

PM launches 'Fit India Movement', says it will lead to healthy future



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Fit India Movement' on Thursday August 29, saying the initiative is the need of the hour and will take the country towards a healthier future.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Fit India Movement" on the occasion of National Sports Day-observed to mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. **contd on Page 32**

Hurricane Dorian strengthens, could hit Florida as a Category 4 storm

NEW YORK (TIP): Hurricane Dorian's winds topped Category 2 strength late Thursday with the potential to become an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm as it barreled toward the southeastern United States, forecasters said.

Dorian's top sustained winds were measured at 105 mph late Thursday, putting it near the top of Category 2 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale. The National Hurricane Center said it was "expected to become a major hurricane on Friday and remain an extremely dangerous hurricane through the weekend," with top forecast winds of 140 mph. "It's going to be this big, bad, intense storm - wherever it hits, it's going to do catastrophic wind **contd on Page 32**



Dorian is "expected to become a major hurricane on Friday and remain an extremely dangerous hurricane through the weekend," the National Hurricane Center said.

Trump administration seeks to deport children with life-threatening illnesses



Sirlen Costa of Brazil held her son, Samuel Costa, 5, while with her niece, Danyelle Sales during the press conference on termination of medical deferred action.

Photo / Courtesy Nic Antaya for the Boston Globe

"This administration is now deporting kids with cancer," said Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., calling it "a new low, even for Donald Trump."

NEW YORK (TIP): Each year, the U.S. gets about 1,000 applications from immigrant families in the U.S. seeking permission to stay in the country and not face deportation so family members can continue lifesaving medical care that is not available in their home countries.

But the Trump administration recently told families who were granted permission to stay for medical care that their permission to stay has been rescinded and they have 33 days to leave the country. The policy, which was not publicly announced, is being applied retroactively to any requests filed on or before Aug. 7. In a conference call Thursday with reporters, advocates and Democrats expressed outrage over the rule. **contd on Page 32**

Gillibrand Drops Out of Presidential Race



"It's important to know when it's not your time", said Gillibrand announcing her decision to drop out in an online video

NEW YORK (TIP): Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand dropped out of the presidential race on Wednesday, August 28, abruptly ending her campaign. "I know this isn't the result that we wanted," the 52-year-old New York Senator said in an online video, in which she did not endorse any other 2020 Democratic White House hopeful. "But it's important to know when it's not your time."

The decision came as Ms. Gillibrand failed to qualify for a debate coming next month in Houston by not hitting 2% in at least four approved public opinion polls while securing **contd on Page 32**

No country is with Pakistan on Kashmir issue: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP):

Pakistan has no locus standi on Kashmir and no country is backing it on the "current issue", Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday, August 29, amid Islamabad's efforts to internationalize the Centre's abrogation of Article 370.

Addressing a DRDO event in Leh, Singh asked how India cantalk to Pakistan when it keeps trying to destabilize India, using terror.India wants to have a good neighborly relationship with Pakistan, but it should first stop exporting terror to India, Singh said.

"Pakistan has no locus standi on Kashmir. However, it is in illegal occupation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including Gilgit Baltistan," the minister said after inaugurating the 'Kisan-Jawan Vigyan Mela'.

Parliament had passed a unanimous resolution in February 1994 in which India's stand had been made clear, Singh said.

"I want to ask Pakistan, when had Kashmir belonged to it. Pakistan was also formed out of India," he said. **contd on Page 32**



Defense Minister Rajnath Singh File photo.



IndianAmerican community in Texas excited about Narendra Modi's visit

HOUSTON (TIP): Titled "Howdy Modi!", the event on September 22, hosted by the Texas India Forum, is being promoted as a community summit. It is expected to be the biggest ever gathering of Indian Americans in the US, The American Bazaar reported on Thursday.

As Houston gets ready to host Indian Prime Minister Modi in a grand event at the Texas capitals landmark NRG Stadium, which is expected to be attended by 50,000 people, the Indian American community is gearing up to show its support, the media reported. **contd on Page 2**

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

RICHARDSON

(TIP): Nearly 2,000 new students at the University of Texas at Dallas walked through the heart of the campus and its main arteries - marked by long stretches of fountains and aisles of magnolia trees **contd on Page 2**



contd from page 1

INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN TEXAS EXCITED ABOUT NARENDRA MODI'S VISIT

Titled "Howdy Modi!", the event on September 22, hosted by the Texas India Forum, is being promoted as a community summit. It is expected to be the biggest ever gathering of Indian Americans in the US, The American Bazaar reported on Thursday.

Besides Modi's remarks, special cultural programs were being planned to reflect the US-India cultural ties with a tagline, "Shared Dreams, Bright Futures".

According to organizers, the event, billed as the biggest diaspora event ever addressed by Modi abroad, the live audience will be the largest for an Indian Prime Minister in North America and the largest for a foreign leader visiting the US, other than the Pope.

Neeraj Singh, a student who was born

and brought up in the US, is planning to attend the event.

"I haven't yet registered for the event and now it is on the wait-list already," he said. "But I am hoping to register just to see for real the address of this Prime Minister who is often the subject of dinner time conversations in my family."

"We have lived in the US for decades now, but it is crazy that the amount of time my family discusses Indian politics is much more than they discuss American politics."

Organizers were doing everything from free registration to free parking to ensure that attendees reach the venue in historic numbers, The American Bazaar reported.

Meanwhile, Manisha Kumar, a resident of Sugarland, Texas, said there was a frenzy in her neighborhood over Modi's visit unlike anything she had ever witnessed before.

The 23-year-old added that she was intrigued by the interest the Indian leader was generating even among elderly Indian Americans, who left the country much before Modi came to

politics.

There are more than 130,000 individuals of Indian origin in the Houston area, according to the American Community Survey in 2017.

This will be Modi's second trip to Houston, where he had earlier taken part in the ground-breaking ceremony of the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

- on their way to Sunday's welcoming convocation. Nobody knew what it was, and because it was for this new science company Texas Instruments and had all this land around it, people thought it was a nuclear reactor," said David Daniel, who served as UT-Dallas' president from 2005 to 2015.

Now, five decades after joining the University of Texas System, UT-Dallas has emerged as a top state research institution and the fourth-fastest growing university in the nation, according to a 2018 Chronicle of Higher

Education report.

The university kicked off its 50th anniversary celebrations at the convocation, the first of several events during the 2019-20 academic year. It's also unveiling a new branding campaign, including a logo with a '50' and a flying comet on it.

"Our university is still young," UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson told the crowd at the convocation, many sporting the school's green and orange colors. "It has a strong foundation in the STEM disciplines, business, and, increasingly, the arts. But like institutions around the world, technology has brought changes over the years."

But before evolving into the Times Higher Education's "number-one university under 50 years old" in 2017, UT-Dallas had to overcome decades of political pushback with the help of tech and Dallas-Fort Worth leaders.

UT-Dallas, located a few miles away from Texas Instruments, is a "real marvelous story of collaboration" between the city's tech industry and the university, said Bill Sproull, president of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce.

"Our institutional DNA is literally integrated with Texas Instruments," said Joseph Pancrazio, UT-Dallas' vice president for research. "Usually, you think of industry coming from academia."

Texas Instruments founders Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and J. Erik Jonsson often found themselves looking outside of Texas for workers, so they established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest in 1961 to train the local workforce.

The vision for the center was for it to become "the MIT of the Southwest," Daniel said.

Even after the center, renamed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies in 1967, was transferred to the UT System, the founders remained involved and Texas Instruments has been key to its growth.

When the company sought a location for its \$3 billion chip fabrication plant, the state committed to investing \$300 million in UT-Dallas in 2003 in consideration for the company remaining in Richardson, said Philip Ritter, who was company vice president of governmental and community relations at the time.

"If TI was to build a manufacturing plant of that magnitude - and, you know, stake our future and advanced manufacturing here in the state of Texas - we needed to have a top engineering school nearby in order to support research and development," Ritter said.

The deal helped fund the redesign of the university's J. Erik Jonsson School of Engineering, which includes facilities such as a world-class clean room necessary for making microchips.

Meanwhile, Texas Instruments still benefits from the graduates and research at UT-Dallas as the two continue to collaborate.

UT Dallas' transformation "was a long evolution with a lot of politics," said Hobson Wildenthal, who previously served as the university's provost and executive vice president and as interim president.

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Indian American is the driving force behind globalization of Bengali language

Work to start soon on unique bilingual open series of 1000 Years of Bengali Writing

BIDISHA ROY

NEW YORK(TIP): Padma Bhushan, Kyoto Laureate, and University Professor at Columbia, Bengali critic Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and renowned Bengali poet Sankha Ghosh, winner of the Jnanpith Award, helped by the dedicated expert Thibaut d'Hubert, Professor of Bengali literature at the University of Chicago, are editing a unique open-ended bilingual collection of 1000 years of the texts of Bengal, today divided between Bangladesh and India.

A gala dinner has been organized celebrating the launch of the unique bilingual open series of 1000 years of Bengali writings that will be published by Columbia University Press. The dinner will take place on September 6, 2019, in the DAG museum space in Manhattan. There will be live music and presentations, but most important, they will show, in a specially prepared catalog, artwork donated by South Asian artists. This artwork will be auctioned on September 11, 2019 at Christie's to further support the series.

Columbia University Press has awarded the editors a series contract. The editors have put together a working list of fifty-odd volumes, but this is in fact an open-ended series and



Padma Bhushan, Kyoto Laureate, and University Professor at Columbia, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak is the driving force behind the unique bilingual open series of 1000 years of Bengali writing

entries will be welcome from all sources, subject to the highest standard of peer review established by the Press. The first two books are ready to be published as soon as funds are secured. The model for the project is the Loeb Classical Library, started in 1911

at Harvard University Press, which now has more than 500 entries and is still going strong.

The textual riches of any tradition are not just verbal but also visual. It therefore seems right that this project should turn for support toward the artists of South Asia and of South Asian origin, an area to which Bengali as a primary language is still confined. Art is a global phenomenon today, and this partnership between the visual and the verbal will also help the globalization of Bengali.

In this matter, Deepanjana Klein, the brilliantly imaginative art authority at Christie's in New York, has networked with artists, galleries, and lovers of art who have responded with a stunning collection of artworks ready to be auctioned to benefit the ongoing work of this effort to bring history and the future together. It is hoped that these works will find their home with private and public patrons who will enhance both their own surroundings and our crucial project.

Columbia University Press is raising an endowment of \$2 million to support the Series in perpetuity. They hope to raise a significant part of the endowment through Christie's auction on September 11, 2019.

Indian Origin Jhumpa Lahiri named Director of Princeton University's Program in Creative Writing



Pulitzer Prize-winning writer to head unique undergraduate program celebrating its 80th anniversary

PRINCETON, NJ (TIP): Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts named Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian writer Jhumpa Lahiri as the new director of the University's Program in Creative Writing. Lahiri, a Professor of Creative Writing on the Princeton faculty since 2015, succeeds 2017-19 U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith, who has led the program since 2015 and on July 1 became Chair of the Lewis Center.

"Jhumpa Lahiri, one of the great writers of our time, is a truly galvanizing and empowering presence in the classroom," said Smith. "Our community is enriched by her commitments to the development of student writers, the practice of translation, and the wealth of literature being written in languages other than English. Jhumpa has also engaged in conversations around the intersection of literature and other art forms and disciplines. Under her directorship, the Creative Writing Program will enter an urgent and meaningful new phase."

Lahiri received the Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for Interpreter of Maladies, her debut story collection. She is also the author of The Namesake, Unaccustomed Earth, and The Lowland, a finalist for both the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Award in fiction. Lahiri is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the PEN/Hemingway Award, the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story, the Addison Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Vallombrosa Von Rezzori Prize, the Asian American Literary Award, the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. She was awarded a 2014 National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama.

(Source: Princeton University)

Indian Origin Sikh Stabbed to Death in California



Parmjit Singh was attacked in Gretchen Talley Park in Tracy around 9 pm on Sunday Aug 25

TRACY, CA (TIP): A 64-year-old Sikh man was brutally stabbed to death while walking in his neighborhood in the area of Gretchen Talley Park in California. Parmjit Singh was attacked in Gretchen Talley Park in Tracy around 9 pm on Sunday Aug 25. He died from his injuries, ABC News reported. Detectives say a passerby spotted the man bleeding on the ground and immediately called

911. Police have launched a homicide investigation.

Tracy Mayor Robert Rickman released a statement following the homicide:

"We take pride in our safe, close-knit community. The loss of one of our own to violence has shaken us to our core and is felt by the entire community. On behalf of the Tracy City Council, we offer our sincerest condolences to Mr. Singh's family, friends and to the members of our Sikh community. This violence will not be tolerated, and we are dedicating every available resource to ensuring that the person(s) responsible for the death of Mr. Singh is brought to justice."

Police are now searching for a person of interest: a white male spotted on surveillance cameras running in the same area where Singh was killed. Police are asking for the public's help in identifying the man caught on camera. The community is offering a \$1000 reward.

Indian American Hotelier Arrested for Theft at Memphis Airport

MEMPHIS (TIP): A prominent Indian American hotelier has been arrested on charges of stealing bags from the Memphis airport, according to media reports. According to police records, airport security footage recorded Dinesh Chawla, the CEO of Chawla Hotels, on August 18 removing another passenger's suitcase from a baggage claim carousel at the Memphis International Airport in Tennessee and putting it in his car before taking a flight. Dinesh Chawla, who previously partnered with President Donald Trump's family to develop series of new hotels in Mississippi, was arrested on 22 August when he returned to Memphis and admitted to stealing the two bags and their contents, valued at about USD 4,000, according to a police affidavit. He was charged with one count theft of property \$1,000 - \$2,500 and one count theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000.

He was given a \$5,000 bond and released the same day.

Indian Origin Canadian Nationals Indicted for Bitcoin Fraud

PORTLAND, OREGON (TIP): Two Indian origin Canadian nationals Karanjit Singh Khatkar, 23, and Jagroop Singh Khatkar, 24, of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, have been charged with wire fraud, money laundering and aggravated identity theft for a scheme to steal bitcoin from an Oregon resident, U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams announced August 22.

Together, Karanjit and Jagroop Khatkar face one count each of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering, five counts of wire fraud, three counts of aggravated identity theft and multiple counts of money laundering.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)



Dinesh Chawla was arrested on 22 August when he returned to Memphis

Fourth Round of the India-US Maritime Security Dialogue Held in California

WASHINGTON (TIP): The 4th round of the India-US Maritime Security Dialogue was held, on 23 August 2019, in Monterey, California. Indian delegation was led by Indra Mani Pandey, Additional Secretary (D&ISA), Ministry of External Affairs and Smt. Richa Misra, Joint Secretary (Navy), Ministry of Defence. Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State, and Mr. Randall Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Department of Defence, led the US delegation.

During the Dialogue, the two Sides discussed regional maritime security issues and exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation. They also reviewed implementation of the decisions taken during the earlier three rounds of Maritime Security Dialogue. It was agreed to hold the next round of the Dialogue in India on mutually convenient date.

India-US hold Interseasonal Meeting, Reviews Bilateral Progress

WASHINGTON (TIP): India and the United States held a round of the bilateral 2+2 Interseasonal meeting on 22.8.2019 in Monterey, California. The Indian delegation was led jointly by Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs and V. Anandarajan, Joint Secretary in Ministry of Defence. Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Mr. Randall Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs led the U.S. delegation jointly.

The two sides reviewed the progress and development of bilateral relations in cross-cutting defence, security, and foreign policy areas since the inaugural 2+2 Ministerial meeting of September 2018 and explored further possibilities of cooperation in these fields based on common interest. They also discussed regional developments, and agreed to pursue their quest for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

The Interseasonal meeting mechanism was set up pursuant to the 2+2 Ministerial. The two sides agreed to carry forward these discussions.

The U.S. has expressed concern over continued restrictions and communication blockade

Comments come three days after Trump said Modi felt he had the situation under control

WASHINGTON (TIP): Three days after U.S. President Donald Trump met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France and discussed the situation in Kashmir, American officials said they were "concerned" about the continuing communication restrictions and detentions in the Valley.

Mr. Trump had said he discussed the Kashmir issue with Mr. Modi and that the latter stated he "really feels he has it under control," and that India and Pakistan could resolve the issue bilaterally.

Sources told The Hindu that diplomats from different embassies, including senior officials from the United States and the United Kingdom, have been meeting Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officials over the past few days to stress that they were watching the situation closely. A State Department spokesperson said in comments made available by the U.S. Embassy in Delhi on Thursday, Aug 29. "We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of the region. We urge respect for human rights, compliance with legal procedures, and inclusive dialogue with those affected. We welcome Prime Minister Modi's statement that Jammu and Kashmir will soon return to a normal political status."

The spokesperson added, "We call on all parties to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Control and to prevent cross-border terrorism. We continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues of concern."

The comments, which also addressed recent statements by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan as well, said: "The United States is watching the situation in Jammu and Kashmir closely. We



Photo / Courtesy : PTI

continue to call for calm and restraint, including on rhetoric...We note the broader implications of the developments in Jammu and Kashmir and the potential for increased instability in the region."

The comments came on a day Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a statement urging the government to lift the shutdown of telephones and Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir and alleging that the restrictions had resulted in "disproportionate harm on the population".

A statement issued by HRW said, "broad, indiscriminate, and indefinite restrictions on fundamental freedoms, including the right to free expression and to provide and receive information," violated international human rights law.

The government has maintained that the restrictions are necessary to prevent large-scale violence and to subvert terrorist threats. "Some international organizations trying to tell us how we should organize our matters," said MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, "We

completely reject such unsubstantiated statements."

At a weekly briefing, Mr. Kumar told journalists, "The local [J&K] govt is handling the situation with maturity and restraint. Not a single life has been lost not a single bullet has been fired. We hope normalcy returns to the state as soon as possible."

According to Mr. Kumar, who repeated some of the figures put out by Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik a day before, 81 of 111 police stations in Kashmir were now working without daytime restrictions, and 167 of 197 across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh were operating without restrictions. Internal reports also said that about 40% of the landlines in the Valley were working, and many of more than 2,000 people arrested since August 5 were now being released.

Meanwhile, officials said incidents of pelting of stones have increased and more than 80% of the violent protests were in and around Srinagar.

(Source: The Hindu)

Trump administration tightens citizenship rules for children of US military abroad

WASHINGTON (TIP): Children born to US citizens stationed abroad as government employees or members of the US military will no longer qualify for automatic American citizenship under a policy change unveiled by the Trump administration Wednesday, August 28.

Effective October 29, certain parents serving overseas in the US armed forces or other agencies of the federal government must go through a formal application process seeking US citizenship on their children's behalf by their 18th birthday, the policy states.

A government fact sheet, however, listed several caveats appearing to

exempt many such children from the new requirement, including those with at least one US citizen parent who lived in the United States before the child's birth.

Currently, children born to US citizens stationed by their government in a foreign country are legally considered to be "residing in the United States," thus allowing their parents to simply obtain a certificate showing their children acquired citizenship automatically.

But in an 11-page "policy alert," the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) agency said it found the prevailing rules contradictory and at

odds with other parts of federal immigration law and State Department procedures.

Beyond that, the rationale for the policy revision remained unclear.

"It's a solution in search of a problem," Tennessee-based attorney Martin Lester, who chairs the military assistance program for the American Immigration Lawyers Association, told Reuters. He added that the scope of the change seemed fairly limited.

"I'm sure, to be fair, it's a relatively small number of people," Lester said.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

India's 73rd Independence Day and FIA 10th Anniversary Awards Gala Night

CHICAGO (TIP): Federation of Indian Associations, Chicago, under the leadership of Founder President Sunil Shah, Founder and past President Onkar Singh Sanga, Current President Ninad Daftari and past President Neil Khot successfully hosted the 73rd Independence Day and FIA 10th Anniversary Awards Gala Banquet. on August 16th at the Meadows Club in Rolling Meadows. The Meadows Club donned the Black and Gold theme of the event. The FIA celebrated its 10th Anniversary by recognizing prominent community members and leaders in a glittering awards presentation ceremony. Amongst the 600 plus attendees the event was attended by many VIPs, Dignitaries and Who's who of the community. Personalities like Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Consul General of India Chicago Sudhakar Dalela, Illinois Senator Christina Castro, Illinois Senator Laura Murphy, Illinois State Representatives Michelle Mussman, Schaumburg Mayor Tom Dailly, Hanover Park Mayor Rodney Craig, Village of Oakbrook Mayor Mr. Gopal Lalimalani and Hoffman Estates Mayor William Mcleod made their presence felt at the event.

The Gala evening and the Award ceremony was emceed by Jassi Parmar and Mohan Rawat of Desi Junction. The evening began with a tradition of the American and Indian national anthems. Then the audience was introduced to the entire FIA board of 2019 while an AV on FIA its work and achievements over the last 10 years was played on the screens in the background. This was followed by Ganesh Vandana.

Founder President Sunil Shah along with Mrs. Rita Shah took center stage. They wished the community on the 73rd Independence Day and welcomed those present to FIA's 10th Anniversary Awards Gala Banquet. Mr. Sunil Shah then invited Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Consulate General of India Chicago Sudhakar Dalela and Past



President Neil Khot on Stage. Mr. Sudhakar Dalela and Mr. Raja Krishnamurthy wished all present on the 73rd India Independence Day and also congratulated the FIA on its 10th Anniversary. Neil Khot thanked everyone for gracing the event while extending his wishes on the India Independence Day. He also thanked the sponsors for their support. Mr. Onkar Singh Sanga wished all present a Happy Independence Day welcomed all the dignitaries and congratulated all the winners. Ninad Daftari Current President thanked the people who turned out in large numbers and wished everyone for the Independence Day he thanked the FIA Board, all the sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, DJ, Media Partners particularly TV Asia, Asian Media - Suresh Bodiwala and Adbhut Media - Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan and cultural program performers. FIA showed its commitment to stand by community causes by making a donation to Akshaypatra and Ekal Vidyalaya of US \$ 2500.00 each.

The stage was then for the awards ceremony. The awards were classified

into two main categories - FIA Choice Awards (Awardees nominated and recognized by the FIA) and popular awards (Awardees nominated by the community voted by the community on an open voting platform).

The Awardees for the Popular Vote Awards were:

Best Community Service Organization Award - Bhartiya Senior Citizens of Chicago, Best Community Service Award (Female) - Vidya Joshi President BMM International, Best Community Service Award (Male) - John Trivedi, President Trivedi Hospitality, Best Couple of the Decade - Paul and Gabriela Chawla, Attorney at Law, Best Entertainer Award - Ms. Pratibha Jairath, Entertainer, Best Medical Professional Award - Dr. Dhaval Patel, O Chicago Institute of Plastic Surgery, Best Services Organization Award - Ms. Archana Paranjape, Realtor with D'Aprile Properties, Entrepreneur of the Decade Award- Mr. Anil Loomba CEO Home Mortgage Solutions Inc., Friends of Indian Community Mr. Tom Dailly Mayor of Schaumburg, Most Popular Restaurant Award - Jigar's

Kitchen Catering Service, and Young All Round Star Award - Ani Singh Basketball Player.

The FIA Choice Lifetime Achievement Awardees were:

Ms. Santosh Kumar, Founder & Executive Director, Metropolitan Asian Family Services, Mr. Deepakkant Vyas, Founder of Redberri Global Corp., Dr. Suresh Reddy a Neuro-Interventional Radiologist, Dr. Srinivas Reddy an Interventional Radiologist, Mr. Chhotalal Patel, an established entrepreneur, a pillar of the community known for philanthropic work, Dr. Anil Oroskar & Dr. Asha Oroskar Co-Founders Orochem Technologies Inc., Ms. Smita Shah, entrepreneur manager at Direct Floors, Mr. Syed Hussaini, Senior Vice President & Area Business Manager Small Business Banking with Wintrust Bank, Mr. Manny Gandhi, CEO Power Plant Services, Mr. Brij Sharma, Owner President Power Volt, Mr. Ketu Amin, President Vinakom Communications, Ms. Pinky Thakkar a Community Supporter, Mr. Michael A Gavin Managing Partner, New York Life, Ms. Malini Vaidyaan, Air India, Mr. Madan Kulkarni CEO Owner of Meadows Club.

The FIA also recognized Media Outlets a first for media in Chicago and the Awardees were:

Mr. Hemant Brahmabhatt, Hi India, Ms. Vandana Jhinghan, TV Asia, Mr. Suresh Bodiwala, Asian Media USA, Mr. Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan, Adbhut Media, M Bhailal Patel, Desi Talk, Mr. Jim Baumann, VP and Chief Editor, Daily Herald, Chicago Tribune, and Mr. Prashant Shah, India Tribune.

The Awards were interpleading with a glittering display of dances and cultural events by Dance Groups - Mankruti and Arya Dance Academy, and Fusion Dance by De Sueno Dance, DJ Sanjay provided the musical interludes.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)

Indian American Kunal Kalra Agrees to Plead Guilty to Federal Narcotics, Money Laundering Charges

LOS ANGELES (TIP): A Westwood man of Indian origin has agreed to plead guilty to federal criminal charges for owning and operating an unlicensed money transmitting business where he exchanged up to \$25 million in cash and virtual currency for individuals, including Darknet drug dealers and other criminals, some of whom used his Bitcoin ATM kiosk.

Kunal Kalra, 25 - who was also known as "Kumar," "shecklemayne" and "coinman" - was charged today in a four-count criminal information filed in

United States District Court and is expected to make his initial court appearance next month. Pursuant to a plea agreement also filed today, Kalra agreed to plead guilty to four felonies: distribution of methamphetamine, operating an unlicensed money transmitting business, laundering of monetary instruments, and failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program.

This is believed to be the first federal criminal case charging an unlicensed money remitting business that used a Bitcoin kiosk.

The maximum possible sentence Kalra could receive for these charges is life in federal prison.

Kalra also faces federal criminal charges in San Antonio, Texas, that were filed earlier this month. That case alleges Kalra conspired to commit money laundering for a drug trafficking network that sold fraudulent prescription tablets, including some laced with methamphetamine and fentanyl. In the plea agreement filed Aug 23, Kalra agreed to plead guilty to those charges in Los Angeles federal court.

Indian Origin Former Des Plaines Woman Sentenced to 12 years in Murder for Hire Plot

CHICAGO (TIP): DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Woodridge Chief of Police Brian Cunningham announced Aug 27 that a former Des Plaines woman has entered a plea of guilty to contracting a "dark-web" company to murder the wife of a man with whom she had an affair.

Tina Jones, 33 formerly of 711 S. River Road, appeared in court in front of Judge George Bakalis who accepted her guilty plea. Following Jones' guilty plea to one count of Attempt First Degree Murder, a Class X Felony, Judge Bakalis sentenced her to twelve years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. She will be required to serve 85% of her sentence before being eligible for parole. Jones was taken into custody following today's proceedings and will begin serving her sentence immediately.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

FIR AGAINST FORMER CHHATTISGARH CM AJIT JOGI ON FAKE CASTE CERTIFICATE

RAIPUR (TIP): The Chhattisgarh police had registered an FIR against the former chief minister Ajit Jogi, on the issue of allegedly securing the fake caste certificate, in the civil lines police station at Bilaspur district, about 120 km east of Raipur.



Tehsildar T R Bharadwaj carrying the memorandum of the collector reached the police station to lodge an FIR against the ex-CM. The case has been registered under the Section 10 of Chhattisgarh SC-ST-OBC (Regulation of Social Status Certification) Act.

The police action was based on the exposition report prepared by the Bilaspur collector following the recent conclusion report of the high-powered committee probing the authenticity of caste status of Jogi. The panel didn't recognise the 73-year-old former bureaucrat-turned-politician as a 'tribal' and rejected all his claims.

According to Kalim Khan, town inspector (Bilaspur civil lines thana), it's a non-bailable section, punishable by two years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20 thousand.

Meanwhile, Jogi will challenge the observations given by the high-powered panel, citing the alleged discrepancies in the high court on Friday.

The ex-CM has been embroiled in a deep controversy for the past several years related to his caste background and his assertion on belonging to a Kanwar tribe community.

India proposes dates to finalise pact on operationalising Kartarpur Corridor



NEW DELHI (TIP): India has proposed dates in the first week of September to finalise the agreement on operationalising the Kartarpur Corridor in time for the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, people familiar with developments said on Thursday.

The meeting on finalising the agreement on the modalities of the corridor, which will link Dera Baba Nanak in India's Gurdaspur district to Darbar Sahib gurdwara at Kartarpur in Pakistan, will be a follow-up to meetings of technical experts, the people said.

The technical-level meetings have focused on finalising the alignment of the temporary road for the corridor, modalities to exchange information about using the corridor, and modalities to cope with emergencies, including medical cases, they said.

"We have proposed dates in the first week of September for a meeting at Attari to finalise the agreement on modalities for the Kartarpur corridor," said a person who didn't want to be named.

The people further said that work on physical infrastructure for the corridor, including the passenger terminal building and highway, is progressing on time. A senior official of the home ministry is chairing regular meetings of the inter-ministerial empowered group to monitor progress and ensure timely implementation of state-of-the-art facilities on the Indian side, they added.

RBI report: Economic situation grim, banking fraud amount rises by over 70%

NEW DELHI (TIP): Economic frauds continue to weaken the Indian economy. Despite the government's efforts towards speedy detection and accountability, the number of fraud cases reported in 2018-19 by banks increased by 15 per cent compared to last year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its latest annual report, has indicated that the rate of growth of frauds maybe not substantial but the amount involved in frauds has gone up by a whopping 73.8 per cent.

However, the RBI adds that the amounts and frauds are related to earlier years.

RBI data shows that in FY19, banking sector reported 6,801 frauds involving a total Rs 71,542.93 crore as against 5,916 cases involving Rs 41,167.04 crore reported in 2017-18.

As compared to this, state-run banks reported 3,766 cases of frauds worth Rs 64,509.43 crore as against 2,885 cases involving Rs 38,260.8 crore.

DELAYED DETECTION OF FRAUDS

What's shocking is that the RBI says that banks took an average of 22 months between the occurrence of the fraud and its detection. This despite sterner guidelines by both the RBI and the government, especially after the Nirav Modi scam.

Worse, in case of large frauds or Rs 1 billion or above amounting to Rs 522 billion reported during 2018-19, the average lag was 55 months which is almost 6 years.

The RBI report states that among bank groups, PSBs, or public sector banks which constitute the largest market share in bank lending, have accounted for the bulk of frauds reported in 2018-19. It was followed by private sector banks and foreign banks.

What's surprising the experts is that foreign banks managed to buck the trend and recorded a lesser number of fraud cases but the amount involved rose sharply.

Last year, foreign banks recorded 974 cases of fraud and the amount involved was Rs 2,560.9 million. In 2018-19 foreign banks recorded 762 cases the amount involved was Rs 9,553 million.

In terms of area of operations, frauds related to advances constituted the major share of the total amount involved in frauds in 2018-19, while the share of frauds in off-balance sheet items declined from a year ago.

In terms of the number of frauds too, those related to advances were predominant followed by card/internet-related frauds and deposits related frauds. Frauds relating to card/internet and deposits constituted only 0.3 per cent of the total value of frauds in 2018-19.

Cheating and forgery was the



'UNFIT GOVT, UNFIT ECONOMY': CONGRESS MOCKS MODI IN TWEETS

NEW DELHI (TIP): After criticising the government's handling of the economy and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) transferring it a surplus of Rs 1.76 lakh crore, the Congress on Thursday again attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a series of sarcastic tweets over the fall of the rupee and slowdown in growth.

"India Ratings and Research (Fitch Group) has revised India's FY20 GDP growth to 6.7% (six-year low) from its earlier forecast of 7.3%. It expects FY20 to be third consecutive year of subdued growth," according to a Congress party tweet.

"After looting the RBI, the least this govt can do is inform taxpayers how their money will be used. Unfortunately asking BJP to be transparent is like asking BJP to fix the economy - I m p o s s i b l e . #UnfitGovtUnfitEconomy," said another tweet on the party's social media handle. The

reference was to the 'Fit India' movement he launched on Thursday on National Sports Day, as announced on his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme to spread awareness on fitness and staying healthy.

The tweet was accompanied by a meme that depicted a change in the RBI seal with the image of the tiger being replaced by a dinosaur skeleton to drive home the point that the current policies would make the central bank extinct.

Another meme posted by the party showed Modi crushing the rupee with his yoga posture. The meme was accompanied by a Hindi couplet criticising Modi.

"The rupee is breathless, see the magic of Saheb. The rupee is down while the Saheb is up, condition has deteriorated," the party.

The Indian rupee on Thursday opened lower against the US dollar at Rs 71.90. It depreciated further to Rs 71.95.

THE ECONOMIC PICTURE STAYS GRIM

The central bank's report says that the macroeconomic environment in the country remains unsettled and financial markets are experiencing considerable flux as the financial year 2019-20 progresses.

Global economic activity appeared to rebound in January-March 2019, especially in advanced economies as monetary stances were eased in response to the slowdown. Crude oil prices remained soft and financial market recouped some lost ground. In the ensuing months, however, these expectations have been belied by incoming data.

Purchasing managers indices (PMI) have moderated, even pointing to contraction in some large economies.

major component, followed by misappropriation and criminal breach of trust. Fraud cases involving an amount of less than Rs 0.10 million (i.e., small value frauds) were only 0.1 per cent of the total amount involved in 2018-19.

CROSS-BORDER SUPERVISION POST NIRAV MODI

The Reserve Bank established agreements for supervisory cooperation with 48 banking supervisory authorities from various jurisdictions. In order to strengthen cross border supervisory processes, meetings of Supervisory Colleges for State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India and ICICI Bank were held during the year with host supervisors and domestic regulators.

J&K Governor announces 50,000 govt jobs for Kashmiris in next three months

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) administration will try filling 50,000 vacancies in government jobs in the next two-three months in the soon-to-be-created Union Territory, J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik said on Wednesday.

Malik, addressing his first press conference after Parliament revoked provisions of Article 370 in the first week of August, said the Centre would soon make a 'big' announcement on J&K.

In New Delhi, government sources denied reports that it has constituted a Group of Ministers, or GoM, to look into development, economic and social issues for J&K and Ladakh. While there was speculation of it, the government did not announce any special package for either Ladakh or J&K. The two union territories come into existence on October 31. The governor's promise on jobs echoes the commitment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made to the people of the region in his address to the nation earlier this month.

In his press conference, the J&K Governor sought to justify detention and imprisoning of mainstream politicians. He said



times spent by politicians in jail would help them in their political careers. "Don't you want that people should become leaders. I have gone to jail 30 times. Those who will go to jail, will become leaders. Let them be there. The more they spend time in the jail, the more they will claim during elections...that I have spent six months behind bars..."

Malik also said restrictions in J&K were necessary to prevent civilian casualties. The Internet is a handy tool for anti-national elements and the restoration of connections will be deferred for some more time, Malik said. He said pellet guns were used by security

personnel during protests in the Kashmir Valley, but said forces took precaution to prevent injuries.

Government sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be visiting Ladakh on Thursday. Senior officials of the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry will visit J&K and Ladakh soon to explore the possibilities of expansion of educational facilities there Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said.

Speaking at an event to distribute awards for community radio in the national capital, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the "biggest punishment" for people is when they have no means of communication. He also extolled the benefits of scrapping of provisions of Article 370.

"This is the power and need of communication...when people store everything in their hearts and are unable to tell anyone about it, is the biggest punishment. When you cannot talk to anyone, you cannot contact anyone and you have no tool to communicate, that is the biggest punishment," he said, adding that one of the biggest medium of communication is community radio.

BIHAR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TOLD TO AVOID WEARING JEANS TO WORK

PATNA (TIP): The general administration department (GAD) of Bihar government has issued a dress code for all its employees with immediate effect, apparently to ensure discipline and office decorum.

An order, issued by GAD's additional secretary Shiv Mahadeo Prasad, has asked officials to avoid casuals. "Officials and employees are found coming in casuals which is against the office culture and office decorum," said the letter.

The order says that all officials / employees posted in general administration department in the state capital Patna have been instructed to avoid jeans and T-shirts. They have been asked to come to office in formal dresses "which are sober in colour, which is laced with dignity, comfortable, acceptable in society and as per the requirement of the season."

"It also expected from the employees that they will not come to the office in T-shirts and jeans," the office order reads.

The orders caught the Secretariat employees by surprise who kept discussing the whole day whether the order was only for general administration department or for entire secretariat staff. However, a general administration department official, who is not authorised to speak to media, clarified that this order is only for the department.

Incidentally, this is not the first time when the state government has come out with a dress code. As early as 2007, the then chief secretary of Bihar, Ashok Kumar Chowdhary, had issued a circular on dress code. The circular spelled out the dress code.

It listed dhoti-kurta, dhoti with shirt/ coat, or coat-trousers for men, adding that "loud, gaudy colours" must be avoided. During summers, they can opt for bush shirt-trousers or sherwani-churidar. Women should come to office in "plain cotton or silk saris without border or simple border" teamed with a blouse "of adequate length" or a salwar-kameez with dupatta.

No PC arrest till Sept 5 in laundering case: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on senior Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's petition for pre-arrest bail in a money laundering case relating to the INX Media case.



A Bench headed by Justice R Banumathi said it would pronounce the verdict on September 5. It said the protection from arrest given to Chidambaram would continue till September 5. He has challenged the August 20 verdict of the Delhi High Court denying him anticipatory bail in the INX Media corruption and money laundering cases lodged by the CBI and the ED.

The Bench said Chidambaram's petition challenging the CBI remand in the corruption case relating to alleged INX Media scam would come up for hearing on Monday. The court asked the ED to submit documents it wanted in a sealed cover. It said whether it would open it or not would depend on what decision it takes. On behalf of Chidambaram, senior counsel Kapil Sibal offered that the accused was ready to remain in CBI custody till September 2 when his petition against the Delhi court's order sending him to CBI's custody for interrogation would be taken up for hearing.

The Bench, however, didn't pass any order on Sibal's request after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said it was for the CBI Special Court to decide. On behalf of the ED, the Solicitor General opposed Chidambaram's petition for pre-arrest bail in money laundering case and his insistence on being shown the material collected against him. He said such material couldn't be shared with the accused at this stage as evidence relating to layers of money trail

VARNISHED 100 RUPEE CURRENCY NOTES TO BE INTRODUCED SOON

MUMBAI (TIP): The Reserve Bank will soon introduce varnished banknotes of Rs. 100 denomination on a field trial basis to increase the life of the banknotes and also look at ways to make them disabled-friendly in FY20.

The RBI, in its annual report for 2019, also said that it's note printing cost has come down marginally to Rs. 4,811 crore in FY19 from Rs. 4,912 crore in FY18, reflecting normalisation in operations post-demonetisation.

The report says after disposing the demonetised notes, the efforts are now on disposing off the soiled notes of smaller denominations which have piled up. However, over 21,000 fake pieces each of the newly introduced Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 notes were found in the reporting year.

Despite efforts to shift to digital payments and usher in a digital payment economy, the currency in circulation has jumped by a hefty 17 per cent to Rs. 21.10 lakh crore as of March 2019.

The demand for the Rs. 500 bill, which is the second highest denomination after the Rs. 2,000 note, has soared the highest and now accounts for over 51 percent of the value of currency in circulation, says the report released on Thursday.

"The value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by 17 percent and 6.2 percent to Rs. 21.10 lakh crore and 1,08,759 million pieces, respectively, in FY19," the report says.

It can be noted that one of the objectives of the note-ban of November 8, 2016 rendering as much as 86 per cent of the outstanding bill useless and had a crippling impact on the economy as a whole, was to encourage digital payments and bring down the use of cash.

BJP issues gag order on Pragya Thakur

NEW DELHI (TIP): Controversial Bhopal MP Pragya Thakur has been virtually isolated within the party and told by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) not to speak in public, after embarrassing the leadership with a string of gaffes in recent months, two party leaders said.



The BJP's Madhya Pradesh head Rakesh Singh conveyed the warning to Thakur, 49, that the next verbal indiscretion would be followed by "serious" action against her, said the two leaders, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In her latest public remarks, Thakur said at a condolence meeting in Bhopal on Monday that "black magic" practised by the Opposition may have been behind deaths of top leaders of the BJP, including former Union ministers Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Babulal Gaur.

"A saint met me during Lok Sabha elections and told me that the Opposition might use black magic (marak shakti) against the BJP, and that it would harm the party and the leaders who are efficient, hardworking and manage the party affairs," Thakur said.

"I had forgotten what the saint had said in the crowd, but when I see today that party's top leaders Shushma ji, Jaitley ji and Babulal Gaur ji are dying while undergoing pain, it occurs to me if it [the prophesy] is true," she added.

"You may or may not believe it but the truth won't change," she said.

Just a week earlier, at a condolence meeting for Swaraj in Bhopal, Thakur kept sending slips of paper



GUEST COMMENT

No, thank you, Mr Khan. Indian Muslims do not need an outsider as spokesperson

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has made an outrageous claim in the address to his nation broadcast live on Monday. He said, 'I will act as Kashmir's ambassador.' Jammu and Kashmir is one of the 36 Indian states and union territories (Ladakh will soon make it 37) and the people of this state, yet to be notified as a union territory, do not need the Pakistan PM to be their ambassador. In the same breath, Khan has threatened the world with a nuclear war. He has also become a great admirer of the now-scrapped Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. Unfortunately, Khan is using the

lockdown in the Valley - going on for the last 22 excruciating days - to the hilt, though the unprecedented security blanket thrown over the Valley is primarily to prevent Pakistan-sponsored violence, which could trigger a bigger hue and cry from Khan and Co.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, had claimed the leadership of all Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. But Jinnah's two-nation theory was defeated when Bangladesh became a separate nation. Pew Research Centre, a US-based 'fact tank', has predicted that India will have 311 million Muslims by

2050, making it the no.1 Muslim nation in the world, overtaking Indonesia. In this context, Khan should not try to become the spokesperson of an Indian state or union territory over its religious composition because Indian Muslims have their elected ambassadors or representatives and do not need an inimical outsider to speak for them.

Khan's response was primarily prompted by the frustration over the Modi-Trump talks on Monday on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France. Modi's assertion of J&K being a

bilateral issue and the US endorsement of his position are a victory for Indian diplomacy. Now, India has to engage with Pakistan to honor Modi's commitment that, 'All issues between India and Pakistan are bilateral in nature... We can discuss and resolve these issues bilaterally.' If the world has to fully accept that Modi is J&K's sole spokesperson, he should unlock the Valley and let the people resume their lives in total freedom.

(Tribune, Chandigarh)

AS I SEE IT

The Biarritz G-7 Summit and India



By Asoke Kumar Mukerji

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation at the G-7 Summit in Biarritz, and his substantive bilateral meetings with US President Donald Trump and other world leaders have created a significant diplomatic momentum for India. This will have a positive impact on India's growing global leadership role as she moves to assume the G-20 Presidency in 2022.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump at the Biarritz G-7 Summit- a handshake of trust and goodwill

The G-7 Summits were initiated by France in 1975 to provide a flexible platform for the leaders of the seven largest advanced economies of the world to deliberate on pressing global issues. By expanding these discussions to include key countries outside the G-7 in critical areas, the impact of G-7 discussions can have a global impact. In 1989, the G-7 Summit hosted by France had created the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to counter money-laundering and the financing of terror. In recent years, India as a member of the FATF has actively sought to enforce international cooperation through this platform in countering the financing of terrorism sponsored by Pakistan.

The invitation to India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to participate in the G-7 Summit held in France as a Special Biarritz Partner between 25-26 August 2019 was motivated by France's desire to enlist India as a "major democracy" to combat all forms of inequality more effectively, legitimately and tangibly. As "democratic societies committed to upholding multilateralism", India and France have prioritized interaction within the G-7 framework in the spheres of climate change, biodiversity and oceans and digital transformation.

On Climate and Biodiversity issues, India will support new initiatives under the framework of the G-7 as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit on 23rd September 2019. During the meeting, Prime Minister Modi said that he had "highlighted India's large-scale efforts towards eliminating single use plastic, conserving water, harnessing solar energy and protecting flora and fauna for a sustainable future".

India's activities after the G-7 Summit

will include steps to "mitigate climate change" by lowering Green House Gas (GHG) emissions through financial flows aligned with the UNFCCC's 2015 Paris Agreement objectives. As part of the Montreal Protocol's Kigali Plan, the G-7's Biarritz Pledge for Fast Action on Efficient Cooling will see India's participation in projects for the reduction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and improved energy efficiency standards in the refrigeration sector.

In the Digital sphere, both India and France have supported "economic and social development through an open, secure and peaceful cyberspace, in which international law applies." The French

objective at the G-7 is designed to protect fundamental freedoms at a time when digital technology and Artificial Intelligence are poised to revolutionize cyberspace.

The importance of selecting data sets and developing Artificial Intelligence technologies was discussed at the G-7 Summit. A group of experts on Artificial Intelligence, including from India, has been proposed to enhance international cooperation in this field. Secondly, the G-7 discussions prioritized accountability and transparency of online platforms, including through a proposed Charter on an Open, Free and Safe Internet. This would include governments, platforms

and businesses in the digital sector willing to make concrete commitments to counter the spread of dangerous content on the internet. A third area discussed at the G-7 related to generating confidence in data-based technologies and infrastructure, especially 5G technology and the free flow of data. India's participation in these key areas will impact on global decisions on the use of cyberspace for the transformation of India.

Prime Minister Modi stressed the need to leverage technology to empower our planet. Specifically, he "highlighted the power of transformative technology to furthering innovation and how India is using technology to further innovation and promoting digital payments".

The G-7 digital initiative can potentially catalyze the negotiation and adoption of a multi-stakeholder Convention on Cyberspace at the UN General Assembly in the future. Such a Convention is needed to provide the principles and objectives for effective international cooperation on applying digital technologies for people-centric sustainable development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation at the G-7 Summit in Biarritz, and his substantive bilateral meetings with US President Donald Trump and other world leaders have created a significant diplomatic momentum for India. This will have a positive impact on India's growing global leadership role as she moves to assume the G-20 Presidency in 2022.

(The author is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation)

Hardly the brick and mortar of a revival



By Jayati Ghosh

“Economists with the government who finally recognized that there is a problem have blamed the current situation on the ‘financial stress’ inherited from the United Progressive Alliance government more than five years ago, which is apparently preventing investment because ‘no one trusts anyone else’. But this isolates only one factor in the current slowdown: the undoubted mess in the credit system, reflecting both the overhang of bad debts of banks (worse today than in 2014) and the erosion of non-banks after the collapse of the aggressive lender, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited.”

There is no longer any room for doubt on the parlous state of the Indian economy. The automobile industry, seen as a bellwether of activity in the post-liberalization years, is in crisis, as automakers, parts manufacturers and dealers have laid off about 350,000 workers since April this year, with more job cuts likely. While this could still reflect falling demand only from higher income groups, recently, Parle Products, once the world's largest selling biscuit brands, announced that it may have to lay off up to 10,000 workers (around a tenth of its workforce). The company blamed falling sales due to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) that led to higher prices of the cheapest small packets of biscuits at a time of extreme price sensitivity because of reduced livelihood, especially among rural consumers.

Home budgets under strain

Sales in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector as a whole grew at only 10% in the April-June quarter of this year, less than nominal GDP growth. The slowdown in sales is across food and non-food items, with the biggest reductions in salty snacks and biscuits, spices, soaps and packaged tea. These represent the more discretionary element of consumer spending even among the poor - the items more likely to be cut down when household budgets are under strain.

Economists with the government who finally recognized that there is a problem have blamed the current situation on the “financial stress” inherited from the United Progressive Alliance government more than five years ago, which is apparently preventing investment because “no one trusts anyone else”. But this isolates only one factor in the current slowdown: the undoubted mess in the credit system, reflecting both the overhang of bad debts of banks (worse

The transfer of the RBI's surplus is only a stopgap measure which will not address the key problem of a lack of demand



today than in 2014) and the erosion of non-banks after the collapse of the aggressive lender, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited.

This is a factor, but this explanation completely misses the demand side of the story. It is clear beyond doubt now that the slowdown in mass consumption, combined with falling and then subdued rates of investment over several years, have led to what is undeniably a crisis of inadequate effective demand in the economy.

This scenario has been unfolding for a while because of a medium-term trajectory in which the fruits of growth went disproportionately to a small elite of big capital and rich individuals without translating into broader economic improvement. The increasing inequality associated with jobless growth meant that mass consumption demand did not rise as expected with rapid GDP growth.

Impact of demonetization

The hugely damaging impact of demonetization in November 2016 was further accentuated by the poor implementation of the GST barely seven months later. These badly managed policy measures served as body blows to informal economic activity, causing major declines in employment and output. At first, they did not affect formal enterprises so much as they gained at the cost of informal ones. But the resulting loss in livelihoods and wage incomes eventually had an effect on demand for formal sector output, which has worsened over time because there have been no counterbalancing moves by the government. Total employment actually declined by more than 15 million workers between 2011-12 and 2017-18, even as unemployment rates reached their highest levels in nearly half a century.

This operated in addition to a medium-term trend of wage suppression, something that was even celebrated by the late former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley as a means of combating inflation. Rural wages have been

stagnant or declining in the recent period. Meanwhile, the continuing crisis of cultivation has obviously affected the purchasing power of the farming community. Urban wage incomes are also apparently not keeping pace with inflation, even as informal activity and “start-ups” in urban areas have faltered.

The government could have countered this adverse impact of declining employment and consumption demand, which in turn reduced the profit expectations of producers in formal enterprises, by providing a fiscal stimulus. It did not do so. Instead, it kept assuming or hoping that using optical measures - manipulating “Ease of Doing Business” indicators and offering further incentives to foreign capital to attract more inflows, however volatile - would somehow attract investment into the economy that would counteract all the negative impulses.

Private investors simply kept demanding more fiscal and regulatory concessions even as they continued to sit on investment plans as they waited for overall demand improvement. More recent complaints of the private corporate sector have been about oppressive tax collection methods of a government desperate to meet its revenue targets. But these along with the greater difficulties of accessing loans from both banks and non-banks are irritants that would have been tolerated in a buoyant economy. They have become serious issues now because of the wider stagnation.

Supply-side approach

In this context, the Finance Minister's recent announcements of measures to boost the flagging economy are not a case of “too little too late”; rather, they completely miss the point. They do nothing to address the issue of inadequate demand generation or the underlying tendencies of wage suppression and low employment growth. Instead, they once again reveal a supply-side approach to the problem, which is unlikely to yield much benefit.

Even these measures are mostly

cosmetic or affect only a small segment of the economy, not enough to cause any real change in economic direction. The capital infusion of ₹70,000 crore into public sector banks had already been announced in the Budget; frontloading this inadequate amount is not going to rev up an economy if those whom banks are willing to lend to are hesitant to invest. Giving into demands of foreign portfolio investors with regard to taxation likewise does nothing to increase domestic demand; it simply provides some solace to the stock market. The middle classes repaying home loans may see a minor benefit if banks actually do pass on lower interest rates, but this too will not provide a major boost to the economy. The decision of the government to buy more cars to shore up the automobile industry is bizarre in the extreme, because it undermines the medium-term strategy of shifting to electric vehicles as soon as possible.

What could the Finance Minister have done instead? If the immediate problem is lack of demand, the immediate response should be to increase it - ideally in ways that provide the desired basis for future economic growth.

Rural focus

Rural distress is real and deeper and greater than the much-hyped distress of angel investors and high net worth individuals; so a massive increase in rural public expenditure, including in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide public works as well as in social spending would provide immediate relief. The multiplier effects of such spending would generate more employment, incomes, consumption and, therefore, investment over time - as well as more tax revenues for the government. There is also both scope and need for increases in “green” public investment for a sustainable future.

But to seize this crisis as an opportunity for progressive change would require more visionary economic policy making, something that this government has been sadly lacking in.

So does the massive transfer of the Reserve Bank of India's surplus amounting to ₹1.76 lakh crore suggests that this is the government's game plan? Unfortunately, because of the mess in public finances, all that this is likely to do is fill the massive gap left by inadequate tax collection, thereby letting the Finance Minister off in the current fiscal year from another embarrassing situation of budgetary discrepancies. The proposed Budget was not particularly expansionary and did not provide for more spending in the areas required. So this stopgap measure may provide more fiscal space than before, without really addressing the basic problem.

(Author is a professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Trump 'deceiving' both India and Pakistan on Kashmir: Pak minister

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed claimed on August 29 that US President Donald Trump is "deceiving" both India and Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir.

Talking to reporters in Rawalpindi, Rashid also said that the Kashmir issue would be resolved during the tenures of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

"A group is making propaganda that whatever happened in Kashmir is part of a master plan. Let me tell you Trump plays on both sides. He is deceiving both India and Pakistan," said the minister, who is known for making outlandish remarks.

During his meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Khan at the White House on July 22, President Trump had offered to be the "mediator" between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

In an apparent backtracking from his comments after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, Trump on Monday said he feels that both India and Pakistan can resolve the Kashmir problem on their own.

Rashid said both Samjhauta Express and Thar Express trains have been shut down to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. — PTI

Bangladeshis speak up about 'rampant' rapes in Islamic schools

DHAKA (TIP): Former Bangladeshi students are turning to social media to detail allegations of "rampant" sex abuse at the hands of teachers and older pupils in Islamic schools, breaking their silence on a taboo topic in the conservative country.

Child abuse in madrasas has long gone unreported in Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority nation where hardline Islamist groups draw their support from the tens of thousands of schools across the nation of 169 million people.

But in the wake of a brutal murder of a teenage girl who was burnt to death in April after accusing her headteacher of sexual assault, such incidents have been subject to national scrutiny and debate for the first time.

In July alone, at least five madrasa teachers have been arrested on rape charges against boys and girls under their care.

Several senior students were also held by the police over the rape and beheading of an 11-year-old orphan, while a Dhaka cleric and seminary teacher was charged with sexually assaulting a dozen boys aged between 12 and 19.

AFP

Islamabad tests 'Ghaznavi'

ISLAMABAD (IP): Pakistan on August 29 upped its 'nuclear rhetoric' and said it had tested a short-range nuclear warhead carrying a missile capable of hitting targets at 290 km, effectively bringing almost entire Punjab, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, J&K, Rajasthan and Gujarat within its range.

The Director General of Inter Service Public Relations (DG-ISPR) said Pakistan had on Wednesday night tested a short-range nuclear missile in Sindh. 'Ghaznavi' is a short range, solid fuelled, road mobile, surface-to-surface ballistic missile. Three days ago on August 26, Pakistan had informed India about the missile test. An agreement on missile-test protocol between India and Pakistan, inked in October 2005, requires prior information for such a launch.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Sweden-based think tank in its "year book 2019" estimates that India has some 130-140 nuclear warheads while Pakistan has 150-160, cautioning: "The governments of India and Pakistan make statements about some of their missile tests but provide no information about the status or size of their arsenals".

India has a triad — the ability to



launch nuclear weapons from land, air and sea. Pakistan does not have the ability to launch a nuclear-tipped missile from sea. Also, Indian missiles have longer ranges.

Today's move by Pakistan comes within days of its PM Imran Khan, in a broadcast to his nation, saying "if the conflict on Kashmir heads towards a war, then remember both nations have nuclear weapons and no one is a winner in a nuclear war. This conflict will have global consequences".

Ups Ante on N-arms

- Ghaznavi is a road mobile, surface-to-surface ballistic missile with 290 km range
- Almost entire Punjab, parts of HP, Haryana, J&K, R'sthan & Gujarat fall within range
- India has a triad — the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land, air and sea
- Pakistan does not have the ability to launch a nuclear-tipped missile from sea (PTI)

Myanmar filmmaker jailed for one year after criticising military



YANGON (TIP): A Myanmar filmmaker was sentenced to a year in prison on August 29 for criticising the military, as free expression advocates warned of "grave threats" to those who challenge the powerful armed forces.

Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi, an activist and founder of human rights film festivals, was detained in April following a Facebook post in which he slammed the 2008 military-drafted constitution.

The charter is deeply unpopular in Myanmar as it gifts the armed services three-quarters of parliamentary seats and control of three ministries despite an ostensible transition to civilian rule.

He was sentenced under a law that criminalises incitement by publishing statements causing "fear or alarm" to the public. "I wasn't surprised because I expected what was coming," Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi told reporters as he was led from the Insein courthouse in Yangon.

The ruling will take into account time served since his arrest.

The free expression group Article 19 said the case was further evidence of the "grave threats faced by those who

criticise the Myanmar military".

"The conviction... demonstrates the extreme vulnerability of outspoken activists and artists in contemporary Myanmar," said Matthew Bugher, head of Article 19's Asia programme.

Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi was one of a number of activists arrested in recent months in cases that flew under the radar after the high-profile release from jail of Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo in May.

He was sentenced in the same place where the two reporters were convicted in 2018 of violating state secrets after revealing a massacre of Rohingya Muslims.

They were freed by presidential pardon after spending more than 500 days in jail.

The Reuters case further damaged the legacy of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has gone from icon to pariah for failing to stand up for the persecuted Rohingya.

Myanmar is ranked 138 out of 180 countries for press freedom by Reporters Without Borders. —AFP

Pakistan PM's office faces power cut over dues

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The electricity supply to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Secretariat faces disconnection over non-payment of bills running into crores of rupees. The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) issued a notice to this effect on August 28.

According to reports in the Pakistani media, the Pakistan Prime Minister's Secretariat currently owes over Rs 41 lakh to IESCO. For the previous month, this amount was Rs 35 lakh.

According to sources close to IESCO, the Secretariat has failed to pay the dues in spite of several reminder notices.

"This is a recurrent problem with the Secretariat. We will cut off the power supply if dues are not paid," an IESCO source said.

Power cuts have worsened in Pakistan in recent years, becoming one of the main sources of discontent in the South Asian nation, often leaving entire neighbourhoods without electricity for up to half a day in the sweltering summer months. — IANS

Australia seeks release of writer as China warns not to interfere

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia will advocate for the release of a Chinese-born Australian writer held by Beijing on suspicion of espionage, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Thursday, rejecting warnings by China not to interfere.

Yang Hengjun, a former Chinese diplomat-turned-online journalist and blogger, was last week formally arrested by Chinese authorities, seven months after he was detained in the country.

China has warned Australia not to interfere in its legal process, but Morrison said Australia will not be silenced.

"We'll stand up for our citizen and we'll expect him to be treated appropriately and his human rights to be respected," Morrison told Channel 9 television, saying suggestions that Yang was a spy for Australia were "absolutely untrue".

"We make no apologies for standing up for one of our citizens."

The arrest comes amid growing diplomatic tension between Canberra and Beijing, including accusations of Chinese meddling in domestic political affairs that China has denied.

Strong trade ties between the two sides add to the diplomatic sensitivity of the case, as China is Australia's biggest export market.

Morrison's comments came as Yang pleaded with the Australian prime minister to "help me go home as soon as possible" during a Aug 27 visit by staff from Australia's embassy in Beijing, a source familiar with the details told



Reuters.

China has not allowed Yang, whose legal name is Yang Jun, access to his lawyers or family since his detention, the Australian government has said.

Yang, 53, was formally arrested on Aug 23. Espionage is punishable by death in China.

Canberra has said Yang was being held in harsh conditions and that it expected him to be treated in accordance with human rights law.

Morrison said Australia would continue to raise its concerns over Yang's treatment.

"I mean, that's not interfering in the system," he said, adding he respected that China had its own legal system.

"But we do expect Australians, indeed all citizens, to have their human rights appropriately looked after." Several Australians have faced jail time in China over the past decade, including the former head of global miner Rio Tinto's China iron ore business, Australian citizen Stern Hu, who served eight years after a conviction in 2010 for corruption and stealing commercial secrets.

More recently, 16 staff from Australia's Crown Resorts, including three Australians, were jailed for between nine and 10 months in 2017 and fined 8.62 million yuan (\$1.2 million) for promoting gambling to lure Chinese high-rollers to its casinos. Reuters

Four European states lose measles eradication status as cases soar: WHO

COPENHAGEN (TIP): Measles cases are skyrocketing in Europe and the disease is surging in four countries previously considered to have eliminated it, including the UK, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Thursday, urging countries to step up vaccination efforts.

"Re-establishment of measles transmission is concerning. If high immunisation coverage is not achieved and sustained in every community, both children and adults will suffer unnecessarily and some will tragically die," warned Gunter Pfaff, the head of the WHO's European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination.

The WHO said there were 89,994 cases of measles in 48 European countries in the first six months of 2019, more than double the number in the same period in 2018 when there were 44,175 cases, and already more than the 84,462 cases reported for all of 2018.

Based on 2018 data, the disease is no longer considered eliminated in the UK, Greece, the Czech Republic and Albania. Measles is considered eliminated

when there is no endemic disease transmission for 12 months or more in a specific geographic area.

While the disease is highly contagious, it can be entirely prevented through a two-dose vaccine, but the WHO has in recent months sounded the alarm over vaccination rates.

The UK reported 953 cases in 2018 and 489 for the first six months of 2019. In the same periods Greece reported 2,193 and 28 cases, Albania 1,466 and 475, and the Czech Republic 217 and 569.

"Each of these countries are examples that have extremely high national vaccination coverage. So these are not examples of countries that have particularly weak systems," said Kate O'Brien, director of the WHO's Immunization Department.

"This is the alarm bell that is ringing around the world: being able to achieve high national coverage is not enough, it has to be achieved in every community, and every family for every child," she said.

Measles is a highly contagious airborne infection causing fever, coughing and rashes. While it can be

fatal, with 37 deaths reported in the first half of 2019 compared with 74 in 2018, other complications include blindness and, for pregnant women, miscarriage.

Some 60 percent of patients in Europe in the first half of 2019 were under the age of 19.

Four countries were home to 78 percent of cases in the first six months of 2019: Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Russia -- 60 percent of which were reported in Ukraine alone.

Meanwhile, Austria and Switzerland were confirmed to have elimination status in 2018, the WHO said.

Measles has been declared eliminated in 35 of the 53 countries in the WHO's European region for 2018, down from 37 in 2017.

It is considered endemic in 12 countries, including France and Germany. In the latter, vaccination against the disease will become mandatory in March 2020.

According to the WHO, more than 20 million deaths have been prevented around the globe between 2000 and 2016 thanks to measles vaccination.

AFP

US must back nuclear deal if it wants talks, says Iran

HELSINKI (TIP): The US must observe a landmark nuclear deal and halt "economic terrorism" if it wants to hold talks, Iran's foreign minister said on Thursday. Both nations have been locked in a bitter standoff since last year when US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 deal that gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its atomic programme.

European Union's diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini, too, said the bloc would support talks between the United States and Iran, but only if the current nuclear deal with Tehran is preserved.

Trump on Monday said he was ready to meet Iran's President Hassan Rouhani within weeks, in a potential breakthrough reached during a G7 summit in France. But Rouhani has said Washington must first lift sanctions imposed since its withdrawal from the nuclear deal.

"The United States is engaged in economic war against the Iranian people, and it won't be possible for us to engage with the United States unless they stop imposing a war, engaging in economic terrorism against the Iranian people," he told reporters during a visit to Malaysia. "We spoke to the United States and reached an agreement. They need to implement the agreement before they expect to have more talks," he added, referring to the nuclear deal.

"If (the US) wants to come back to the room there is a ticket that they need to purchase, and that ticket is to observe the agreement," he added. — AFP

Fresh protests rattle Papua

JAKARTA (TIP): Indonesia's Papua was plunged into chaos again on August 29 as angry protesters torched a government building in Jayapura, Papua. Many called for independence from Indonesian rule. Arrest of Papuan students in Java has triggered the unrest in the island nation. AFP

6.1-magnitude quake strikes Japan's Aomori prefecture

TOKYO (TIP): An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck off the eastern coast of Japan's Aomori prefecture on Thursday, the weather agency said here, adding that no tsunami alert was issued. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the temblor struck at 8.46 am, and was centred off the coast of Aomori, with its epicentre located at a latitude of 41 degrees north and longitude of 143.1 degrees east, Xinhua news agency reported. The quake occurred at a depth of 10 km, the agency added.

IANAS



Had a crush on Rahul Roy: Kareena Kapoor

Kareena Kapoor is on top of her game as an actor. Coming back after the birth of son Taimur, Kareena has only grown from strength to strength. She delivered a hit with *Veere Di Wedding* and has as many as three films in various stages of production. In the meanwhile she also made her TV debut with *Dance India Dance* and on a recent episode, she revealed that as a youngster she had a crush on an actor from the 90s.

According to a report in *Mumbai Mirror*, the show's host Karan Wahi kept asking her to reveal the name of her first crush. After much prodding, Kareena sheepishly revealed that she has crush of actor Rahul Roy and watched his film, *Aashiqui*, eight times. Directed by Mahesh Bhatt, the 1990 film starred Rahul and Anu Aggarwal and was a runaway hit.

Kareena, along with her husband Saif Ali Khan and son Taimur, was based in London for the last two months. It was a vacation cum work schedule with Kareena shooting for her upcoming film, *Angrezi Medium* while Saif shot for his home production, *Jawaani Jaaneman*.

MALAIKA ARORA SAYS ARBAAZ KHAN 'IS MY CHILD'S FATHER; CAN'T BE NEGLECTED

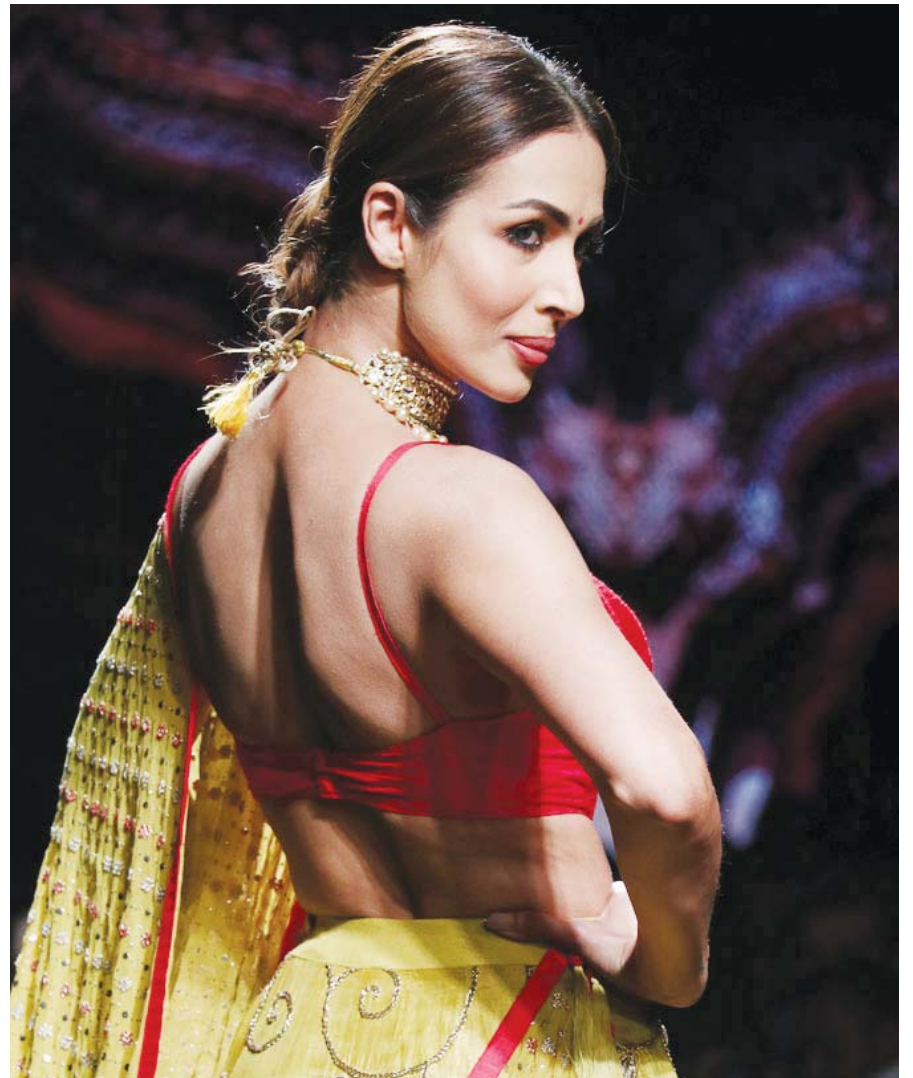
Sisters Malaika Arora and Amrita Arora spoke about their bond, and also how they reacted to Malaika's split from her husband, Arbaaz Khan. Both Malaika and Arbaaz have since moved on, and are dating Arjun Kapoor and Giorgia Andriani, respectively.

Malaika said in an interview to *Pinkvilla* that Arbaaz had told her when they split that it would be better for him to 'be more vocal' about the situation, rather than her. "And he was," she said, "And the minute he did, it answered a lot of questions in people's minds."

Despite the split, Amrita is still close to Arbaaz. She said, "I don't understand why it should change?" Malaika added, "Relationships aren't built overnight, they are built over time. Arbaaz is not somebody who they know. He's like a son to them, he's family."

Malaika and Arbaaz announced their split in 2017. They have one son, 16-year-old Arhaan. Speaking about how Arhaan being a teenager is very difficult for her to handle, as a parent, Malaika said that her son 'doesn't hide anything' from her, even if it's about who he likes. "Whether he has one girlfriend or 10 girlfriends, that he'll tell Amrita," Malaika said, adding that Arhaan shares a very close bond with his aunt.

Malaika said that breaking the news of her divorce from Arbaaz to her son wasn't easy, but she made sure that whatever she tells him 'has no unnecessary repercussion'.



WHEN TAMIL PRODUCER MADE VIDYA BALAN FEEL UGLY



Vidya Balan is one of the most sought-after actresses in Bollywood, but she had faced a lot of rejections in the south film industry. She says there was a time when a Tamil producer made her feel ugly.

"There were a lot of rejections down South. There were a lot of Malayalam films, but I was replaced in each of them. There was a Tamil film I was doing and I was thrown out of the film... I remember my parents had come with me because they were so worried about me... I had really begun to fade," she said in an interview to an entertainment portal, reports *indiatoday.in*.

"We went to the producer's office. The producer showed us the clippings from the film and he said, 'Just look at her, does she look like a heroine'. He said 'I was not in favour of taking her at all, it was the director who insisted'."

"The Dirty Picture" actress added: "They had already replaced me and my father after knowing that, called up the producer asking if they can meet because he wanted to know what was going wrong. They wanted to know what was the problem."

Vidya said she had a difficult time dealing with the rejection. "I felt ugly... I felt like sh*t for months and I don't think I looked at myself in the mirror... I didn't like what I saw because I thought I was ugly... For the longest time, I did not forgive that man, but today, thanks to that, I realized that I have to love and accept myself the way I am."

Talking about another experience in Tamil film industry, she said: "There was another Tamil film that was locked on the phone and it was not organised in the way that they are today... I didn't know any better so I was like okay and committed to doing the film. I landed in Chennai and I shot with him for a day and really felt uncomfortable with the kind of humour that was in the film. I left the film and then they sent me a legal notice."



Black Widow footage leaked from Disney Expo

A leaked video footage of Marvel's upcoming solo Black Widow movie has surfaced from Friday's D23 Disney+ Expo in Anaheim, California. The tiny clip shows lead actor Scarlett Johansson beating up baddies for the first time on her own as Natasha Romanov.

The footage shows Natasha pointing a gun at someone, fighting another woman (or maybe a man) in a kitchen and pinning them against the cabinets. A scene also shows a car getting rammed by a large truck and Natasha looking out from inside the turned over car. She still has her bright red hair in all the scenes.

Black Widow also stars Rachel Weiss and Florence Pugh. It is directed by Cate Shortland and will release on May 1, 2020. The first full trailer is expected to drop in December.

ANGELINA JOLIE ON MALEFICENT SEQUEL: 'WHAT'S DIFFERENT MAKES YOU STRONGER'

Angelina Jolie, who reprises her title role in Disney's Maleficent: Mistress of Evil, says the sequel will explore the question about what constitutes a family and whether someone's differences should be seen as a weakness.

Jolie, one of the biggest stars of Hollywood, also revealed her look from upcoming Marvel movie Eternals in which she will play the role of fierce warrior Thena, at D23 Expo.

While not many details are out about her debut in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), the actor had more to share about Maleficent, including a new footage. The actor said she missed playing Maleficent, whose bond with her goddaughter Aurora (Elle Fanning) is threatened by the outside world in the sequel to the 2014 film.

"We brought two people, two creatures, who were stark enemies in many ways, together. They are family and they have love for each other. In this one, we return and we see that now Aurora is older and they are facing new challenges, and it is being emphasised to them how different they are and they are encouraged to not be a family and pulled apart by their differences.

"So we really pose the question and fight for belief that what's different makes you stronger. And what is family? What defines a family is what you believe in and how you love and what you stand for. It's not just blood and it's not because you are the same," Jolie said.



SCARLETT JOHANSSON DEBUTS AS ALL-NEW NATASHA ROMANOFF



Start saving up because Black Widow is finally going to get the spotlight on to herself next May and you don't want to miss it! Marvel fans have been desperately waiting for the first official look of Scarlett Johansson's character Natasha Romanoff from the long-awaited film, Black Widow. The first poster for the film has landed and it is everything!

The director of Marvel Studios of Visual Development and Concept Artist, Andy Park, shared the poster on Twitter, writing, "BLACK WIDOW!!! Official D23 poster I had the

honour of painting. She's very near and dear to me since it's the gazillionth time I've concept designed/painted her. What a cast and crew."

The poster prominently features Natasha Romanoff, aka. Black Widow (Johansson), in a brand new stunning black and grey colour suit and a new hairstyle. Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh), Red Guardian (David Harbour), and Melina Vostokoff (Rachel Weisz) are on either side of Natasha. Harbour's Red Guardian is almost identical to his comics' counterpart with the exception of his beard.



EMMA STONE GOES 'PUNK ROCK' FOR CRUELLA DE VIL FIRST LOOK

Actress Emma Stone will be bringing the story of one of Disney's greatest villains, Cruella de Vil, on the big screen with Cruella, and she says it comes with a fresh approach and is very "punk rock".

Disney on Saturday shared a first look of the actress as the iconic villain at the D23 Expo here. Stone could not attend the event, but shared information about the project through a video message, in which a dalmatian also made an appearance. "Since you're such huge Disney fans, we wanted to let you know a bit about the story," Stone said, adding, "1970's set in London, it's punk rock".

In the first look of the live-action project, Stone as Cruella is seen with

short permed hair with de Vil's signature black and white colour-blocked hairstyle. She is wearing a black leather checkered jacket, and is holding onto three leashes attached to three dalmatians.

Her henchmen Jasper and Horace (essayed by Joel Fry and Paul Walter Hauser) are in the background. A non-Dalmatian puppy can also be spotted in the back. The film also stars Emma Thompson.

Cruella first appeared in 1961's animated feature 101 Dalmatians, in which she kidnaps dalmatian puppies with an aim to use their fur to make coats. The character was voiced by Betty Lou Gerson in the animated version.

The Revenge of the *Vegetarian*

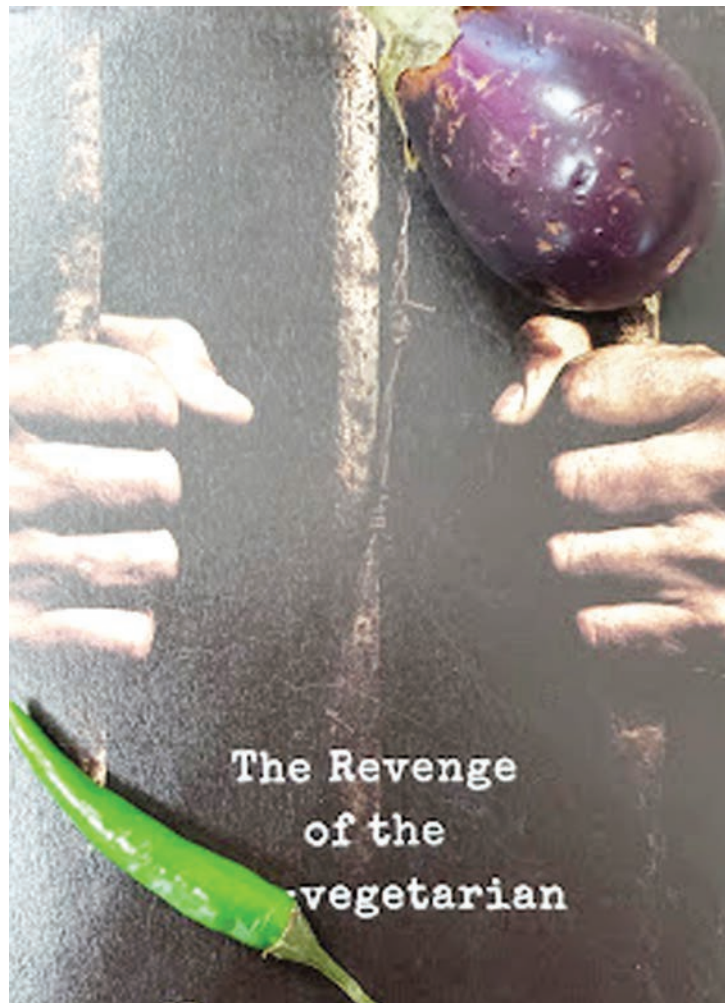


By Sandeep Chakravorty

“Speaking to people and media reporting in recent times and of course out of my own life experience, I try to bring some method in the madness by attempting a classification of how being vegetarian may mean different things to different people. It is a spectrum ranging from being very strict due to religious ordain to being flexible depending on the environment and conditions. I have been able to find 10 types of vegetarianism. It is a classification of diets and not people, and exceptions are there.”

“Vegetarianism all over the world is a complex phenomenon and means different things to different people.”

The author has attempted a classification of how being vegetarian may mean different things to different people.



Picture / courtesy Upamanyu Chatterjee

Growing up in a Bengali family, being a so called non-vegetarian has been second nature to me. Bengalis are as non-vegetarian as can be. My father earned a government doctor's pittance of a salary which would run out well before the month was over. He was an avid fish lover and as a result he had a running credit account with the fishmongers of Delhi's INA market. I remember my mother always asking us when we returned home after attending wedding receptions whether the food was vegetarian or non-vegetarian. If the answer was vegetarian, she had little interest in going any further. Only if our hosts had passed the non-vegetarian test would my mother venture to ask about the bride and her jewelry. Growing up in such an environment I had little understanding of vegetarians and had never taken them seriously. I was a kind of a non-vegetarian fundamentalist, experimenting and trying to convince people to eat meat, almost disrespectful of people who didn't enjoy it. I remember this episode from first year in management school (IIFM, Bhopal) when as mess secretary I asked the mess boy to reheat the left over lunch and serve it as dinner for the vegetarians while the non-vegetarians had fresh chicken curry to feast on. Not unexpectedly I was unceremoniously dumped from the post of the mess secretary the very next day. Since then life has tried to make me understand vegetarians and vegetarianism in greater detail and I have begun to appreciate why people are vegetarian and become vegetarian. And my own personal world has changed.

One may think that being vegetarian is plain and simple. Or food is a simple and binary choice- either you eat meat or not. It is not. It is not only a choice between being shakahari or niramish (vegetarian) and masahari or amish (meat eater or non-vegetarian). Perhaps we are all more mishrahari (omnitarans, if such a word exists). In the West people may be mostly vegans or meat eaters, although even in the West and particularly in the US, there are many complications in food

habits as people are eating less meat as eating meat is becoming less fashionable. Americans eat about a third less beef than they did in the 1970s, even though an average American consumes almost 215 pounds of meat per person per year as per OECD data of 2016. Traditional meat eaters are moving away from it and alternatives such as 'beyond meat plant based burgers' are booming. Some the change is due to health reasons and some due to impact meat production has on carbon emissions. The New York Mayor has introduced 'Meatless Mondays' in schools and something impossible to even visualize in the past i.e. the 'impossible burger' a meatless patty burger is now a new rage. One now often runs into Americans who say that they do not eat meat, are vegetarians and eat only fish. Some others are vegetarian on some days, by choice, and not on others. Veganism is also growing and thanks to it, these days it is easy for Indian vegetarians to find food in American restaurants. Early immigrants tell horror stories of having to survive on bread, butter, milk and bananas only. Even vegetarian soup had meat broth.

In India, we are used to being vegetarian or non-vegetarian. In fact in airlines and railways, the constant and irritating query of stewards is always: "Sir veg or non-veg?". Unmindful of foreigners, whether they understand or not. But dig deep and it isn't so simple. The vegetarian pantheon has many gods. Even the orthodox 'Hindu Vegetarian Meal' can be quite varied. Traditionally, for many, vegetarianism is not a matter of choice but a question of birth. If you are born Jain, you are likely to be vegetarian. If you are a Hindu from Gujarat your food choice is destined to be restricted to vegetarian fare. If from Bengal, then it is most likely that you are non-vegetarian or at least a fish eater. Bengalis are synonymous with fish and that too river fish. A Kashmiri, whether Pandit or Muslim, is a compulsive meat eater and consumes mostly goat meat. It is no longer only a question of where you are born or born veg or non-veg, but also choices and circumstances. It is layered and textured and needs probing. Far from being binary, it is actually quite impossible to classify food habits of people, even vegetarians.

Western reporting on Indian vegetarianism is lop-sided. Recent reports border on proclaiming loudly that India is actually a non-vegetarian country, many even eat beef and number of vegetarians in India may actually be quite small. This is done mostly by foreigners, even of Indian origin, who are not willing to understand the deep seated psyche of Indian vegetarianism. Even the most compulsive meat eater in India also eats at the same time, if not simultaneously, then consecutively, lot of vegetarian food. Meat and fish are not cheap and even compulsive non vegetarians have days when they do not eat meat such as during festivals, shraddh, in case of death in the family and on many other occasions. Vegetarianism all over the world is a complex phenomenon and means different things to different people.

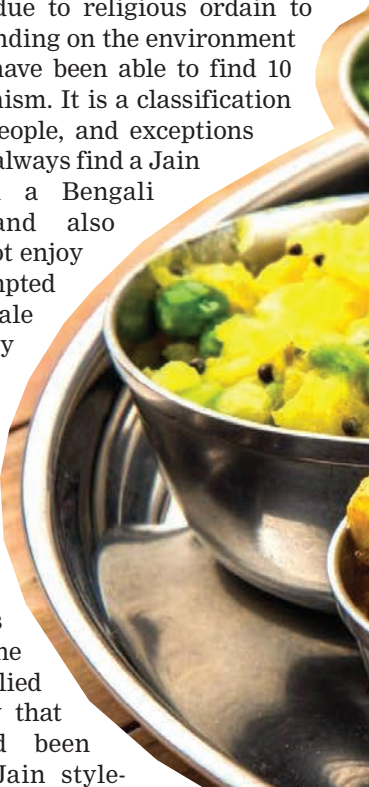
Speaking to people and media reporting in recent times and of course out of my own life experience, I try to bring some method in the madness by attempting a classification of how



The Vegan Pyramid

CONTD FROM PAGE 14

being vegetarian may mean different things to different people. It is a spectrum ranging from being very strict due to religious ordain to being flexible depending on the environment and conditions. I have been able to find 10 types of vegetarianism. It is a classification of diets and not people, and exceptions are there. One can always find a Jain eating meat and a Bengali detesting fish and also Muslims who do not enjoy meat. Here I am tempted to narrate this tale shared by my colleague, Vipul Mesariya, whose college mate was once waxing eloquent on how tasty the chicken curry he had that evening was. When his friends pointed out that he was a Jain, he replied quite nonchalantly that the chicken had been prepared in the Jain style- without onions and garlic.



1. Vegan:

Mostly Western concept. Avoid everything of animal origin. So milk, cheese, yogurt are also out. Of course no types of meat or fish can be included in the diet. Extreme vegans also exclude contact with leather and are PETA supporters, has rebellious, environmental, progressive undertones. It is revolutionizing the culinary scene in the US, although tofu based veggie meat mimicry can challenge one's taste buds.

2. Jain Vegetarian:

All meats, fish and eggs are out. Onion and garlic are not allowed and neither are root vegetables such as potato, radish, carrots, yam and cassava. In the strict sense even ginger is off the table. In the relaxed Jain diet however, potatoes and ginger are in. Some may extend it to include onions and garlic even. But eggs and all meat are forbidden. Significantly, due to the efforts of Jain monks, Palitana in Bhavnagar, Gujarat has become the first vegetarian city in India where sale of eggs and meat has been banned since 2014.

3. Vaishnav Vegetarian:

Mostly practiced by Goswamis of Brindavan, ISKCONites and other communities. For them all meats and fish are out. But milk is in. But onion and garlic are a big no, although ginger is kosher. They are very strict with their diet and go the extent of seeing ingredients in food packaging and know which ingredient has animal origin and which do not. Many carry small lists with them and can be found cross checking while purchasing bread or cookies.

4. Normal Vegetarian:

This is the classic category. No meat or fish. Not even eggs. But eat all foods of plant origin and milk products. Not fussy with onion or garlic. This is the most prevalent type of vegetarianism in India. The only catch could be individual preferences, some can't withstand the taste of Tofu, others don't like some particular vegetables. Notable among vegetables detested by people are eggplant (variously called as brinjal or aubergines), bitter gourd (karela) and some others. I personally don't understand why people buy and cook the vegetable known as Kundru.

5. Vegetarian Egg Eaters:

They are more like normal vegetarians as mentioned in 4 above but also eat and enjoy eggs, in all preparations i.e. hidden in cakes or presented as omelets or hard boiled. A variant of this category is



The Vegetarian spread

One may think that being vegetarian is plain and simple. Or food is a simple and binary choice- either you meat or not. It is not. It is not only a choice between being shakahari or niramish (vegetarian) and masahari or amish (meat eater or non-vegetarian).

those who eat eggs only when unseen or concealed away as part of cakes or cookies or ice cream. An egg omelet is off putting for them but they can't detect the smell or taste of eggs once it is baked or cooked. Their love for cakes or ice cream overrides their distaste for eggs.

6. Vegetarian but enjoy non-veg curries:

A small but discernible group. They are normal vegetarians, may or may not eat eggs but they enjoy the taste of meat or fish curry but cannot tolerate the pieces. They are found mostly enjoying the curry in parties or outside their homes. At home any non vegetarian cooking is sacrilegious.

7. Vegetarian but OK with boneless meat:

Bones are testimony of carnage and animal origin. So as long as it is boneless or kababs they cannot distinguish between animal protein and milk protein such as cheese or paneer. You may think I am making this category up, but I have a friend from Udhampur who enjoys kababs and tikkas but cannot eat chicken leg pieces or lamb chops. Seeing the bones makes him feel queasy. This culinary adventure of course happens outside their homes mostly at weddings or parties.

8. Vegetarian, Yes Sir, but at home only:

Due to cultural factors, pure normal vegetarian at home, but they cannot wait to feast on meats outside, mostly at a friend's place or at parties. At weddings they are almost attached to the pots from where meat is being served and they become exclusively non-vegetarian. There are several variants of this and the reverse works as well. I have seen Kashmiris eat meat only in Kashmir (as they are assured of its halal source) but moment they come to Delhi or go elsewhere they eat only vegetarian food and no meat.

9. Normal vegetarian but becomes non-vegetarian when drinking:

This category is the most unique. Alcohol has an overwhelming influence in deciding eating habits. So accompaniment of kababs and tikkas are a must for a merry evening.

10. Day-to-day Vegetarian:

Basically they are non-vegetarians but become vegetarian on particular days of the week, mostly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays. They create the most confusion because if you serve them vegetarian on the day they are non-vegetarian they get most offended. Also no non-veg food during religious festivals such as Navaratri or during the month of Shravan (rainy season) complete the characterization of this group.

Today, although I remain non-vegetarian, my life and work involve dealing with vegetarians. At the professional level, one of the first public invites I received in New York was to address the convention of "Vegan Vision". I said no to H.K.Shah, Chairman of Vegan Vision USA on the grounds that I didn't have the conviction to speak to his congregation. To him, "being vegan is a way of expressing love for the environment, no cruelty to animals and health". Shah is vegetarian by birth and has turned vegan in the US and avoids milk products. At 88, he is full of energy and is championing the case of vegetarianism and veganism as a matter of choice. I subscribe to his ideals but have to change fundamentally before I can address his flock.

Closer home, my wife turned vegetarian about 5 years back because "she answered the call of her body" and says that for her being vegetarian means "being humane". She, however, eats eggs in all preparations and also milk products. Her definition of vegetarian doesn't include fish much to the dismay of her Bengali in-laws. My daughter turned vegetarian a year ago, overnight, influenced by a Netflix movie 'Okja' and a documentary 'Food, Inc.', basically on where your food comes from, showing the inhuman way meat is produced. After that she just couldn't eat any meat or fish. Her determination is noteworthy as she turned from being an avid lover of fish and meats to being totally vegetarian although she includes eggs in her diet. Her twin sister on the other hand is a picky non-vegetarian restricting herself to the meats we normally eat in India. So, in the immediate family of four, there are two and a half vegetarians. Sweet revenge for the fundamentalist.

(Author's acknowledgement: Picture courtesy & title inspiration: The Revenge of the Vegetarian by Upamanyu Chatterjee, Article inspiration: anonymous video on tic toc.)

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Visit author's blog : <https://sandiplomat.blogspot.com>

SIGNS YOUR MAN IS JEALOUS OF YOUR SUCCESS



It shouldn't happen, but a lot of men can become intimidated when their partner starts making more money than them, earns more notoriety than them, or in some way becomes more successful than them. There's a reason you see a lot of celebrity couples break up the moment the woman wins an Oscar or a Pulitzer Prize and the man, well, doesn't. It's sweet sorrow. You can lose somebody you thought you loved when you become successful, but you also learn that maybe that person wasn't meant to be in your life in the first place and in that way, your success earned you more than just money—it earned you insight into your relationship. It is important to recognize if your partner is jealous of your success because if he is, he is probably holding you back. Whether you know it or not he's draining you of energy, and messing with your confidence.

He asks if he has to come to your events

When you tell him your office is having a party or there is a work-related event you'd like him to come to his immediate response is, "Do I have to come?" As if it is a chore to support you.

When people compliment you to him

When your friends say, "Isn't your girlfriend just incredible?" He looks exhausted and gives a, "Oh. Yeah." Before going back to his cocktail.

He has actually said, "Enough about you..."

He has actually said, after you went on an excited rant about your career, "Okay enough about you. My turn."

His friends know nothing of your success

When you briefly mention your success to his best friend who he talks to every day his best friend has clearly heard nothing about it.

His family knows nothing of your success

His family actually asks you questions that are so basic that you realize your boyfriend literally never talks to them about you. They ask you, "What is it that you do again?"

He doesn't remember important dates

You've told him four times about the event on June 6th at 7 pm that is very important to your work. Come June 6th at 6:40 pm you find him in sweatpants playing video games.

Keeps you up late

He tells you you're a bad girlfriend for not staying up late with him, but you have to get up early for work...

He interrupts you

When you go into an excited rant about your work, he cuts you off. And he usually cuts you off to talk about something insignificant, like what type of toilet paper to buy. It's his way of belittling what you do.

He has never thrown you a party/celebrated you

He has never once thrown you even

the tiniest celebration over any of your accomplishments. In fact, once when you had something great happen, he asked you to pick him up some dinner on your way home.

He makes jokes about how you're his sugar mama

He makes jokes to friends about how he can be lazy because you're his sugar mama. You hear a tinge of resentment in them, though.

He raves about women less successful than you

He seems to go out of his way to talk about his "chill" or "easy going" friends who aren't as career-oriented as you are. It's like he's trying to say that they're better off.

He doesn't want to have sex

If he's feeling intimidated by your success, his libido will probably plummet. He may even make comments like, "You don't have time to have sex—you have to get up early remember?"

Or he won't finish during sex

If he's been having a hard time finishing during sex ever since your career took off, it's probably no coincidence.

He's started drinking a lot

If your career success has shined a light on the fact that he isn't doing much, he might become depressed and start drinking.

He's started eating a lot

Maybe he won't turn to booze, but he'll turn to french fries and chicken wings instead. And Sour Patch Kids. And ice cream. And more French fries.

HOMEMADE SCRUBS WITH SUGAR FOR ULTIMATE SKIN EXFOLIATION

Honey, Green Tea And Sugar Scrub

Brew some green tea with leaves and not bags. Add 2 tablespoons of the tea with 2 tablespoons of honey. Then add 4 tablespoons of sugar to the mixture, adding 1 spoon at a time. Mix till you get a thick paste. Honey is naturally anti-bacterial. Apply this scrub 2 times a week to get the glow from honey and freshness from the green tea.

Peppermint And Sugar Scrub

This is a godsend for those suffering from perpetual dry skin. Mix together 3 tablespoons of warm coconut oil, 2 tablespoons of sugar, 2 drops of peppermint essential oil and half a tablespoon of Vitamin E oil. Your sweet, minty homemade sugar scrub is ready.

Banana And Sugar Scrub

Banana contains essential vitamins and minerals that are highly beneficial for the skin. This magical scrub can be easily made by adding 2 tablespoons of sugar with 1 mashed banana. This paste will make skin softer and suppler with regular application.

Lemon And Sugar Scrub

Pour in the juice of 2 lemons to a mixture of 2 tablespoons of sugar and half cup of olive oil. Relieve your skin from sun damage, tanning and blemishes.



This works just as well as a hand scrub for your manicure routine.

Beetroot And Sugar Scrub

This is the ultimate scrub for chapped and discoloured lips. It leaves the skin on lips soft and makes it appear naturally pink. Mix equal parts of beetroot juice and sugar and apply it on your lips. Rub gently for 1-2 minutes and wash it off with water.

FOOD CORNER

SAMOSA CHAAT

Ingredients

2 Samosas, 6 Flat & crisp papdis, 3 Tbsp Curd, 1/4 Onion, finely chopped, 1/4 Tomato, finely chopped, Coriander leaves, finely chopped, 2 tsp Mint coriander chutney/Green chutney, 2 tsp Tamarind chutney, 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder, 1/2 tsp Chaat masala, 1 Cup Sev

Method

- Take 2 hot samosas, and roughly break it into small pieces and place in a plate.
- Crush the papdis and spread over the samosas.
- Whisk the yogurt using a fork to make sure there are no lumps. Now, pour the yogurt over the samosas. Top with the chutneys. If you like the chaat a little more sweet than spicy, then add more tamarind chutney.
- Top the plate with chopped onion and tomatoes for garnish. Sprinkle sev over the chaat.



THE WORST WAYS TO COPE WITH STRESS

Stress plays a big role in the lives we lead. From being a motivator, encouraging us to do more to being a detriment to our performance—stress can swing either way. In situations when stress becomes excessive, often we are tempted to turn to coping mechanisms which may not always be the best.

Being aware of when you're stressed can help you manage better. But, in doing so it is critical to understand how some coping mechanisms can have a negative impact on us. Mechanisms like...

Turning to smoking, alcohol, or other substances

Instead of helping you cope, these impact the mind and the body adversely. Building a dependency on any substance creates complications, and the process of letting these go can be rather difficult.

What can you do instead: Integrate habits like exercising into your daily life as stress relievers.

Self-criticism

Don't engage in any negative perceptions about yourself. Constantly pointing out things that are wrong in you will only deplete your self-esteem and confidence.

What you can do instead: Evaluate how you can change replace your weaknesses with strengths, and build skills.

Blaming others for the situation you're in...

You must steer yourself away from excessively criticizing others for the situations you find yourself in. Blaming others and the situations takes away your sense of agency in being able to exert any control over your environment.

What you can do instead: Make a realistic assessment of your situation so that you can determine what you can do manage it better.



Compromising on your sleep and appetite

In the face of stressful situations, people often sleep less or don't eat well. This will only trample on your mood and hamper productivity.

What you can do instead: Find ways to ensure you get good rest even when things get really stressful, and continue to maintain healthy eating patterns.

Stopping all channels of communication

It is easy to fall into the trap of restricting conversations,

socialization, and seeking support and help from friends and family—because you don't want to trouble them, you do not feel like it, or it feels like they might not be able to understand.

It is more fruitful to reach out to others and keep sharing and discussing what you are thinking and feeling. This will help you to appraise situations, find solutions, and cope with the thoughts and emotions you are having.

Cope with stress by integrating elements that are helpful and not those that would can negatively affect your health and well-being.



THIS IS WHY LEAN PEOPLE GET FATTY LIVER DISEASE

Researchers have discovered how fatty liver disease develops in lean people, aiding the development of potential treatments for these patients.

"Lean fatty liver patients have a very distinct metabolism compared to non-lean ones, which can explain some of the differences we see in disease progression," said Jacob George, Professor at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research in Australia.

Fatty liver disease—a condition characterised by a build-up of fat in the liver— affects a quarter of the world's population.

Although it commonly develops in overweight and obese people, many individuals with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of less than 25kg/m² develop the disease and tend to have worse outcomes compared to obese patients.

During the study, researchers compared the metabolism, gut bacteria and genetic profiles of patients with lean and non-lean fatty liver disease to determine factors that contribute to disease development and progression.

Compared to non-lean patients, lean patients had higher levels of bile acids, which play a role in the digestion of fats, and a protein called fibroblast growth factor 19 (FGF19).

DAILY 'POLYPILL' REDUCES HEART DISEASE, STROKE

A cheap, once-a-day pill combining aspirin with drugs that lower blood pressure and cholesterol cuts the risk of major heart failure and stroke by a third, researchers said Friday. In clinical trials, the so-called "polypill" was especially effective among people with no history of cardiovascular disease, reducing the number of severe events by 40 per cent, they reported in The Lancet, a medical journal.

In patients with a history of heart problems and strokes, the drug combo was only half as effective compared to the control group, who received advice on healthy living but no drugs.

The polypill concept was first proposed more than 20 years ago as a simpler, cost-effective approach to treating cardiovascular disease, which often requires taking several medications.

Up to now, patients are typically prescribed one or more drugs to lower blood pressure along with a statin, which holds lipids such as fatty acids in check. Aspirin, an analgesic, has blood thinning properties.

Red wine improves gut health

Researchers have found that people who drink red wine have an increased gut microbiota diversity as well as lower levels of obesity and bad cholesterol.

"Moderate red wine consumption is associated with greater diversity and healthier gut microbiota that partly explain its long-debated beneficial effects on health," said Caroline Le Roy from King's College London.

An imbalance of 'good' microbes compared to 'bad' ones in the gut can lead to adverse health outcomes such as reduced immune system, weight gain or high cholesterol.

A person's gut microbiome with a higher number of different bacterial species is considered a marker of gut health.

Published in the journal Gastroenterology, a team of researchers explored the effect of beer, cider, red wine, white wine and spirits on the gut microbiome and subsequent health in a group of 916 UK female twins.

They found that the gut microbiome of red wine



drinkers was more diverse compared to non-red wine drinkers. This was not observed with white wine, beer or spirits consumption.

The team observed that the gut microbiota of red wine consumers contained a greater number of different bacterial species compared to non-consumers.

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TENCENT LAUNCHES WECHAT APP FOR DRIVERS

Tencent Holdings on Monday unveiled a version of its popular social media app WeChat tailor-made for drivers with state-backed Chinese carmaker China Chang'an Automobile Group, marking a further foray into transportation solutions.

China's most popular messenger, with more than 1.1 billion users, will be embedded in new car models coming to the market later this year, the two companies said at the annual Smart China Expo in Chongqing.

While the mobile app offers services such as payment and entertainment, the car version will have limited functions based on voice control and a button on the wheel, allowing the driver to send or receive messages and make calls while driving, and integrate Tencent Map's navigation service, Tencent said.

Tencent, which is trying to transform itself from a consumer-oriented social and gaming firm to an enterprise service provider, said in a statement it had secured partnership agreements with 21 automakers including BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi to roll out solutions for connected cars on 45 models.

China's state-run news agency Xinhua said on Monday 530 deals worth 817 billion yuan (\$115.2 billion) had been signed at the Smart China Expo.



CHENNAI TECHIE FINDS FLAW IN INSTAGRAM, WINS \$10,000

Barely a month after winning \$30,000 from Facebook for spotting a flaw in Instagram, Chennai-based security researcher Laxman Muthiyah on Monday said he again discovered a new account takeover vulnerability on the photo and video-sharing app. This time he has won \$10,000 as part of the social network's bug bounty programme.

The new vulnerability that Muthiyah spotted was similar to the one he reported in July and allowed anyone to hack Instagram accounts without consent permission.

Facebook has now fixed the vulnerability that Muthiyah reported.

"Facebook and Instagram security team fixed the issue and rewarded me \$10000 as a part of their bounty programme," Muthiyah said in a blog post.

Muthiyah found that the same device ID - the unique identifier used by Instagram server to validate password reset codes - can be used to request multiple pass codes of different users.

He showed that this vulnerability can be exploited to hack Instagram accounts.

FB EXPANDS 'LOCAL ALERT' TOOL TO HELP IN EMERGENCIES

Facebook announced on Tuesday that it was rolling out a tool that aims to provide users with potentially life-saving information in emergencies, as it seeks to improve its public image and play down its reputation as a network that aids the spread of misinformation.

Local Alerts, which it has been testing since last year in 300 cities including Charlotte, St. Louis and Miami and now plans to offer across the United States, is intended to provide reliable information to people caught up in events such as mass shootings and extreme weather, it said in a blog post.

Alongside other social media companies, Facebook has faced a barrage of international criticism for the way its platform has been used to spread conspiracy theories and extremist views and it is keen to focus attention instead on its role as a connector of friends and family.

The world's largest social media network already offers users the ability to let friends know they are safe during emergencies with a feature called Safety Check, but said it wanted to do more.

With Local Alerts, Facebook account holders in local government and among first responders such as the police and fire departments can send out messages that are then spread more widely by Facebook.

It was not immediately clear how useful the service was in its pilot phase. When asked if Local Alerts to date have been deployed quickly enough to make a difference or have



been employed in situations where users were in danger, Facebook declined to give examples, citing the privacy of its account holders.

It also said the speed at which alerts were disseminated was dependent on the account holders.

In one example, when a disgruntled student opened fire during the last day of classes at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in April, the City of Charlotte Government's Facebook page sent a Local Alert notifying nearby residents when it was safe to return.

The alert was posted more than two hours after the shooting, said Ken Brown, Charlotte's Interim Media Relations Manager.

Some local authorities contacted by Reuters said they were using

Local Alerts alongside other services to warn citizens of danger. Mt. Juliet Police Department in Tennessee said it uses a combination of Facebook Local Alerts, mobile text messages through the Nixle platform, and posts on local community media service Nextdoor to send emergency notifications.

The local authorities said they had sent alerts over emergencies including road closures, bad weather, and missing people.

"I grew up in Kansas and this is the time of year when we get a lot of tornadoes," Jimmy O'Keefe, Facebook's head of Product Marketing for News Publishing, said. "This tool would have given us a lot of peace of mind if it was around back then."

SCIENTISTS REPRODUCE CORAL IN LAB, OFFERING HOPE FOR REEFS

A team of scientists in the US have managed to reproduce coral in a lab setting for the first time ever, an encouraging step in the race to save 'America's Great Barrier Reef' off the coast of Florida.

The researchers from Florida Aquarium's Center for Conservation were able to reproduce endangered Atlantic Pillar coral through induced spawning, a development that could ultimately prevent the extinction of the Florida Reef tract.

"This amazing breakthrough was the first time that we spawned Atlantic corals in a laboratory setting that we've had for over a year in our greenhouses," Amber Whittle, the aquarium's director for conservation, told AFP Monday.

"It's been done before at the Horniman Museum in London with Pacific corals, never with Atlantic corals, and the Pillar coral that we spawned is a highly endangered species." The Florida Aquarium and the Horniman Museum began working together in 2015 on induced



reproduction techniques.

Reproduction was achieved by mimicking the conditions of the corals' natural environment, including sunrises, sunsets, moon phases, water temperature and quality. Florida's corals are

deteriorating rapidly due to climate change and a destructive tissue disease that appeared in the waters of the southeastern state in 2014.

Scientists hope to reproduce healthy corals and repopulate the reefs through this technique.

India eases foreign investment rules to aid economic growth

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's cabinet announced Wednesday that it would ease restrictions on foreign investment in four key sectors in a bid to shore up support for the flagging economy.

Asia's third-largest economy has slowed in each of the past three quarters -- losing its status as the world's fastest-growing and piling pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose government has unveiled a slew of measures in recent weeks to kickstart growth.

On Wednesday, the government approved 100 percent foreign direct investment in the coal mining and contract manufacturing sectors and allowed FDI of up to 26 percent in digital media. It also loosened sourcing requirements for single-brand retailers.

India's commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said the measures would "boost exports... and create massive job opportunities".

The announcements came two days after India's central bank announced a \$24-billion windfall for the cash-strapped government,



which is also facing a jobs crisis -- with unemployment at its highest since the 1970s.

The auto sector has been particularly badly hit, with car sales plunging in July for the ninth month running, while weak consumer spending and high taxes have hit demand for everything from biscuits to hair oil.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently revealed several measures to help the economy, including bringing

forward a \$10-billion liquidity lifeline for credit-shy banks and rolling back an extra levy on equity sales that had spooked foreign investors. Sitharaman and other senior officials have hinted that more steps could soon be announced to tackle economic woes.

"The changes in FDI policy will result in making India a more attractive FDI destination, leading to benefits of increased investments, employment and growth," the government said.



TOYOTA, SUZUKI IN PACT FOR SELF-DRIVING CARS

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's top automaker, Toyota, and smaller rival Suzuki are partnering in the development of self-driving car technology, as manufacturers around the world grapple with innovations in the industry.

Under the deal, announced today, Toyota will take a 4.9% stake in Suzuki Motor Corp. valued at 96 billion yen (\$908 million), and Suzuki will make a 48 billion yen (\$454 million) investment in Toyota.

In 2017, Toyota Motor Corp. and Suzuki agreed to work together in ecological and safety technology. That deal did not include owning mutual stakes.

Auto manufacturers are facing a costly shift toward the use of artificial intelligence, the internet and other technologies. Partnerships are one way to share the enormous costs.

In February, BMW and Daimler said they are working together on self-driving cars.

Under their earlier agreement signed in 2017, Toyota and Suzuki are also cooperating in the Indian market, where Suzuki remains a strong player. They said they will continue to expand their collaboration.

"The automobile sector is currently experiencing a turning point unprecedented in both scope and scale," Toyota and Suzuki said in a statement, referring to stronger environmental regulations as well as newcomers in the mobility business.

They said deepening their relationship will help both companies grow and meet challenges.

Google autonomous vehicle spinoff Waymo is among the new players. Uber, which offers ride-hailing services and food delivery, is also working on autonomous driving.

MARUTI CUTS 3,000 JOBS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Maruti Suzuki India Ltd chairman R.C. Bhargava said on Tuesday the company had not renewed the contracts of 3,000 temporary employees, as the automaker battled rising inventory amid a slowdown in demand.

Safety norms and higher taxes have "added substantially" to the cost of cars, affecting their affordability, Bhargava told shareholders at the company's annual general meeting.

With India's auto sales declining for the ninth straight month in July, more automotive manufacturers are laying off workers and temporarily halting production to keep costs in check, Reuters reported on Saturday.

The company is on track to meet the country's new emission norms, adding that the company will move towards manufacturing compressed natural gas (CNG) and hybrid cars.

Maruti Suzuki plans to increase CNG vehicles by 50% this year, Bhargava said.



Tiffany to enter India in partnership with Reliance

NEW DELHI (TIP): Iconic American jeweller Tiffany & Co said it will enter the Indian market in partnership with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries and plans to open its first store in Delhi this year and one in Mumbai next year.

Tiffany, which is known for its diamond engagement rings and robin's egg blue boxes, will be another marquee name to join the ever-growing portfolio of Reliance. In May, it had bought British toy-store chain Hamleys.

In a statement, Tiffany said it will enter the Indian market through a joint venture with Reliance Brands Ltd.

"Through a joint venture, Tiffany plans to open new stores in Delhi in fiscal 2H 2019 and Mumbai in 2H 2020, capitalising on its already strong image and brand awareness in this emerging and style-conscious luxury market," the statement said.

Tiffany, which operates more than 320 stores in over 25 countries with over 80 in Asia-Pacific, as well as e-commerce websites in 14 markets, is targeting the world's second-biggest gold jewellery market.



VIVO LINES UP RS 3,500 CRORE INVESTMENT IN INDIA



NEW DELHI (TIP): Vivo, India's third largest smartphone maker, has lined up fresh investments of Rs 3,500 crore, adding to the Rs 4,000 crore announced last year, as the Chinese smartphone maker gears up to expand its manufacturing facilities in the country.

The renewed push by Vivo, part of China's BBK group, comes at a time when companies in key sectors such as automobiles, consumer durables and fast moving consumer goods battle a slowdown in sales, forcing them to cut workforce among other costs. Smartphone sales have however remained robust with record shipments.

The investments is expected to expedite Vivo's growth momentum in India, the world's second largest smartphone market, where it has primarily relied on offline channels and advertising blitz to market its phones.

"India is an important market and is growing. We want to be a strong player here. The entire Rs 7,500 crore investment would be deployed in phases to develop a new 169-acre land parcel adjacent to the Yamuna Expressway (on the outskirts of New Delhi)," Nipun Marya, director - brand strategy at Vivo India, said in an interview. "This would be used for two projects across four phases. We expect once fully deployed, this total investment could create employment for 40,000 people over 10 years". Marya did not give a timeframe for the investments.

contd from page 1

Hurricane Dorian strengthens...

damage," said Bill Karins, a meteorologist for NBC News. Karins said late Thursday that forecast tracks suggested that Dorian could approach the Florida coast as slowly as 4 mph to 5 mph.

"That's an extremely slow-moving storm," he said. "Those have multiple high tide-cycle issues, they have rainfall issues, not to mention that those high winds in the same locations over a long period of time have more stress on all of the rooftops and structures and trees."

Dorian would be the first Category 4 or higher hurricane to make landfall on Florida's east coast since 1992, when Hurricane Andrew was blamed for 44 deaths in the state. Anything at Category 3 or above is considered a major hurricane.

Dorian was skirting well east of the Bahamas on Thursday night, but it was expected to take a westward turn and pass near or over parts of the northwest Bahamas on Sunday. Three to 5 inches of rain were forecast, with some areas getting up to 7 inches.

It was too soon to tell exactly when the storm would make its U.S. landfall, but the hurricane center warned of an increasing likelihood of "life-threatening storm surge along portions of the Florida east coast late this weekend or early next week." Five to 10 inches of rain were expected, with isolated areas possibly getting up to 15 inches.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis expanded a state of emergency to cover all 67 counties.

"As it increases strength, this storm has the potential to severely damage homes, businesses and buildings, which is why all Floridians should remain vigilant," DeSantis said in a statement. "Do not wait until it is too late to make a plan."

President Donald Trump called off his planned trip to Poland over the weekend to oversee the response to Dorian.

In a video posted from the White House on Thursday night, Trump said: "We're ready. We have the best people in the world ready, and they're going to help you."

Trump said that "somebody said" that Dorian would be "bigger or at least as big as Andrew," which caused more than \$25 billion in damage in 1992, in addition to killing 44 people.

Andrew was assessed as Category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, with sustained winds of 175 mph. The National Hurricane Center says Dorian might reach Category 4, for which the wind range tops out at 156 mph.

PM launches 'Fit India...

Addressing the crowd at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, the Prime Minister sought a pledge from all of India to make the country 'Shrestha Bharat'.

The PM said fitness was an integral part of Indian culture.

"Remember, a healthy man leads to a fit society that is the key to the making of Shrestha Bharat. I want everybody to make this fitness awareness program a part of their life just like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," the Prime Minister said while launching the nationwide program.

"I want everyone to make this pledge and promise that you will become fit and nudge your family members and your neighbors to become fit. Remember this 'Main fit toh India fit'," he added.

"Look at your icons in either sports, films or business. Most of them are fit and this is no coincidence. If you read about them, you will find that they are focused on fitness. They totally believe in fitness. For proficiency

in any profession mental and physical health is a must have and this holds true either in the board room or in Bollywood," he explained.

"The government is launching this awareness program, but it is you (the citizens) who have to lead this campaign and make it a success. I can say from my personal experience that there is zero investment, but the return is massive," he said.

Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju were present at the launch.

The PM's speech was preceded by a cultural program that was split into four segments - Sanskriti, Virasat, Khel and Kala.

Yoga, traditional martial arts like Kalaripayattu, Bhangra, Bharatnatyam, and ancient sports like wrestling and Kabaddi were performed to showcase the country's "connect" with being fit.

Movement to fight 'lifestyle diseases'

Modi highlighted that the need of the hour was to launch this movement as 'lifestyle disorders' are leading to heart attacks and diseases like diabetes and hypertension amongst the youth.

"Many people download fitness apps that tell them: 'you are short of completing 5000 steps today'. They think gadgets will make them fit. And after some time they become lazy and it is back to business," he said.

"But jokes apart getting fit is the need of the hour because nothing is bigger than one's health. We are seeing cases of diabetes, hyper-tension in the young population. There have been cases of patients who are only 15 years old. This is a grim reality. But we should not lose hope. They are called lifestyle diseases because they essentially happen because of lifestyle disorders. A change in your lifestyle like working on your fitness can either cure or keep them at bay," he said.

"We can change small things in our lifestyle which will be of immense help. For this we have launched this Fit India Movement. This is not a government project but this should become an agenda of all the families. Like we discuss business or your child's marks on the dinner table, I want family's physical fitness to become a topic of daily discussion as well. (Source: Agencies)

Trump administration seeks to...

"This is a new low even for Donald Trump," Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said in a conference call with reporters Thursday.

"This administration is now deporting kids with cancer. Perhaps that is why it was too ashamed to announce this policy change publicly," said Markey, who has been trying to draw national attention to the issue since it was first reported in Boston by WBUR-FM, a public radio station.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association called on the USCIS to reverse the policy change. It has asked people to contact elected leaders to change it. A backlash over the changes has led to confusion over which Department of Homeland Security agency, the USCIS or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, must enforce the new policy, as the agencies have pointed to each other as having jurisdiction. (Source: Agencies)

Gillibrand Drops Out of ...

130,000 unique donors despite spending millions on online and TV ads to woo people contributing as little as \$1. That proved especially embarrassing since candidates who began the race with far lower national profiles, including businessman Andrew Yang, made it.

On the eve of Wednesday's qualifying deadline, Ms. Gillibrand sat down with her family and decided that if

a pair of polls set to be released the following morning didn't help her meet the polling threshold, she'd drop out. Both ultimately showed her at 0%.

To get to the U.S. House, Ms. Gillibrand had topped an incumbent Republican in a conservative part of upstate New York in 2007, and she was appointed to the Senate two years later, filling the seat vacated by Hillary Clinton.

She later retained the seat during a 2010 special election, as well as in 2012 and 2018.

Vocal in the Senate on curbing sexual harassment and military sexual assault, and promoting equal pay for women and family leave, Ms. Gillibrand made those and her staunch defense of abortion rights the core of her presidential bid.

She stood out in the packed Democratic presidential field by becoming the first to declare she'd only appoint judges to the Supreme Court who consider the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide settled law, though most of her competitors quickly followed suit. (Source: Agencies)

No country is with Pakistan on...

India respects Pakistan's existence, but that does not mean that it can keep making statements on Kashmir, Singh said.

"Kashmir has been ours, there has been no doubt about that in the country. The truth is that PoK and Gilgit Baltistan is in illegal occupation of Pakistan. Pakistan should focus on addressing human rights violations and atrocities in PoK," Singh said.

He said US Defense Secretary Mark Esper during a telephonic conversation told him that abrogation of provisions of Article 370 was an internal matter of India.

"No country is with Pakistan on the current issue," Singh said.

He also cited Hindi proverb 'begani shaadi mein abduallah deewana' to assert that Pakistan had nothing to do with Kashmir.

Earlier this month, the government had revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and divided the state into Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"When we made a law to make Ladakh a separate Union Territory then we not only respected the public sentiment here but also gave a solution to the problems of the people," Singh said.

"Our prime minister has made it clear that localized solution will be brought in for India's strategic areas," he said.

Organized by Defense Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR) DRDO, the 'Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela' is a big step towards strengthening the strategic ecosystem in Ladakh, Singh said. (Source: PTI)

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Ganesh Chaturthi also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi is one of the important Hindu festivals celebrated throughout India with a great devotion. This day is celebrated as the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Lord Ganesh is the symbol of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune.

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated on Shukla Chaturthi of the Hindu month of Bhadra (generally falls between August and September).

This year, the festival will be celebrated on September 2.

This festival is celebrated by Hindus with a great enthusiasm. People bring idols of Lord Ganesh to their homes and do worship. The duration of this festival varies from 1 day to 11 days, depending on the place and tradition. On the last day of the festival the idols are taken out in a colorful and musical procession and immersed traditionally in water.

As per Hindu mythology Lord Ganesh is considered as "Vigana Harta" (one who removes obstacles) and "Buddhi Pradaayaka" (one who grants intelligence). This festival is very important for students, they worship Lord Ganesh to illumine their minds.

The festival was celebrated as a public event since the days of Maratha King Shivaji (1630–1680). However, the public festival as celebrated in Maharashtra today, was introduced by Bhausaheb Laxman Javale in 1892 by installing first Sarvajanik (Public) Ganesh idol-Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganpati, Bhudwar Peth, in Pune. The first meeting regarding starting the Sarvajanik Ganesh utsav took place under the leadership of Bhausaheb Laxman Javale at his residence (Bhudwar Peth) now known as Bhau Rangari Bhavan. In 1893 Lokmanya Tilak praised the concept of Sarvajanik Ganesh Utsav in Kesari Newspaper. In 1894, he installed Ganesh idol in Kesari wada, Pune too and started preaching Ganesh Utsav.

While celebrated all over India, it is grandest and most elaborate of them especially in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and in other parts of Western India and Southern India. Outside India, it is celebrated widely in Terai region of Nepal and by the Hindu diaspora in the United States, Canada, Mauritius, and other places.

Legend of Ganesha

Traditional Hindu about Ganesha tell that Parvati, the consort of Shiva, created Ganesha out of sandalwood paste that she used for her bath and breathed life into the figure. She then set him the task of guarding her door while she bathed. Shiva, who had gone out, returned and as Ganesha didn't know him, didn't allow him to enter. After the combat between Ganesha and Shiva Ganas, finally angry Shiva severed the head of the child. Parvati seeing this became enraged and Shiva then promised that her son will be alive again. The devas searched for the head of dead person facing North, but they found only the head of an elephant. They brought the head of the elephant and Shiva fixed it on the child's body and brought him back to life. Lord Shiva also declared that from this day the boy would be called Ganesha (Gana Isha : Lord of Ganas).

According to the Linga Purana, Ganesha was created by Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati at the request of the Devas for being a Vighnakartaa (obstacle-creator) in the path of Rakshasas, and a Vighnahartaa

GANESH CHATURTHI



(obstacle-avertter) to help the Devas achieve fruits of their hard work.

Celebration, rituals and tradition

Weeks or even months before Ganesha Chaturthi, artistic clay models of Lord Ganesha are made for sale by skilled artisans. They are beautifully decorated and depict Lord Ganesha in vivid poses. The size of these statues may vary from 3/4 of an inch to over 70 feet.

Ganesha Chaturthi starts with the installation of these Ganesha statues in colorfully decorated homes and specially erected temporary structures mandapas (pandals) in every locality. The pandals are erected by collecting monetary contributions and are decorated specially for the festival, by using decorative items like flower garlands, lights, etc. and at times have theme based decorations.

The priest then with the chanting of mantras invokes the presence of Ganesha using the statue as a channel, or body for his energy. This ritual is the Pranapratishtahtha. After this the ritual called as Shhodashopachara (16 ways of paying tribute) follows. Coconut, jaggery, modaks, durva (trefoil) blades of grass and red flowers are offered. The statue is anointed with red unguent, typically made of kumkum and sandalwood paste. Throughout the ceremony, Vedic hymns from the Rig Veda, the Ganapati Atharvashirsa, Upanishad, and the Ganesha stotra from the Narada Purana are chanted.

History

It is not known when and how Ganesh Chaturthi was first celebrated. Ganesh festival was being celebrated as a public event in Pune since the times of Shivaji

(1630–1680), the founder of the Maratha Empire. The Peshwas, the de facto hereditary administrators of the Empire from 1749 till its end in 1818, encouraged the celebrations in their administrative seat Pune as Ganesha was their family deity (Kuladevata). With the fall of the Peshwas, Ganesh festival lost state patronage and became a private family celebration again in Maharashtra till its revival by Indian freedom fighter and social reformer Lokmanya Tilak.

The public festival as celebrated in Maharashtra today, was introduced by Bhausaheb Laxman Javale in 1892 by installing first Sarvajanik (Public) Ganesh idol. This followed a meeting at his residence, which was attended by, amongst others, Balasaheb Natu, and Krishnajibant Khasgiwale. Khasgiwale on his visit to the Maratha ruled princely state of Gwalior had seen the tradition of

public celebration still maintained and brought it to the attention of his friends in Pune.

In 1893 Lokmanya Tilak praised the concept of Sarvajanik Ganesh Utsav in his newspaper, Kesari, and the next year he installed a Ganesh idol in Kesari Wada too. Tilak's efforts transformed the annual domestic festival into a large, well-organized public event. Tilak recognized the wide appeal of the deity Ganesha as "the god for everybody", and popularized Ganesh Chaturthi as a national festival in order "to bridge the gap between Brahmins and 'non-Brahmins' and find a context in which to build a new grassroots unity between them", and generate nationalistic fervour among people in Maharashtra against the British colonial rule. Tilak was the first to install large public images of Ganesh in pavilions, and also

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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."

PV Sindhu creates history, wins badminton world championship gold

Became the first Indian shuttler to win the World Championships title

BASEL (TIP): PV Sindhu became the first Indian to win the BWF World Championships, crushing Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7 in just 38 minutes in a one-sided final on Sunday (Aug 25).

With the win, Sindhu now has a full set of medals at World Championships - two bronze medals, two silver medals and a gold medal.

After losing the last two finals, Sindhu finally won gold and at the post-match interview said that she is "proud to be an Indian".

"I lost in the last two finals and this win was very important for me. I want to thank the crowd for supporting me every time," Sindhu said after the match.

"I won for my country and I am very proud to be an Indian.

"A big thanks to my coach Miss Kim and Gopi sir and the entire support staff. I also want to dedicate this to my parents and especially my mom, it's her birthday today. So, happy birthday mom."

Sindhu's gold is the second medal that India won at the Worlds this year with Sai Praneeth winning a bronze in men's singles category.

The last time Sindhu and Okuhara met in a World Championships final was in 2017. In a pulsating encounter that lasted nearly two hours and involved a 73-shot rally, Okuhara emerged victorious in the end. Sindhu again reached the final in 2018, only to go down to Carolina Marin of Spain. However, she finally broke the jinx this time, brushing aside her opponent with a dominant show from start to finish.

In stark contrast to world No. Sindhu, the Japanese world No. 4 on Sunday looked completely at sea against the Indian star's relentless attacks.

Although Okuhara won the first



point of the first game, Sindhu won eight straight points after that to race to a 8-1 lead. Okuhara managed just one more point before the interval with Sindhu leading 11-2.

The mauling continued for much of the second period of the opener, which ended in just 16 minutes. Okuhara got a few consecutive points towards the end to extend her score to 7 but Sindhu sealed the issue on her first game point.

In the second game, Okuhara briefly kept pace until the score was 3-2 in Sindhu's favour after which the Indian took six consecutive points to race to a 9-2 lead.

Okuhara won two more points but Sindhu kept her foot on the pedal and went into the interval with a 11-4 lead.

Okuhara went on to take just three more points in the second period as Sindhu continued to storm her way

to the title. Once again, she managed to get over the line on her first match point.

This was the 16th match between Sindhu and Okuhara. Sindhu now leads 9-7 head-to-head, including three victories in the last five meetings before Sunday's clash.

Both players had not won a title this year. While Okuhara reached the final after a hard-fought 17-21, 21-18, 21-15 win against Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, Sindhu swatted aside China's Chen Yu Fei 21-7, 21-14 in her semifinal clash.

This is Sindhu's fifth medal at the World Championships, which is the joint highest in women's singles in the history of the tournament along with Xiang Ning of China, a two-time Olympic gold medallist. Apart from the two silvers, Sindhu won in the last two editions, she had also won the bronze in 2013 and 2014.



President Ram Nath Kovind confers the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award upon Deepa Malik, at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday.

DEEPA MALIK BASKS IN KHEL RATNA GLORY, BAJRANG MISSES CEREMONY

NEW DELHI (TIP): Paralympic silver-medallist Deepa Malik on Thursday became the first Indian woman para-athlete and the oldest to be conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award but training commitments kept co-awardee Bajrang Punia away from the ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

Malik, who won a silver medal in the shot put F53 category in the 2016 Rio Paralympics, was joint winner of the top honour with Asian and Commonwealth Games champion Punia, who is in Russia to prepare for the upcoming World Championships in Kazakhstan.

Malik became only the second para-athlete after double Paralympic gold-medallist javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia, who received the recognition in 2017, to have won the prestigious award. At 49, she also became the oldest athlete ever to have claimed the honour.

World Championships bronze-medallist shuttler B Sai Praneeth, woman cricketer Poonam Yadav, Asian Games gold-winner heptathlete Swapna Barman, footballer Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, two-time world silver-medallist boxer Sonia Lather, Asian Games silver-medallist equestrian Fouaad Mirza, motorsports ace Gaurav Gill and Kabaddi captain Ajay Thakur were among the 19 sportspersons who received the Arjuna Award from President Ram Nath Kovind here.

Malik became fourth-time lucky as she was ignored for the award for the past three years, leading her to question and criticise the decision.

Prominent absentees from the event apart from Punia, were cricketer Ravindra Jadeja, Asian Games gold-medallist shot-putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor, and silver-winner quartermiler Mohammed Anas, all of who were picked for the Arjuna award this year.

Jadeja is currently on national duty with the Indian Test team in the Caribbean, while Toor and Anas are competing in the national inter-state athletics meet in Lucknow right now.

The National Sports Awards are given on August 29 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

"I am very happy. This whole journey has been more about changing the attitude of people towards disability and the hidden potential in people with disability," Malik said. "I think the award is going to be a huge inspiration to women athletes in disability. It took 70 years for independent India to win medal in Paralympic," she added.

While the Khel Ratna award carries a prize purse of Rs 7.5 lakh, the Arjuna awardees are given Rs 5 lakh each along with citations.

Besides the Khel Ratna and Arjuna awards, the President also gave away Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awards to coaches, the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure awards, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.

Dhoni not included, Hardik back in squad for T20 series against SA

NEW DELHI (TIP): Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not figure in the Indian team for the upcoming three-match T20 series against South Africa while Hardik Pandya returned as the only change in the 15-member squad.

Dhoni, who had taken a two-month sabbatical from the sport, is currently vacationing in the United States, having served the Territorial Army for 15 days.

It couldn't be ascertained whether the selectors spoke to Dhoni about his availability for the home series against South Africa.

The younger of the Pandya brothers—Hardik—was back in the team after being rested to treat his minor niggles as part of the workload management programme.

The squad is almost similar to the one that blanked the West Indies 3-0 in the previous series in the United States and the Caribbean.

Pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar is the only player left out as a part of the workload management programme.

India's squad for 3 T20Is against South Africa: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant



(WK), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Krunal Pandya, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini.



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.



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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 - September 2 - September 8

ARIES: Ganesha says you may even want to see the world, travel and meet people who share your ideas, beliefs and concerns. You want new stimuli and new experiences. You want new learning. Ganesha wishes you the very best in this search. The mind is still giving you restless times. You are torn by many thoughts. You are also pursuing pleasure and profit. You want to have fun and also to have funds to keep going.

TAURUS: You will go much beyond the call of duty to fulfil your domestic obligations, which will be quite a handful. The health of elders, dependents, and even in-laws could require your prolonged involvement. Children will also be a source of worry. There are many work demands too and you are in a quandary. You want to go solo but you also know that you need the team to help you with all the challenges confronting you.

GEMINI: Ganesha feels that the mood will pass and things will settle down in due course. Just hold on a while and the dust will settle. You will then know how and where to steer the boat. This is the beginning of a great period and the coming period will be very lucky for you. Make the most of it. You will be able to achieve miracles in this period. Take risks, speculate if you want to, go for the jugular in all areas of life, both professional and personal.

CANCER: You are on a roll. There is true inspiration, genuine wisdom and insights about how to lead your life. You make a lot of money and branch off into new areas of activity. You do well and are able to win others to your way of life and thought processes. Your convictions will be lofty and noble. You display a true willingness to serve. You will also step up your own efficiency as you are on the treadmill of great achievement.

LEO: You also spend time at home strengthening family ties which you realise is important for peace and harmony. There are many expenses but all expansion comes with a caveat. You take all the necessary steps to build a strong financial foundation. You also seek out true knowledge and devote time to higher studies, research and new learning. This is a great period and Ganesha wishes you well.

VIRGO: You look for more success in all areas of your life. You want material progress and recognition. To make this happen, you will be reconciling different trends and squaring up to your responsibilities. Your personal and professional life will call for a positive approach and the right mindset. You are on track to make wonders happen. Your plans will focus on both personal advancement and family welfare.

LIBRA: Confidence, determination and a sense of sweet satisfaction will be a part and parcel of your period. There is hope and promise, optimism and joy, as you move along the path of greater glory. You look for mastery in your chosen field of work and you get it. There may be higher studies or the quest for additional knowledge or an added qualification.

SCORPIO: You are filled with gratitude in this wondrous phase. You are in tune with your instincts and intentions in this sensitive phase. There are many opportunities beckoning you as you strive for true happiness. You are in line for peace, plenty and prosperity. There is also time for relax, to laugh and to enjoy yourself with friends.

SAGITTARIUS: You participate happily in group activities and enlist in many new and novel ventures. All your ventures will be on firm ground and this is a good time to think of the higher values. You ask metaphysical questions and ponder the real meaning of life. A lot of time will also be spent on relationships, especially with your spouse / lover and family which could include children, dependents, parents, in-laws and even colleagues and co-workers.

CAPRICORN: You will be motivated to extend yourself not just physically but also emotionally. Communications, contracts and collaborations will be important. It is not all smooth sailing though as there is a chance for unexpected events, accidents and losses. Remain alert and flexible. It is important to flow like water. If you cannot frontally break down an obstacle, go around it. Ganesha blesses you.

AQUARIUS: The theme of this period will be bonding, family ties and relationships. You will be reaching out to all and sundry and getting to know extended family members. Those you love and cherish will really get closer to you. A long-term relationship will be a source of both inspiration and true companionship. There will be successful journeys too. Romance and marriage are the other strong possibilities.

PISCES: Ceremonies, conferences, publicity, meets, PR exercise, all add up to a very interesting period. You could also touch the money angle and may look at stock, shares, mutual funds or government bonds with some intent. But the main theme will be one in which you reach out to others. Deep bonding will be the focus of your life now. Ganesha wishes you well.

Birthday Horoscope September 2- September 8, 2019

SEP 2: Ganesha says this is likely to be a tough day. Suspicions, power struggles, defensive moves, and pressure intrude on joint-fiscal matters. Don't let anyone push you into signing anything, and keep secrets secret.

SEP 3: There might be bitter accusations or tough obstacles that prevent you from moving forward. A relationship break or upsetting episode can make it even tougher to find a route to making up.

SEP 4: You start the day using your honed intuition but find as the hours progress that reason and logic also contribute to knowing and decisions. By late evening, look for affectionate connections.

SEP 5: There's a sense of impending fun as the weekend draws near, but you may not be able to find much confidence early to head toward it. Later, a partner's boost is all you need to get started.

SEP 6: There's likely to be an impulsive

urge surrounding money. Maybe it's liberating and feels refreshing. Just don't make moves that destabilize your accounts or lose more than you can afford to.

SEP 7: Impatient action by a partner or unexpected occurrences can upset your equilibrium, calling for control and calm. There is salvation to be found in focusing on the details, not brushing them off.

SEP 8: Optimism, grand-scale thinking left over from last night, maybe a dream, needs revision now. Those who persist in being lax or daydreaming are in for a rude awakening.

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