

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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Congressman Tom Suozzi's anti-India letter angers Indian Americans

Community demands retraction of the letter and apology

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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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.

New Jersey's Indian American Community Celebrates at IBA Parade



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy with Grand Marshall and guests at the parade

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Local leaders applauded the Indian Business Association, which organized the 15th

Annual India Day Parade on Sunday. The parade ran from Edison to Iselin and
contd on Page 48

IDP USA Parade Revived after a Gap of Three Years ; Extreme Heat Prevents Large Attendance



Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York, giving his remarks. Among others seen in the picture is Jasbir Jay Singh, IDP USA President and Grand Marshall Raj Kummar Rao

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The organizers hoped there will be equally great enthusiasm among people as they had shown in organizing the parade which was revived after a gap of three years. However, their hopes were belied. Extreme heat and absence of shade of

trees along the route prevented many who wanted to join the parade, to stay indoors. The absence of large crowds was offset by the large presence of lawmakers and elected officials. The entire brigade of Nassau County
contd on Page 13



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Ashwini Kumar Tewari
Country Head, US Operations
State Bank of India,
460 Park Avenue, New York

MESSAGE

Dear Overseas friends of India, wish you a very happy Independence Day 2019. It is my pleasure joining The Indian Panorama in our 73rd Independence Day celebrations. It is through the sacrifice of thousands of people that we achieved our much-cherished freedom. India, after a long struggle is now gaining its rightful place in the world as a peaceful democracy and a large economy. Our freedom has given us liberty, justice and equality and let us strive to maintain it. As Ambassadors of India in US we have an important role to contribute to the success of India and take our country to greater heights. My best wishes to all.

Jai Hind !

Ashwini Kumar Tewari



Former Diplomat and Writer
Asoke Kumar Mukerji
New Delhi

Message

India's Independence Day on 15 August 2019 is a watershed in our modern history. 2019 has been a momentous year for us. The results of our general elections in May 2019 have confirmed that a decisive majority of Indian voters want to live in peace and security, which will provide the political stability necessary to transform India.

The challenges facing India are complex. India is consolidating initiatives taken over the past five years, which were built on the foundations laid by India's socio-economic reforms introduced in 1992. The priority for transforming India is creating a resilient and modern infrastructure, which will bridge the physical and digital divides of our diverse country and generate employment and opportunities to create a \$5-trillion economy by 2024. Our national efforts to implement the ambitious UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will play a big role in this endeavor.

The rapid evolution of new geo-political paradigms in our region, and the continued shadow of cross-border terrorism directed against India, require us to be pro-active and vigilant to ensure a supportive environment of peace and security.

The pro-active outlook of India towards using the opportunities posed by disruptions in international affairs has already given results. The International Day of Yoga launched in 2015 is today celebrated by hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic volunteer practitioners across the five continents, contributing significantly to global health and well-being. India's visionary initiative of creating a global framework for using renewable energy for development has taken root in 2018 with the establishment of the International Solar Alliance. As India assumes her place in the institutions of global governance from 2021 onwards, her voice as a "global thought leader" will become more prominent.

Today, as we mark India's Independence Day, we recall the critical part that the principle of international cooperation has played in the emergence of a New India. India's role as a major power will help consolidate world opinion in favor of international cooperation over the divisive unilateralism that threatens a more peaceful, prosperous and secure world.

I greet all the readers of the Indian Panorama on this significant occasion!

Jai Hind!

Asoke Kumar Mukerji



VK Raju, MD, FRCS, FACS
Ophthalmologist, Regional Eye Associates
President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America
President and Founder, Goutami Eye Institute
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, West Virginia University

MESSAGE

In its vast history, India never invaded another country; never experienced a military coup or civil war. Since independence in 1947, we made incredible progress, yet the India we dream, and the real potential of India is nowhere near.

Education has been called the technique of transmitting the civilization. Child is the father of the man. The quality of education of children of today will determine the quality of life in India tomorrow.

Rajaji, the great statesman of India once said,
" hope lies only in universal education by which right conduct, fear of God and love will be developed among the citizens from childhood."

Though there are few islands of excellence, we have not brought the unbounded potential of the country to fruition. We need to make human investment. That means investment in education, family planning, nutrition and public health. Not just physical investment in factories and plants. The human raw material in India is as fine as can be found anywhere. Yet, we endure so much and suffer so much without understanding our extraordinary potential.

We need three wills: Political, professional and people's. If there is a change in the mindset of the Indians, sky is the limit- the only country with 500 million + citizens below the age of 34. Use them or lose them!

VK Raju, MD, FRCS, FACS



Naveen Shah
President & CEO
Navika Capital Group LLC
(A Member of the Navika Group of Companies)
521E RXR Plaza, Uniondale, NY 11556

MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to know that The Indian Panorama is bringing out a special edition to mark the 73rd Independence Day of India. I thank publisher and editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for the laudable initiative and congratulate Indians across the world on the glorious occasion of India's Independence.

For long, India suffered the yoke of foreign rule. It was after a grim struggle spread over about a hundred years that India finally got freedom on August 15, 1947.

In 72 years, India has come a long way. Today, India stands tall among the comity of nations.

Poised to become one of the three top economies of the world in the next couple of years, India is already looking to be a USD 500 trillion economy by 2024.

Indian Diaspora is one of the most highly educated, skilled and prosperous in the world.

They control levers of power- political and economic - in many countries, including the US where a couple of them head Fortune 500 companies. As time passes, India will be playing greater role on the world stage.

I wish India and Indians all happiness now and ever.

Naveen Shah

हरदीप एस पुरी
HARDEEP S PURI



आवासन और शहरी कार्य राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
नागर विमानन राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of State (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs
Minister of State (I/C), Civil Aviation
Minister of State, Commerce & Industry
Government of India

MESSAGE

I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians, the Indian-American community, and the readers of Indian Panorama, on the occasion of India's Independence Day. I am happy to note that publication will issue a special edition to mark this historic occasion.

In the annals of history, 2019 will be regarded as India's inflexion point. In the General Election conducted between April and May, the Bhartiya Janata Party won 303 seats, 31 more than the half-way, making it a second term in office for Prime Minister Modi's government with a single party majority. This victory came on the back of a positive, development-oriented agenda, and a pro-incumbency sentiment – a first in Indian history.

The first session of parliament following the election results saw 35 bills passed in the Lower House and 32 in the Upper House, making it the most productive session in 20 years. More importantly, this session saw India abrogate Article 370, paving the way for full integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the nation; and criminalization of Instant Divorce (Triple Talaq), freeing the nation's Muslim women from years of abuse.

Prime Minister Modi's government is committed to building on its achievements of 2014-19, and laying the foundations of a 'New India' by 2022, the 75th year of our independence, and a developed nation by 2047, when we celebrate our centenary as a free nation.

New Delhi
07 August 2019

(Hardeep S Puri)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK



August 6, 2019

MESSAGE

On this occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day, I extend my greetings to all readers of Indian Panorama and also congratulate the team of Indian Panorama for bringing out this illustrated Special Edition to mark this occasion.

The Indian Panorama is a prominent English language weekly newspaper being published since 2006 serving the NRI's & Indian American Community with distinction with a variety of news, information and entertainment through its print and electronic editions. The print edition is widely read in the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut whereas the electronic edition is eagerly and widely read on the website www.theindianpanorama.news, all across the world.

Independence Day is a celebration of India, its History, Culture, Spirituality and several diverse facets that makes India unique. It is an occasion to pay tribute to our martyrs and freedom fighters and remember the struggle to achieve our freedom. It encourages us to value the significance of unity in diversity which is key to achieve our goals and accomplish the challenges we have before us.

2019 is a special year for India in USA when we are commemorating "150 years of the Mahatma" and "550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji". A large number of events will be organized by the Consulate and the Community in partnership and in association throughout the year. In this endeavor, I would like to urge the Indian Panorama to become the vehicle of connecting the Consulate to the Community and give wide publicity to these two celebrations. Please connect to us on social media @indiannewyork. The Consulate has launched another initiative for easy redressal of queries. A web-based query interface called "Primit" has been incorporated on our website, www.indiannewyork.gov.in. I encourage readers of Indian Panorama to use this new facility.

I once again congratulate Indian Panorama and its members for success in their endeavors and believe that they will continue being the important link between India and the Indian Community in USA.

संदीप चक्रवर्ती
Sandeep Chakravorty
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Consul General of India
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Syed Akbaruddin



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी प्रतिनिधि
न्यू यॉर्क
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

August 9, 2019

Message

I am happy to know that the *Indian Panorama* is publishing a special illustrated edition on India's 73rd Independence Day on 15 August 2019.

2. The Independence Day has a special significance in our onward journey as a young and modern nation with deep civilizational roots. It is the time to honour the founding fathers of our nation and rededicate ourselves to the values and principles enshrined in our Constitution. It is also the time to renew our pledge to work harder for a developed and prosperous India in which no one is left behind.

3. India has, therefore, continued to engage closely with the United Nations on a wide range of issues of national, regional and global importance. During the last one year, India has actively contributed to discussions on migration, health, environment, climate action, sustainable development, peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and the reform of the United Nations, among others.

4. India continues to foster South-South Cooperation under the aegis of India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The demand-driven projects being implemented by this Fund are yielding positive results and contributing to sustainable development in over 35 friendly countries.

5. In keeping with Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership on solar energy and climate action, a Solar Panel Green Roof project supported by India will become operational at the United Nations from September 2019. It will be the first time that UN Headquarters will be using solar energy.

6. India firmly believes that solutions to existing and emerging global challenges can be found collectively through a commitment to multilateralism and dialogue. India will, therefore, continue to demonstrate leadership and work in concert with other nations to achieve shared objectives.

7. I compliment Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja and his team for their continuous efforts in promoting greater friendship and better understanding between India and the USA.

8. I extend my warm greetings to the readers of *The Indian Panorama* on India's Independence Day and wish them continued success.

(Syed Akbaruddin)

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Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I offer my warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to The Indian Panorama and the Indian Community as you celebrate 72 years of Indian Independence. As the Assemblyman who represents one of the largest South Asian populations in New York, I am honored to be a part of this special publication to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Since its inception in 2006, The Indian Panorama has been instrumental in displaying the positive impact and rich heritage of the Indian-American community throughout the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and selectively in Atlanta, Dallas, Sacramento and Seattle. In addition, under the direction of Chief Editor Indrajit S Saluja and the support of his talented team, The Indian Panorama has provided an indispensable voice for the Indian-American community.

The publication's fine work in showcasing the positive impact of the Indian community in New York, as well as its efforts to promote and uphold the interests of the global South Asian diaspora is worthy of our highest recognition and gratitude; and The Indian Panorama's dedication to better serve our city and our great state by providing quality journalism deserves our highest appreciation.

Once again, I am honored to join The Indian Panorama to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of India's Independence and I give my heartfelt congratulations to each of you as we celebrate. Jai Hind!

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly

DIW/dc

Kashmir will become a developed state, a global state. It will become the pride of India: *Ambassador Chakravorty*

The Indian Panorama team of chief editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja and assistant editor Bidisha Roy interviewed Consul General of India Sandeep Chakravorty on August 7, 2019 to elicit his views on certain recent developments in India and to address some issues related to the Indian American community here.

Ambassador Chakravorty, as ever, candidly answered all our questions. We bring to readers of The Indian Panorama excerpts from the interview.

TIP: We are here with you when India has lost one of her best human beings and an accomplished politician who, until a few months ago, was India's external affairs Minister, and your boss. I will like to begin with your memories of Sushma Swaraj Ji, and, of course, your condolences .



Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty with Late Smt. Sushma Swaraj

CG : We know politicians, we know leaders, ministers but Sushmaji was very special in the sense that she led our ministry (External Affairs) for five long years and she really had a very intimate relationship with all officer and staff. I think she changed our ministry. She changed the way our consulates work. She made us responsive to the community. On many issues, she played very very important role in keeping our embassy in forefront of diplomacy. She used the power of Twitter to help people. It is unparalleled in the diplomatic history. No leader, no foreign minister used social media so effectively. There is an outpouring of grief. In New York she used to come every year for the General Assembly and we got the chance to meet her. I remember she would call me personally and ask me to help people in stress and trouble including patients in hospitals here in the United States. She connected beautifully to everybody. Everybody is missing her. We are poorer by her absence. She was a tall leader. We don't have many women at the forefront of politics. She was the youngest minister at the central government. She has been in politics for 40 years. She was the face of Indian diplomacy. I think we will all miss her. My condolences to her family.

TIP: Modi government has taken some decisions on the State of Jammu & Kashmir which have divested the State of certain privileges and taken away some special rights of the people of J & K. Obviously, the decisions have altered the character of relationship between the State of J&K and the Center. How will you explain the action which you have called in your note

circulated to media, including the NY Times, as "administrative action"? How does abrogation of Article 370 help people of J&K?

CG - Before I get into answering it, I would like to recall the last tweet of Sushmaji which she made just an hour before her cardiac arrest. She thanked Prime Minister Modi and said I could never imagine that I will see this day I was waiting for. I think it's a very telling comment, poignant tweet. I've seen the tweet a number of times and I think it was a historic day. I would like to highlight two points. One is that - I believe that Article 370 was a temporary provision in our constitution, and it was made to protect the people of Kashmir to work for its development and protect their culture and uniqueness of Kashmir. Unfortunately, because of several developments, it went to the contrary. It has not developed Kashmir. There is no institution, no hospital, no university, no medical college, no engineering college, no industry, no business.

What will happen in next few years that Kashmir will become a developed state, a global state. It will become the pride of India. I got a comment from one company - they said, we'll work with India to bring Kashmir to the forefront of technological change in the world. The people of Kashmir are as Indian as anybody else. Why they have been deprived for so many years of these benefits of development? No law of India was applicable to Kashmir including reservations for the backward classes. There was rampant corruption. Even the prevention of corruption act was not applicable. It was a jarring point in our political structure which has been corrected and I am so happy that our government has the courage to do so. The culture of Kashmir will be demolished - that's not true. India is based on linguistic states and India celebrates its culture and diversity. More and more Kashmiri culture will come to the forefront. There have been forces who tried to kill the culture of Kashmir. This action will protect the culture of Kashmir. I am very very positive that this is a landmark decision and it will be a game changer. It will solve the problems that we have faced in the past. It will bring out the people of Kashmir to a high level of economic development.

TIP: There are fears that when you open up the forbidden area to people to buy land, the land mafia will dispossess the local people who are known to be poor. And that will drive them to greater poverty. What do you think?

CG- I don't think that is a correct description of the fact. It is a very hypothetical situation. It has not happened elsewhere. Nobody will force you to sell your land. Things will not happen overnight. If somebody has land and wants to build a hotel, why he should be denied? The land of Kashmir should have similar valuation like in Mumbai or Delhi. Tourism will prosper and protection will be given like in other parts of India. The beginning has to be made.

“I believe that India's time is now. India is on the way to becoming five trillion dollar economy and that cannot happen without greater India-US cooperation and involvement of Indian American community.”

“We have decreased the turnaround time of our consular services. For instance, you apply for passport through CKGS today. It comes to us this evening. Tomorrow we do it and day after tomorrow you get it. So our turnaround time is just a day. Which means if somebody is in an emergency, we can give him the passport across the counter.”

TIP: Let me take you to your August 2017 interview with The Indian Panorama. You had said : There are three relationships here - India-US relationship, Indian community-US relationship, and Indian community-India relationship. All are very important, and we need to focus on all three. How do you assess yourself today with regard to your work in strengthening these relationships?

Thank you for reminding me. It was a very useful framework to analyze our work. The India-US relationship has progressed enormously in the last two years. The best indicator is the trade which has crossed 142 billion. It was less than 20 billion 20 years back. What is very interesting is trade deficit has been reducing. US export to India is growing. We believe in comparative advantages. We are buying thing from US which we have never done before such as oil and gas. We are also increasing our defense purchases from the US. US is the biggest supplier of aircraft to India. On economic relations, the investment relationship is very strong. Indian companies are investing here. Strong presence of them in our jurisdiction. The US-India relationship has done well. It is prospering. Our Prime Minister and US leaders have said that this is the most important bilateral relationship in the world. It is the relationship of the future. There is great deal of understanding about the role of India. As the relationship advances it creates opportunities for us.

As far as the Indian community-US relationship is concerned, that is also very significant. More and more Indians are participating in the political process. Indian origin men and women are participating in the local level across the US as assemblyman, councilman or judges or senators. That awareness is growing and people are talking about it. There is appreciation of role of Indian community in the US administration. Our community is the most educated and prosperous community and they are playing huge role in the development of United States. Today US is the technological powerhouse because of the contribution of people of Indian origin.

Thirdly, the connection with India is growing. The concern which I have is whether the second or third generation is connected or not. As India is becoming economic powerhouse, the interest in India should be natural. The second or third generation should not

CONTD FROM PAGE 4



Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty speaking with The Indian Panorama editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja at the Indian Consulate on August 7, 2019

connect to India because their parents belong to India. They should connect because they feel to do so just like other Americans do. That is happening. I find lot of people who deal with India, are investing in India. Our job is to facilitate that. I see my role as a bee, a pollinator - pollinating the flower. In diplomacy we don't do business. Our role is to facilitate business. Here at the consulate, so many subsidiary relationships are blooming. I believe in supporting these contacts and relationships.

TIP: Between 2017 and 2019, you have accomplished a lot. Also, you may probably have a feeling that much more could have been done. Do you have any flop side?

CG- I think after two years, I am focusing on involving more and more mainstream Americans in the activities of the consulate. I have done, but I have to do more. My emphasis now will be trying to do more of that. I am trying to do things that will last. I am sitting on the success and hard work done by my predecessors. We also increased our outreach. The feedback is very positive. We fail in many occasions but it's not because of lack of effort. We failed because everything is not in our control. When we get feedback, we respond. We try to correct problems of people. We respond on google, Facebook, twitter, Instagram. We have developed our web Application - Primit. It is an in-house development. It has ensured 100% response to any applicant who has any issue with the consulate. it is widely used. In the last 7 months about 10,000 people used it. We have redone our website in June 2018, we had 1.3 million hits since then. For a consulate, it's very very satisfying.

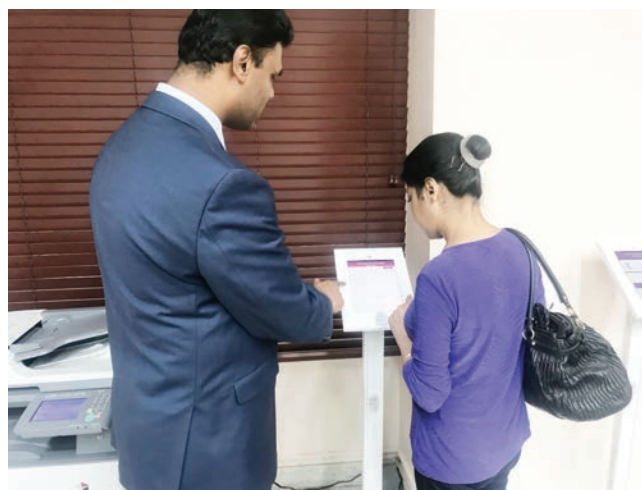
TIP: You inherited one particular initiative from Mr Mulay - Consulate at your doorstep - what have you done to promote that?

CG- We have decreased the turnaround time of our consular services. For instance, you apply for passport through CKGS today. It comes to us this evening. Tomorrow we do it and day after tomorrow you get it. So our turnaround time is just a day. Which means if somebody is in an emergency, we can give him the passport across the counter. This has not happened before. Our turnaround time for visas is also one day. I am proud to say that we are one of the very few consulates globally who open on weekends to give

emergency services. For transfer of mortal remains, we are open on Saturday and Sunday. I think hardly anybody does that. We give emergency visas and passport if anybody is critically ill. A proper procedure is established. The consulate is for the people. If we are not able to satisfy and help them, there is no point. Consulate at your doorstep is happening but because we have brought down the processing time, the demand has decreased. But still we are doing it in places like Boston and Philadelphia. Our jurisdiction is very compact.

TIP: It is about Open House and redressal of grievances. Do you maintain a record of complaints received?

CG - We do. We are very sensitive regarding this. If an appreciation makes my day, a complaint ruins my week. That is the importance we give to complaints. We respond to each and every complaint. Some of the complaints come because of our limitations when we say 'No.' We can't say yes in every circumstance. When we say 'No' people respond in a negative way. We understand their difficulties and we try to be as humane as possible. Most of the complaints are because of lack of response. Because of Primit, the complaints have also drastically reduced. It's a mixed bag and I take both in my stride. Our phone calls are now on recorder. We receive 120 to 130 calls a day and every call is recorded. I make sure by the end of the day we respond. We call and



Passport and Visa Consul Mr. Murugesan explains to The Indian Panorama assistant editor Bidisha Roy the new digital system of registration on arrival

leave a message and I guarantee you that we'll get back within 24 hours.

TIP: What have been the most recurrent complaints and grievances?

CG - Mainly two. One is for passport of people who are not documented here and asylum seekers who have not got US travel document. Sometimes they need to travel to India. There is a very flexible rule and we are compassionate. But sometimes people take benefit of the rule and then don't travel to India. They say, somebody is unwell. So we give them the passport and then they don't go. But that number is not large. One thing to notice that passport is not an identity document but a travel document. Some undocumented people who demand the passport they do not travel. They want identity. When we ask what the purpose is, they are unable to explain. We don't want to jeopardize the US immigration system.

TIP: Congratulations for providing certain new facilities to visitors to the Consulate to transact business. We visited the office in the basement area and found the place much more welcoming than before. The comfortable new chairs and the ambience of the place are surely welcome. Bidisha who spoke with the Consul Passport and Visa Mr. Murugesan was told about the entire operation-how a visitor has to register on arrival and then wait in the queue. The new digital queue monitoring and display makes things much easier for visitors. Bidisha also noted that the Consulate has provided free copying and computer services to fill in the forms. Mr. Murugesan also informed about the plans to have a children's section. Surely, there are enough indications of improvement.

CG: We constantly review the services.

TIP: What are your plans regarding the celebration of 550 years of Guru Nanak Devji and 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi?

CG - In last several months we have arranged many events on 550 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji. We have had many outstanding events at the consulate. The latest one was at the Gurudwara at Hicksville. We are planning few more events. We have proposals from other Gurudwaras in our jurisdiction. We are planning with Mayor's office in Norwalk, Connecticut where there is a sizable Sikh community to host an event in November on of Guru Nanak Devji's birthday. We are planning to host it at mayor's office with participation of mainstream people.

In connection with the year long commemorative celebration of 150 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, we have partnered with the State University of New York, Old Westbury (SUNY-OW), and Shanti Fund to plant 150 trees in the Old Westbury Campus. We are requesting individuals to adopt trees. The Gandhi Peace Garden will be inaugurated in September during the visit of Prime Minister who will do it. On October 1 we are doing 'Homage to Mahatma' music concert by Sitarist Subhendu Rao and his wife at the consulate.

TIP: We are a week away from celebrating India's 73rd Independence Day. Your message, please.

CG - On the occasion of our 73rd Independence Day, I greet the readers of Indian Panorama and the larger Indian American Community and the friends of India. I believe that India's time is now. India is on the way to becoming five trillion dollar economy and that cannot happen without greater India-US cooperation and involvement of Indian American community. I felicitate you on this very very happy occasion. We should project what is good in India. I want to take this opportunity to invite you to participate at the grand celebration of August 15. Please join us and come in large numbers.

TIP: Thank you, Ambassador Chakravorty for your time. Happy Independence Day!

HEROES OF INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

'Tryst With Destiny - 1.3 Billion Indians Answer the Call

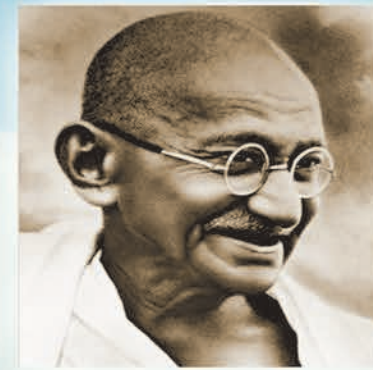
- Ravi Batra



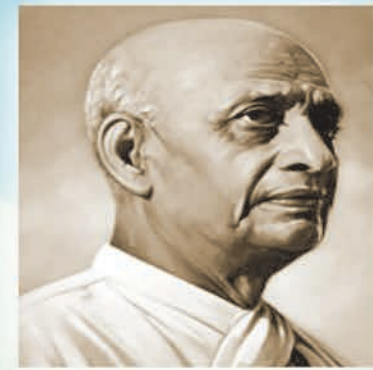
**Lokmanya Bal
Gangadhar Tilak**
(1856-1920)



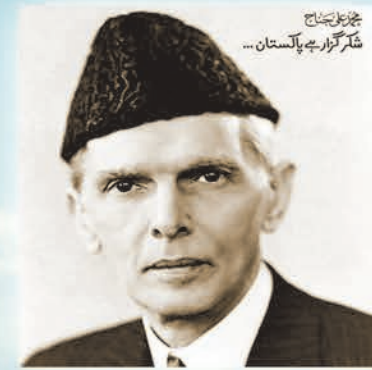
Lala Lajpat Rai
(1865-1928)



Mahatma Gandhi
(1869-1948)



**Sardar
Vallabhbhai Patel**
(1875-1950)



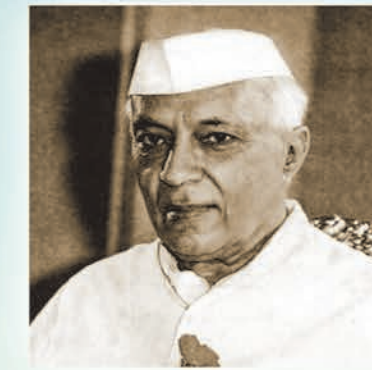
**Mohammed
Ali Jinnah**
(1876-1948)



Vir Savarkar
(1883-1966)



**Maulana Abul
Kalam Azad**
(1888-1958)



**Pt Jawaharlal
Nehru**
(1889-1964)



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
(1931-2015)



Dr B.R. Ambedkar
(1891 -1956)



**'Frontier Gandhi'
Badshah Khan**
(1890-1988)



**Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose**
(1897-1945)



**Chandra
Shekhar Azad**
(1906-1931)



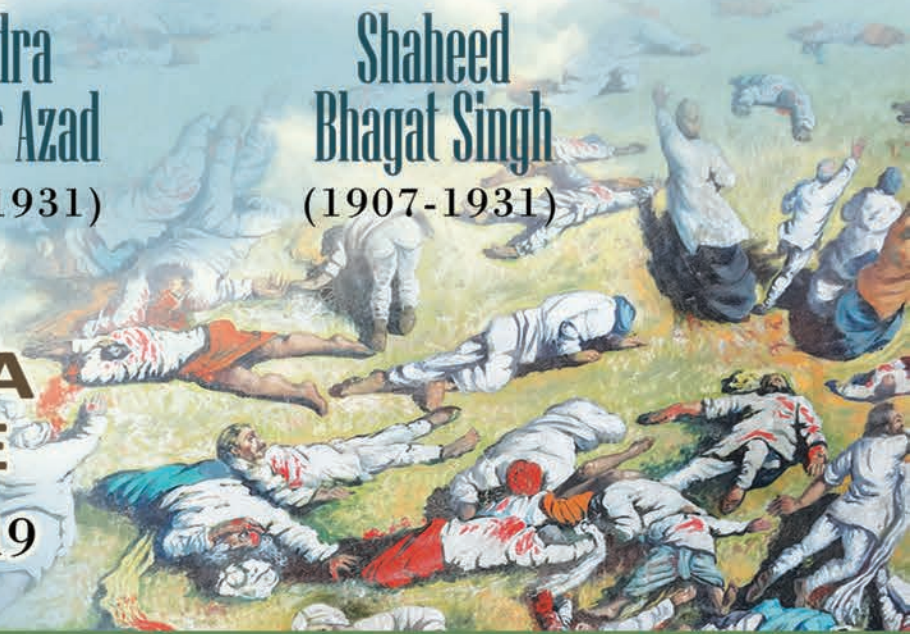
**Shaheed
Bhagat Singh**
(1907-1931)



**Modi Hugs America,
as Family**

**JALLIANWALA
BAGH MASSACRE**

Amritsar, 13 April 1919



THE LAW FIRM OF RAVI BATRA, P.C.
The Batra Building
142 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016
212-545-1993

Happy 73rd Independence Day

*Ravi and
Ranju Batra*



Sushma Swaraj -the best specimen of 'Matri Shakti'



The symbol of Indian mother, sister, daughter, bahu-the best face of an Indian Sushma Ji withUNSG Ban Ki-Moon, whose "India-connections" extended from his personal to his professional life.
Photo / Courtesy Asoke Mukerji

I.S. SALUJA

Sushma Swaraj (Sharma before her marriage to Swaraj Kaushal) was born on 14 February 1952 at Ambala Cantt, Haryana to Hardev Sharma and Shrimati Laxmi Devi. Her father was a prominent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh member. Her parents hailed from the Dharampura area of Lahore, Pakistan.

Sushma was educated at Sanatan Dharma College in Ambala Cantonment and earned a bachelor's degree with majors in Sanskrit and Political Science. She studied law at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

She was a lawyer by profession. A senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, Swaraj served as the Minister of External Affairs of India in the first Narendra Modi government (2014-2019). She was the second woman to hold the office, after Indira Gandhi. She was elected seven times as a Member of Parliament and three times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. At the age of 25 in 1977, she became the youngest cabinet minister of Indian state of Haryana. She also served as 5th Chief Minister of Delhi for a short duration in 1998.

Swaraj was hailed as India's "best-loved politician" by the US daily Wall Street Journal. In view of her failing health, she decided not to contest the 2019 Indian general election. She was not much seen in public. On August 6, 2019 she succumbed to a cardiac arrest, according to the doctors at the AIIMS, New Delhi.

The world grieved over her loss, as we do at The Indian Panorama. We grieve for her, the unreturning friend and benefactor.

We received condolences from many people in India and abroad. In the short space available with us, we will carry excerpts from the condolences offered by them.

A Diplomat Remembers Sushma Ji

A former diplomat Asoke Kumar Mukerji was the Permanent Representative of India to the UN when Sushma Swaraj visited the United Nations for the first time as External Affairs Minister. He said in his condolence posted on Facebook

"Deeply saddened by the untimely demise of Smt. Sushma Swaraj-ji, who was External Affairs Minister of India when I was finishing my innings in the Indian Foreign Service as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and her attention to detail was astounding. Despite the challenging schedule that she committed



Ambassador Asoke Mukerji (extreme left) receiving Sushma-ji (third from left) on 24 September 2014 in New York for her first visit as External Affairs Minister. Photo / Courtesy Asoke Mukerji

herself to during her visits to the United Nations, she constantly radiated positive energy.

I first received her as External Affairs Minister in New York on 24 September 2014, when she arrived just before our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-ji's first historic visit. It was her sagacity and support that ensured we were able to implement the Prime Minister's idea for the UN General Assembly to declare June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga in record time and with a record number of co-sponsoring countries. She participated in the First International Yoga Day in New York in 2015. She placed the UN's decision on the International Yoga Day in the context of India's ability to set the global agenda at the last public function I participated in with her in New Delhi in March this year. The video of her remarks may be seen at <http://www.fpap.in/video/modi-govts-sets-the-global-agenda/>

Her interest in the Holy Grail of India's multilateral diplomacy, revolving around our efforts to reform the UN Security Council, was deep and focused, as was her interest in the welfare and effectiveness of the thousands of Indian soldiers serving in UN Peace Operations.

She saw both as integral to India's core national interests. She built a special rapport with President of the General Assembly Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa of Uganda to push for tabling a text to reform the Security Council, as well as to implement the UN General Assembly's decision to construct a Permanent Memorial Wall to UN Peacekeepers on the grounds of the UN Headquarters in New York.



The last time Ambassador Mukerji met Sushma-ji was at a function at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in March 2019, when she spoke extempore on the Modi Government's Foreign Policy. From left to right: Dr Anirban Ganguly, Director of the SPMRF, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj-ji, Ambassador Amar Sinha and Shri Vijay Chauthaiwale, In Charge of BJP's Foreign Affairs Department.

Photo / Courtesy Asoke Mukerji

She leaves behind many memories. May God give her departed soul everlasting peace. Om Shanti!

A New Yorker Misses his Sister

New York based BJP activist Jagdish Sewhani who knew Sushma ji for a long time, sent this condolence message on the passing away of Sushma ji.

"Deeply saddened and Shocked at the sudden passing away of Sushma Swaraj ji, one of the tallest political leaders of her generation who had given more than four decades of public service.

Sushmaji had this amazing quality of connecting with People. She was people's Minister and most loved politician, respected across the Party lines.

She was great orator and great administrator.

At personal level she was like a sister to me and always used to call me Bhai."

OFBJP-USA Pays Rich Tribute to Smt. Sushma Swaraj

"Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) - USA is shocked

and deeply saddened to learn about the sudden demise of Smt. Sushma Swaraj. It is indeed a huge loss to the nation as 1.3 billion people remember her yeomen service to the country. Her unmatched oratory skills and her human touch always mesmerized the people across all walks of life.

Born into RSS family, Sushma Didi as she was fondly called had started her political journey with ABVP and during this journey, she broke many glass ceilings.

She became the youngest cabinet minister in Haryana at the age of 25 and was the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi. She accomplished many firsts during her political career, including first full-time Foreign Minister. She was elected to the parliament for seven times. While she was an opposition leader, she won the accolades from both friends and foes.

She had friends across the aisle and from all ideologies which speak volumes about her human interactions and outreach.

She was a remarkable leader who devoted her life to the public service and was instrumental in affecting process changes in the Indian consulates across the globe aimed to help NRIs and India diaspora. She was just Twitter away in helping the distressed people.

Her quick wit and forever helping hand made her extremely popular in the community of Indian Diaspora."

GOPIO Recall their Association with Sushma Ji



GOPIO Delegation with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New York, Sept. 23, 2018

Global Organization of People of Indian Origin conveys its heartfelt condolences in passing away of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, who served as External Affairs Minister with Prime Minister Modi from 2014 to 2019. As minister looking after the Overseas Indian Affairs, GOPIO have had a close working relation and cooperation on many of the NRI and PIO issues as well as on new initiatives from her ministry.

We have been working with Sushmaji since she has been the leader of BJP in the Rajya Sabha.

In her passing away, we will miss a Statesman as well as a sincere and able political leader.

GOPIO International conveys its heartfelt condolences. May her soul rest in peace.

AAPI Mourns the demise of Sushma Ji

During the many years of public service to the nation, Ms. Sushma Swaraj brought her innate grace and charm into her work.

She made her mark in her own way - connecting with the diaspora far and wide and reaching out to help them. She would respond to every appeal for assistance, and make sure the Indian missions responded to the requests.

In this way she gave the human touch to the Ministry of External Affairs and won millions of admirers across the world.

(TIP Bureau)

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.



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')

Readers' Comments

The Indian Panorama received from readers , for the special Independence Day edition, comments on recent developments in India with regard to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, in particular. We are fortunate to be living in America where we have unfettered freedom of expression . We are happy to note that readers have been fearless in their expression. The views expressed in various comments are readers' own views and The Indian Panorama does not necessarily subscribe to or endorse any.

India's action will enhance peace and prosperity



Ravi Batra

This action must deliver enhanced peace & security to J&K, as well as between India & Pakistan. It's time for the

Sub-Continent to celebrate freedom - not only from Colonialism - but Terror too, so every citizen of every nation enjoys a full measure of Liberty's bounty. The United States, as a friend of the Sub-Continent, wants peace & prosperity to reign, not fear & Terror.

(New York based Ravi Batra is an attorney and Chair, National Advisory Council South Asian Affairs)

People of Jammu and Kashmir will benefit from abrogation of Article 370



Jagdish Sewhani

We congratulate Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah for taking this bold step. It was long due,

but it took the courage and vision of Prime Minister Modi to remove this unjust provision of the Indian constitution," said Jagdish Sewhani, president of American India Public Affairs Committee.

Undoing the seven-decades old wrong would not put India on fast track of development. "People of Jammu and Kashmir would be the first beneficiary of the economic development that the region would not experience," he said adding that several Indian Americans are ready to invest in the tourism and other sectors of Jammu and Kashmir and Laddakh.

New York-based Sewhani said Indian Americans are planning to felicitate Prime Minister Modi when he comes here to attend the annual session of the UN General Assembly in September.

(Long Island, New York based Jagdish Sewhani is a BJP activist and a businessman)

A Note of Caution for India's Future



Ashok Ojha

Ilive and work in USA where everything is not perfect. There are people around us whose actions may lead to undermine others' achievements and accomplishments. Progressive thoughts and ideas may not be supported by prosperity, that is the United States. However, I always feel that a common American person live within a framework where he or she indulges in daily activities in order to not only survive but also to pursue his/her happiness. A feeling of value-based society prevails around us. So whatever we do carries a purpose and meaning. There is a visible consequence of not working. Few are passionate about what they are doing. People may be working just to earn their living. And that situation is not conducive for making a great society. However, the nation goes on with rules and guidelines applicable to all. India, on its part, has a long way to go before it successfully constructs an acceptable framework for its citizen to work, to live and pursue personal happiness.

In today's interconnected society I am constantly made aware of things happenings around the world. Considering what goes on the Western media on a daily basis I can say, from the

Western point of view, that India is not an important question. India is important for those who claim India as their mother land. India is important for the generation whose roots lie in India. To that end we like to see a prosper India. People of Indian origin feel the pain of Indian brothers and sisters when they suffer from natural disasters and government apathy towards age old social problems.

India has been enjoying consistent economic growth for the past two decades. Many experts have gone to the extent of saying that Indian will overtake China in the near future in terms of growth. For this reason the world has been very supportive to the issues India has been embroiled in the recent past. However, the support to India by the international community, especially the West, has not been without any expectations. The developed nations look at India as a prospective buyer, a growing market for its products. India, on its part, opened its economy for products from the rest of the world. During the current decade its people put their trust to a promising leader like Narendra Modi, hoping that he would make India a better place to live for its teeming billions.

How far the expectations of India's middle class as well as its poor have been met by Modi? It is a big question. It may be early to answer this question. However, one can see that India's financial health hasn't been dealt wisely in the past few years. But hope is not yet lost for the simple fact that India has prospered to its current state not just by the government policies but by its enterprising and resilient population. One hopes that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is genuinely eager to solve the social and economic challenges. We have some mixed feelings about the actions of the ruling party of India led by Narendra Modi. Some important

matters must be finished before his report card is prepared.

The ruling party of India, Bharatiya Janata Party, must not behave as if its fortune will stay for ever. Sine 2014 Prime Minister Modi has been busy launching campaigns for social change. We all know about impacts of 'Swatchch Bharat', 'Ujjawala' and 'Beti Bachao', 'Insurance for farmers' campaigns that didn't go too far. Modi government is yet to create employment for the millions of unemployed youth. If the situation of unemployment and poverty in India remains unchanged no force on the earth can save it from mass unrest.

Recently Modi government used its strength of popular mandate to demolish Article 370 of the Indian constitution. The Western media projected this move as the seize of Kashmiri people. The neighboring country used every tactic to destabilize the region. India is fortunate to be enjoying the support of Western world as well as many wealthy Arab nations on Kashmir issue. Because of this reason I don't see any difficulty for the Modi government working towards normalization of Kashmir. While Delhi has demonstrated high skills of administration after the abrogation of Article 370, many BJP officials stand exposed with their small mindset. They continue to behave as if India has conquered a new territory. It is the time to stand polite and help the common people of Kashmir who might be in financial distress. It is not the time to worry about Pakistan. India must focus on the welfare of the whole of Jammu and Kashmir region. We are not aware how much India was spending on upkeep of security forces in Kashmir. The financial cost of securing the Kashmir region must be very high. Should this money had been spent for the development of the region? Absolutely.

(Ashok Ojha is a New Jersey based senior journalist and teacher.)

This Independence Day is special



Anu Jain

Happy India Independence Day to all. We are very grateful to our leaders and pay tribute to and remember all the freedom fighters who contributed a lot and fought for the Independence of India. They have given us free India and today we are in our 73rd year of freedom and it is great pride for us. Today we play an important role in all important international affairs around the world. Indians are leading the world in every field. In fact, since the day of independence to this day, we have developed significantly in every sphere of life. We should be making every effort to make our motherland

India and adapt homeland America powerful and honorable in the world. Let's unite, let's work hard and tell our every friends and foes alike. We are friends with friends and when times come, we can roar. This Independence Day is very special because of Government of India has scrapped the Article 370 from J&K, through a Presidential order on 5th August 2019 and Indian flag will be hosting in Kashmir and its liberation of Kashmir in true manner. Humanity at heart, Humanity in spirit! Jai Hind!

(Anu Jain is a Long Island, New York based community activist, painter, writer and real estate salesperson)

**MORE READER'S COMMENT
ON PAGE 47**

Parker Jewish Institute hosts 27th Annual Golf Classic



NEW HYDE PARK (TIP): Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation welcomed more than 110 golfers to its 27th Annual Golf Classic at Glen Oaks Club, in Old Westbury, on Monday, August 5. The fundraiser's honoree was Eric P. Simon, a health care industry expert and a principal of the New York City office of the law firm Jackson Lewis.

A day on the links was followed by dinner and an awards program, during which Michael N. Rosenblut, Parker's president and CEO, welcomed guests. He thanked Mr. Simon for his outstanding support to Parker

and for his dedication to the field by representing more than 35 skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities. "We are delighted to have Eric as this year's honoree," said Michael N. Rosenblut, Parker's president and CEO. "He represents a firm that is aligned with similar beliefs as ours, demonstrating commitment to service excellence and leadership in our respective industries. The money raised at the golf outing will go right back into Parker, helping us to continue to fulfill our mission as a nonprofit skilled nursing facility to deliver programs and advance quality of care for our patients."

Mr. Rosenblut recognized Parker Chairman's Peter Seideman, along with members of Parker's Board of Trustees for helping to make the event such a success.

At the dinner, Mr. Rosenblut addressed the more than 150 guests.

"The needs of our senior population - the nation's largest - makes your support more critical than ever. They might be at Parker's facility for sub-acute care, short-term rehabilitation, social adult day care, home health care, hospice, or our on-site dialysis clinic, Queens-Long Island Renal Institute. Perhaps they're served by our medical transport division, Lakeville Ambulette, or AgeWell New York, our managed long-term care plan. Your generosity helps improve the quality of life for the many hundreds of people we serve each day," he said.

Since its inception in 1907 as a shelter for 25 indigent men and women, Parker Jewish Institute evolved into a nationally renowned 527-bed, non-profit center for the health care and rehabilitation of older adults, offering a comprehensive network of community health care programs. The institute is a leading academic campus for the training of health care professionals. Located at the border of Queens and Nassau counties, Parker's campus provides a full range of care, including the Queens-Long Island Renal Institute. Offering a helping hand at every stage, Parker is also the majority member of AgeWell New York, a New York State authorized managed long-term care and Medicare Advantage plan, dedicated to delivering the level and scope of services needed to "feel well and live well" at home. Contact: Lina Scacco, 718-289-2212 or lscacco@parkerinstitute.org.

Food Bank for New York City's Indian American Council brings 'Hunger Mitao Week' to mobilize NYC'S Indian American Community in the fight against hunger

The Food Bank For New York City's Indian American Council (IAC) Has Already Enabled 1+ Million Meals For New Yorkers In Need In Just One Quarter Since its Launch In March of 2019!

NEW YORK (TIP): Food Bank For New York City's Indian American Council (IAC) is coordinating NYC's first ever Hunger Mitao Week (August 11-18), bringing together leaders from the city's Indian American community in an unprecedented effort to fight hunger.

Hunger Mitao Week is part of a national effort by the Indian American Council to fight food insecurity across the United States by mobilizing the Indian American community around the motto "Hunger Mitao!" (meaning Wipe out Hunger). This weeklong community service effort is held to coincide with India's Independence Day on August 15th.

"In the spirit of 'give where you live,' the Indian American community - led by IAC - has enabled over 6 million meals for food insecure people across the USA in less than two years," said Raj Asava, IAC co-founder. "To build on this momentum, we launched the 'Hunger Mitao Week' (August 11-18), the week of India's Independence Day," said Anna Asava, co-founder of IAC. "Going forward, it is our vision that India's Independence Day, August 15, is also celebrated as 'Independence from Hunger Day!'" they added.

"It's an honor to be working with Food Bank For New York City to provide

millions of meals for New Yorkers experiencing food insecurity. Hunger Mitao Week is an important opportunity to make real change and help millions," added Payal Sharma, Co-Chair of Food Bank For New York City's Indian American Council and Managing Partner of Baar restaurant.

To commemorate Hunger Mitao Week, IAC supporters Rakesh and Meenu Bhargava are matching donations to Food Bank dollar-for-dollar, up to \$5,000 between now and August 31, a partnership that could lead to an additional 100,000 meals for New Yorkers in need. You can give by visiting foodbanknyc.org/hungermitao.

"Fighting hunger in New York City requires leadership from every community," said Margarete Purvis, President and CEO of Food Bank For New York City. "We are thrilled to be working with the Indian American Council on Hunger Mitao Week and are sincerely grateful for their commitment to our mission. At a time when 1 in 5 New Yorkers relies on a food pantry or soup kitchen, this work is incredibly important." In order to provide hands-on volunteering experience, Food Bank for New York City is offering the following opportunities at its sites. **Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news**

contd from page 1

IDP USA Parade Revived after...

officials led by the County Executive Laura Curran seemed to have descended as also the Indian Consulate headed by Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, the Consul General of India in New York.

The Indian Panorama received from the organizers a press release which we are publishing here as received. We take no responsibility for any claims made and mistakes therein.

"Under the banner of India Day Parade USA the entire community of South Asian Indians gathered to celebrate the 73rd Anniversary of India's Independence Day in Hicksville New York. Parade's slogan this year was Jai Jawan- Jai Kisan to salute our soldiers and farmers and to celebrate the community, unity, heritage and cultural diversity of South Asian Indians.

IDP USA organized the 7th Parade in Hicksville NY on August 4th, 2019 starting from Patel Brothers on Broadway and ending with festivities at E Barclays Street.

They had celebrity Grand Marshalls, Honorable Consul General of India in New York Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, Bollywood Actor Raj Kummar Rao, Mr. Naveen Shah - Navika Capital, Businessman Mr. Chintu Patel, distinguished Elected Officials Congressman Tom Suozzi and from Nassau and Suffolk NY State Senators Kevin Thomas and Senator Anna Kaplan, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, Supervisor of North Hempstead Judy Bosworth, Supervisor of Oyster Bay Joseph Saladino, Supervisor of Hempstead Laura Gillen, Legislators Laura Schaefer and Rose Marie Walker, Minority Affairs E D Farrah Mozawalla, Suffolk County Human Rights Commissioner and 3

times Past President of IDP Beena Kothari, Nassau Human Rights Commissioner Zahid Syed and others along with the President of the parade Mr. Jasbir (Jay) Singh, Mr. Kamlesh C Mehta, and several community leaders and invited guest Ms. Arti Patel, Co-Chief Executive Officer at Vass Pipe & Steel Co. Mr. Sunil Jain, Mrs. Chanchal Shah, who is the mother of Navika Group chief Naveen Shah, Advisors on stage, Indu Jaiswal, Sir Peter Bheddah, Beena Kothari, Mukesh Modi and other Committee members Mohinder Taneja, Bina Sabapathy, Shashi Malik, Gautam Sanghvi to name a few for the inauguration and initiation of the parade at Patel Brothers. Satbir Bedi was the MC for the day. Breakfast was hosted by Patel Brothers and HAB Bank before the flag off.

The South Asian Community has become an integral part and changed the face of Long island and made Hicksville a prominent, ever developing multicultural home for all Indians sharing pride, passion, presence and social bond as patriotic American Indians.

A beautiful warm day with the whole crowd holding India's Flag tricolor umbrellas sponsored by Mohinder Singh Miglani of Aero World marked Patel Brothers parking grounds. It was a sight to see as the parade later got flagged off with countless organizations from long island displaying pride and honor with marching groups and tricolor decorated festive floats sponsored by local organizations. The parade was led by IDP USA Indian National Flag bearers, Grand Marshalls and the IDP USA Committee in the biggest float in the parade as lead. The flowers were showered by helicopter on the full parade which mesmerized the local community and all Indian Community.

At festivity grounds cultural dances by children and students of local dance schools performed at the

beginning and other celebrities were invited to perform on stage after the parade reached E Barclays Street. Bollywood singer Mr. Deepak Kumar of Satellite India and Punjabi stage artist and singer Ms. Pooja had the crowd cheering, taking videos and pictures and joining the mood. A fashion Show by Nishi Behl and sponsored by Bhavna Sharma of Sarashiva gave a special romantic touch to the stage with upbeat music and beautiful clothes and glamorous ladies.

BMW SUV sponsored by Mr. Naveen Shah of Navika Capital was the super prize of the raffle which had several other prizes including two 50" LG smart TVs made sure the crowd kept going back to the three IDP raffle booths. All prizes were drawn right there on stage and the BMW was won by an especially abled individual. The recipients of part proceeds were 'Akshay Patra' and 'CRY', two organizations that have led by example and changed the lives of thousands with their selfless mission for providing school lunch to poor children and for restoring children's rights.

IDP USA was started in 2012 and founded by Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Kamlesh Mehta and prominent community leaders. IDP USA 2019 was supported by a 108-member team, countless volunteers, Grand Sponsors like Food Universe, Posh Group Corp., Bolla Markets Group, Patel Bros, Omega Storage, Omni Mortgage, STI Consultants, food / retail / business vendors, advertisers, the media and the entire community.

The success of the 2019 IDP USA Parade was celebrated by the community with a grand Gala at The Standard at North Shore in Muttontown and the Honor of Jewel of India was awarded to Mr. Naveen Shah and Mr. Chintu Patel and Lifetime achievement awards to Mr. Ravi Batra and Ms. Ranju Narang.

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.

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.

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

Death toll rises to 44 as typhoon Lekima wreaks havoc in eastern China

BEIJING (TIP): The death toll from typhoon Lekima in eastern China rose to 44 people on Aug 12 morning, according to official data, as the storm continued up the coast, racking up billions of dollars in economic losses and widely disrupting travel.

An additional 12 people were recorded dead from the storm, including seven from Zhejiang province and five from Shandong, with 16 people missing, according to data from provincial emergency bureaus and state media.

State broadcaster CCTV had put the death toll at 32 on Sunday.

Typhoon Lekima made landfall early on Saturday in China's Zhejiang province, with winds gusting up to 187 kmh (116 mph).

The centre of the storm has since travelled north through Shandong and off the coast.

Many of the earlier deaths occurred when a natural dam collapsed in Zhejiang after a deluge of 160 mm (6.2 inches) of rain within three hours.

The Shandong Emergency Management Bureau said more than 1,80,000 people were evacuated in the province, adding to an earlier evacuation of roughly 1 million people in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces as well as the financial hub of Shanghai.

The latest update from Shandong brings the total estimated economic toll



Rescuers and paramilitary police officers search in the rubble of damaged buildings after torrential rain caused by Typhoon Lekima, at Yongjia, in Wenzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang province on August 11, 2019. AFP

of the storm to 18 billion yuan (\$2.55 billion) in China, including damage to 3,64,000 hectares of crops and more than 36,000 homes. Shandong alone estimated the total economic impact on agriculture was 939 million yuan.

Qingdao, a popular tourist hub in eastern Shandong, issued a red alert on Sunday, closing all its tourists sites and suspending 127 trains and all long-distance bus services, according to

official media.

Lekima is China's ninth typhoon this year. China's state broadcaster said on Sunday more than 3,200 flights had been cancelled but that some suspensions on high-speed railway lines had been lifted.

The typhoon was expected to weaken as it heads northwest off the coast of Shandong into the ocean east of China's capital, Beijing. Reuters

Argentina opposition on way to defeating Macri in primary after major upset

BUENOS AIRES (TIP): Argentine voters soundly rejected President Mauricio Macri's austere economic policies in primary elections on August 11, casting serious doubt on his chances of re-election in October, early official results showed.

A coalition backing opposition candidate Alberto Fernandez - whose running mate is former president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner - led by a wider-than-expected 15 percentage points with 47.3% of votes, with 88% of ballots counted.

Analysts predicted it could be "game over" for Macri following Sunday's results. Investors see Fernandez as a riskier prospect than free-markets advocate Macri due to the opposition's past interventionist policies.

Argentine stock and bond prices were expected to slide when financial markets opened on Monday because Fernandez's lead far exceeded the margin of 2 to 8% predicted in recent opinion polls.

The peso plunged 5.1% to 48.50 per U.S. dollar following early official results on the platform of digital brokerage firm Balanz, which operates the currency online non-stop.

There could be an even stronger degree of market volatility because the

official results by late Sunday indicated that Fernandez had enough voter support to clinch the presidency in October's first round, analysts said.

A candidate needs at least 45% of the vote or 40% and a difference of 10 percentage points over the second-place runner in order to win the presidency outright. Voters will return for a run-off on Nov. 24 if there is no clear winner.

"It is a shocking and practically irreversible result, which leaves the government in a power vacuum in the middle of a very delicate economy," said Shila Vilker, an analyst with Argentine firm Trespuntozero.

"The main responsibility of both coalitions should be to prioritize governance over the campaign," Vilker said, noting that the results could send markets reeling.

Stark choice

Argentina's main political parties have already chosen their presidential nominees, allowing the primary to serve as the first concrete measure of voter sentiment after opinion polls showed a narrow margin between Macri and Fernandez.

Voters were given a stark choice: stay the course of painful austerity measures

under Macri or a return to interventionist economics.

Macri had hoped some recent glimmers of economic revival were enough to encourage voters to stick with his free-markets reform agenda despite a painful recession and 55% inflation.

He told supporters on Sunday the primary vote was a "bad election" for his coalition ahead of the official results.

"Recognizing that we have had a bad election, that forces us, starting tomorrow, to redouble our efforts so that in October we will get the support that is needed to continue the change," Macri said.

"This is something that nobody expected. Nobody had these numbers. All the pollsters have failed," he said.

Re-electing Macri would mean seeing through painful cuts in public spending as part of the \$57 billion standby agreement he negotiated with the International Monetary Fund last year. His challenge is having to explain why his economic promises have largely failed to materialize.

Researchers at two Argentine universities estimate that 35% of the population is living in poverty, up from the official government rate of 27.3% in the first half of 2018. Reuters

After protests, Russia tells Google not to advertise 'illegal' events

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia's state communications watchdog said on Sunday it had asked Google to stop advertising "illegal mass events" on its YouTube video platform. Tens of thousands of Russians staged what observers called the country's biggest political protest for eight years on Saturday, defying a crackdown to demand free elections to Moscow's city legislature. The watchdog, Roscomnadzor, said Russia would consider it interference in its sovereign affairs and a hostile influence should Google fails to respond to the request.

Police rounded up scores of people after the demonstration in Moscow and at another rally in St. Petersburg, and detained a leading opposition figure before it began. But the response from the authorities was milder than the previous week when more than 1,000 protesters were detained, sometimes violently.

The White Counter monitoring group said up to 60,000 people had attended the Moscow rally, describing it as the biggest in Russia for eight years. Police put turnout at 20,000.

A month of demonstrations over elections for the Moscow city legislature have turned into the biggest sustained protest movement in Russia since 2011-2013, when protesters took to the streets against perceived electoral fraud.

Crowds at the rally in Moscow roared "down with the tsar!" and waved Russian flags. They are demanding that opposition-minded candidates be permitted to run in a city election next month after they were not allowed onto the ballot.

"The authorities have become brazen. It's time to defend our rights," said Natalya Plokhova, a recruiting consultant. As the scenes unfolded in Moscow, President Vladimir Putin was shown on state television in a leather jacket at a biker show organised by the Night Wolves motorcycle club on the peninsula of Crimea which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014. Putin and the Kremlin have so far avoided commenting on the unrest over the Moscow city elections.

OVD-Info, a monitoring body, said 229 people were arrested at Saturday's demonstration in Moscow and 81 in St. Petersburg. A small number of other arrests took place in other cities, including Rostov-on-Don and Bryansk. The Moscow protest was held with official permission, unlike last week's demonstration. Afterwards, hundreds of mostly young people chanting "Putin is a thief" began gathering near the presidential administration building, prompting masked riot police to ring off the area and detain dozens. Authorities had earlier warned protesters not to continue protesting after the officially authorised event. Until that point the rally had largely passed without major incident, apart from isolated police detentions and a smoke grenade set off nearby. AP

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

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Ghani rejects foreign interference as talks advance

KABUL (TIP): Afghanistan's President on Sunday rejected foreign interference as the United States and the Taliban appear to be closing in on a peace deal without the Afghan government at the table.

President Ashraf Ghani spoke during the Muslim holiday Eid-al-Adha and as US and Taliban

negotiators continue their work in the Gulf nation of Qatar, where the insurgents have a political office. Ghani insisted that next month's presidential election is essential so that Afghanistan's leader will have a powerful mandate to decide the country's future after years of war. AFP



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INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

Independence Day is annually celebrated in India on 15 August, as a national holiday in India commemorating the nation's independence from the United Kingdom on 15 August 1947, the UK Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act 1947 transferring legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly.

In ancient times, people from all over the world were keen to come to India. The Persians followed by the Iranians and Parsis immigrated to India. Then came the Moghuls and they too settled down permanently in India. Chengis Khan, the Mongolian, invaded and looted India many times. Alexander the Great too, came to conquer India but went back after a battle with Porus. He-en Tsang from China came in pursuit of knowledge and to visit the ancient Indian universities of Nalanda and Takshila. Columbus wanted to come to India, but instead landed on the shores of America. Vasco da Gama from Portugal came to trade his country's goods in return for Indian spices. The French came and established their colonies in India.

Lastly, the Britishers came and ruled over India for nearly 200 years. After the battle of Plassey in 1757, the British achieved political power in India. And their paramountcy was established during the tenure of Lord Dalhousie, who became the Governor-General in 1848.

He annexed Punjab, Peshawar and the Pathan tribes in the north-west of India. And by 1856, the British conquest and its authority were firmly established. And while the British power gained its heights during the middle of the 19th century, the discontent of the local rulers, the peasantry, the intellectuals, common masses as also of the soldiers who became unemployed due to the disbanding of the armies of various states that were annexed by the British, became widespread. This soon broke out into a revolt which assumed the dimensions of the 1857 Mutiny.

The Indian Mutiny of 1857

The conquest of India, which could be said to have begun with the Battle of Plassey (1757), was practically completed by the end of Dalhousie's tenure in 1856. It had been by no means a smooth affair as the simmering discontent of the people manifested itself in many localized revolt during this period. However, the Mutiny of 1857, which began with a revolt of the military soldiers at Meerut, soon became widespread and posed a grave challenge to the British rule. Even though the British succeeded in crushing it within a year, it was certainly a popular revolt in which the Indian rulers, the masses and the militia participated so enthusiastically that it came to be regarded as the First War of Indian Independence.

Introduction of zamindari system by the British, where the peasants were ruined through exorbitant charges made from them by the new class of landlords. The craftsmen were destroyed by the influx of the British manufactured goods. The religion and the caste system which formed the firm foundation of the traditional Indian society was endangered by the British



administration. The Indian soldiers as well as people in administration could not rise in hierarchy as the senior jobs were reserved for the Europeans. Thus, there was all-round discontent and disgust against the British rule, which burst out in a revolt by the 'sepoys' at Meerut whose religious sentiments were offended when they were given new cartridges greased with cow and pig fat, whose covering had to be stripped out by biting with the mouth before using them in rifles. The Hindu as well as the Muslim soldiers, who refused to use such cartridges, were arrested which resulted in a revolt by their fellow soldiers on May 9, 1857.

The rebel forces soon captured Delhi and the revolt spread to a wider area and there was uprising in almost all parts of the country. The most ferocious battles were fought in Delhi, Awadh, Rohilkhand, Bundelkhand, Allahabad, Agra, Meerut and western Bihar. The rebellious forces under the commands of Kanwar Singh in Bihar and Bakht Khan in Delhi gave a stunning blow to the British. In Kanpur, Nana Sahib was proclaimed as the Peshwa and the brave leader Tantya Tope led his troops. Rani Lakshmi Bai was proclaimed the ruler of Jhansi who led her troops in the heroic battles with the British. The Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs and all the other brave sons of India fought shoulder to shoulder to throw out the British. The revolt was controlled by the British within one year, it began from Meerut on 10 May 1857 and ended in Gwalior on 20 June 1858.

End of the East India Company

Consequent to the failure of the Revolt of 1857 rebellion, one also saw the end of the East India Company's rule in India and many important changes took place in the British Government's policy towards India which sought to strengthen the British rule through winning over the Indian princes, the chiefs and the landlords. Queen Victoria's Proclamation of November 1, 1858 declared that thereafter India would be governed by and in the name of the British Monarch through a Secretary of State.



Non-Cooperation Movement

The Non-Cooperation Movement was pitched in under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress from September 1920 to February 1922, marking a new awakening in the Indian Independence Movement. After a series of events including the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Gandhiji realised that there

was no prospect of getting any fair treatment at the hands of British, so he planned to withdraw the nation's cooperation from the British Government, thus launching the Non-Cooperation Movement and thereby marring the administrative set up of the country. This movement was a great success as it got massive encouragement to millions of Indians.

Quit India Movement

In August 1942, Gandhiji started the 'Quit India Movement' and decided to launch a mass civil disobedience movement 'Do or Die' call to force the British to leave India. The movement was followed, nonetheless, by large-scale violence directed at railway stations, telegraph offices, government buildings, and other emblems and institutions of colonial rule. There were widespread acts of sabotage, and the government held Gandhi responsible for these acts of violence, suggesting that they were a deliberate act of Congress policy. However, all the prominent leaders were arrested, the Congress was banned and the police and army were brought out to suppress the movement.

Meanwhile, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, who stealthily ran away from the British detention in Calcutta, reached foreign lands and organized the Indian National Army (INA) to overthrow the British from India.

The Second World War broke out in September of 1939 and without consulting the Indian leaders, India was declared a warring state (on behalf of the British) by the Governor General. Subhash Chandra Bose, with the help of Japan, preceded fighting the British forces and not only freed Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the Britishers but also entered the north-eastern border of India. But in 1945 Japan was defeated and Netaji proceeded from Japan through an aeroplane to a place of safety but met with an accident and it was given out that he died in that air-crash itself.

"Give me blood and I shall give you freedom" - was one of the most popular statements made by him, where he urges the people of India to join him in his freedom movement.

Partition of India and Pakistan

At the conclusion of the Second World War, the Labour Party, under Prime Minister Clement Richard Attlee, came to power in Britain. The Labour Party was largely sympathetic towards Indian people for freedom. A Cabinet Mission was sent to India in March 1946, which after a careful study of the Indian political scenario, proposed the formation of an interim Government and convening of a Constituent Assembly comprising members elected by the provincial legislatures and nominees of the Indian states. An interim Government was formed headed by Jawaharlal Nehru. However, the Muslim League refused to participate in the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly and pressed for the separate state for Pakistan. Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, presented a plan for the division of India into India and Pakistan, and the Indian leaders had no



choice but to accept the division, as the Muslim League was adamant.

Thus, India became free at the stroke of midnight, on August 14, 1947. (Since then, every year India celebrates its Independence Day on 15th August). Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of free India and continued his term till 1964. Giving voice to the sentiments of the nation, Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said,

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we will redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance... We end today a period of ill fortune, and India discovers herself again.

Earlier, a Constituent Assembly was formed in July 1946, to frame the Constitution of India and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected its President. The Constitution of India which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949. On January 26, 1950, the Constitution was came into force and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected the first President of India.



THEY BROUGHT US FREEDOM

Hundreds and thousands left everything, and many sacrificed their life for one common goal - freedom of India from foreign rule! These freedom fighters, activists and revolutionaries came from different backgrounds and philosophies to fight one common enemy - the foreign imperialists! While we are aware of several freedom fighters and revolutionaries, many have remained unsung heroes. We have made best efforts to present some of the most prominent freedom activists and revolutionaries who made immense contribution towards India's struggle for freedom.

Tantia Tope

Tantia Tope was one of the Indian rebellions of 1857. He served as a general and led a group of Indian soldiers against the British. He was an ardent follower of Nana Sahib of Bithur and continued to fight on his behalf when Nana was forced to retreat by the British army. Tantia even forced General Windham to retreat from Kanpur and helped Rani Lakshmi of Jhansi to retain Gwalior.



Rani Lakshmi Bai



One of the key members of India's first war of independence, Rani Lakshmi Bai went on to inspire thousands of women to join the fight for freedom. On 23 March, 1858 Lakshmi Bai defended her palace and the entire city of Jhansi when it was threatened to be captured by British troops led by Sir Hugh Rose.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the most prominent freedom fighters of India who inspired thousands with the slogan - "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it". As a form of protest against the British, Tilak established schools and published rebellious newspapers. He was famous as one of the trios - Bal, Pal and Lal. People loved him and accepted him as one of their leaders and so, he was called Lokmanya Tilak.



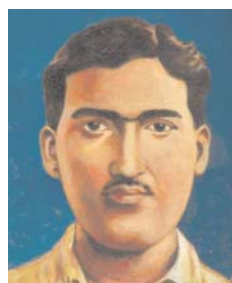
Mangal Pandey

Mangal Pandey is said to have played a key role in inspiring Indian soldiers to start the great rebellion of 1857. Working as a soldier for the British East India Company, Pandey started firing at English officials and caught them unawares. His attack is regarded as the first step of the Indian rebellion that started in 1857.



Ashfaqulla Khan

Ashfaqulla Khan was a firebrand among the young revolutionaries, who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. He was an important member of the Hindustan Republican Association. Khan, along with his associates, executed the train robbery at Kakori for which he was arrested and executed by the British.



Bipin Chandra Pal



Bipin Chandra Pal was one of the key members of the Indian National Congress and a prominent freedom fighter. He advocated the abandonment of foreign goods. He, along with Lala

Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, spearheaded many revolutionary activities. For this reason, he is called as the 'Father of Revolutionary Thoughts.'

Chandra Shekhar Azad



One of the close associates of Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad is credited for reorganizing Hindustan Republican Association. Azad, as he was popularly called, is known as one of the bravest freedom fighters of India. At the time of being surrounded by British soldiers, he killed many of them and shot himself to death with the last

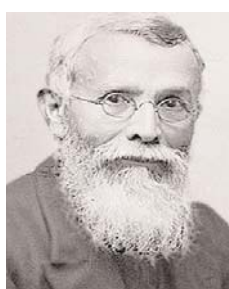
bullet of his Colt pistol. He did so, as he never wanted to be captured alive.

Birsa Munda

Principally a religious leader, Birsa Munda used the religious beliefs of his tribe in order to revolt against the government of British. He implemented guerrilla warfare techniques to upset the rhythm of the British troops. In 1900, Birsa, along with his army, was arrested by the British soldiers. He was later convicted and was lodged in a jail in Ranchi.



Dadabhai Naoroji



Credited with establishing the Indian National Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji is remembered as one of the most prominent members to have participated in the independence movement. In one of the books published by him, he wrote about the colonial rule of the British which was precisely aimed at looting wealth from India.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the most important freedom fighters of India, who went on to become the first Prime Minister of free India. He was also the author of the famous book - 'Discovery of India'. Nehru was extremely fond of children and was fondly called as 'Chacha Nehru'. It was under his leadership that India embarked on the planned pattern of economic development.



Khudiram Bose



Khudiram Bose was one of those young revolutionaries and freedom fighters whose deeds of bravery went on to become the subject of folklore. He was one of those brave men who challenged the British rule and gave them a taste of their own medicine. At the age of 19, he was martyred, with 'Vande Mataram' being his last words.

Lakshmi Sahgal

A doctor by profession, Lakshmi Sahgal, popularly known as Captain Lakshmi, encouraged women to join the troop led by Subhas Chandra Bose. She took the initiative of forming a women's regiment and named it 'Rani of Jhansi regiment'. Lakshmi fought vigorously for the Indian independence before she was arrested by the British



government in 1945.

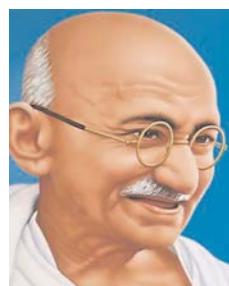
Lala Lajpat Rai



One of the most important members of the Indian National Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai is often revered for leading a protest against the Simon Commission. During the protest, he was assaulted by James A. Scott, the superintendent of police, which ultimately played a role in his death. He was a part of the famous triumvirate called 'Lal Bal Pal.'

Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi led the Indian independence movement and was successful in freeing India from the clutches of the British. He employed non-violence and engaged in various movements as part of his inspiring protest against the British rule. He went on to become the most significant freedom fighter and hence is called as the 'Father of the Nation.'



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a great freedom fighter. Maulana Azad took part in most of the important movements. He presided over the special session of Congress in September 1923 and at the age of 35 he became the youngest man to be elected as the President of the Congress.

Ram Manohar Lohia

One of the founding members of the Congress Socialist Party, Ram Manohar Lohia was an active member of the Indian independence movement. Lohia was a key member in organizing the Quit India Movement, for which he was arrested and tortured in 1944. He even worked for the Congress Radio which operated secretly, propagandizing anti-British messages.



Ram Prasad Bismil

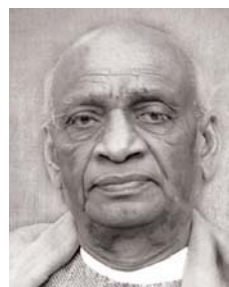


Ram Prasad Bismil was one of those young revolutionaries who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. Bismil was one of the most important members of the Hindustan Republican Association and also a prominent member of the group that was involved in the Kakori train robbery. He was sentenced to death by the British government for his

involvement in the famous train robbery.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

His brave deeds earned Vallabhbhai Patel the title, 'the iron man of India.' For his role in the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel came to be known as Sardar. Though he was a famous lawyer, Sardar Patel gave up his profession in order to fight for the freedom of the country. After the independence, he became the deputy Prime Minister of India and played an important role in the integration of India by merging numerous princely states with the Indian Union.



Bhagat Singh



The name Bhagat Singh is synonymous with sacrifice, courage, bravery and vision. By sacrificing his life at the age of 30, Bhagat Singh became an inspiration and a symbol of heroism. Along with other revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. To remind the British government of

its misdeeds, Bhagat Singh hurled a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly. By embracing death at a young age, Singh became a symbol of sacrifice and courage, thereby residing forever in the hearts of every Indian.

Shivaram Rajguru

A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Shivaram Rajguru was a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. Shivaram is mainly remembered for his involvement in the assassination of John Saunders, a young British police officer. With an intention of killing James Scott, the police superintendent who had assaulted Lala Lajpat Rai just two weeks before his death, Shivaram mistook John for James and shot him to death.



Subhas Chandra Bose



Popularly known as Netaji, Subhas Chandra Bose was a fierce freedom fighter and popular leader on the political horizon of pre-independent India. Bose was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1937 and 1939. He founded the Indian National Army and raised the famous slogans, 'Delhi Chalo' and 'Tum Mujhe Khoon Do main

Tumhe Ajadi Doonga.' For his anti-British remarks and activities, Bose was jailed 11 times between 1920 and 1941. He was the leader of the youth wing of Congress Party.

Sukhdev

One of the key members of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Sukhdev was a revolutionary and a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru. He too, was involved in the killing of John Saunders, a British police officer. Sukhdev was captured, along with Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru, and was martyred at the age of 24.



Aruna Asaf Ali



An active independence activist and member of the Congress Party, Aruna Asaf Ali is remembered for her participation in various movements including Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement. During the Quit India Movement, she risked being arrested by hoisting the INC flag in Bombay. She was arrested on many occasions for her revolutionary

activities and was lodged in jail until 1931 when political prisoners were released under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

Udham Singh

Udham Singh was one of the most important and famous revolutionaries who took part in the Indian independence movement. He is remembered for avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by brutally murdering Sir Michael O'Dwyer on March 13,



1940. For his act, Udham Singh was convicted and was eventually sentenced to death.

Annie Besant

Being a British, Annie Besant advocated Indian self-rule and eventually became a prominent freedom fighter. After becoming a part of the Indian National Congress, she was made the President of INC in 1917. After acting as one of the key members in establishing 'Home Rule League', she even founded a Hindu school in Benares to achieve her goal of freeing India from the clutches of her countrymen.



Kartar Singh Sarabha



Kartar Singh Sarabha was one of the most famous revolutionaries who sacrificed his life at the age of 19. Sarabha joined the Ghadar Party, an organization formed to protest against the British rule, at the age of 17. He, along with his men, was arrested when a member of the Ghadar Party betrayed them by informing the police about their hiding place.

Batukeshwar Dutt

Batukeshwar Dutt was a firebrand revolutionary who is often remembered for his association with Bhagat Singh. Batukeshwar was involved in the serial blast that took place in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8, 1929. A member of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Batukeshwar is also remembered for his hunger strike that secured a few rights for the Indian political prisoners.

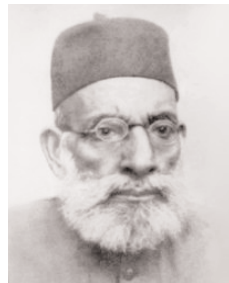


Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was one of those independence activists who opposed the partition of India at the time of its independence. Popularly known as Bacha Khan, he advocated non-violence and wanted a secular country. In 1929, he initiated the 'Khudai Khidmatgar' movement, which gave the British a run for their money. Since his principles were similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi's, he worked closely with Gandhi in all his endeavours.

Hasrat Mohani

At the Ahmedabad Session of Indian National Congress, Hasrat Mohani became the first person to raise his voice against the British rule in India. An eminent writer and poet, Hasrat was arrested on multiple occasions for propagating anti-British policies through his articles that were published in the magazine, 'Urdu-e-Mualla'. He was also a co-founder of Communist Party of India.



Bhagwati Charan Vohra



An associate of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagwati Charan Vohra too, was an important revolutionary. In 1929, he rented a house in Lahore and turned it into a bomb factory. He planned to assassinate Viceroy Lord Irwin by blowing up the train he was travelling in. Lord Irwin escaped the attack unhurt.

Bina Das

Bina Das was one of the bravest women revolutionaries who attempted to murder Stanley Jackson, the then Bengal Governor, by firing five rounds at him at the



Convocation Hall in the University of Calcutta. Unfortunately, she missed her target and was imprisoned for over nine years. She was once again arrested for participating in the Quit India Movement.

Jatin Das

Jatindra Nath Das died at the age of 25 after a hunger strike that lasted for 63 days. Jatindra Nath Das, also remembered as Jatin Das, was a revolutionary and was lodged in jail along with other revolutionaries. He began his hunger strike when the political prisoners had a strikingly different environment when compared to that of their European counterparts.



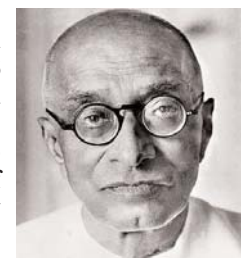
B. R. Ambedkar



Fondly remembered as Baba Saheb, B. R. Ambedkar was a key figure in empowering Dalits. The British had used the Indian caste system to their advantage and were firm believers in the divide and rule policy. Ambedkar understood this motive of the British and ensured their downfall by inspiring the Dalit Buddhist Movement among many other movements.

C. Rajagopalachari

A lawyer by profession, C. Rajagopalachari joined the Indian National Congress in the year 1906 and then successfully defended a revolutionary named P. Varadarajulu Naidu. He went on to become an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement. Rajagopalachari was an important representative of Congress in Tamil Nadu.



Baba Gurdit Singh



Baba Gurdit Singh understood that India must take its fight for freedom overseas as well in order to truly succeed. But a law prevented the entry of Asians into countries like Canada and the United States. In order to change this law, Baba Gurdit Singh embarked on a journey to Canada and thus became actively involved in the 'Komagata Maru incident'.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

The founder of Abhinav Bharat Society and Free India Society, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was an activist and was popularly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar. Also an eminent writer, Savarkar published a book titled 'The Indian War of Independence' that spoke about the struggles of the Indian mutiny of 1857.



Rash Behari Bose



Rash Behari Bose was one of the most important revolutionaries who tried to assassinate Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy of India. Along with other revolutionaries, Bose is credited for organizing Ghadar Mutiny and the Indian National Army. He was also involved in persuading the Japanese to help the Indians in their struggle for freedom.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF FREE INDIA

Twice invaded by foreigners, ripped off its wealthy glory, facing the agony of partition, punctured by numerous anti-national elements, yet standing strong in the face of all & that's India for the world.

Economy

India has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers of the world over the next 10-15 years, backed by its strong democracy and partnerships.

Market size

India's GDP is estimated to have increased 7.2 per cent in 2017-18 and 7 per cent in 2018-19. India has retained its position as the third largest startup base in the world with over 4,750 technology start-ups.

India's labour force is expected to touch 160-170 million by 2020, based on rate of population growth, increased labour force participation, and higher education enrolment, among other factors, according to a study by ASSOCHAM and Thought Arbitrage Research Institute.

India's foreign exchange reserves were US\$ 405.64 billion in the week up to March 15, 2019, according to data from the RBI.

Recent Developments

With the improvement in the economic scenario, there have been various investments in various sectors of the economy. The M&A activity in India reached record US\$ 129.4 billion in 2018 while private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) investments reached US\$ 20.5 billion. Some of the important recent developments in Indian economy are as follows:

During 2018-19 (up to February 2019), merchandise exports from India have increased 8.85 per cent year-on-year to US\$ 298.47 billion, while services exports have grown 8.54 per cent year-on-year to US\$ 185.51 billion.

Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reached a 14-month high in February 2019 and stood at 54.3.

Net direct tax collection for 2018-19 had crossed Rs 10 trillion (US\$ 144.57 billion) by March 16, 2019, while goods and services tax (GST) collection stood at Rs 10.70 trillion (US\$ 154.69 billion) as of February 2019.

Proceeds through Initial Public Offers (IPO) in India reached US\$ 5.5 billion in 2018 and US\$ 0.9 billion in Q1 2018-19.

India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows reached US\$ 409.15 billion between April 2000 and December 2018, with maximum contribution from services, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, construction, trading and automobiles.

India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose 4.4 per cent year-on-year in 2018-19 (up to January 2019).

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 2.57 per cent in February 2019.

Net employment generation in the country reached a 17-month high in January 2019.

Service Sector Growth

A major development in the nation's services sector has been visible in the



telecom and information technology sectors. A trend that started some two decades back is now well in its prime. Several multinational firms continue to outsource their tele services and IT services to India, resulting in the growth of ITES, BPO and KPO companies. The acquisition of expertise in information technology has led to the generation of thousands of new jobs, which in turn increased domestic consumption and naturally, more foreign direct investments happened to meet the

agriculture has been somewhat steady. The sector grew at about 1 percent per annum in the first half of the 20th century. During the post-Independence era, the growth rate nudged about 2.6 percent per annum. Expansion of farming area and introduction of high-yielding varieties of crops were the major factors of growth in agricultural production. The sector could manage to end dependency on imported food grains. It has progressed both in terms of yield and structural changes.

Consistent investment in research, land reforms, expansion of scope for credit facilities, and improvement in rural infrastructure were some other determining factors that brought about an agricultural revolution in the country. The country has also grown strong in the agri-biotech sector. The Rabobank report reveals that the agri-biotech sector has been growing at 30 percent since the last few years. The country is also likely to become a major producer of genetically modified/engineered crops.

Infrastructure Development

The Indian road network has become one of the largest in the world with the total road length increasing from 0.399 million km in 1951 to 4.70 million km. Moreover, the total length of the country's national highways has increased from 24,000 km (1947-69) to 96,214 km (2015). Governmental efforts have led to the expansion of the network of State highways and major district roads, which in turn has directly contributed to industrial growth.

As India needs power to drive its growth engine, it has triggered a noteworthy improvement in the availability of energy by adopting a multi-pronged approach. After almost seven decades of Independence, India has emerged as the third largest producer of electricity in Asia. It has increased its electricity generation capacity from 1,362 MW in 1947 to 356,818 MW as of 2019. Overall, power generation in India has increased from 301 billion units (BUs) during 1992-93 to 1249.337 BUs in 2018-19. When it comes to rural electrification, the Indian government has managed to bring lights to all 18,452 villages by April 28, 2018 as compared to 3061 in 1950.

Progress in Education Sector

Pulling itself out from widespread illiteracy, India has managed to bring its education system at par with the global standard. The number of schools witnessed a dramatic increase during the post-independence era. The Parliament made elementary education a fundamental right for children in the age group of 6-14 years by passing the 86th amendment to the Constitution in 2002. At independence, India's literacy rate was a paltry 12.2 % which increased to 74.04% as per 2011 census.

The Government launched the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in 2001 to ensure education for the children from 6 to 14 years. Prior to that, it had launched an effective initiative – Sponsored District Education Programme, which increased the number of schools across the country. In a bid to attract children to schools, especially in the rural areas, the government also started implementing the mid-day meals programme in 1995.

demands.

Presently, the services sector employs 31% of the Indian workforce and this process of development started back in the 1980s. In the 60s, the sector employed only 4.5% of the working population. According to the Central Statistical Organization, the services sector accounted for around 54% of Indian GDP in 2018 and the figure continues to grow.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

Since 1950s, the progress in



Achievements in the field of Healthcare

A decrease in death rates is considered one of the major achievements that came India's way in this sector. While life expectancy was around 37 years in 1951, it has risen to 68 now. Similar improvement was noticed in maternal mortality rate also. India's maternal mortality rate also declined from 212 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 167 deaths in 2013 (Unicef data).

After a long-drawn struggle, India has finally been declared a polio-free country since 2014. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has provided impetus to stop open defecation and prevent spread of communicable diseases. Mortality in children under five years (per thousand live births) came down to 39.4 in 2017 from 126 in 1990. Government's efforts yielded further result as the number of tuberculosis and HIV cases are also witnessing a declining trend (211 per 100,000 in 2016) as per WHO. Moreover, India has pledged to eradicate TB by 2025. The public health spending (about 3.89% of the GDP in 2015) is still low, but the government has launched a series of ambitious initiatives including 'Healthcare for all by 2020' and distribution of free medicines to the people falling under lowest-income group. In 2018, the Central Government also launched Ayushman Bharat Scheme which is a centrally funded health insurance scheme covering around 40% of the country's population.

Scientific Achievements

Independent India has taken confident strides in its road to scientific development. Its prowess is being manifested in a gradual scaling up of ambitious projects. India takes pride in its space programmes, which began with the launch of its first satellite Aryabhata in 1975. Since then, India has emerged as a space power that has successfully launched foreign satellites. Through Chandrayaan-1, India became



the 4th country in the world to plant its flag on the lunar surface in 2008. Its first mission to Mars was launched in November 2013 which successfully reached the planet's orbit on 24 September 2014. In June 2015, ISRO launched 104 satellites (highest in the world) from a single rocket through PSLV-C37.

India is also aggressively pursuing both nuclear and missile programmes. That has simultaneously augmented the country's defence strength as well. BrahMos inducted into the defence system is the world's fastest cruise missile that has been jointly developed by India and Russia. After more than six decades of independence, India has now come closer to being an independent force to reckon with in the field of nuclear and missile technology.

Chandrayaan-2: In leap for ISRO, India launches lunar mission

India successfully launched its second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 from its



India v/s Pakistan: A comparison of military strength and weapons

In the aftermath of the Pulwama attack by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, ties between India and Pakistan have sharply deteriorated. Amid escalated tensions, speculations of a war between the countries are being made, especially after India strongly retaliated to the attack. India and Pakistan already fought two wars over Kashmir since independence in 1947. Here's a comparison of military strength and arsenal of the rival neighbors.



Comparison of India and Pakistan's military budgets

Military Budgets

Last year, India reportedly allocated Rs. 4 trillion (\$58bn), or 2.1% of its GDP on 1.4mn active troops. In 2018, Pakistan spent \$11bn (3.6% of GDP) on 653,800 troops and received \$100mn-worth foreign military assistance.

India's military spent 12% of the government expenditure between 1993-2006 while Pakistan's military spent 20%. In 2017, that of Indian military and Pakistani military was 9.1% and 16.7%, respectively.

Missiles and nuclear weapons of the two countries

Missiles, warheads

India and Pakistan are nuclear-armed having ballistic missiles with nuclear weapon delivery capabilities.

While India has 9 operational missiles, including Agni-III missile with a 3,000-5,000km operational range, Pakistan has missiles built with China's assistance that can strike any part of India. Pakistan's Shaheen 2 has the longest operational range of up to 2,000km.

However, India has 130-140 nuclear warheads while Pakistan has 140-150 warheads.

India has one of the largest armies in the world

The Army

Coming to the army, India has one of the world's largest standing armies. According to ET, with a 1.2mn-strong army, India has over 3,565 battle tanks, 3,100 infantry fighting vehicles, over 9,700 artillery pieces, and more than 330 armored personnel carriers.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has a smaller, 560,000-strong army supported by 2,496 tanks, 4,472 artillery guns (including 375 self-propelled howitzers), and 1,605 armored personnel carriers.

Pakistan's air force is substantially smaller than that of India

Air Force

The Indian Air Force having over 127,000 personnel and 814 combat aircraft is reportedly larger than that of Pakistan.

Pakistan's air force had over 65,000 personnel (as of 2017). It has 425 combat aircraft, including the F-7PG of Chinese origin and the American F-16 Fighting Falcon jets.

However, Pakistan reportedly has seven airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft, three more than its neighbor.

Pakistan has a smaller coastline compared to India

The Navy

Coming to the navies, the Indian Navy has 67,700 personnel, comprising marines as well as naval aviation personnel. It has 106 patrol and combatant vessels, 75 combat capable aircraft, 16 submarines, 14 destroyers, and 13 frigate warships.

Pakistan's navy has 17 patrol and coastal vessels, 9 frigates, 8 submarines, and 8 combat capable aircraft. However, Pakistan also has a smaller coastline compared to India.

most powerful rocket with a plan to land the rover on September 7 in the unexplored lunar south pole, exactly a week after the liftoff was aborted due to a technical snag.

Carrying a "billion dreams" in a giant leap for the country's ambitious low-cost space programme, the most complex and prestigious mission ever undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), if successful, will also make India the fourth country after Russia, the US and China to pull off a soft landing on the moon.

"We bounced back in flying colours after the earlier technical snag. Success is coming after a call-off," said a beaming and visibly relieved ISRO Chairman K Sivan at the mission control room of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, about 100 km from Chennai, as scientists broke into cheers, shook

hands and exchanged greetings.

Centre scraps Article 370, bifurcates J&K into two UTs

The ruling BJP took a giant political and Constitutional leap by abrogating Article 370 that gave Jammu and Kashmir a special status and bifurcated the State into two Union Territories (UTs).

The motions and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill were passed by a voice vote. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill was passed with 125 members voting in favour of it and 65 voting against it. The Congress, the Left parties, the DMK, the MDMK, the SP and the RJD voted against the Bill, while the Trinamool Congress walked out. One member abstained from voting.

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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.

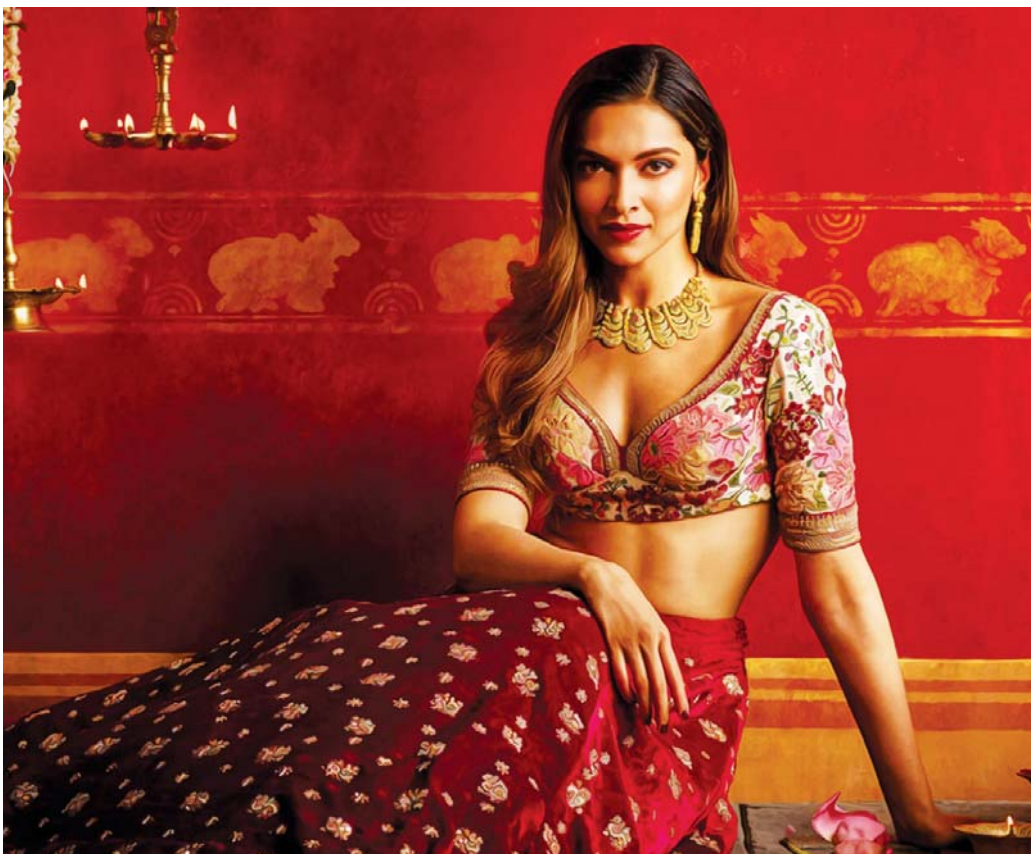
"It flustered me, I was not ready for this and I feel mafia anywhere is not healthy," Kangana said of the trend of promoting mediocrity just because it comes with a bloodline.

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.



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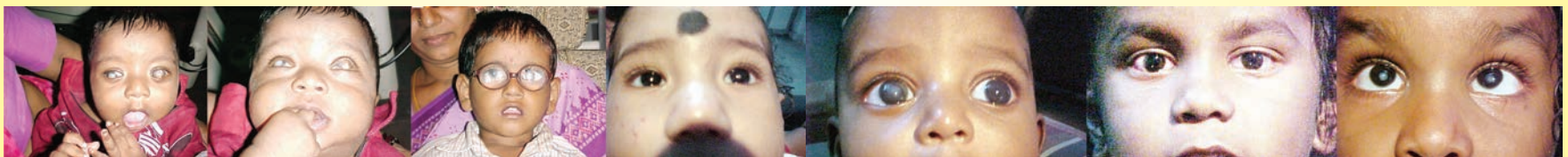
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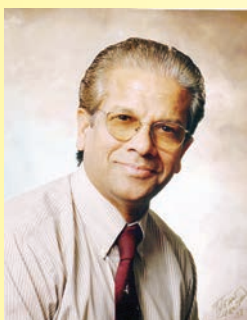
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VK Raju M.D., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., is Founder and Medical Director of the Eye Foundation of America, is an internationally renowned ophthalmologist based in Morgantown, West Virginia. He is Clinical Professor, Department of Ophthalmology; West Virginia University. He is Advisor - Indo-US Healthcare Summit and Director, International Ocular Surface Society. Dr. Raju's humanitarian work has been lauded in many parts of the world and he has received awards and honors aplenty.

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NJPAC: GLADYS KNIGHT With WILL DOWNING

By Mabel Pais

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents Gladys Knight with special guest Will Downing on Thursday, August 29th at 8:00 p.m.

An evening of classic and contemporary soul, R&B and more with legendary singer and 7-time GRAMMY winner Gladys Knight, and special guest Will Downing, music's "Prince of Sophisticated Soul."

Gladys Knight, 7-time Grammy winner

Gladys Knight is a genuine living legend of American music. During her illustrious career, she's earned No. 1 hits on the pop, gospel, R&B and adult contemporary charts. Knight's singular songbook includes timeless titles like "Midnight Train to Georgia," "Neither One of Us," "License to Kill," "That's What Friends Are For," and a lot more. Her most recent albums include "Another Journey" (her eighth solo effort), and an inspirational gospel album, "Where My Heart Belongs."

Over the last fifty years, this seven-time Grammy winner has enjoyed #1 hits in Pop, Gospel, R&B and Adult Contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television and live performance.

Fall of 2015 marked the release of Knight's first mainstream dance record, "Just A Little" in nearly twenty years. The song serves as lead single from her twelfth studio album that she is currently on.

Knight who is a two-time Grammy winner in the gospel category, yet again embraced her gospel roots, releasing her inspirational album "Where My Heart Belongs", in September 2014. The album was a major success and won an NAACP Image Award for "Outstanding Gospel Album."

Christmas Season of 2014 found Knight returning to the small screen in the Lifetime original movie "Seasons of Love," a story about two lovers as they journey through life, love and family.

Also on the small screen, Knight shared her musical expertise on the first and second season of Centric's original series "Apollo Live." Joining judges Doug E. Fresh and Michael Bivins, the legendary songstress gave guidance to contestants as they took the stage with the hope to jumpstart their career in the entertainment industry.

No stranger to performing and light choreography over the course of her career, Knight raised the stakes when she put on her dancing shoes in the spring of 2012.

The year of 2011 was a year of much recognition as Knight was both honoring and being honored, first at a Michael Jackson tribute concert, and then at the 2011 Soul Train Awards. At the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, Knight joined such performers as Jennifer Hudson, Beyonce, and Smokey Robinson in a tribute to the legendary



Gladys Knight



Will Downing

Photos / Courtesy NJPAC

King of Pop in a concert event called "Michael Forever." Following that, Knight was honored with a "Legend Award" alongside fellow recipients Earth, Wind & Fire on the BET broadcast of the 3rd annual Soul Train Awards, hosted by Cedric the Entertainer.

In February 2011, Knight reunited with Elton John, Dionne Warwick, and Stevie Wonder for the first time in 25 years to perform their Grammy-winning song, "That's What Friends Are For" at an AIDS research benefit at the downtown Cipriani in New York.

Knight fans enjoyed "Before Me" - Knight's last big commercial effort - which paid homage to the great legends of song - Ella, Duke, Billie, Lena - as well as the many artists who served as Knight's friends, mentors, colleagues and inspiration throughout her career.

Adding to her already impressive collection, Knight won another Grammy for her duet with the late Ray Charles on his posthumous album Genius Loves Company (2005). The duo won for Best Gospel Performance for their duet "Heaven Help Us All." Knight's solo album "At Last" also won a Grammy for Best Traditional R&B Vocal Album in 2002 and featured a duet with Jamie

Foxx, "I Wanna Be Loved."

She also starred as Jamie Foxx's mother on "The Jamie Foxx Show." Knight has appeared as a guest judge on FOX's smash hit "American Idol," and has performed in the show's always star-studded finale. In season two of "Idol," Knight famously dubbed eventual winner Ruben Studdard the "Velvet Teddy Bear" while she sat in the guest judge's chair.

Georgia-born, Knight began performing gospel music at age four in the Mount Mariah Baptist Church and sang as a guest soloist with the Morris Brown College Choir. Three years later, she won the grand prize on television's "Ted Mack's Amateur Hour," and the following year, her mother Elizabeth Knight created the group consisting of Gladys, her brother Bubba, her sister Brenda and her cousins William and Elenor Guest. They called themselves The Pips in honor of their cousin/manager, James Pip Woods. In 1959, Brenda and Elenor left the group, replaced by cousin Edward Patten and friend Langston George. The group was renamed Gladys Knight & The Pips, and following George's departure in 1962, the classic line-up was in place.

The group debuted their first album in 1960, when Knight was just sixteen. With Knight singing lead and The Pips providing lush harmonies and graceful choreography, the group went on to achieve icon status, having recorded some of the most memorable songs of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

To learn more about Gladys Knight, visit www.gladysknight.com

Will Downing, The Prince of Sophisticated Soul

GRAMMY-nominated song stylist Will Downing is widely known as the "Prince of Sophisticated Soul." With a career that spans over 30 years and 21 albums, Downing's repertoire moves effortlessly between R&B, jazz and gospel - from his signature interpretations of classics like "I Go Crazy" and "Wishing on a Star," to original hits like "A Million Ways" and "Sorry I" and many more.

His latest release entitled "The Promise" was released in 2018. In late 2006, in the prime of his life, Will Downing faced an almost unimaginable test. A sudden onset of a rare autoimmune disease threatened everything he held dear...his health...ability to provide for his family...musical gifts...quality of life...life itself. The power of God and prayer turned everything around against all odds. Will Downing used his considerable talents to step boldly outside of his Prince of Sophisticated Soul persona and pour raw unblinking emotion into a musical retrospective that chronicles his journey from hospital bed, wheelchair and return to the stage.

Twelve years later, Will Downing is a walking, singing testimony of the power of faith and prayer and today he delivers "The Promise." This release is Downing's heartfelt 10-song thank you letter to God himself for bringing him back from the edge of darkness into His marvelous light. The Promise is an incredible triumph and achievement on multiple levels. This is Will Downing's "testimony".

He also hosts his weekly radio show "The Wind Down" which is aired on this site and over 20 stations around the world in the USA, UK, Japan, and Spain.

To learn more about Will Downing, visit www.willdowning.com

For Tickets to see Gladys Knight with special guest Will Downing, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

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

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Chandra Mehta



K.K. Mehta



New York Portfolio



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Times Square, New York



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Desi Comediennes Rock Independence Night!

By Mabel Pais



**Mona Shaikh:
Producer,
Comedian**

Mona Shaikh combines a South Asian sensibility with Americanized values cherishing the First Amendment-the right to bear big mouths with her offbeat sense of humor.

Mona resides in Los Angeles, California as a comedian and actor while developing her upcoming One-Hour Special and Comedy TV series. She is seen in Los Angeles in places as The Comedy Store, Flappers Comedy Club, The Laugh Factory, Ice House Pasadena, Hollywood Improv and many more. Recently, Mona hosted the Hollywood Improv for Comedy Juice night with Dane Cook.

She became the first Pakistani female Comedian to be selected for the Laugh Factory's Funniest Person in the World Competition. She also made history by becoming the first Pakistani female Comedian to headline Hollywood Improv.

Mona was recently featured in Newsweek, The Guardian, LA Weekly, New York Post, Huffington Post, Washington Post and BBC. Mona recently headlined The Real Flava Comedy Club in Dubai and a show in Lisbon, Portugal. She emceed the Women's March in SF in Jan 2019 and made history again by being the first South Asian/Middle Eastern Female Comedian to perform in front of 50,000 people!

She has her own show Minority Reportz (MinorityReportz.com) performed to sold-out shows at The World Famous Comedy Store in Los Angeles. Be on the look out for Mona Shaikh coming to a stage, radio and television near you.

Some of the show's past comedians have been Margaret Cho, Nikki Glaser, Tiffany Haddish, Trae Crowder, Finesse Mitchell, Iliza Schlesinger, Mike Yard, Dustin Ybarra to name a few. It not only gives a platform to diverse established comedians but also to up-and-comers who wouldn't get to perform in a major comedy club. Minority Reportz makes it happen for them!

In today's social climate of hate and divisiveness on our planet, Minority Reportz Comedy Show presents leading diverse, NY and LA based South Asian comedienne to connect New Yorkers through their funny bone!

On August 23rd, Minority Reportz in association with Desi.NYC brings "Desi Girls Independence Night Out Comedy Show" and After Party with the legendary DJ Rekha, in the heart of New York City at The Cutting Room in Chelsea to celebrate

**Shazia Mirza:
Comedian,
Writer**



Shazia Mirza is an award winning British stand up comedienne and writer. Shazia's last show; "With Love From St. Tropez" toured internationally until June 2018, following its launch at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2017; "at this moment in time - post-Brexit, post-Nice, post-Orlando - it's on point chilling and superb" says "THE SKINNY." "Shazia Mirza is provoking laughter and large intakes of breath once again... brave and urgent" says THE TELEGRAPH.

Her previous stand-up show, the critically acclaimed; "The Kardashians Made Me Do It", played for 103 nights internationally across the UK, US, Sweden, Ireland and France and completed four sell out runs at London's Soho Theatre. Mirza has made appearances on several British TV shows. Her parents just want her to get married.



DJ Rekha: DJ, Producer, Curator, Activist

DJ Rekha, born Rekha Malhotra, is a London-born musician, DJ, producer, curator, and activist. She has been credited with pioneering Bhangra music in North America. Her first album, DJ Rekha Presents Basement Bhangra, released in October 2007 on Koch Records, fuses the Indian genre of bhangra music with international hip-hop and drum beats. Rekha Malhotra is a producer, curator, educator, and activist. She pioneered merging Bhangra and Bollywood sounds with contemporary electronic dance music. She is the founder of Basement Bhangra, Bollywood Disco and co-founder of Mutiny Club nights. Rekha was the sound designer for the TONY award-winning Broadway Show, "Bridge and Tunnel", and was associate producer for the NPR Radio Documentary, "A Feet in Two Worlds." Rekha has done remixes for artists that range from Meredith Monk to Priyanka Chopra, has performed at the Obama White House and internationally. She serves on the board of Chhaya CDC, an organization for New Yorkers of South Asian origin that advocates for building economically stable, sustainable, and thriving communities. She produces the weekly podcast "Bhangra and Beyond."

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

India and Pakistan Independence day by showcasing laughter through diversity from some of NY and LA's leading South Asian comedienne.

This comedy show is presented by Mona Shaikh (Tru TV's LaffMobb, The Young Turks) and hosted by Zubi Ahmed and Pooja Reddy (Kuttigang). The show highlights comedic, multi-cultural points of view by Shazia Mirza (BBC, Edinburgh Festival), Ayanna Dookie (Laffoholics), Nadia Iqbal (Kuttigang) and Karmen

**Ayanna Dookie
Comedian,
Writer,
Actress**



Ayanna Dookie is a writer and actress, known for "Can't Complain" (2009), "50 Central" (2017) and "The Girl in the Show."

Ayanna Dookie had no choice but to develop a sense of humor, growing up with the worst last name of all times. Initially using her sarcasm and witty personality as arsenal against those who picked on her, Ayanna, more affectionately referred to as "Doo-Kayy!" eventually channeled and developed it into her own brand of comedy.

Her style is one of sarcasm, and just plain ignorance. Ayanna is a regular guest on Baltimore's 98 Rock Morning Show. She has performed at numerous clubs and comedy festivals nationwide, and opened for numerous national headliners such as Tommy Davidson, Tony Woods, and Mark Curry.

Naidoo (NY Comedy Club).

WHO: Shazia Mirza, Ayanna Dookie, Karmen Naidoo, Nadia Iqbal, Zubi Ahmed, Pooja Reddy, DJ Rekha, Mona Shaikh.

WHAT: Desi Girls Independence Night Out Comedy Show and After Party

WHEN: August 23rd, 8pm (doors open at 7pm)

WHERE: The Cutting Room, 44 E. 32nd Street New York, NY 10016

WHY: Because Minority is the new Majority!

Karmen Naidoo: Stand Up Comedian, Performer, Actress, Model



Karmen Naidoo is straight outta the Motherland, hailing from South Africa. She continues to pursue her comedy career since 2016 in New York City, the heart of Comedy. She is featured as the only female finalist on Comedy Central's "Grab the Mic" (2015), co-founder and director of "Indie Comedie" a comedy production company (former) which aimed to nurture young rising talent.

She has been featured in "The Bantu Hour," a South African satirical sketch and variety comedy show hosted by the legendary comedian Kagiso Lediga and featuring the legendary musician Hugh Masekela.

With over 100 performances in her first year of comedy, Karmen continued to pursue her passion in New York, by performing at the Desi Comedy Festival (2017), New York Comedy Festival 2017 "Comics you should know", SketchFest 2018 (San Francisco Comedy Festival) & New York Comedy Festival 2018.

Her quirky and witty humor has set her apart from the others, her originality and progressive style resonate with both young and old.

**Nadia Iqbal:
Stand up
Comedian,
Writer,
Actress**



Nadia Iqbal is a stand-up comedian, writer and actress based in New York. She has studied at Second City and at the Upright Citizens Brigade in New York. She is currently a member of "Steve's Hard Milk," a house sketch team at the People's Improv Theater. Her performance at the Muslim Writers Collective about dating as a muslim millennial in New York has accrued over 32,000 views. Her performance as the Shy Undergrad in the PhD comics movie has caused academics to randomly approach her, and causes her friends to roll their eyes at the irony. She is still pretty mad about colonialism.

ABOUT THE CUTTING ROOM

The Cutting Room," at its new location on East 32nd Street between Park and Madison, New York, builds on a decade of history that includes some of today's top performers - John Mayer, Lady Gaga, Sting, Sheryl Crow and David Bowie are just some of the artists that have graced the stage of the "Cutting Room" at its previous location.

Created by original owner Steve Walter (Berklee Alumnus) and co-owner Chris Noth (Sex and the City, Law & Order, The Good Wife), the new Cutting Room continues the tradition of extraordinary performances and special moments, with a

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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.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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

Weekly Horoscope - 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.

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 celebrating 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 best ower 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 calendrer. 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 costal-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 Joher 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."

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-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 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)

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

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.

BERA REQUESTS INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAVEL BAN WAIVER PROCESS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Chairperson of the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, and Indian American Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, on Aug 5 sent a letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo requesting clarification on its implementation of the waiver process under the travel ban.

They wrote, "We remain deeply concerned by the initial and ongoing impact of this extraordinary ban on U.S. citizens and residents, as well as their loved ones who remain overseas while subject to the travel ban's restrictions. We continue to have serious concerns regarding the implementation of the waiver process at the Departments of Homeland Security and State, and the role of the Bureau of Consular Affairs in this process in determining who may enter the United States, when, and under what conditions."



Representative Ami Bera with Rep. Zoe-Lofgren has sought clarification on its implementation of the waiver process under the travel ban.

They continued: "We have identified serious issues in the implementation of the travel ban waiver regime and are exploring legislative solutions to address these issues. As the impact of the travel ban continues to affect our constituents in a seemingly haphazard manner, we write to request further clarification of its implementation, including how your Departments administer the waiver process."

This letter sets a clear deadline for Homeland Security and State Department compliance. Both Departments must submit all documents requested by August 23.

This letter follows up on previous correspondence with the State Department on this issue. In April, Chairs Lofgren and Bera, along with the Chairmen of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and House Judiciary Committee, Eliot Engel and Jerrold Nadler, sent a letter requesting data on how many individuals have received waivers to the travel ban as well as guidance on its implementation.

Tulsi Gabbard to report for active duty for 2 weeks



I love being able to serve our country in so many ways including as a soldier," Tulsi said.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Tulsi Gabbard, Democrat from Hawaii and presidential candidate, will be taking a two-week absence from her campaign Monday to report for active duty with the Hawaiian Army National Guard in Indonesia, she said in an interview with CBSN's Caitlin Huey-Burns. "I'm stepping off of the campaign trail for a couple of weeks and putting on my army uniform to go on a joint training exercise mission in Indonesia," she said. Gabbard has also taken two weeks off to report for active service in 2017.

"I love our country. I love being able to serve our country in so many ways including as a soldier," she said. "And so while some people are telling me, like gosh this is a terrible time to leave the campaign, can't you find a way out of it? You know that's not what this is about."

Reader's comment

I Laud Prime Minister Modi for the bold action

Ven Parameswaran



I laud Modi for utmost secrecy. Nobody knew. It was a pleasant surprise to India and the world blinked. I am glad officially Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh/Aksai Chin are now fully integrated with India. I did not like the Special Status (370). India has expended unlimited resources in Kashmir but the Kashmiris have not been accountable encouraging maximum corruption. It is a disgrace that India was careless all these years.

Kashmir can be the Switzerland of Asia. I am in favor of freedom for investors to invest in Kashmir. All these 72 years, non-Kashmiris were not allowed to buy properties or invest.

On Tuesday, that is today, the Lok Sabha will steamroll the new bill and status of Kashmir.

Utterances of Chidambaram and

Tharoor were irrelevant and insignificant. So far there is no reaction from the US and the Western world. Even China has kept mum. Pakistan bribed China by ceding a part of its occupied Azad Kashmir. Pakistan is shocked that it is isolated. So far there is peace. Modi seems to have done his homework and sent additional 35,000 forces.

Pakistan will try to schedule a meeting of the Security Council. India must use its diplomacy to prevent this. If Pak succeeds, India should send the most competent representative to argue. India can count on Soviet veto. Pakistan China veto. It may be in the interest of the US not to have a meeting. The US still has no official ambassador, I think.

In any case, Modi has neutralized the Khan-Trump White House meeting. India has denied what Trump said on mediation. In Washington which diplomacy will succeed -- India or Pakistan?

Trump, I think will be careful because Trump has the largest foreign investment in India.

(Scarboro, NY based Ven Parameswaran is a retired UN official and a contributor to publications)

Don't let your communal politics make you communal in your responses

Mike Ghouse



Modi and Shah scraped the article 370 of the constitution giving exclusive rights to the state of Kashmir, and it was the need of that day when Pakistan attacked Kashmir, and it chose to seek the protection of India. The law was passed to protect their rights until a referendum was organized to let the people decide what they want to do.

In a democracy, the states have the rights, and the federal institution cannot bully them into obedience against their will. If you break the law once, you break it again, and in the end, it is dangerous to all. Kashmir is no different than Gujarat (when Modi was CM) Tamil Nadu or Bengal in going against the federal government.

I am reading comments across the board and have this to say to my friends in India. Don't let your bias towards anyone make you unjust, and you would become an ugly person if you are unfair. If you stick to justice for all, you cannot go wrong. All the problems we have in society are due to injustice.

Learn to talk about the people of India

based on the individual's rights and not on communal lines. Don't let your communal politics make you communal in your responses.

Protests will begin unless Modi acts like evil China's repressive regime in Tiananmen Square. Thank God, 66% of Indians are still civil and democratic and respect the constitution and the rule of law.

I always think of women in India - Men invariably beat them, treat them as inferior, and force them to remain silent. Finally, I am glad women spoke up and are restoring sense if justice among men. Thanks to our founding fathers for respectfully accepting the protests without crushing them like the British did it in Jalianwala Bagh.

All because our founding fathers honored their God-given right to protest. If women were prevented from speaking up, they would have continued to live in oppression by men. No people on the earth should be denied their right to protest. Without protest, democracy dies, and in the end, all of us will lose our freedoms.

Those who oppose protestors tend to be oppressors themselves and insecure. Civilized people can deal with conflicts through dialogue; animals resolve their disputes by forcing others to through brut power.

(Washington based Mike Ghouse is President, Center for Pluralism and an author. He blogs at www.AmericanMuslimAgenda.com)

contd from page 1

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 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 hid 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.

New Jersey's Indian...

included over a dozen floats, ethnic bands, dance groups, and representatives from over 100 New Jersey based organizations. There was also a cultural show which was held at the end of the parade route and featured a number of local artists. Governor Phil Murphy, who joined Sunday's festivities, acknowledged the Indian American community's contributions to the State. "New Jersey is proud to be home to one of America's largest, most deeply rooted Indian-American communities. The many faces of our Indian American community enrich our state in countless ways. I was honored to march alongside our Indian-American brothers and sisters during the India Day Parade and celebrate the strong bond between New Jersey and India," said Governor Murphy.

With official estimates placing the crowd size at a little under 45,000, the parade was the largest yet, according to organizers. "We just got to make sure we keep it strong- the more people we get, it gets bigger year and year and we're excited to be a part of it. So anything we can do to help continue that we're more than happy and invested to do it," said Edison Council President Alvaro Gomez.

"I support IBA, the IBA is great for the Indian community. This parade is fabulous, and just watching the fans, spectators or whatever you want to call them, and you can see how much it means to them. You can see the passion in the community and thinking of back home. You can just hear it and see it and feel it when you're walking home," said Edison Mayor Thomas Lankey. Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac joined Mr. Lankey in his praise for the parade and spoke of the similarities between the democracies of the United States and India.

There were many familiar faces, including Congressman Frank Pallone. "I always come for the Indian Day Parade because this is a great opportunity to celebrate the Indian American Community and see all the clothes, the colors, the drums and all that. But it's also the IBA that sponsors it and they've really done a great job in creating more businesses and jobs in the area so it's a way to thank them too," he said.

"This is my 15th India day parade. We've got some great people here and they've added so much to America, New Jersey, and Middlesex County in particular," said Senator Samuel Thompson.

Several stakeholders and policymakers, including the Governor, discussed the importance of the Indian American community and ties with India to the local economy. "I look forward to deepening this relationship as I prepare for my economic mission trip to India in September. I am confident that our efforts will foster deeper bonds between our people, and new opportunities for investment and growth in the Garden State," said Mr. Murphy. Thomas Coughlin, CEO of BCB Indus American Bank said, "We think the Indian community is the fastest growing community in the tri state area and the businesses synchronize very well together."

Others noted the growth of the Indian American population across New Jersey.

"Like Edison we have a large Indian community and for me, one of the most important things and gratifying things is the fact that we have such a diverse community that is made up of people from a lot of different backgrounds. The

Indian community is very important to us - they contribute to the growth of the township and we are out here supporting you the way we've supported our community. I think it's the right place to be and I'm thrilled to be here." said East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen.

"It takes many people to bring this event together. My team of Trustees, Chandrakant Patel, Mahesh Shah, Manher Shah, the dozens and dozens of volunteers, our many sponsors, and the organizations that we work with," said IBA President Dhiren Amin. "It is a diverse group of people with a common purpose."

Diversity and inclusion were running themes of the event. "Well I'm here at the parade and I've been here since the first parade we've ever had in Edison. I support the Independence Day for India; I support that the IBA does this every year and they have a long history of doing a great parade for the people. And that's what this is all about- it's about inclusion, it's about getting everybody together. It's about understanding other ethnicities and what their cultures are like and it's so important that we blend together. That's what makes us so strong," said Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak.

His sentiments were echoed by Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred Scott.

"I'm here today to support the Indian Community and the IBA for everything they do. I think [parades] affect community in a large way. Sometimes people don't realize there's different diversities and something like this does bring it out so show there's different diversities. And you meet and you greet, and you have an opportunity to talk and talk about different cultures," she said.

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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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.



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Want to sustain a fruitful harmony in the community: FIA NY Tri-state President



Alok Kumar has been a part of the FIA for almost 10 years now. "The biggest attraction of this year is the very theme of the Parade - "Support our troops, Salute our troops".

BIDISHA ROY

The Federation of Indian Associations' (FIA) of Tri-state, organizer of world's largest India Day Parade outside India in New York,

mission is to carry and sustain the culture and heritage of the Indian community as a whole, and to maintain that tradition, FIA NY Tri-state President Alok Kumar wants to sustain a fruitful

harmony in the community.

Kumar has been a part of the FIA for almost 10 years now. He initially started as a volunteer and still continues to work as one. He was subsequently appointed as the treasurer and through time as Vice President, Executive Vice President and was elected as the president this year. For him 'It has been a great journey and I look forward to a greater one ahead.'

Talking about his mission and vision as FIA president, Alok said, "My primary aim is to sustain a fruitful harmony in the community. I believe in providing a diverse platform to all our members and patrons to maintain a constant connection with our roots back home. The organization aims to carry and sustain the culture and heritage of the Indian community as a whole. I wish and aim to promote and support the growth of The India-American community in every field possible, from technology to politics."

He also has a very clear roadmap for the organization he is very proud of. "The aim always has been and continues to be working for the community, be it

providing facilities like Visa camp at your doorsteps, health awareness programs or building a cohesive communication within the community with the new generations coming in."


Speaking on the 39th India Day Parade, which will be held on August 18, Kumar said, "The biggest attraction of this year is the very theme of the Parade -

"Support our troops, Salute our troops". Our troops, soldiers sacrifice their lives for us. This will be our tribute to them and an occasion for us to remember their service, courage and heroism. Right from the commissioner of the the NBA, Hon. Adam Silver to Bollywood stars of the likes of Mr. Suniel Shetty, Gulshan Grover and Hina Khan, as well as the senior professionals such as Ms Navika Kumar, the Managing Editor of Times Now. There are many and more celebrities adding to the charm of the Parade and the Culture Stage."

Kumar who has done master's in computer science from India, at present is working as the CEO of TheGreatbrains.com, a job portal firm to facilitate available work opportunities online.

HAPPY 73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

India marches on to become a USD 500 trillion economy by 2024



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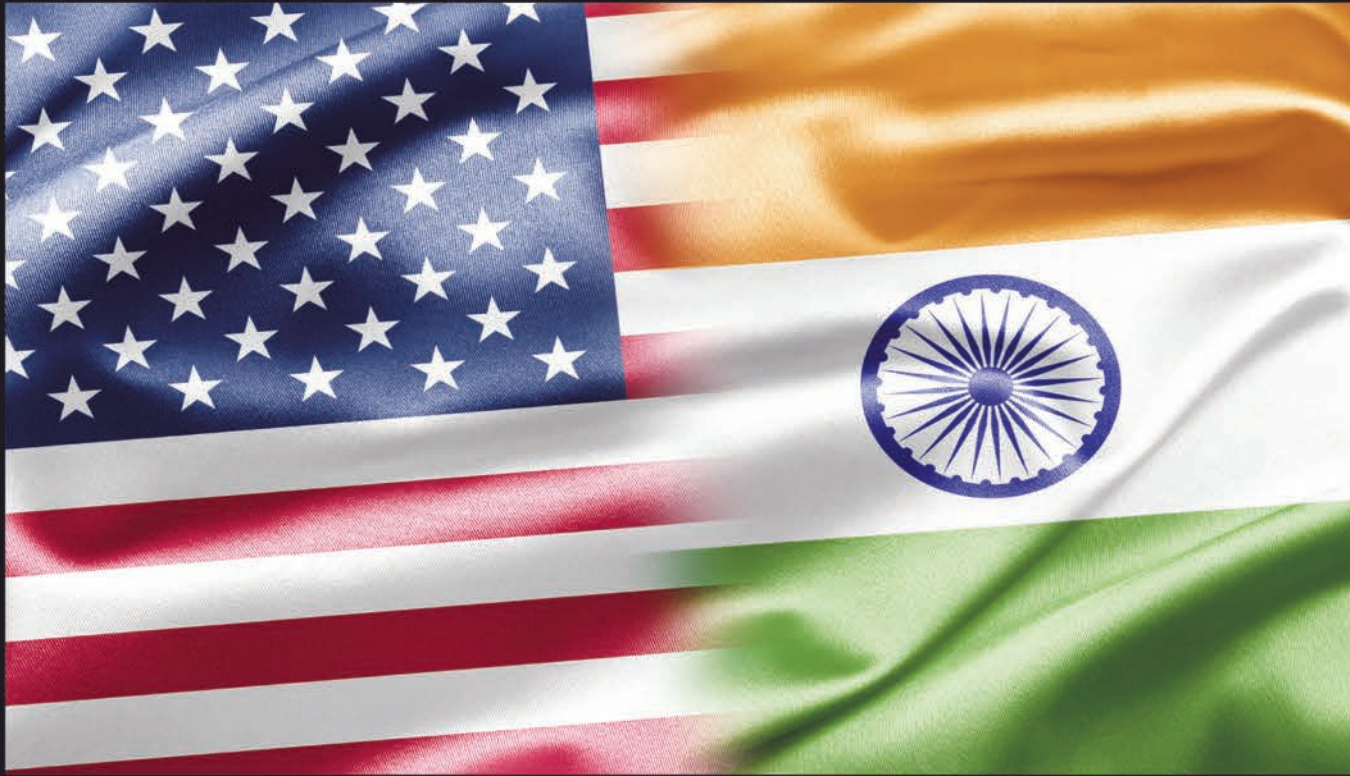


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