MICROSOFT TO TURN YOUR PHONE INTO HAND-HELD GAMING DEVICE

In an apparent bid to take on the popular Nintendo gaming Switch, a new Microsoft patent has revealed plans for controllers that would turn your smartphone into hand-held Xbox.

According to a report in Digital Trends late Sunday, the patent shows “a charging device for removable input modules. While there is no specific mention of the Xbox in the application, a couple of the drawings feature all-too-familiar buttons and symbols”.

Possible features for the controllers include built-in speakers, a headphone jack, and wireless headphones support.

The detachable controllers in the patent looks similar to the Nintendo Switch but a key difference with Nintendo's hybrid console is that Microsoft controllers would “focus on enabling the Project xCloud video game streaming service on mobile phones”.

According to Microsoft, Project xCloud's state-of-the-art global game-streaming technology will offer you the freedom to play on the device you want without being locked to a particular device.

Similar to Google Stadia, Project xCloud would allow players to stream console and PC games to their devices through Cloud.

“We are developing a new, game-specific touch input overlay that provides maximum response in a minimal footprint for players who choose to play without a controller,” Microsoft said last year.

Microsoft has nearly 40 years of gaming experience starting with PC and is well equipped to address the complex challenge of cloud game-streaming.

With data centers in 54 Azure



regions and services available in 140 countries, Azure has the scale to deliver a great gaming experience for players worldwide, regardless of their location.

According to the report, the controllers featured in the Microsoft patent may make Project xCloud more attractive to smartphone gamers.

Sarang Sheth, a designer from Yanko Designs, has mocked up 3D concepts of the device using the patent which was filed last month.

“It's pretty certain that Microsoft isn't just taking on Google's Stadia with its own Cloud-based gaming service, but is also going gung-ho into the hardware side of things too, with detachable controllers you can clip to your phone for the most portable Xbox experience ever imagined!” Sheth wrote in a blog post.

Two controller-halves clip onto either side of the phone, turning it into a handheld gaming console, complete with everything you need to play Xbox's signature titles.

“Designed for immersive landscape gaming, the controllers come with two flippers that hold your phone gently but securely from the sides, while memory-foam pads make sure they don't press any buttons,” Sheth added.

These side flippers are ideal for phones with no bezel, because this makes sure the controllers don't overlap the screen from the left or right.

“Both halves of the controllers connect to your phone via Wi-Fi to deliver a seamless gaming experience that's absolutely lag-free. They even come with their own speaker units that deliver gameplay audio in stereo,” he wrote.

Marine heatwaves a bigger threat to coral reefs than thought

Marine heatwaves are a much bigger threat to coral reefs than previously thought, according to a study that reveals a previously unrecognised impact of climate change on reefs.

The study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, shows for the first time what really happens to corals during marine heatwaves.

The researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia also reveal that it's not just coral animals that are affected—their skeletons start to decay within weeks, too.

This means that the three-dimensional (3D) coral framework which provides home to many other animals on the reef is also at risk, they said.

In 2016, the team's research showed that just a 0.5 degree Celsius increase in ocean temperature changes the extent of mortality that happens in coral during bleaching.

In the new study, the team found that severe marine heatwaves not only trigger bleaching events as we have known them—a breakdown of symbiosis—but in fact can lead to heat-induced mortality of the coral animal itself.



The researchers suggest that severe heatwave-induced mortality events should therefore be considered a distinct biological phenomenon, with more direct damage different from coral bleaching.

“Until now, we have described coral bleaching as an event where the symbiotic relationship between coral and its microbes breaks down and corals lose their main source of nutrition, and the coral can die if the symbiosis is not restored,” said Associate Professor Tracy Ainsworth from UNSW.

Saudi Aramco to invest \$75 billion in Reliance's oil to chemicals business: Ambani

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's Reliance Industries Ltd is set to sell a 20% stake in its oil to chemicals business to Saudi Aramco in one of the largest ever foreign investments in the country, Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani said.

"(This is) the biggest foreign investment in the history of Reliance," Ambani said at the company's annual general meeting in India's financial capital Mumbai.

Addressing the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the RIL, Ambani said that Aramco would supply 500,000 barrels per day of crude oil to Reliance refineries.

The deal is subject to due diligence, definitive agreements and regulatory and other approvals, Ambani said.

Saudi Aramco, is a national petroleum and natural gas company based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It is one of the largest companies in the world by revenue, and is said to be the most profitable company in the world.



Middle Eastern oil giants like Aramco have been expanding into downstream operations as they seek to move from being pure producers to becoming more integrated energy companies.

Aramco has been targeting refining deals in India since at least last year, when Chief Executive Officer Amin Nasser told reporters that the firm wanted to double

capacity to produce gasoline and other fuels.

Meanwhile, Saudi Aramco reported first-half net income of \$46.9 billion on Monday, down from \$53.02 billion a year earlier.

By comparison, Apple Inc, the world's most profitable listed company, made \$31.5 billion in the first six months of its financial year.



DIGITAL PUSH: JIO FIBER LAUNCH ON SEPT 5

MUMBAI (TIP): Billionaire Mukesh Ambani on Monday announced the rollout of 'Jio Fiber' from September 5, promising free voice calls for life from landlines, 100 Mbps minimum broadband speed at subscription starting from Rs 700 a month and free HD TV set on a commitment to an annual plan.

Speaking at the 42nd annual general meeting (AGM), Reliance Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani said Jio will also offer unlimited international calling pack from its landlines to the US and Canada at Rs 500 a month, and that default tariff plans will be one-fifth to one-tenth of existing market tariffs.

"Voice calls from home to any Indian operator—mobile or fixed—will be absolutely free forever. On fixed-line international voice calling, we are today ending the era of high international calling rates on landline by announcing the lowest fixed line rates for international calling," he said.

Ambani said the average fixed-line download speed in the US, which is the most developed economy, was around 90 Mbps whereas in India, even the most basic Jio Fiber plan starts with 100 Mbps speed. "We have plans all the way up to 1 Gbps or 1,000 Mbps. This will improve the quality of fixed-line data in India," he said.

Govt may permit 100 per cent FDI in contract manufacturing

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government is working on a proposal to allow 100 per cent FDI in contract manufacturing with a view to attract overseas investments, sources said.

According to the existing foreign investment policy, 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) is permitted in the manufacturing sector under the automatic route. A manufacturer is also allowed to sell products manufactured in India through wholesale and retail channels, including through e-commerce, without government's approval.

"The current policy does not talk about contract manufacturing and it is not clearly defined in the policy. Big technology companies across the world are going for this, so there is a need for a clarification on the matter which government is considering positively," they said. The commerce and industry ministry is working on a proposal that would be finalised soon and sent for Union Cabinet's approval.

Commenting on the proposal, Rajat Wahi, Partner, Deloitte India, said the move if approved by the government will give a boost to the manufacturing sector.



Uber freezes hiring of US tech staff, seeks to cut costs

Uber Technologies Inc. said it instituted a hiring freeze for employees working on software and services across the US and Canada, as the ride-hailing company faces mounting losses.

An Uber spokesman said Friday that the San Francisco-based company has put a pause on hiring new software engineers and product managers. Those teams had exceeded their hiring goals for the year, he said. The freeze will not include workers in Uber's freight or autonomous vehicles businesses.

"We are continuing to aggressively hire talent, including many engineers, all over the world," the spokesman said. "We temporarily hit pause on some teams while we ensure we're being both effective and efficient in staffing against our strategic priorities."

The decision, earlier reported by Yahoo Finance, comes after a painful second quarter for Uber. The company missed revenue expectations and posted a \$5.24 billion net loss, its biggest ever. The stock is down 11% from its May initial public offering price. Last week, Uber said it was cutting 400 marketing employees around the world. Along with the hiring freeze, the moves suggest Uber is being more cautious about headcount after years of rapid growth.



In US-China trade war, Europe a collateral damage



Like a sleek Mercedes crunched between two freight trucks, Europe's economy is being knocked off course by the conflict between the U.S. and China over trade.

The bill for damages from the U.S-China collision could be painfully high, starting this week if new growth figures on Wednesday show that Europe's economic motor, Germany, is stalled or shrinking. Beyond that, economists say there are signs that years of jobs growth since the depths of the Great Recession and the eurozone debt crisis may be ending.

And if the trade wars escalate to include higher U.S. tariffs on cars made in Europe, the picture could look even worse.

The heart of the matter is Germany, Europe's largest economy and a key trade partner of both the U.S. and China.

Almost half the German economy - 47%, according to World Bank estimates - comes from trade as its companies play a dominant role in global markets for luxury autos and complex industrial machinery. Supply chains from Germany extend into neighboring countries as well, while German profits are often invested in factories in places like Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. Great for Germany and Europe when trade is booming — but it means Germany remains more vulnerable than less open economies such as Portugal or France to a slowdown in global trade in goods and services.

And that is what's happening. German has spewed wretched economic data for weeks: an 8% annual fall in exports in June, a 1.5% drop in industrial production in June from the month before, three times bigger than expected.

contd from page 1

40,000 people register for...

"We want the entire city of Houston to come enjoy the festivities and learn about Indian-Texan relations," he said.

This will be Mr. Modi's third major address to the Indian American community after he became the prime minister in 2014 and the first after his re-election in May.

The previous two were at the Madison Square Garden in New York in 2014 and the Silicon Valley in 2016. Both the events were attended by more than 20,000 people.

U.S. Senator John Cornyn said, "On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Indian-Americans in Texas, and as co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, I welcome Prime Minister Modi to Houston."

"India continues to be a key security and economic partner of the United States, and I look forward to seeing that relationship strengthen with his visit to Texas," he said. A number group of organizations from a wide spectrum of the Indian diaspora in the United States has mobilized support for the "Howdy, Modi!" event. Sanjay Ramabhadran, the president of the Texas Lyceum said, "The future of Texas is inextricably tied to global trade and strategic relations. As a Texas-wide leadership group focused on civil discourse on the important policy issues facing our state, we recognize that this visit will be a giant step in further strengthening Texas- India relations on numerous fronts."

According to WISER Trade, the US Census Bureau, and the Foreign Trade Division, in 2019 (year to date), India is Houston's fourth largest trading partner just behind Brazil, China and Mexico.

Congressman Tom...

community which has always helped in his campaigns and made it possible for him to move on the political ladder:

The Congressman Tom Suozzi met with the Indian American community Aug 11 at Apna Ghar in Hicksville to explain his letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo which was viewed by Indian American community as anti-India. The furious community leaders demanded that the Congressman retract the letter and apologize.

However, the Congressman rejected the demand of Indian American community that he retract the letter. He defended his writing the letter to Pompeo commenting on the situation in Kashmir consequent upon abrogation of Article 370. He said he was approached by some of his constituents who said they were not able to contact their families in Kashmir valley, as all communication links were snapped. He said his letter was prompted to know US

administration's view on the situation. He regretted his quoting a New York Times report which spoke of Indian highhandedness in Kashmir. His explanation did not satisfy the gathered Indian American community. Some said they will have nothing to do with Tom. Some others said the meeting was fixed by those who were out to defend Tom. Later, when the Congressman went to Queens to participate in an India Day parade, he had to face the ire of the Indian American community. When he was confronted by some, including the Indian National Overseas Congress General Secretary Rajinder Dischpally, he walked away from the parade.

Later, on August 12, the congressman, issued the following statement to explain his position.

"On Sunday, I met with 100 of my Indian-American constituents regarding my recent letter to Secretary Pompeo expressing my concerns about recent developments in Kashmir. Based upon my meeting it is clear that it was a mistake to not consult with some of my Indian American friends and supporters before I sent the letter. I should have. I am sorry. If I had met with them before sending the letter, I would have framed my concerns differently." Throughout my career in public service, I have been an ardent supporter of India, their sovereignty, and have always stood with them in their fight against terrorism. The US-India relationship will be one of our most important over the next 50 years and beyond. I have spent my time in Congress promoting and elevating this relationship and will continue to do so.

"India, the world's largest democracy, remains critical for regional security and peace. The current situation in Kashmir presents some very serious challenges. The United States should seek to be helpful in securing safety and peace for all people.

"Moving forward, I will make sure to solicit the input of all of my constituents who have a vested interest in Kashmir and work towards a peaceful region that roots out terrorism and corruption as well as respects human rights. It is my hope, that recent developments in the region will eventually lead to this."

However, the Indian American community is not satisfied with the explanation. Several community leaders The Indian Panorama spoke with want the Congressman to withdraw the letter written to Secretary of State, write another letter placing the facts that no human rights violation is being done in Kashmir which has not witnessed any violence since August 5 when Article 370 was abrogated by the President of India, and that he apologize to India and the Indian American community for having levelled malicious allegations against India and the Indian government. The Indian Panorama office was flooded with calls by people who demanded strong action against the

Get to the Point



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Congressman which included demonstrations in front of his office in New York and in Washington, his boycott, and complaining against him to Democratic and India caucus.

The Congressman has surely created an ugly situation with his thoughtless action for which he alone is responsible. It surely is not in his interest to antagonize a whole community which has been supportive of him always.

Trump has made it clear...

offer to mediate on Jammu and Kashmir is dependent on both India and Pakistan accepting it. Since India has not accepted the offer of mediation, he has made it clear that this is not on the table anymore," Shringla told Fox News. On July 22, during his joint media appearance with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House, President Trump stunned India by saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought his mediation/arbitration on the Kashmir issue.

India asserted that no such request was made by Modi to the US President and all issues would have to be resolved with Islamabad bilaterally. A week later, Trump said he would "certainly intervene" between India and Pakistan on Kashmir if they wanted him to. He said it was up to India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir

issue, but he was ready to assist if the two South Asian neighbors wanted him to help in resolving the issue.

India made it clear to America that any discussion on the issue, if at all warranted, would only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally. Shringla said America's policy on Kashmir had been no mediation but to encourage the two South Asian neighbors to resolve their differences bilaterally, including Kashmir; the pace and scope of which would be chosen by New Delhi and Islamabad. "That has been the United States' longstanding policy," he said in response to a question referring to America's decades-old policy. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the ambassador said, was also very clear on the issue. "He says this issue has to be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan in keeping with the agreements that the two countries have signed: the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration," he said.

"So, this is not an issue that is to be settled with, third parties. I think that was something that President Trump clarified and made clear," Shringla said. State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus last week said there is no change in its policy on Kashmir as it called on India and Pakistan to maintain restraint and hold direct dialogue to resolve their differences. (Source: PTI)

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Festivals are the celebration of togetherness in India. They play an important role to build a better society, where positive values flourish and the spirit of co-operation prevails. There are many auspicious days in India, which are celebrated by Indians with a lot of zest and spirit. Rakhi Purnima or Rakha Bandhan is one of them. It is known by various names; Vish Trak - the destroyer of venom, Punya Pradayak - the bestower of boons and the Pap nashak - the destroyer of sins.

In the Indian mythology, a full moon day is considered to be an auspicious day. Raksha Bandhan or Rakhi falls on a full moon day in the month of Shrawana (August) according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar. All Hindus do land up to celebrate Raksha Bandhan through-out the world, mainly in India, Nepal and some regions of Pakistan. Raksha Bandhan is known by the different names in different regions of India. The rituals may differ a little from region to region but generally carry the same aura. For the farmers, it is celebrated as "Kajri Purnima". On this day, they started sowing wheat and pray to god for good crops and in the coastal regions of India this day is celebrated as "Narayali Purnima". The day is devoted to the God Indra (God of rain), and the God Varuna (God of sea).

Raksha Bandhan has a deep rooted historical significance. There are many legends linked with the past of Hindu religion. According to the Hindu mythology, it is believed that on every Shrawana Purnima day the deity Yamuna used to tie a sacred thread on Yama's (God of death) wrist. Yama was so impressed and touched by the serenity of this custom that he declared, who ever got a rakhi tied from his sister would become immortal. From that day the traditional has been performed by the people. Another legend is related to the Mahabharata.

In Mahabharata, there is an incident where Lord Krishna was hurt during the war with king Shishupal, and left with bleeding finger. At that moment, Draupati had torn a piece of cloth and tied around his wrist to stop bleeding. Krishna was touched by her gesture and promised to reply her love and devotion in future, whenever she needs that. The legend of mighty king Bali and the deity Laxmi (Goddess of wealth) is also a popular one.

But the story of Rani Karnavati and Emperor Humayun is the most significant evidence in history related with this festival. Rani Karnavati, a widow queen of the king Chittor sent a rakhi to Emperor Humayun with a request to save her dignity. The Emperor Humayun touched by the gesture and started with his troops without wasting any time to save her honour but before he reached there, rani performed Johar and sacrificed her life.

Thus, Raksha Bandhan is an ancient Hindu festival, means "a knot of protection", a symbolic renewal of one of the most beautiful emotion in humans. On this auspicious day, as per the tradition sister worship the God and ties a sacred thread on her brother's right wrist and prays for his prosperous future. It exhibits her love and affection for her brother and in the return brother ritually pledges to protect, guard and guide her through her thick and thins for the rest of his life and blesses her with good wishes. They also exchanges gifts and enjoy the day. Now a days, as the life style of the people has been changing, the sisters and brothers who are living away from each other send their wishes

RAKSHA BANDHAN



through cards and e-mails.

The festival of rakhi brings entire family together and strengthens the bond of love and affection between the siblings. A life long promise is made by the brothers on this day is the essence of brother and sister relationship. Thus it is a symbol of purity of relationship between them.

Meaning of Raksha Bandhan

The festival is made up of two words, namely "Raksha" and "Bandhan." As per the Sanskrit terminology, the occasion means "the tie or knot of protection" where "Raksha" stands for the protection and "Bandhan" signifies the verb to tie. Together, the festival symbolizes the eternal love of brother-sister relationship which does not mean just the blood relationships only. It is also celebrated among cousins, sister and sister-in-law (Bhabhi), fraternal aunt (Bua) and nephew (Bhatija) and other such relations.

Importance

Hinduism- The festival is mainly celebrated by the Hindus in the northern and western parts of India along with countries like Nepal, Pakistan and Mauritius.

Jainism- The occasion is also revered by the Jain community where Jain priests give ceremonial threads to the devotees.

Sikhism- This festival devoted to the brother-sister love is observed by the Sikhs as "Rakhardi" or Rakhari.

Reason for the celebration

The festival of Raksha Bandhan is observed as a symbol of duty between brothers and sisters. The occasion is meant to celebrate any type of brother-sister relationship between men and women who may not be biologically related.

On this day, a sister ties a rakhi around the wrist of her brother in order to pray for his prosperity, health and well-being. The brother in return offers a gifts and promises to protect his sister from any harm and under every circumstance. The festival is also celebrated between brother-sister belonging to distant family members, relatives or cousins.



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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."

Virat Kohli surpasses Sachin Tendulkar, registers huge world record

NEW DELHI (TIP): Virat Kohli was at his fluent best on Sunday as the Indian cricket team skipper scored a brilliant hundred to guide his team to victory against West Indies in the second ODI encounter in Port of Spain. Kohli, who scored 120 off 125 deliveries, looked completely at ease against the Windies bowlers and he went on to score his 42nd ODI hundred with the help of 14 boundaries and one six. This was his 8th ODI century against West Indies and as a result, he became the first player in the history of the game to score eight or more hundreds against three different oppositions in ODIs. The India skipper had previously scored eight centuries against Australia and Sri Lanka.

The record previously belonged to India legend Sachin Tendulkar who had nine centuries against Australia and eight against Sri Lanka. Thanks to his dominant performance on Sunday, Kohli also surpassed 2000 runs against West Indies, hence becoming the only Indian batsman after Tendulkar to achieve the feat against two or more oppositions. He also has more than 2000 runs against Sri Lanka. MS Dhoni (against Sri Lanka) and Rohit Sharma (against Australia) are the other Indian batsmen with more than 2000 runs



This was Virat Kohli's 8th ODI century against West Indies and as a result, he became the first player in the history of the game to score eight or more hundreds against three different oppositions in ODIs

against an opposition.

That was not the end of Kohli's accolades as his knock of 120 became the highest ODI innings by any captain in the West Indies. He went past Brian Lara's 116 which was scored against Sri Lanka at Bridgetown back in 2003.

Kohli also surpassed the former skipper Sourav Ganguly to become India's 2nd highest-run getter in the ODIs. In his 50-over career, Ganguly

scored 11,353 runs in 311 ODIs. Kohli, playing his 238th match in the format, crossed the total during the 32nd over as he hammered Jason Holder for a third-man boundary. Kohli's incomparable batting form coupled with Bhuvneshwar Kumar's four-wicket haul scripted a 59-run win for India in the rain-curtailed second ODI against the West Indies, continuing their unbeaten streak in the Caribbean.



The six candidates are former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson, ex-Australia all-rounder and Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody, former West Indies all-rounder and Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons, ex-India team manager Lalchand Rajput, former India fielding coach Robin Singh and Ravi Shastri.

BCCI shortlists six candidates for position of Indian cricket team head coach

MUMBAI (TIP): Six candidates, including incumbent Ravi Shastri, were on Monday short-listed for the high-profile post of the Indian cricket team's head coach. The six candidates are former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson, ex-Australia all-rounder and Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody, former West Indies all-rounder and Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons, ex-India team manager Lalchand Rajput, former India fielding coach Robin Singh and Shastri.

The candidates will give a presentation to the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by the legendary Kapil Dev, and a final decision will be arrived at by end of this week or early next week.

Besides the country's first World Cup-winning skipper Dev, the newly-appointed CAC comprises Anshuman Gaekwad and former women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy.

"These six will give presentation for head coach before CAC. It has been learnt that these six have been short-listed for interview with the CAC," a senior BCCI official, privy to the development, told PTI.

Before leaving for the tour of West Indies, captain Virat Kohli had said that he is in favour of Shastri continuing as the head coach of the Indian team despite the criticism he faced following the semi-final ouster from the World Cup.

The current support staff comprising Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the ongoing West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3.

While the names of Hesson and Moody have been doing the rounds for a while, Simmons, who has had successful stints with Ireland and Afghanistan cricket teams, is also in the fray now.

Simmons also served West Indies for a brief while, helping them to victory in the 2016 World T20 tournament in India before taking over as head coach of the Afghanistan national team in 2017.

Among the Indians, Robin served as the fielding coach of the Indian team when it won the inaugural World T20 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy in 2007.

Rajput, who was the head coach of the team when it won the World T20, also had stints with Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. Hesson recently parted ways with IPL franchise Kings XI Punjab. Hesson coached the Black Caps for six years, highlighted by their memorable run to the 2015 Cricket World Cup final in Melbourne, a semifinal finish at the 2016 World Twenty20 in India and a home Test series win over England in April 2018 which lifted them to third on the world rankings.

India may have failed to win the T20 World Cup in 2016 and the ODI World Cup in 2015 and 2019, but the Shastri-Kohli duo helped the country climb to the top of the Test rankings with a historic series triumph in Australia.

Shastri was the team director till June 2016 until India lost in the World T20 semi-finals before being reappointed as head coach in 2017 after Anil Kumble's departure.

Iyer better suited for No. 4 spot in ODIs: Gavaskar

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former skipper Sunil Gavaskar believes Shreyas Iyer is better suited for the number four spot in ODIs than Rishabh Pant and should be given a permanent slot in the Indian middle-order.

Coming into the team after a year, Iyer, who has a couple of fifties in the five ODIs that he has played, hit a 68-ball 71 to play a crucial role in India's 59-run win over the West Indies in the second ODI at Port-of-Spain on Sunday.

Iyer is a contender for the still vacant number four spot even though the Indian team management has been backing young wicketkeeper-batsman Pant to seal the position in the 50-overs format.

"In my view, Rishabh Pant is much better like an MS Dhoni at 5 for 6 as a finisher because that's where his natural game and natural flair will come into play," Sunil Gavaskar told 'Sony Ten' channel.

"If India get to a great start with Virat Kohli, Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma batting for 40-45 overs, then Pant at No. 4. But if it's a question of batting for 30-35 overs, then I think it should be Shreyas Iyer at No. 4 and Pant at No. 5."

At the Queen's Park Oval, Iyer added 125 runs with skipper Virat Kohli (120) after India lost the wickets of Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant (20) in quick succession.

His innings helped India post a competitive 279 for 7 against West Indies.

The 24-year-old from Delhi didn't get game time during the T20 series. He was part of the playing XI in the first ODI, which was washed out after 13 overs at



Guyana. Heaping praise on Iyer, Gavaskar said: "He has grabbed his opportunity. He came at No. 5. He had plenty of overs. He had the company of his skipper, Virat Kohli. Nothing quite like it because the skipper takes the pressure off you."

"The best place to learn in cricket is the non-striker's end. That's what Shreyas Iyer was doing with Virat Kohli at the other end," he added.

Iyer, the Delhi Capitals skipper, was in good form during the Indian Premier League but he was ignored for the World Cup and Gavaskar believes the youngster should now get a longer run in ODI cricket.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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

Weekly Horoscope - August 19 - August 25, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says there is also kudos from all phase for your phenomenal efforts. Your prestige is at an all time high. You may also be spending recklessly and may have to tighten your purse strings. Keep modest and treat everyone, the big and the small, equally. You want to reduce goals and priorities, think and plan for the future, as you re-assess the manner in which your life is shaping.

TAURUS: The pace is hectic and there are many expenses. You are kept on your toes. There is a strong indication of visits to hospitals. You may be attending to sick relatives and, probably, even checking in yourself. This is the time to take stock of the situation and adopt preventive measures. Do not allow the body to break down. Do not ignore the warning signals. Take care, suggested Ganesha.

GEMINI: There are many emotional moments in this phase. You look back at life, at all that you have missed out, and are filled with regret and sadness. You feel that you could have done a much better job of life with better planning. But there is no use crying over spilt milk and living with regrets you can do nothing about. Ganesha suggests that you ensure that mistakes are not repeated.

CANCER: Everyone makes mistakes. Even I have; it is the way of all life. You can't do much in the mood you are in. You may even feel that you have married the wrong person and could end up in a downward and negative spiral of futile thought process. Make the most of what you have and plan for a better tomorrow. This may be the time to improve your self-image. Self pity is useless, underscores Ganesha. Get a move on.

LEO: There are many maudlin thoughts though and you look for an escape from the drudgery called life. You get indulgent and obsessive. You cannot make up your mind and yet you listen to no one. There are roadblocks, obstacles and potholes ahead but there are also rewards, returns and revenues. You spend a lot and surround yourself with goodies. You are surrounded by love but you are still searching for it.

VIRGO: Ganesha gives you just about everything you want and yet you don't see it. You are wearing blinkers on your eyes are closed. There is travel, romance, marriage, collaborations, financial gains, family reconciliations. Your plate is filled with opportunity. Glory, achievements and gains just share you in the face. With some effort and risk taking, some courage and daring, a few brilliant and inspired moves, you will strike gold.

LIBRA: With a little effort, there are amazing results. Colleagues and workmates help out and share the burden. The domestic scene also calls for some effort. This is indeed an interesting period but take care not to burn out. Your mind doesn't play any more games and you get clear and focused. You know what is to be done and you do it.

SCORPIO: You have the energy and the focus and so there is a very good chance of success. Expenses mount, and the party circuit and new love ensure that your spare time is used well. Finance plays an important role in your life now. Loans, funds, capital formation will all keep your hands full. So will social work, serving others and reaching out to those in need. All the P's - pets, projects, pastimes and protégés will keep you occupied.

SAGITTARIUS: You will focus on larger, global issues and social concerns that encompass the welfare of others. You realise that the world is one family and you need to share with others. Your performance is high pitched and you are in a position to be large hearted and generous. Ganesha is with you all the way. You will concern yourself with your own advancement rather than the welfare of others.

CAPRICORN: There is a shift in the wind this period. You realise that you need to get a bit more selfish and do something for yourself before thinking about the world. You are pushed to attain, achieve and show the world your true potential. You are upwardly mobile. There could be a promotion or a raise, a job change or switch, even a new line of work. There will be definite gains but take care not to be too critical of other people or their methods.

AQUARIUS: You have earned the respect of others. Now don't lose it with arrogance. Keep your temper in check and watch your words. Take deep breaths and count to ten before retaliating. One stray word can make you lose out on all the gains made so far. You also make contact with old friends and share tender moments with your partner. There is travel, more money and a new love. Way to go, says Ganesha.

PISCES: You are now busy with the daily grind, the mundane areas of life. You make superhuman efforts at your job / work / profession. There is little time and scope for entertainment and extravagance. It is time for sincere hard work. You want to do more, achieve more. You could be also plagued by a sense of isolation, of loneliness, of being on your own in a hard and cruel, perhaps even hostile environment.

Birthday Horoscope August 19 - August 25, 2019

AUG 19: Ganesha says if there's an edge of the day, it might be your urge to take a risk or try something different. It's okay to take a chance on a breakthrough, but don't bet more than you can lose.

AUG 20: Love may feel deeper and more intimate than you'd expected as feelings in a relationship become more intimate. Don't let cross or confusing feelings later throw off this passion.

AUG 21: It might be hard for you to find

traction in the day even though the Moon is in your sign. Once energy picks up later this afternoon, your mood may already be set in a passive or lethargic mode.

AUG 22: The Moon is all about money and possessions, bringing recent activities to a conclusion, perhaps urgently; but passion with a partner may override problems and bring in a trusting union.

AUG 23: Recent financial activities resurface in new ways, perhaps requiring sudden action or

bringing a sudden change. Don't make money decisions, however, without clear vision or if you're not sure.

AUG 24: You might spend this weekend day tooling around your own neighbourhood, enjoying the day's easy pleasures and friendly companions. If there are money talks, expect a resolution by late tonight.

AUG 25: Expect trouble in a relationship, or your feelings about it, early this morning. Doubt, regret, rebuke, or denial may make you feel unsupported. Later, a fair judgement or advisor can right wrongs.

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