

Hawkish Netanyahu fails to win majority in Israeli Elections

Gantz rejects Netanyahu's offer for unity govt



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu faces a bleak future in view of the corruption charges against him

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to win a ruling majority in an election that produced a virtual tie between his right-wing bloc and a center-left grouping *contd on Page 20*

Trump to Join 'Howdy Modi': Delighted for Special Gesture, Says Modi

WASHINGTON (TIP): India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed delight at the news of US President Donald.J.Trump joining the special community program, 'Howdy Modi', in Houston, Texas on September 22. Prime Minister said that U.S President's participation signifies the special friendship between India and USA.

Terming President Trump's participation in the event as a special gesture, Prime Minister said that it highlights the strength of the India-US bilateral relationship and recognition of the contribution of the Indian community to American society and economy.

Prime Minister Modi tweeted, "A special gesture by @POTUS, signifying the special friendship between India and USA!"

contd on Page 20

WELCOME MODI!!



Prime Minister said that U.S President's participation signifies the special friendship between India and USA

'Howdy Modi' brings together Indian Americans, Hindu Americans: Tulsi Gabbard



Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard welcoming Modi during his earlier visit to US

WASHINGTON (TIP): "Howdy Modi" is bringing together Indian Americans and Hindu Americans from across the U.S., Democratic presidential aspirant and the first Hindu woman in the U.S. Congress Tulsi Gabbard said.

Ms. Gabbard, 38, on September 19 extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his upcoming U.S. visit beginning on Saturday, September 21. "I'm very happy to see that Howdy Modi is bringing together Indian-Americans and Hindu Americans from across our country, including many of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress," Ms. Gabbard said. Prime Minister Modi will attend a large gathering with an audience of over 50,000 at the NRG Stadium in

contd on Page 20

Breaking news

One dead, five hurt in Washington, DC shooting: Police

WASHINGTON (TIP): Gunfire erupted on the streets of Washington, D.C., on Thursday, Sept 19 night, not far from the White House. 1 person was killed, and 5 others wounded, police said. It was not immediately clear if a suspect had been taken into custody in the incident, but a law enforcement source told Reuters it was not considered an "active shooter" situation. The source said the 5 wounded victims of the shooting were expected to survive their injuries. The gunfire erupted in the Columbia Heights neighborhood, about two miles from the White House. ABC affiliate WJLA-TV posted images on Twitter of ambulances carrying victims from the scene and said there had been a "massive" police response at the intersection of 14th Street and Columbia Road. Local TV station FOX-5 reported, that 6 people were shot in the incident, shortly after 10 pm eastern time.

India's outreach, engagement at 74th UNGA session to be unprecedented: Amb Akbaruddin

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): India's engagement and outreach at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, set to begin here next week, is unprecedented and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the world organization will result in concrete, tangible, action-oriented outcomes, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said.

Akbaruddin, briefing reporters at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Thursday on India's priorities and engagements at the United Nations during the high-level session said the extent of India's outreach at the General Assembly this year is unprecedented. He said a total of over 75 Heads of State and Foreign Ministers will be meeting with Modi,

contd on Page 20



Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations briefing media at the Permanent Mission of India in New York, September 19

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

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Prime Minister of India

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Indian American Obama Aide Named COO of Biden Campaign



President Barack Obama talks with Maju Varghese in Cannes, France, in 2011

Photo / courtesy Pete Souza/White House

WASHINGTON (TIP): Team Biden has hired Maju Varghese, a top Obama White House aide to help run the operational side of the Biden campaign. Varghese has been hired by former Vice President Joe Biden's presidential campaign as its Chief Operating Officer and Senior Advisor.

Varghese served as an assistant to former President Barack Obama for management and administration and as deputy director of advance at the White House, where he managed day-to-day operations.

"Nice to see the field come around and support @BarackObama again. Thing is, @JoeBiden has been there all along. We need to build on the Obama legacy, not tear it down. That's why I stand with Joe Biden", he tweeted.

Indian-American Couple's Single Largest Donation Opens New Era of Opportunity for Students

CLEARWATER, FL (TIP): Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) new Tampa Bay Regional Campus has debuted in Clearwater, Fla, which was made possible through a generous donation by Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel of \$230 million to NSU - \$80 million.

The 311,000-square-foot facility at 3400 Gulf to Bay Boulevard features cutting-edge classrooms, expansive common areas and a two-story fitness center.

"We are immensely proud of this beautiful and state-of-the-art campus, a true Herculean effort by Moss, Baker Barrios, ACAI, all of our contractors, and of course, our dedicated NSU team," said Dr. George Hanbury, President and CEO of NSU. "However, none of this would have been possible without Drs. Patel and their generous contributions of their time, their talent and their fortune."

In celebration of its arrival and NSU's expanded footprint in Florida, the university in collaboration with Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel held a ribbon cutting to mark this significant occasion. More than 500 attendees came out to participate in the revelry and to take in the completed building and grounds.

NSU has been providing a wide range of educational programs in the Tampa Bay area since 1991. The new campus offers a broader curriculum and when fully occupied, it will have approximately 2,000 students and 125 faculty and staff.

The Tampa Bay Regional Campus is



This new campus was made possible through a generous donation by Drs. Patel of \$230 million to NSU - \$80 million in gifts and a \$150 investment in real estate and facilities to build the new campus

Photo / Courtesy NSU

home to several educational programs, including serving as a branch site for NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. It welcomed its first class of 150 students in August 2019.

"It is more important than ever to advance the current state of health care," said Dr. Kiran C. Patel. "I believe that NSU is the future of multi-disciplinary medical education and together, we will be able to capitalize on an opportunity that will be beneficial to millions of human lives-many right here in Florida and so many others around the globe."

This new campus is home to the Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing, the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences, NSU's College of Psychology

and the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice. Some of the areas of study include cardiovascular sonography and speech language communication disorders programs, master's degree candidates in anesthesia, clinical mental health counseling, criminal justice, developmental disabilities, family nurse practitioner, psychiatric mental health, school counseling, speech-language pathology and national security affairs and several online programs.

The NSU campus will focus on providing dynamic, personalized, multi-disciplinary education for graduates who want to become leaders with an edge over their competition in the workforce.

Dhruva Jaishankar Named Director of ORF US Initiative

NEW YORK (TIP): Dhruva Jaishankar, the son of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, has been named Observer Research Foundation (ORF) think tank's Director of its US Initiative.

His research has spanned issues such as India-US relations, India's relations in Asia and the Indo-Pacific, the interaction of technology with politics, and defense and national security. From 2012 to 2016, at the German Marshall Fund in Washington DC, Dhruva managed the India Trilateral Forum - a policy dialogue involving participants from India, Europe, and the United States. Dhruva has been a David Rockefeller Fellow with the Trilateral Commission and an IISS-SAIS Merrill Center Young Strategist. He contributes regularly to the Indian and international media on security and international affairs. ORF began its journey in 1990 at the



Dhruva has been a David Rockefeller Fellow with the Trilateral Commission

junction of ideation tempered by pragmatism. During the period of India's transition to a new engagement with the international economic order, several challenges emerged, evoking a need for an independent forum that could

critically examine the problems facing the country and help develop coherent policy responses. ORF was thus formed, and brought together, for the first time, leading Indian economists and policymakers to present the agenda for India's economic reforms.

ORF's aim is to encourage voices from all quarters, geographies and gender, both those that fall in and those that question dominant narratives. It is this plurality of thought and voice - in a country of over a billion individuals - that ORF seeks to carry abroad, while simultaneously bringing contemporary global debates to India.

Indian Americans from New York Arrested for Distributing Millions of Opioid Pills Imported from India

NEW YORK (TIP): On Sept 12, a complaint was unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn charging eight defendants of Indian origin, Ezhil Sezhian Kamaldoss, Harpreet Singh, Parthiban Narayanasamy, Baljeet Singh, Deepak Manchanda, Gulab, Mukul Chugh and Vikas M. Verma with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance containing Tramadol, a synthetic opioid. The defendants were arrested Sept 12 morning and made initial appearances before United States Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom.

Since approximately January 2018, law enforcement agents with FDA-OCI, USPIS, HSI, CBP, DEA, FBI and other agencies have been investigating the large-scale importation of misbranded controlled substances, including Tramadol, into the United States from India. As part

of the defendants' scheme, distributors in India shipped misbranded Tramadol and other drugs to individuals and entities in the United States through the U.S. mail and other commercial couriers. The defendants primarily operated out of a warehouse in Queens where they repackaged the pills and mailed them to customers throughout the United States. The defendants maintained daily ledgers detailing the names, addresses, pill size and pill amounts ordered by customers. During the course of the investigation, the defendants distributed millions of Tramadol pills. Ezhil Sezhian Kamaldoss is also charged with money laundering. If convicted, Ezhil Sezhian Kamaldoss faces up to 25 years' imprisonment. The remaining defendants each face up to five years' imprisonment.

Free Basic English classes for non-English speaking people

QUEENS, NY (TIP): The City of New York will be providing the classes to non-English speaking peoples in basic English. The classes are free of charge and those who complete the required sessions will be awarded the certificates, according to information provided by Harpreet Singh Toor, Co-Founder, President, South Asians for Global Empowerment.

The classes will start on September 22nd. The timings are as follows:

12:00 - 2:00 PM

There are going to be a total of 10 sessions and the classes will be held on Sunday's only.

For more information: (516) 448-8722

SAUDI OIL ATTACK ACT OF WAR: US

Meets Abu Dhabi crown prince, favours peaceful resolution of crisis

ABU DHABI / WASHINGTON (TIP): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday said he preferred a "peaceful resolution" to a crisis sparked by attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, as Iran warned against "all-out war".

Pompeo has blamed Iran for the weekend assault on two facilities which wiped out half of the Saudi oil production, dismissing its denials and condemning the "act of war".

The rhetoric has raised the risk of an unpredictable escalation in the tinderbox region where Saudi Arabia and Iran are locked in a decades-old struggle for dominance.

Visiting the United Arab Emirates, Pompeo, however, said his country would prefer a "peaceful" solution to the crisis. "We'd like a peaceful resolution," he said. "I hope the Islamic Republic of Iran sees it the same way," he said after talks with the leaders of the UAE.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif earlier warned any US or Saudi military strike on Iran could cause "all-out war". "We don't want war, we don't want to engage in a military confrontation," he said in an interview aired on Thursday. "But we won't blink to

defend our territory" he added.

Pompeo arrived in Abu Dhabi from the Saudi city of Jeddah, where late Wednesday he met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de-facto ruler who has said the assault poses a "real test" of global will.

The two sides agreed "the Iranian regime must be held accountable for its continued aggressive, reckless, and threatening behaviour", State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said. "The attack not only threatened Saudi Arabian national security, but also endangered the lives of all the American citizens living and working in Saudi Arabia", she added. — AFP

Iran FM sends warning

Any US or Saudi military strike against Iran would bring 'all-out war', Tehran said on Thursday, keeping up a drumbeat of warnings to its adversaries

"I am making a very serious statement that we don't want war; we don't want to engage in a military confrontation ... But we won't blink to defend our territory," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif.

US hostage negotiator is new NSA



Robert O'Brien (behind Trump) has been named National Security Advisor

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, Sept 18, named his chief hostage negotiator Robert O'Brien as the new National Security Adviser to replace John Bolton, who was fired last week.

O'Brien, who has been serving as the special envoy for hostage affairs at the Department of State, has been chosen for the role, Trump tweeted.

"I am pleased to announce that I will name Robert C O'Brien, currently serving as the very successful Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department, as our new National Security Adviser. I have worked long and hard with Robert. He will do a great job!" he said.

In his role as special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, O'Brien works with families of American hostages and advises on related issues, including recovery policies. O'Brien would be Trump's fourth national security adviser of his presidency. (With inputs from PTI)

Stellar Line up of Panelists Arranged for Threads 2019 Conference

BOTON, MA (TIP): 'Threads 2019' the dynamic conference organized by the World Hindu Council of America has finalized a stellar line of speakers for this event which is to be held from Nov.1-3 at the Woburn Hilton in Woburn, MA.

Expansive in its reach, the conference will feature a dozen sessions that covers several areas of engagement. Achievers in each field will discuss their experiences and engage in conversations that speak of their impact on the society at large. As Dr. Sailesh Rao, Director, Climate Healers said, it will be the "first of its kind conference to tell the story of Hindus in the western world."

While there is a broad sense of the success of Indians in the US, the conference aims at holding a periscope to more closely document what that means. Paramacharya Sadasivanathaswami, who edits the popular 'Hinduism Today' noted, "the time has come to celebrate and to thoughtfully reckon the impact of Hinduism on American society."

The Indian American community has recently burst into the political scene with energy. Among those are elected state officials Niraj Atani and Padma Kuppa who will be on hand, along with others, in a session on public service and advocacy. The panel will focus on cultivating skills and creating networks for young Hindu-Americans and study

the positive values of Hindu thought like truth and moderation in the public square. Philanthropy is another area where Hindu-Americans give back to a nation that has embraced them so generously. Experts in this session, like former Obama administration official Nishith Acharya and Megha Desai of the Desai Foundation will talk about how the strategy of giving can be crafted, so there is optimal end use of funds as well as personal fulfillment.

From the world of business are two sessions. "Exploring Opportunities in the US-India Relationship", moderated by Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO of the high-profile US India Strategic Partnership Forum, will look at the opportunities in the India - US commercial relationship as well as the impact of this relationship on the global economy. Jit Saxena, a leading figure in the data and analytical industry and Ram Sudireddy, a serial entrepreneur, along with others, will discuss what it takes to, "think outside the box," in a panel that will focus on, "Innovation - Thinking Non-Linearly."

The session on medicine, pharmacy and biotech will investigate not only how access to life saving therapies and technologies can be effectively made to reach all but, how it can be done ethically; a case in point being gene editing.

Panelists will include experts in radiology, vaccines and drug manufacturers.

Education as a building block for a community and a nation has speakers who cover the gamut - college student, high school teacher and professors at ivy leagues. In another session, eminent professors from the fields of physics, medicine and biology will meet with philosophers to understand and articulate the connection between the two disciplines in a discussion titled, "Science of Consciousness: Lessons from Modern Science and Vedanta."

Eminent Professor at Oklahoma State University, Subhash Kak expects, "the amazing spiritual tradition we have in India which is increasingly finding a place in the intellectual and secular fabric of life in the United States of America," to be of interest not only to Indian Americans but to other ethnicities too.

The world is now consumed with the idea of holistic living, a long valued Indian tradition. Ayurveda, naturopathy, yoga, meditation and other aspects will be discussed to see how emotional, physical and mental balance at the individual level leads to a more peaceful society. Dr. Stuart Rothenberg, the national medical director of the Transcendental Meditation Health Professionals Association, and the keynote speaker for the holistic panel,

states: "This conference will bring together inspiring speakers from a wide variety of fields to share the contributions of Hindu Americans to advancing knowledge and improving quality of life for individuals everywhere".

India's diverse performing arts are renowned. Along with writers and visual artists like Philip Goldberg and Malathi Iyengar, musicians and dramatists will, in an interactive session, tell the story of how they have kept their unique art forms alive and relevant, here in America.

The inspiring and thoughtfully curated sessions, which will provide a wealth of information to attendees, will be complemented with other programming too, according to Conference Convener Dr. Jai Bansal. He said, "there will be lightning talks on unique ideas and projects, while poster presentations on various subjects will provide visual enhancement of various Hindu-American themes."

For more information and to register: www.threads2019.org.

The World Hindu Council of America is an independent, nonprofit and volunteer-based charitable organization serving the needs of the Hindu community in the US since 1970.

'PM Modi, Donald Trump to meet twice next week,' confirms Indian Envoy

WASHINGTON (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump are scheduled to meet twice in less than a week this month, India's Ambassador to the United States has confirmed, asserting that the India-US strategic relationship has the "potential to become the "defining partnership within this century".

Since his re-election in May this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump have already met twice. The previous two meetings of the two leaders were on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan and the G7 Summit in France this summer.

Later this week, when PM Modi visits in the US for the UN General Assembly session, they "are scheduled to meet twice more", Indian envoy Harsh Vardhan Shringla told a Washington audience on Wednesday, September 18.

So, they would have "four meetings in the span of a few months," Shringla said during the 'India on the Hill: Charting a Future for Indo-US Relations' event jointly organized by two think tanks - The Heritage Foundation from the US and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) from India.

PM Modi is scheduled to arrive in Houston on Saturday. A day later, President Trump would join him in addressing the mega "Howdy, Modi" community event to be attended by more than 50,000 Indian Americans.

The two leaders are again scheduled to meet later in the week in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump are scheduled to meet twice in less than a week this month, India's Ambassador to the United States.
File Photo

sessions.

"They will meet on 22nd September. The US President is joining the Prime Minister in addressing a huge Indian diaspora event in Houston and they will also meet on the margins of the UNGA in New York," Shringla said.

Though PM Modi and Donald Trump's predecessor Barack Obama have the record of the maximum number of meetings between the leaders of the two countries, this is the first time that the Indian Prime Minister and the American President would be meeting four times within a span of four months.

"It's really reflective of the nature of the (India-US) relationship," Shringla said while participating in a panel discussion during the first-of-its-kind two-day event.

"India-US strategic partnership has emerged as one of the key bilateral

relationships from the start of this century and has the potential to become the defining partnership within this century," he said.

The ambassador also said that the building blocks of this strategic partnership was the security cooperation which has emerged now in place.

Shringla highlighted that it was important to note how far the two countries have come in a short span of a decade since the civil nuclear agreement.

India and the United States have signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (LEMOA). Several other agreements are at different stages of discussion, he said.

The two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than

they do with any other country. Bilateral exercises held annually include Malabar (naval exercise that also includes Japan), Cope-India (Air Force), Yudh Abhyas (Army) and Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), Shringla said.

India also participates in the annual RIMPAC exercises as well as in Red Flag exercises which are US-led multinational exercises. Indian defense procurements from the US have also seen a tremendous growth, he said.

"We have also instituted the 2+2 Dialogue - a joint meeting between the Foreign and Defense Ministers of the two countries," the Indian diplomat said.

The two countries also engage through Trilateral Summit level meetings between India, the US and Japan as well as Quadrilateral DG-level meetings between India, the US, Japan and Australia.

"It is worth mentioning that we also have a bilateral maritime security dialogue and several other defense cooperation dialogue mechanisms," Shringla said.

"A key area that has seen close bilateral cooperation is counter-terrorism. We have a Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism (JWGCT) and a Designations Dialogue. This cooperation also spills over into multilateral fora."

"The listing of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar by the UN Security Council in May 2019, in the wake of the Pulwama terrorist attack, is one such instance," he said.

(Source: PTI)

Indian Americans Urge Ro Khanna to withdraw from Congressional Pakistan Caucus

WASHINGTON (TIP): Representatives of a diverse coalition of over 230 Hindu and Indian American organizations, professional associations, and leaders representing hundreds of thousands of community members from across the United States met with Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA) on Sept 15 to hand deliver a letter expressing their serious concern over his recent actions and statements on issues relating to the Indian Subcontinent and the diaspora.

The letter comes on the heels of an admission by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan that his country has used U.S. foreign aid to train terrorists, as well as several irresponsible statements by Khan threatening nuclear war against India over the last few weeks.

It also comes as a Hindu school, three temples, and several Hindu homes were vandalized by a mob in Ghotki in Pakistan's southern Sindh province earlier today.

Specifically, the letter states that Rep. Khanna's "membership in [the

Congressional Pakistan] Caucus is contrary to both American principles and our geostrategic interests in the Indian Subcontinent and the broader South Asian region." It urges him to withdraw from the Caucus and write directly to "Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and meet with Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan to address Pakistan's ongoing use of terrorism to destabilize the region and its rampant and severe human rights violations."

Khanna became the first Indian American who joined the Congressional Pakistan Caucus last month. He is also the member Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, which is the largest country-specific caucus in the House of Representatives.

The letter further raises concerns with Rep. Khanna's recent tweet which in effect endorsed the views of "a fringe and extremist anti-Hindu activist, Pieter Friedrich," and asked him to issue a clarifying statement that Khanna did not endorse Friedrich's views and to speak out vociferously against any

individuals including but not limited to Friedrich who espouse hateful and bigoted views about Hindu Americans and Hinduism.

Friedrich frequently appeared at California State Board of Education history textbook hearings the last few years, where he harassed Hindu American children and parents waiting to testify about their experiences with bullying in the classroom. He has also demonized Hindus merely for asserting their religious identity and mocked Hinduism at anti-Hindu rallies by denigrating Hindu respect for cows, amongst other racist activities. In addition, a significant part of Friedrich's activism has focused on the removal of Gandhi statues from public places. He has even gone so far as to assert that the father of nonviolence as a political movement supported Hitler.

Finally, the community urged Rep. Khanna to make a formal statement for the Congressional record highlighting the ethnic cleansing of over 350,000 Kashmiri Hindu Pandits, the indigenous



Khanna became the first Indian American who joined the Congressional Pakistan Caucus last month

people of the Kashmir Valley who were driven from their homes by a Pakistan sponsored Islamist militant campaign three decades ago.

Hindu and Indian American community leaders in attendance said they looked forward to Rep. Khanna addressing the issues they raised in a concrete and positive manner.

RAKESH BHADAURIA TO BE NEW IAF CHIEF

NEW DELHI (TIP): Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhad-auria, who played a key role in negotiating the Rafale deal, will be the next Chief of Air Staff, the Government announced on September 19.

Bhadauria, who took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force in May this year, will take charge from the incumbent Chief B S Dhanoa on September 30 on his superannuation.

"Government has decided to appoint Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff as the next Chief of the Air Staff," Defence Ministry's Principal spokesperson, said on Twitter.

"He commanded Flight Test Squadron at Aircraft & System Testing Establishment (ASTE) & was the Project Director of National Flight Test Centre on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. As DCAS, he was instrumental in the finalisation of contract of Rafale aircraft for IAF," the IAF tweeted.

Bhadauria, the senior most officer in the Air Force after Dhanoa, was to retire on September 30, the same day as Dhanoa.



Govt to implement single-use plastic ban in several phases

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Modi government's decision to eliminate disposable, single-use plastic is likely to be carried out over several phases, with officials ruling out an outright ban, an official familiar with the matter said.

A national policy on single-use plastics currently being put together is proving to be a humongous task involving inputs from several ministries, led by the consumer affairs ministry. Currently, consultations are underway with plastic industry, while technical inputs have also been sought from environmental experts and economists.

Officials are preparing to release the contours of the policy by October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, the official cited above said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call on August 15 to eliminate the use of these polluting items by 2022 has been widely welcomed, but banning a huge chunk of the informal economy could come with its own costs. "It will most likely be a phase-wise plan. Single-use plastics are not all of one type or one standard. Some are less polluting than others, while some leave the worst impact," the official said.

Disposable plastics, which have the "lowest recyclability" and "highest harm factor", meaning they are the least biodegradable and with the lowest possibility of being reconverted, are likely to be banished first, the official said.

Government bans e-cigarettes citing health risk to youth

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday said the Union Cabinet had approved an ordinance banning production, import, distribution and sale of electronic cigarettes. Sitharaman, who headed a Group of Ministers (GoM) on the issue, said the decision to ban e-cigarettes was taken as they were a health risk to the youth.

"The Union Cabinet has given the approval to ban e-cigarettes. It means the production, manufacturing, import/export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertising related to e-cigarettes are banned," Sitharaman said at a press conference in New Delhi.

Quoting reports, Sitharaman said for some youths e-cigarettes were becoming a "style statement". "Reports say that there are some who are probably getting into the habit of e-cigarettes as it seems cool. It is believed that there are more than 400 brands, none of which is manufactured yet in India. And they come in over 150 flavours," she said.

We meet criteria for preferential trade status, India tells US

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday said that it meets the criteria for the Generalised System of Preferences and the US should take a call on reinstating the trade concessions. New Delhi's comments came a day after 44 influential US lawmakers called upon the Donald Trump administration to reinstate India as a beneficiary of the scheme of duty-free import for developing nations.

"Generalized System of Preferences is a unilateral decision, given by countries to other countries based on certain criteria. We are a developing country, we meet those criteria," said foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale in a press briefing before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit.

In June this year, the US had removed India from the list of beneficiaries under the GSP which allowed duty-free entry of Indian goods to US. India sold an estimated \$6.3 billion worth of goods to the US under this programme in 2018. Washington



had cited lack of reciprocal market access by New Delhi as the reason for doing so.

In a letter to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, a group of US House members said ending the preferential status for India is costing their constituents every day. The support for India was bipartisan with 26 Democrats and 18 Republicans signing the letter. The group of lawmakers was led by Congressmen Jim Himes and Ron Estes.

The policies, the lawmakers observed, negatively affect US companies which were trying to access the Indian market. "Several US industries filed petitions under GSP's market access criterion, which were accepted for review in April 2018. Ultimately, failure to make sufficient progress on the issues led to termination of India's GSP eligibility on June 5, 2019," the US lawmakers said in the letter.

Latest data by the Coalition for GSP shows that India losing the trade preferential status meant that American companies lost about \$30 million in July.

New Delhi has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Generalised System of Preferences scheme that allowed zero tariff entry to some imports from 120 countries.

The GSP is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme and meant to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for products from the beneficiary countries.

Have to hug each Kashmiri, create a new paradise: Modi



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public rally in Nashik.

NASHIK (TIP): Launching the BJP's campaign for Maharashtra Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday sought to build the narrative around J&K, saying the government's pledge on building a "New Kashmir" would be taken up on mission mode.

"Building a New Kashmir is our pledge which will be taken up on mission mode. We have to hug each Kashmiri, create a new paradise there," PM Modi said while addressing a public rally at Nashik in Maharashtra.

Taking a dig at Pakistan, PM Modi said a lot of efforts were being made from across the border to foment violence in Jammu and Kashmir. "Lot of efforts being made from across the border to foment violence in Jammu and Kashmir. Everybody knows where the factory of terrorism functions and who is promoting it," PM Modi further said.

Putting all speculation to rest, PM Modi said Devendra Fadnavis would continue as next chief minister of Maharashtra. "Leadership of Devendra Fadnavis will ensure greater mandate in 2019 Assembly polls. Fadnavis will continue as next CM," PM Modi said.

PM Modi's remarks lay to rest the hit-and-run battles between various second-rung leaders of the BJP and Sena over claims to chief ministership if the alliance won.

Underscoring that the role of Maharashtra in the making of a 'New India' would be significant, PM Modi said, "Maharashtra has played a significant role in last five years under Devendra Fadnavis' leadership.

Pak refuses to allow PM Modi use its airspace; MEA asks it to 'reflect' on decision

NEW DELHI (TIP): Pakistan on Wednesday said it has rejected India's request to allow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flight to use its airspace for his upcoming visit to the US via Germany, prompting India to ask its neighbour to "reflect on its decision".

"India had requested Pakistan to allow Modi to use its airspace to travel to Germany on the 21st (Sept) and return on 28th (Sept)," Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said.

Announcing the decision via a video statement, Qureshi said the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad had been informed of Pakistan's decision to not allow prime minister's Modi's special Air India One aircraft to fly over the country, the Geo News reported.

Reacting to the development, the Ministry of External Affairs said: "This is otherwise granted routinely by any normal country. Government of Pakistan should reflect upon its decision to deviate from well established international practice, as well as reconsider its old habit of misrepresenting reasons for such unilateral action."

Pakistan had denied permission to President Ram Nath Kovind to use its airspace when he was on his way to Iceland earlier this month.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is travelling to the US on September 21 to attend the 'Howdy Modi' diaspora event on September 22 and address the UN General Assembly on September 27.

Dr Manmohan Singh conferred JKLU Laureate Award-2019

Dr. Yashpal Goyal in Jaipur

JAIPUR (TIP): Former Indian Prime Minister and renowned economist Dr Manmohan Singh received the coveted JKLU Laureate Award 2019 for his exemplary contribution in public service, governance, redefining economy and nation building by JK Lakshmiipat University (JKLU).

Dr Manmohan Singh, who was elected as Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan last month received this award at a special function held at Mahapura on Ajmer road, near Jaipur on September 7. JKLU Laureate Award honors persons of distinct intellectual, moral and spiritual caliber, whose contributions reflect JK Group's values, so that young minds are inspired by such role models.

Delivering a Hari Shankar Singhania Memorial Lecture, Dr Singh said, "However, presently our economy seems to have slowed down. The rate of growth of GDP is declining. The Investment rate is stagnant. Farmers are in distress. The banking system is facing a crisis. Unemployment is going up. We need a well-conceived strategy to make India a five trillion economy".

"I think the major long-term change would come from education and the rise of the middle class made possible by economic liberalization. Since India liberalized its economy in 1991, millions of people have risen above the poverty line. Consumption pattern has done better, and the demand for education has grown. And finally, we come to the crux of my speech is how to strengthen the roots of democracy in India?" he stressed.

Speaking on strengthening democracy, former Prime Minister exhorted that serving the federal structure, the institutions like the Supreme Court, Election Commission, CAG, CBI, Vigilance Commission, Information



Former PM and RS MP Dr Manmohan Singh receives JKLU Laureate Award, a slip sculpture, from Chancellor of JK Lakshmiipati University Chairman Mr Bharat Hari Singhania. Dr Singh was also presented a citation which looked like a silver scroll.

Photo / courtesy JKLU Media Coordinator

Commission constituted by the government are expected to function independently with the framework of the Constitution.

"We must always promote the objective to reduce crime and corruption, consolidate the rule of law, enhance credibility, and create an environment conducive for investment as an engine of growth", he added.

"To strengthen our democracy, we need principled, knowledgeable and visionary leaders in times to come. It needs political parties committed to safeguarding values enshrined in our constitution. For our continued unity, the government has to deliver justice, liberty, equality and an environment that respects contrary opinions. We have to respect the supremacy of Parliament and its procedures, the rules of the government and precedents", he said.

On communalism and religious fundamentalism, he said, "The division of people along ethnic and religious lines and the resulting assertion, posturing and chauvinism of such groups and

ideologies, have often led to numerous clashes and riots that have resulted in terrible loss of life and property. Every conflict only serves to deepen the divide.

Other significant challenges include widespread corruption due to defective governance, terrorism, naxalism and insurgency; rising regionalism; gender bias and discrimination; high rates of unemployment; education and skills development; to name a few, he underlined.

Former PM also suggested some solutions on striving for universal literacy and education, rooting out casteism, indulging in good and inclusive governance, empowering women and girl child, encouraging free and independent media, nutrition and accelerating economic growth.

Mr Bharat Hari Singhania, Chancellor, JKLU addressed the august gathering and explained the philosophy behind the JKLU Laureate Award and the Hari Shankar Singhania Memorial Oration.

CHIDAMBARAM'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL OCTOBER 3 IN INX CASE

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram will remain in jail till October 3 as a Delhi court on Thursday extended his judicial custody in connection with the INX Media corruption case, saying that the investigation is still in progress.

Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar said there was no change in the circumstances and noted that Chidambaram has already moved a bail plea before the Delhi High Court.

"This court has considered the grounds for police custody and thereafter for judicial custody and granted remand accordingly. There is no change in the circumstances as such. It is not a case where no case is made out against the accused. The investigation is still in progress. The accused has already applied for the bail before the Delhi High Court. Therefore as per understanding of this court, the judicial remand of the accused has to be extended. Accordingly, the judicial remand of the accused is extended till October 3," the court said.

Chidambaram, lodged in Tihar Jail, was produced before the court after his 14-day judicial custody ended on Thursday. The court extended the judicial custody of Chidambaram after the CBI sought its extension.

In a first, Defence Minister takes sortie in indigenously built Tejas



BENGALURU (TIP): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA).

He was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in Bengaluru.

A Defence Ministry official had said on Wednesday that the minister would be "taking a sortie" in order to boost the morale of officers who have been involved in the development of "indigenously-made Tejas".

Room for more rate cuts, says RBI Governor

MUMBAI (TIP): After surprising everyone with four successive rate cuts this year, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das today said "there is more room" to do so given the growth deceleration and stable inflation that is likely to stay below target for a year or so. However, the Governor was quick to add that there is little fiscal space for the government to unveil any countercyclical measures to boost the sagging growth and the only way to revive the growth engine is to front-load the budgeted capex, hinting that only an easy money policy can help salvage the situation.

Since assuming charge mid-December, the Das-led rate-setting panel has delivered four successive rate cuts, with the fourth one last month being the most surprising as he chose to deliver a 35 bps repo cut. With that the RBI has delivered a cumulative 110 bps repo reduction since February, yanking down the key benchmark rate to a nine-year low of 5.40 per cent.

Ayodhya case: SC says hearing likely to end by Oct 18

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Supreme Court bench hearing the Ayodhya title dispute case on Wednesday said it hopes to complete the hearing in the matter by October 18. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi also said that petitioners in the case are free to resort to mediation through the apex court appointed panel, but the day-to-day hearing in the case would continue.

The mediation proceedings will remain confidential, the bench said.

"Let us all make a joint effort to conclude the arguments by October 18," CJ Gogoi told the petitioners adding if necessary, court may even hear it for an extra hour or on Saturdays. On Monday, the apex court-appointed mediators

submitted a memorandum to the CJI-led bench, seeking directions on the letters they received from the chairman of the Sunni Waqf Board and Nirvani Akhara calling for resumption of the mediation process.

The Sunni Waqf Board, which secured one-third of the disputed land as per the Allahabad High Court verdict on September 30, 2010, is an original litigant. The Nirvani Akhara is not directly a party to the present proceedings in the Supreme Court. Sources said the mediators are keen to have a "parallel process of talks alongside the arguments going on in court, not in lieu of arguments currently going on". After the Chief Justice of India announced that mediation has "failed", final hearing on the

14 appeals in the matter is being heard since August 6. Those in favour of a temple on the site concluded their arguments in 16 days while those arguing for a mosque are yet to finish their arguments.

The team of mediators, appointed by a bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, was mandated to explore options for a settlement of the Ayodhya dispute between the different parties. It held a series of meetings with all sides till the Supreme Court asked them to finally inform them about the results. The mediators, led by retired Supreme Court judge Justice F M Ibrahim Kalifulla, include Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu.

AS I SEE IT



By Ven Parameswaran

"One wonders why Trump goes out of the conventional diplomacy and protocol to woo Modi and Indian Americans. For Trump, the single most important goal is to get reelected in 2020. Trump will do anything to add every vote from the Indian Americans. By demonstrating his "Close ally" relationship and reinforcing it in front of 50,000 Indian Americans, Trump wants to advertise that he is a true friend of India. Although the majority of Indian Americans are Democrats, Trump's friendly gesture and support of Modi and India will definitely influence Indian Americans."

Meaning and Impact of Trump-Modi Axis

The author feels confident that Trump-Modi axis and "Close ally" relationship between US and India will blossom for the benefit of both countries and promote world peace and security.

President. When Modi told Trump that he was visiting Houston to address the Indian Americans, Trump expressed interest in attending and Modi invited him.

Modi has had several meetings ever since Trump was elected President in 2016. So far, all their meetings were friendly and cordial. If one only observed the body language contained in the photographs covering their rather frequent encounters, bear hugs, smiles, handshakes and hand holdings one cannot but conclude that they represent true friendship and love between the USA and India.

WHY TRUMP WOOS INDIAN AMERICANS? One wonders why Trump goes out of the conventional diplomacy and protocol to woo Modi and Indian Americans. For Trump, the single most important goal is to get reelected in 2020. Trump will do anything to add every vote from the Indian Americans. By demonstrating his "Close ally" relationship and reinforcing it in front of 50,000 Indian Americans, Trump wants to advertise that he is a true friend of India.

Although the majority of Indian Americans are Democrats, Trump's friendly gesture and support of Modi and India will definitely influence Indian Americans. Trump-Modi meeting in Texas will definitely have far reaching ramifications in India and the USA. This meeting could be a footnote of all future US-India relations!

Thus, it is now well established that the Indian Americans are an important factor in US-India relations. They played an important role in George W Bush giving India Civil Nuclear Deal and lifting 30-year technology sanctions. Contrast this with Trump's new policy of allowing India to transfer 100% of all US technologies.

Trump and Modi will be speaking before the United Nations General Assembly next week. It is also customary for the US President to meet with



important leaders. Therefore, Trump will be meeting Modi once again after his meeting in Houston. For effective diplomacy and close friendship frequent meetings create opportunities.

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS : President Trump has called on the American businesses to find an alternative to China. China has violated intellectual property rights. Negotiations on trade have not been going well. There is a tug of war with China. One could even say there is some kind of Cold War between the US and China.

This is a great opportunity for India to capitalize. India has a comparative advantage over China and the USA. India has an oversupply of professionals and skilled labor. Indian has a never-ending supply of engineers, MBA's, biotechnologists, and other professionals. Modi is confronted with the problem of huge unemployment. American economy has been lagging due to shortage of engineers and technologists. India can solve this problem of America, even as providing jobs to Indians.

Geopolitically, India is the only country that can replace China in population and location. India is the largest English-speaking country in the world. This is one of the reasons why there are more than 25 CEO's of Indian origin in Fortune 500 corporations including Microsoft, Google, Fedex and others. Apart from the CEOs, almost every major US corporation has several Indians occupying senior management positions immediately below the CEO.

AFGHANISTAN : President Trump has been seeking India's help in stabilizing Afghanistan. India has told Trump that unless and until Pakistan withdraws its full support of Taliban, no progress could be made. India has also convinced Trump that Pakistan must imprison the leaders of various terror organizations including LeT, JeM, JuD responsible for attacks on the city of Mumbai and Indian Parliament. President Trump has been pressuring Pakistan, but Pakistan so far has failed to arrest and imprison the terror leaders that the U.N. has identified. Once Pakistan withdraws its full support to Taliban, India should be able to help in the stability of Afghanistan. India should be even able to send its army to help Afghanistan maintain peace and stability.

MODERNIZATION OF INDIA : President Trump has allowed Lockheed Martin, United Technologies, Boeing and others to start manufacturing sophisticated military hardware in India. Such a venture could bring down the cost of production of military hardware for American and world consumption. If Modi cooperates and creates favorable environment for foreign private investment, the Indian GDP could easily go up from under 6% now to 10 to 12%. India cannot solve the unemployment problem without creating export-oriented industries. If India were to emulate what China did in 1979, India could easily modernize within the next 5 to 10 years.

I feel therefore confident that Trump-Modi axis and "Close ally" relationship will blossom for the benefit of Trump-Modi axis and "Close ally" relationship between US and India will blossom for the benefit of both countries and promote world peace and security.

(Ven Parameswaran, Senior Adviser, Imagindia Institute, New Delhi ; Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee. He can be reached at vpware@gmail.com)

On Sunday, September 22, 2019, President Trump will travel to Houston, Texas to underscore the important "Close ally" partnership between the USA and India. History will be made when President Trump appears with Prime Minister Modi, who will address a gathering of over 50,000 Indian Americans.

This will be the first time, American TV networks, especially Fox Cable will cover Indian Prime Minister because of the presence of President Trump. This is a huge benefit to Modi and India and an opportunity to communicate to all Americans. I hope Prime Minister Modi will find it fit to speak in English to capitalize on the opportunity.

WHAT IS THE MEANING AND IMPACT OF TRUMP-MODI AXIS? President Trump and Prime Minister Modi met recently in Japan. This was followed by the G-7 meeting in France, where Modi was invited by the French



COMMENT

Prof. I.S. Saluja

Modi Visit will further Strengthen India-US Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to the US after his party's landslide victory in elections in last May is being viewed as an affirmation of the friendly relations between the two nations. To add to it is the decision of President Trump to attend the reception being accorded to Modi by the 50,000 strong gathering of Indian Americans, in Houston on Sunday, September 22 which has brought in to focus the personal friendly relationship between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi.

However, besides the optics of the

presence of the two leaders together, there is much more to Modi's visit and the presence of Trump at Houston. It is believed the two leaders will focus on certain very important global issues, one of which may be the latest attack on oilfields in Saudi Arabia for which US is laying blame at the door of Iran. The heightened tensions between US and Iran have rung alarm bells all over the world. Surely, the world does not want a new zone of conflict in the Middle East. President Trump may well seek Modi's cooperation in tightening the noose around Iran's neck. Already, Trump has ordered stiffer sanctions against Iran.

President Trump may also discuss with Modi the situation in Afghanistan and his plans to withdraw forces from that country. Modi may update Trump on situation in Kashmir and try to dispel any doubts in Trump's mind about human rights violations in Kashmir Valley.

The exchange of views on various global issues just a few days before they address the UN General Assembly will help them calibrate their responses. However, on the issue of global warming, they will be poles apart. Modi is passionately supportive of environmental protection and firmly believes in threats of global warming

while Trump simply scoffs at the idea, much to the chagrin of environmentalists and a whole range of nations.

The two leaders will surely be seeking to enhance trade and commerce between their two countries. India will be looking forward to restoration of the most favored nation status. On the cards may be oil and natural gas exports from US to India, besides a whole range of issues.

Indians all over the world, in particular, the Indian American community, will watch with interest the outcome of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US.

Modi, Trump at Houston will be all about quid pro quo



By Robinder Nath
Sachdev

WHEN MODI ROARS "HOWDY AMERICA", IT WILL BE ANSWERED BY A RESOUNDING "HOWDY, MODI" BY TRUMP. QUID PRO QUO. HELLO, HOUSTON, WE HAVE A DEAL.

Why would Trump travel to Houston? Surely not to only attend the community event with Modi. It will have to be for something far more than this. Though by attending the event, Trump could well stand to gain political mileage with the Indian American community, or is Trump doing a favor by joining the event?

The ducks seem to be lining up for President Donald Trump to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian American community event slated to be held on September 22 at Houston.

Modi will take the megaphone to address the Indian American community at the 50,000-capacity NRG Stadium, at an event titled as "Howdy America". Now imagine that Trump is also at the event. Optopolitics of the rarest kind will emanate and follow from the combination.

Will both leaders enter together, walk through the aisles, waving at the crowds, and reach the stage together? Will Modi start his address, and Trump sit and listen to the 40-60 minutes of Modi's speech? And then, will Trump address the audience for 20-30 minutes? Chances are slim for this scenario to play out, for many reasons. Rather, some alternative version will be on display. One efficient option can be that Modi addresses the audience, and just as he is ending the address, Trump walks in, shouts out a "Howdy Modi!", and joins and hugs Modi on stage, to rousing cheers. And then, Modi and Trump together, hand in hand, exit the reception, as the crowd keeps cheering to the roof. Trump comes to take his friend Modi, and they together go for a summit meeting. The optics and politics of Trump at the community event will be powerful. Why would Trump travel to Houston? Surely not to only attend the community event with Modi. It will have to be for something far more than this. Though by attending the event, Trump could well stand to gain political mileage with the Indian American community, or is Trump doing a favor by joining the event?

Or, Trump could please the crowds by making a short announcement that he will soon be visiting India? A visit by Trump to India in next 3-4 months is of high importance, perhaps as chief guest to the pageantry of the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on January 26, 2020. In any case, remember that there will also need to be some nimble political choreography on site at the community event to keep the messaging on track. After all, majority of the Indian American crowd is not very enthusiastic about Trump, and many of the US lawmakers who will be there to welcome Modi are no supporters of Trump.

With the community event done, both leaders will move to hold the summit meeting. This is where the next quid pro quo will unfold. Will it be a mega oil and energy deal between the United States and India? Houston being the oil capital of the world, it will make sense as a venue to announce such a deal. If India does so, then what is the quid pro quo that the United States will offer to India?

Or, will it also be about large-scale shifting of American companies to India from China, with some marquee announcements? What about a strong signal from America for an FTA (Free Trade Agreement) deal? India is worryingly short of what to do to tackle its

HOWDY MODI!!!!



The optics and politics of Trump at the community event will be powerful.

current economic slowdown. A green flag on FTA will push US investments into India, away from China, and will therefore be a significant confidence building measure for the Indian market, and economy. If the US does this signaling, then what is the quid pro quo offered by India?

In any case in matters of trade, there are several items outstanding - ranging from trade deficit, tariffs, market access, to intellectual property rights, and many more. Moving forward on these, in the spirit of quid pro quo and some exchange of favors, moving towards a roadmap for an FTA could, therefore, be a logical path and outcome of the summit.

What else can be a bold, innovative exchange between the two leaders, at Houston? On defense? Though there can be some large deal on defense, there, however, cannot be a clean break by India in favor of the United States with the total exclusion of Russian supplies in future. The US seems to be realizing this, and India also seems to be doing some introspection in this matter.

On Afghanistan? This is one area, where both leaders could do some major innovation. India could provide boots on the ground in Afghanistan - to ring fence and protect the US camps and troops remaining in Afghanistan after the drawdown ordered by Trump. If decided by India, this can be a quantum game changer.

Right now, India may be at a stage where the geostrategic interests might weigh in favor of such a step by India. If India decides so, then the quid pro quo from the US must be something that India gets in exchange that is similarly ground-breaking, and with commensurate value for India. What can be this value that India might demand?

Of course, there are a host of other topics too, equally

important, that shall be discussed, like counter terrorism, Pakistan behavior in the Af-Pak, PoK, and Kashmir, and a range of other bilateral, regional, and global issues, including reform of world bodies, like the United Nations and WTO.

Surprisingly, one big ticket area, which has seen silence so far is related to 5G and Huawei. After the Osaka G-20 summit, Ivanka Trump had made a short announcement about the topics discussed. In that announcement, she had said that the two countries have decided to work together in a big way to develop 5G technologies. This can be a game changer.

If the two countries collaborate on 5G it will be a massive exercise in R&D, finance, talent, entrepreneurial and vendor eco-system, market adoption and success in the face of competition from Huawei and the Europeans. Will the US shepherd billions of dollars in the 5G sector to India, so that the latter stays away from Huawei, and the products developed via the US-India collaboration be used in the Indian, US, and other world markets, too?

All the above can be discussed at New York, or in Washington DC, where again there is supposed to be a bilateral between Trump and Modi. What was the need for a separate, additional summit at Houston? Or, is it that the Houston rendezvous will piggy-back on the momentum of the community event, announce one mega-deal on oil, announce a state visit by Trump to India, and the rest will be taken up in New York or Washington?

When Modi roars "Howdy America", it will be answered by a resounding "Howdy, Modi" by Trump. Quid pro Quo. Hello, Houston, we have a deal.

(Robinder Nath Sachdev is President of The Imagindia Institute. The views expressed here are personal)

20 killed, 90 wounded in suicide bomb in southern Afghanistan

KABUL (TIP): A powerful early-morning suicide truck bomb devastated a hospital in southern Afghanistan on Sept 19, killing at least 20 people and wounding more than 90 others, an official said.

The Taliban took responsibility for the attack, which destroyed part of the hospital in Qalat, the capital of southern Zabul province, and left a fleet of ambulances broken and battered.

Residents, many of whom had come to see their sick family members, used shawls and blankets to carry the wounded inside the destroyed building, while authorities scrambled to take the worst of the wounded to hospitals in nearby Kandahar.

In the early hours after the explosion there were contradictory figures of the dead and wounded. The provincial governor's spokesman Gul Islam Seyal put the death toll at 12 but said authorities were on the scene sifting through the debris. Atta Jan Haqbayan, head of the provincial council, put the death toll at 20.

The Taliban, who have been carrying out nearly daily attacks since peace talks with the United States collapsed earlier this month, said the target was a nearby government intelligence department building.

Haqbayan said the wall of the National Security Department building was damaged.

He couldn't say whether any personnel were among the casualties. AP

Suicide bomber detonates inside government building in east Afghanistan

JALALABAD (TIP): A suicide bomber and gunmen wounded at least nine people, including a child and a woman, in an attack on a government building in eastern Afghan on Sept 18, officials said.

The attackers detonated explosives before gunmen poured into the building, said the officials. The office is a distribution centre in the city of Jalalabad for national identity cards, which people need to vote in Afghanistan's presidential election in 10 days.

"Afghan security forces surrounded the building and are clashing with the attackers in a bid to counter the attack," said Sohrab Qaderi, a council member for the city's province of Nangarhar, adding that more casualties are feared with staff and other people stuck in the building.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Much of Afghanistan is on high alert in the days approaching the election, the country's fourth presidential poll since United States-led forces toppled the hardline

Pak police detain two classmates in Hindu dental student's mysterious death

KARACHI (TIP): Two classmates of a Hindu dental student have been detained by the police in Pakistan's Sindh province after she was found dead in her hostel room, a media report said on Thursday.

Nimrita Chandni, a final-year student of Bibi Asifa Dental College in Larkana district and a social activist, was found lying on a cot by her friends on Monday with a rope tied to her neck.

The two suspects, both classmates of Chandni, were taken into the custody by the police after tracing the call data from the deceased's cell phone, Geo News reported.

Her room was locked from inside. Police have not yet ascertained whether she committed suicide or was murdered.

The girl hailed from Ghotki district, which recently witnessed riots after a school principal from the minority Hindu community was booked on charges of alleged blasphemy.

Host of pictures and other materials, including exam passes, were found from Chandni's hostel room, the report said.



The laptop of Chandni was also being analysed for possible clues, the report quoted police as saying.

The Sindh government on Wednesday requested the Larkana sessions court to conduct a judicial probe into the student's death after pressure from civil society members across the province.

Meanwhile, members of the Hindu community, civil society and political parties have also demanded the formation of a joint investigation team to hold a probe into Chandni's death.

Protesters held rallies in Larkana on Wednesday and raised slogans against

the dental college administration, demanding justice.

Experts and officials of the medico-legal section of the health department in Karachi believe that the autopsy report carried many flaws and missed key facts.

They said that the ligature mark in picture was not due to a dupatta.

"It was some rope material," Dawn newspaper quoted a senior official, who wished not to be named, as saying.

"The post-mortem findings show suicide but ligature mark shows strangulation," said the expert.

In the post-mortem report, time between death and post-mortem was 11-12 hours but the picture appeared to be about 24 hours old because decomposition signs had developed, the report said.

The experts said that no comments had been mentioned in the post-mortem report conducted in Larkana about decomposition.

Instead, it has been mentioned in the report that the condition of the body was "fresh". — PTI

Sri Lanka presidential front-runner would restore relations with China: adviser

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's leading presidential candidate, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, would "restore relations" with the country's top lender China if he wins the Nov. 16 vote, his adviser said on Thursday.

President Maithripala Sirisena initially suspended all Chinese investment projects after his election in January 2015, citing allegations of corruption, overpricing and flouting of government procedures.

The following year, the Sirisena government allowed Chinese projects to resume after demanding changes in some. But diplomatic ties have been strained since.

Opposition candidate Rajapaksa, a former defense chief and brother of pro-China former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, was ready to repair the ties with China, should he win the November election, one of his advisers said.

"Now China is looking at us differently. When Gotabaya Rajapaksa becomes the president... he will set the record right and restore the relationship to where it was," Palitha Kohona told reporters in Colombo.

Sirisena sparked a political row this week when he alleged corruption at a Chinese company contracted to build the Lotus Tower, South Asia's tallest tower. A Sri Lankan parliamentary panel said it would investigate.

Neither the company nor the Chinese embassy in Colombo has commented on the allegations. China has repeatedly

Rajapaksa is widely seen as the frontrunner in November's election due to his popularity among Sri Lanka's Sinhala Buddhist majority for his role in ending a 26-year civil war in 2009.

denied any wrongdoing in its multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka.

"I suppose the thinking was if we upset China, the West would come to us with endless bags of gold... But the bags of gold never materialized," Kohona said.

Rajapaksa is widely seen as the frontrunner in November's election due to his popularity among Sri Lanka's Sinhala Buddhist majority for his role in ending a 26-year civil war in 2009.

However, his candidature is yet to be confirmed, with uncertainties lingering over a legal battle related to misappropriation of funds and his renunciation of U.S. citizenship. Sri Lanka does not allow dual citizens to contest elections.

Rajapaksa has denied wrongdoing and says he has already renounced his citizenship. (Reuters)

Baby Chimpanzees' Case Reveals Nepal as a Trafficking Hot Spot

KATHMANDU, NEPAL (TIP): A Nepali court convicted five men on Sept 14 of smuggling baby chimpanzees in a high-profile case that bared the country's emergence as a hot-spot for the trafficking of rare and endangered animals through South Asia.

A Pakistani and three Indians were sentenced to five years in prison, said Anand Shrestha, an official at the Kathmandu District Court. A fifth man, a Nepali citizen, was given two and a half years for trafficking the two chimpanzees, which were taken from Nigeria and smuggled through Turkey before arriving in Nepal in 2017.

In recent years, Nepal has arrested hundreds of smugglers who have taken advantage of its porous borders with India and China — as well as corruption in law enforcement and relaxed customs rules — to illegally transport rhinoceros horns, wool from Tibetan antelopes, rare owls and endangered apes.

Smuggling of apes has become a lucrative, multimillion-dollar business. Wildlife activists say thousands of gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans are sold on the black market every year to zoos, exotic-pet owners and even brothels.

The case against the smugglers in Nepal was filed in December 2017 and initially included 20 suspects.

To get through customs at Nepal's international airport, the smugglers had stuffed the baby chimpanzees in the center of a trapdoor crate, surrounding them with dozens of parrots, pheasants and monkeys to disguise their presence.

(New York Times)

UK government insists suspension of Parliament was not illegal

LONDON (TIP): The British government was back at the country's Supreme Court on Sept 18, arguing that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks just before the country is set to leave the European Union was neither improper nor illegal.

But the justices pushed back on the second day of the historic legal showdown, which pits the powers of Britain's legislature against those of its executive as the country's scheduled Brexit date of October 31 looms over its political landscape and its economy.

They asked why the prime minister had refused to provide a sworn statement to the court about his reasons for the suspension.

"Isn't it odd that nobody has signed a witness statement to say: 'This is true. These are the true reasons for what was done?'" said one of the judges, Nicholas Wilson.

The government's lawyer, James Eadie, conceded that Johnson and his top officials had not made legally binding statements, but said other documents, including Cabinet minutes, had been submitted to the court.

Johnson sent lawmakers home on September 9 until October 14, which is barely two weeks before Britain's October 31 departure from the EU. He claims the shutdown was a routine measure to enable his Conservative government to launch a fresh legislative agenda and was not related to Brexit.

Eadie argued that the decision to shut down Parliament was "inherently and fundamentally political in nature." He said if the court intervened it would violate the "fundamental constitutional principle" of the separation of powers between courts and the government.

"This is, we submit, the territory of political judgment, not legal standards," Eadie said.

The government's opponents argue



that Johnson illegally shut down Parliament just weeks before the country is due to leave the 28-nation bloc for the "improper purpose" of dodging lawmakers' scrutiny of his Brexit plans. They also accuse Johnson of misleading Queen Elizabeth II, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature.

Aidan O'Neill, lawyer for a group of lawmakers challenging the government, said the suspension had "the intent and effect of preventing Parliament, impeding Parliament, from holding the government politically to account at a time when the government is taking decisions which will have constitutional and irreversible impacts on our country". Eadie denied the prime minister was trying to prevent lawmakers from blocking his Brexit plans.

He said "Parliament has had, and has taken, the opportunity to legislate" against the government, and would have more time between October 14 and Brexit day.

The prime minister says Britain must leave the EU on October 31 with or without a divorce deal.

But many economists and lawmakers believe a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilising. Members of Parliament have put obstacles in Johnson's way, including a law compelling the government to seek a delay to Brexit if it can't get a divorce deal with the EU.

Parliament's suspension spared Johnson further meddling by the House of Commons but sparked legal challenges, to which lower courts gave contradictory rulings. England's High Court said the move was a political rather than legal matter but Scottish court judges ruled Johnson acted illegally "to avoid democratic scrutiny." The Supreme Court is being asked to decide who was right. The justices will give their judgment sometime after the hearing ends on Thursday.

A ruling against the government by the 11 Supreme Court judges could force Johnson to recall Parliament.— AP

British Airways pilots call off third strike

LONDON (TIP): British Airways pilots on Wednesday cancelled a strike that had been due September 27, the British Airline Pilots Association union said after two walkouts last week that cost the company dear. "Someone has to take the initiative to sort out this (pay) dispute and with no sign of that from BA the pilots have decided to take the responsible course," BALPA General Secretary Brian Stratton said in a statement. The union chief added that the airline's "passengers rightly expect BA and its pilots to resolve their issues without disruption and now is the time for cool heads and pragmatism to be brought to bear."

"I hope BA and its owner IAG show as much responsibility as the pilots," he added.

It was now "time for a period of reflection before the dispute escalates further and irreparable damage is done

to the (BA) brand."

However, the union added that should the airline "refuse meaningful new negotiations, BALPA retains the right to announce further strike dates".

British Airways, which likes to call itself "the world's favourite airline", flew into turbulence last week as pilots staged a costly and historic two-day strike, tarnishing its global reputation according to aviation analysts.

Pilots walked out for the first time in the company's 100-year history, sparked by a bitter and long-running feud over pay. BA faced the embarrassment of grounding its entire UK fleet on September 9 and 10, causing the cancellation of about 1,600 flights.

The move sparked travel chaos for about 200,000 passengers who had been due to fly in and out of London's Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

The disruption continued into

September 11 because half of BA's 300 aircraft and more than 700 pilots were mostly in the wrong place.

As a result, BA was forced to cancel approximately ten per cent of its daily 850 flights in and out of Britain that day.

BALPA and its members are demanding a bigger share of British Airways profits. The airline has offered a salary increase of 11.5 per cent over three years, which it argues would boost the annual pay of some captains to 200,000 pounds (\$250,000 or 226,000 euros). However, the union has rejected the proposal made in July.

BALPA meanwhile estimates that last week's 48-hour strike cost the airline 80 million pounds. BA is owned by IAG, which was formed in 2011 with the merger of British Airways and Spain's Iberia. IAG has since added other carriers, including Austria's Vueling and Ireland's Aer Lingus.— AFP

Queen returns lost toy monkey to Australian girl

SYDNEY (TIP): A toy monkey accidentally left behind at Buckingham Palace by a five-year-old girl has returned home to Australia after enjoying royal treatment by palace staff and gaining a travelling companion — a toy corgi. Harriet, one of six toy monkeys from Woodside Kindergarten in Adelaide, was taken on holiday to Europe by Savannah Hart and her family when it was misplaced. Staff members from Woodside Kindergarten wrote to the Queen, asking her to search for the beloved monkey. The Palace responded that Harriet was in good care. Harriet soon arrived back in Australia with a new friend in tow — 'Rex' — a stuffed corgi from the palace gift shop. Reuters

Paris tests new bubble-shaped water taxi

PARIS (TIP): Paris is testing out a new form of travel: an eco-friendly bubble-shaped taxi that zips along the water up and down the Seine River. Organisers are holding test runs this week on the white, oval-shaped electric hydrofoil boats that resemble tiny space shuttles gliding past Paris monuments. They can fit four passengers, and if they get approved, can be ordered on an app like land taxis, shared bikes or other forms of transport. AP

Fire in Liberia school kills at least 27 children

MONROVIA (TIP): A fire at an Islamic school in Liberia has killed at least 27 children, police said on Wednesday.

"The kids were learning the Koran when the fire broke out," police spokesman Moses Carter said.

He added the blaze was caused by an electrical issue and that further investigations were ongoing.

Carter had originally said 30 children were killed before revising the death toll down to 27. Two survivors were taken to the hospital, he said.

The fire started late on Tuesday in the suburbs of the capital Monrovia, President George Weah said in a tweet.

"My prayers go out to the families of the children that died last night in Paynesville City," Weah said.

"This is a tough time for the families of the victims and all of Liberia." It is common for buildings to collapse in blazes linked to faulty electrics in Liberia's big cities, however these are rarely deadly.— Reuters



MALAIKA ARORA OOZES OOMPH IN HER LATEST INSTAGRAM PIC

Bollywood hottie Malaika Arora never ceases to stun us with her gorgeous pictures. Her Instagram handle has millions of followers and serves as an inspiration box for many in which she regularly posts her workout pictures. She truly keeps the style game at the top all the time.

Just a while ago, Malaika took to her Instagram handle to share a gorgeous picture. Donning a grey gym fit and black tights, the actress is oozing oomph in her latest picture. To complement her look, Malaika put on cool shades and funky sneakers.

The actress has been making it to the headlines for her relationship with Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor. From dinner dates to lunch outing, the couple is often spotted in the city. The duo also ringed in Arjun's birthday in New York and treated fans with several clicks from their romantic getaway.

I AM NOT READY TO BE A MOTHER: MALLIKA SHERAWAT

She is a globetrotting actor but amid her busy schedule, Mallika Sherawat makes sure to find time for her nephew Ransher Lamba, her brother Vikram Lamba's son. The dotting aunt even took him to the Cannes Film Festival this year.

"I am having a ball with him. I don't have a child of my own, so Ransher is like my baby. I have the best time with him. I play with him, cuddle him, travel with him and enjoy the best moments with him and then give him back to his parents. No nappy changing duties for me," the 42-year-old shares with a laugh.

Since she loves kids so much, does she see herself as a parent in the near future? But Mallika says she is not ready for that.

"It is too much of a responsibility which I don't want. I am petrified of the responsibility of a kid. Abhi toh jaha mann kiya suitcase utha ke chal padi. If I have a child, I would have to think of the child all the time. I will go crazy thinking about which school and all of that. I am happy the way I am," she shares.

She may not be open to having kids but Mallika, who dated French businessman Cyrille Auxenfans for quite some time, is ready for love, again.

"I am single but I would absolutely want to be in love. Romance is great and it is inspiring. Par kaam se fursat mile kaam se toh na romance karu," adds Mallika, who recently starred in a web series Booo Sabki Phategi and will be seen in a film with Rajat Kapoor. So, has she ever faced any biases because of her single status in India? "I think for actresses, the rules are a bit different. There are lots of single actresses not only now but Asha Parekh ke time se. Also Rekhaji. Single actresses are exempted from all the judgments which regular girls face in the Indian society. But of course there are still people who look at actresses in a derogatory manner and say inse kaun shaadi karega. But In don't really care about all that. I am living my life my own way and I am having a ball," concludes Mallika.



SHAKUNTALA DEVI TEASER: VIDYA BALAN SPORTS SHORT HAIRDO AS 'HUMAN COMPUTER'

The teaser of Vidya Balan's upcoming film, the Shakuntala Devi biopic is out and shows her in a short haircut. The actor is set to start the shooting of the film in London and will be seen as the maths genius.

The teaser introduces Vidya's character in a red sari with short hair and a bindi as the end of the teaser and defines her as 'sharp, arrogant, eccentric, ruthless, witty, outspoken and Ma Genius'. The film is titled Shakuntala Devi - Human Computer.

Vidya had earlier told PTI about the film, "I am extremely excited to play the 'human computer' Shakuntala Devi on the big screen. She was truly someone who embraced her individuality, had a strong feminist voice and braved many a naysayer to reach the pinnacle of success. But what truly fascinates me is that you wouldn't normally associate a fun person with math...and she completely turns that perception on its head." Vidya said the team is proud to bring to life the story of "one of the most inspiring women of this country." "How incredible that The Math Genius, The Human Computer, was a small-town Indian girl, who took the world by storm," she added.

Director Anu Menen told Mid-Day in an interview, "I have always been fascinated by Shakuntala Devi and felt that hers is an incredible story that had to be told. She was an extraordinary woman, who lived ahead of her times and on her own terms, unapologetically."

Vidya's multi-starrer Mission Mangal is still performing well at the box office. The film starred



Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Sonakshi Sinha, Kirti Kulhari and Nithya Menen. The film has become the highest Independence Day grosser ever with collections

of over Rs 200 crore. It tells the story of India's Mars Orbiter Mission which was achieved by a team of women scientists.



LAURA DERN DEBUNKS ROMANCE RUMOURS

Actress Laura Dern has dismissed all dating rumours with actor Bradley Cooper and said they are just friends.

The 'A Star is Born' actor-director were seen dining together in New York City, weeks after Cooper's split from his longtime girlfriend Irina Shayk in June.

Dern said their relationship is strictly platonic.

"We're amazing friends. We're so lucky. And we're family," she told an American news agency.

"I mean, everybody's always gonna comment about whatever seems intriguing, and he's the greatest human, and one of my best friends in the world," she added. "So I don't blame anyone for having deep curiosity about his life cause he's spectacular."

MARGOT ROBBIE TO STAR IN AND PRODUCE 'FOOLS DAY'

The Australian actress may play a teacher at the heart of a prank which goes wrong in this New Line comedy, according to American media sources. Still in discussions, Margot Robbie is also interested in co-producing "Fools Day" via her production company, LuckyChap Entertainment.

"Fools Day" will tell the story of an elementary school class that accidentally kills their teacher after playing an April Fool's Day joke that goes wrong. Convinced that they will go to prison if they are ever found out, they attempt to hide the body before the police arrive to teach them a lesson about the dangers of drug use.

If an agreement is reached, Margot Robbie would play the teacher, which Variety specifies is a secondary role. The talks may also conclude with Robbie as one of the executive producers of this comedy via her LuckyChap Entertainment production company alongside Edward Norton, who has also been announced as a producer.

Based on Cody Blue Snider's short film, "Fools Day" will keep its original director, who will also be writing the screenplay with the help of Shane Snider and Keatyn Leen.

Currently appearing in Quentin Tarantino's latest, "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," with Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie will reprise her role as Harley Quinn in "Birds of Prey," set for February 2020, and the "Suicide Squad" follow-up for Summer 2021.



JENNIFER LAWRENCE AND COOKE MARONEY SPARK MARRIAGE RUMOURS



Academy Award-winner Jennifer Lawrence and fiance Alex Rodriguez sparked marriage rumours after they were spotted at a marriage bureau in New York.

Lawrence was seen in grey blazer and jeans and clutching a piece of paper while Maroney sported a white sweatshirt, reported an entertainment magazine.

One eye witness wrote in a now-deleted tweet, "When you go get your marriage license and Jennifer Lawrence walks by to tie the knot before your eyes. Yeah, kids, City Hall is COOL. The place to go!"

Lawrence and Maroney got engaged in February this year and the actress recently confessed that she had suffered a bridezilla moment.

The couple is due to throw a big

wedding party next month and the actress revealed that she broke down in tears after none of her friends could make it to a bachelorette party she had organised.

She told the 'NAKED with Catt Sadler' podcast: "I've cried. I've officially joined the club."

Speaking about the wedding, Lawrence insisted she wasn't nervous, saying, "I've been in a good place. I haven't been neurotic about it. I'm like, too lazy to be neurotic."

"I saw a dress I liked, I was like, 'That's the dress.' I saw a venue, I was like, 'Cool, we got the venue.'"

Lawrence who dated actor Nicholas Hoult for four years also shared that marriage was not on her mind before she met Maroney: "I definitely wasn't at a place where I was like I'm ready to get married."



JENNIFER LOPEZ: ALEX AND I HAD A CONNECTION FROM BEGINNING

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez is ready for wedding number four to Alex Rodriguez. She said she and Alex had a connection from the very beginning.

It will be the singer's fourth wedding. Her first marriage to Cuban waiter Ojani Noa ended in 1998 after just one year. In 2001 she married dancer Cris Judd and got divorced in 2003. Her third husband, in 2004, was -Latino singer Marc Anthony, father of her 11-year-old twins Max and Emme. The couple divorced in 2014.

But this time, Lopez said the -union will be for keeps.

"I think I've understood that marriage

takes a lot more than just falling in love and sharing a home. Alex and I had a connection from the very beginning and maybe could see a future for ourselves," she said.

"We talked about it a few times. But when he proposed it was a -surprise for me. We love each other, love being around each other and have a lot of respect for each other. That's a big part of it."

"Both of us show up for each other and that's a big deal in a relationship, especially when you are both strong people who have two big lives. That means him -coming to concerts, me going to his ball game, all that stuff."

3 Fukushima power plant bosses acquitted

TOKYO (TIP): A Japanese court on Sept 19 cleared three energy firm bosses of professional negligence in the only criminal trial stemming from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown.

The three men were senior officials at the TEPCO firm operating the Fukushima Daiichi plant and had faced up to five years in prison if convicted. "All defendants are not guilty," the presiding judge said, ruling that the executives could not have predicted the scale of the tsunami that overwhelmed the plant and triggered the accident.

The decision is likely to be appealed, extending the legal wrangling over responsibility for the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl, more than eight years after the disaster.

Outside the courtroom, dozens of people staged a rally, including some who had travelled from the Fukushima region to hear the verdict. — PTI

Pilot caught on power line as F-16 jet crashes in France

RENNES (FRANCE) (TIP): An F-16 jet of the Belgian air force crashed Sept 19 in western France, with both pilots successfully ejecting, but one spending two hours hanging from a power line before being cut down, officials said. Parts from the stricken plane, which was not carrying weapons and was flying from Belgium to a French base on a training mission, crashed into houses in the Morbihan region around the town of Pluvigner. PTI

Belgian fighter jet crashes in France, pilot hits power line

PARIS (TIP): French authorities say a Belgian F-16 fighter jet has crashed in a populated area in western France and one of its pilots is caught on a high-voltage electricity line.

A spokesman for the regional prefecture, or administration, told The Associated Press that the plane crashed on Thursday in the town of Pluvigner in Brittany.

He said one pilot was safely rescued and emergency workers are extracting the other pilot from the electricity line.

He said the immediate area was evacuated.

A national police spokeswoman said no injuries have been reported among residents in the area.

She said about 100 police have surrounded the crash site and are investigating what happened. — AP

Canada's Trudeau apologises for 'racist' brown-face picture

OTTAWA (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologised on Wednesday for wearing brown face make-up in 2001 after an embarrassing picture emerged less than five weeks before an election in which he faces a tough fight.

The image of a 29-year-old Trudeau with his face in dark make-up is a major challenge for a leader who often speaks about the need to fight racial discrimination and who has three prominent ministers of Indian descent in his cabinet.

"I can say I made a mistake when I was younger and I wish I hadn't. I wish I had known better then, but I didn't and I'm deeply sorry for it," Trudeau, 47, told reporters on his campaign plane in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after Time magazine published the image. "Now, I recognise it was something racist to do. It was a dumb thing to do. I'm disappointed in myself," he said.

"I have worked all my life to create opportunities for people and fight against racism and tolerance and I can stand here and say I made a mistake when I was younger," he said.

Time said the image was provided by



Vancouver businessman Michael Adamson earlier this month. Adamson was part of the West Point Grey Academy community where Trudeau, then 29, worked at the time, the magazine said. The picture was in the Vancouver private school's yearbook. "I dressed up in an Aladdin costume and put make-up on. I shouldn't have done it," Trudeau said.

The picture shows him wearing a turban and a white robe, with his face

covered in dark makeup. Trudeau also admitted he had dressed up in make-up when at high school and performed "Day O", a traditional Jamaican song about people loading bananas onto boats.

Trudeau is locked in a battle with Conservative leader Andrew Scheer ahead of the October 21 federal election. Scheer said he was "extremely shocked and disappointed" by the photo. — Agencies

Ex-PM David Cameron says asked queen's help in Scottish vote

LONDON (TIP): Former British Prime Minister David Cameron revealed on Sept 19 that he asked Queen Elizabeth II to intervene in the Scottish independence referendum, risking the irritation of the nominally neutral head of state.

Cameron, who led the successful campaign for Scotland to stay in the United Kingdom in the 2014 referendum, said he asked if she could offer even a "raising of the eyebrow" to indicate her opposition to independence.

He told the BBC he spoke with the queen's private secretary, "not asking for anything that would be in any way improper or unconstitutional, but just a raising of the eyebrow, even, you know, a quarter of an inch—we thought would make a difference".

A few days before the vote, the queen told a member of the public in Scotland that she hoped "people would think very carefully about the future"—comments that made headlines.

Scotland voted by 55 per cent to stay in the UK.

In a BBC documentary to mark the publication of his memoirs, Cameron said that "although the words were very limited, I think it helped to put a slightly different perception on things".

Buckingham Palace told AFP it would not comment on his remarks, but a royal source told the BBC they had caused some displeasure.



"It serves no one's interests" for conversations between the monarch and her prime ministers to be made public, the source was quoted as saying.

"It makes it very hard for the relationship to thrive."

It is not the first time that the former Conservative leader has been indiscreet about his dealings with the queen, which by convention should remain secret.

Cameron was caught on camera describing how the monarch "purred down the line" after he phoned to inform her that Scotland had rejected independence. Former Scottish National

Party leader Alex Salmond said the request for an intervention "is not only totally improper but an indication of how desperate prime minister Cameron" was in the referendum campaign.

Despite losing the 2014 vote, the independence movement in Scotland remains active, particularly since the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Scots voted to stay in the European Union but the UK as a whole voted to leave.

Cameron had led the anti-Brexit campaign and stepped down when it failed. — AFP

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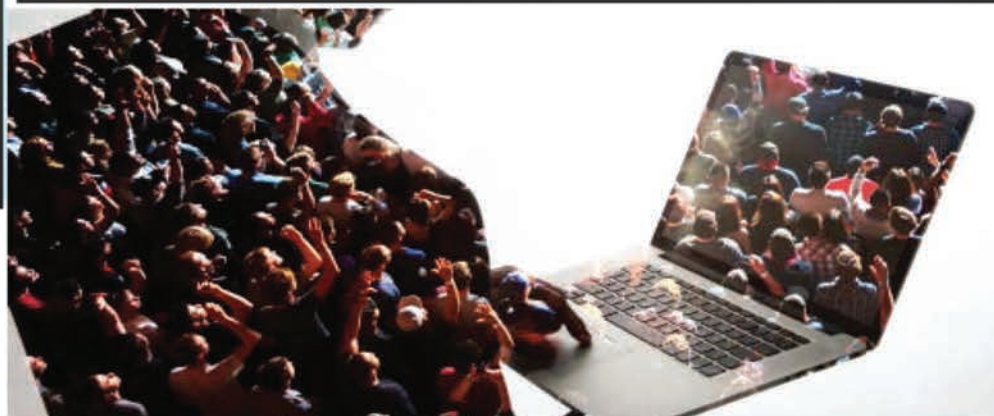
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While a shot of coffee instantly uplifts your mood and a cup of tea can relax you after a hard day at work, have you ever imagined the wonders it can do if you applied these on your skin and hair? Read on to know more about these beauty secrets...

Coffee

For your skin: "Caffeine helps in treating dark circles and is often found in most cosmetics, which are imported. It also helps reduce the build-up of blood under your eyes, which contribute to eye shadows," says beauty professional Nishi Karamchandani. Apart from this, it contains anti-ageing properties, which delay the signs of ageing. Phytosterols (friendly plant sterols and stanols that blocks cholesterol absorption in our system) promote moisture and provides chemical-free sun protection. It also reduces the appearance of cellulite and tightens the skin. One can also use coffee beans as scrubs for the face and body.

For your hair: It has rich antioxidant properties, which aid in repairing damaged hair and prevent breakage. Coffee also stimulates hair growth and thickens the mane. One can use coffee in hair packs as well. Several beauty parlours use coffee along with other ingredients when applying henna on a client's hair. This adds shine and lustre to the hair. It is also an antioxidant that counteracts the effects of pollutants in the air.

Tea

Green: Apart from aiding in weight loss, tea also protects the skin from damage and reactivates dying skin cells.

For your skin: EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate) in the green tea reactivates your dying skin cells. It also protects your skin from the harmful UV rays of the sun. Moreover, it gives a glow to your skin. It contains antioxidants, which help rejuvenate your skin and protects it against free radicals. Karamchandani says, "Green tea is also used as a skin

DETOX SKIN AND HAIR WITH YOUR FAVOURITE BEVERAGE



toner, especially for those with oily skin. Soak green tea leaves in hot water for half an hour. Cool, strain and use the liquid to tone your skin." Green tea bags can be dipped in water and applied over your eyelids like eye pads for instant cooling and relaxation. They help reduce the puffiness around your eyes and add brightness. Neha Matang, skin

professional, says, "Green tea also serves as an exfoliator. If you use it in the form of a face mask, it will naturally help in getting rid of unwanted toxins and make you look healthy and add shine."

For your hair: This tea may also be used as a hair rinse, as the tannin in the tea helps to add lustre to your hair. Boil used tea leaves again in enough water.

After boiling, cool and strain the water. Then add lemon juice to it and use this as a last rinse after shampoo. Matang says, "Green tea helps in reducing dandruff. It also stimulates hair growth and softens your hair. It contains vitamin C, vitamin E and panthenol, which are used as common ingredients in hair conditioners.

Chamomile: Chamomile tea helps you achieve those golden streaks. Steep two chamomile tea bags in two cups of hot water for 5-10 minutes. Then add two tsps of lemon juice to the mixture. Use this as a final rinse on your hair after using a normal shampoo and conditioner. But do not rinse it out. This will help you bring the natural blonde or red tones in your hair and slightly lighten your hair without looking drastic or fake.

Black: It helps fight free radicals that fasten the process of ageing of your skin. If you need a quick-fix for your under-eye bags, instantly dip two bags of black tea, cool and strain and put these on your eyes. It also serves as a natural astringent. All you need to do is make some tea, cool it and then splash it on your face for instant refreshment.

Ginger: The anti-inflammatory properties of ginger help your skin against acne. Highly antiseptic in nature, it keeps your skin clean and blemish-free. Ginger is invigorating and stimulating to your skin, it is also used topically to treat cellulite. Ginger tea is excellent for your hair as well. It increases scalp circulation and encourages hair growth. It also helps get rid of dandruff. Rinse your hair with ginger tea at least once a week.

BENEFITS OF SLEEPING WITH A BOYFRIEND PILLOW

Are you feeling like your nice comfortable all natural bed is a little lonely lately? Do you find yourself cuddling up and wishing your back had a little support at night? Well maybe it's time to look into getting a boyfriend pillow that is. In some cases, the boyfriend pillow might be even better than an actual boyfriend. Let's look at some reasons why.

According to Spine-Health, there are quite a few benefits of sleeping with a back or a boyfriend pillow.

FOR SUPPORT: From a physical perspective, pillows prop up the head, neck and shoulders – keeping them in alignment, relieving pressure and counterbalancing the points in the body. A lower back support pillow helps provide support for the inward curve in the lumbar spine. Sitting for extended periods of time without any lower back support can create muscle tension and pain in the lower back and legs (e.g. sciatica). Used when in a seated position, a lumbar support pillow fills the natural gap that is created between the lower spine and the chair. Lumbar back support is also helpful when sitting in a car. When the lumbar curve is supported, the downward forces of gravity and driving are absorbed much like a coiled spring, as opposed to a non-supported straight or slouched lumbar spine. Lumbar support pillows work by decreasing muscle tiredness. It's important to know that excess muscle fatigue eventually leads to the arrival of pain. Lumbar support pillows are also recommended for those who are already suffering from chronic back pain.

FOR STRESS RELIEF: After putting in a full day, your



body needs rest and a detox from stress. The back pillow or boyfriend pillow grants that wish of your body's. The boyfriend pillow will not only help you to fall asleep faster but it was also aid in staying asleep longer.

Many people use the back or boyfriend pillow at work or while they're driving in the car. It's ideal for people who spend a lot of time sitting throughout their day. While we joke about the comfort and level of rest a back pillow can provide, they really can help to improve your sleep quality and your lower back pains. It may seem codependent to call them "boyfriend pillows" but hey, they're doing a good job of keeping woman and men comfortable everywhere so haven't they earned the title?

FOOD CORNER

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Ingredients

Lauki 300 gms, Milk 500 ml, Sugar 20 gms, Khoya 5 gms, Kishmish 2 gms, Cashewnuts 2 gms, Saffron 5 strands, Desi ghee 5 gms, Cardamom powder 1 gm

Method

- Remove the outer skin of bottle gourd (lauki) and grate it. Squeeze to remove excess water.
- Heat 3 grams of desi ghee in a handi.
- Add the grated lauki and saute for few minutes till it starts to get translucent.
- Now add milk and stir, till the milk boils and starts reducing. Keep stirring as the lauki has to be mashed in the milk and the milk gets completely reduced, this might take 20-30 minutes. Now add sugar and stir till the sugar dissolves completely. Soak the saffron in luke warm water for 10 minutes and add to the halwa.
- Heat the remaining desi ghee and once it is heated, pour over the halwa, mix moderately so that the desi ghee flavor gets infused.
- Finish with cardamom powder.



'NIGHT OWL' GIRLS MORE LIKELY TO GAIN WEIGHT

Teenage girls who prefer to go to bed late are more likely to gain weight, compared to same-age girls, who go to bed earlier, warn researchers.

For the study published in the journal *JAMA Pediatrics*, a total of 804 adolescents—418 girls and 386 boys aged and between 11 and 16—were analysed.

The children responded to questionnaires on their sleep habits and wore an actigraph—a wrist device that tracks movement, said researchers from the Kaiser Permanente, a healthcare company in the US.

During the study, the research team measured the participants' waist size and calculated their proportion of body fat using a technique called dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry.

They also estimated the children's social jet lag—the difference between their weeknight and weekend bed-times. Those who stayed up far late on weekends than weeknights were considered to have high social jet lag.

According to the study, for girls, staying up late was associated with an average 0.58 cm increase in waist size and a 0.16 kg/m² increase in



body fat.

Each hour of social jet lag was associated with a 1.19 cm larger waist size and a 0.45 kg/m² increase in body fat.

These associations were reduced, but still remained, after the researchers statistically adjusted for other factors known to influence weight, such as sleep duration, diet, physical activity and television

viewing.

Although the researchers found slight associations between these measures and waist size and body fat in boys, they were not statistically significant.

The researchers concluded that improving sleep schedules may be helpful in preventing obesity in childhood and adolescence, especially in girls.



DRINKING TEA REGULARLY MAY BOOST BRAIN FUNCTION

Regular tea drinkers have better organised brain regions—which is associated with healthy cognitive function—compared to non-tea drinkers, a study claims.

The research, published in the journal *Aging*, examined neuroimaging data of 36 older adults for the study. "Our results offer the first evidence of positive contribution of tea drinking to brain structure, and suggest that drinking tea regularly has a protective effect against age-related decline in brain organisation," said team leader Feng Lei, Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Past studies have demonstrated that tea intake is beneficial to human health, and the positive effects include mood improvement and cardiovascular disease prevention, researchers said.

The team, including researchers from the University of Essex and University of Cambridge in the UK, recruited 36 adults aged 60 and above, and gathered data about their health, lifestyle, and psychological well-being.

NEW TREATMENT PREVENTS CHEMOTHERAPY HAIR LOSS

A novel method discovered recently by a group of researchers, including one of Indian-origin, shows how hair loss from chemotherapy can be prevented during cancer treatment in patients, arguably one of the most psychologically distressing side effects of modern cancer therapy.

The study published in the journal *EMBO Molecular Medicine* describes how damage to the hair follicles caused by taxanes, cancer drugs which can cause permanent hair loss, can be prevented.

To do this, the research team has exploited the properties of a newer class of drugs called CDK4/6 inhibitors, which block cell division and are already medically approved as so-called "targeted" cancer therapies.

"Although at first, this seems counterintuitive, we found that CDK4/6 inhibitors can be used temporarily to halt cell division without promoting additional toxic effects in the hair follicle. When we bathed organ-cultured human scalp hair follicles in CDK4/6 inhibitors, the hair follicles were much less susceptible to the damaging effects of taxanes," study lead author Talveen Purba from the University of Manchester said.

Now, 'phyjamas' to measure heartbeat, breathing during sleep

Researchers have designed novel physiological-sensing textiles, dubbed "phyjamas," that contain unobtrusive, portable devices for monitoring heart rate and respiratory rhythm during sleep.

The researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the US said the textiles that can be woven or stitched into sleep garments will prove clinically useful in health care.

"The challenge we faced was how to obtain useful signals without changing the aesthetics or feel of the textile," said professor Trisha L Andrew, a materials chemist.

"Generally, people assume that smart textiles refer to tightly worn clothing that has various sensors embedded in it for measuring physiological and physical signals, but this is clearly not a solution for everyday clothing and, in particular, sleepwear," Andrew said.

"Our insight was that even though sleepwear is worn loosely, there are several parts of such a textile that are pressed against the body due to our posture and contact with external surfaces," said computer scientist Deepak Ganesan.

"This includes pressure exerted by the torso against a chair or bed, pressure when the arm rests on the



side of the body while sleeping, and light pressure from a blanket over the sleepwear," Ganesan said.

Such pressured regions of the textile are potential locations where we can measure ballistic movements caused by heartbeats and breathing, and these can be used to extract physiological variables, researchers wrote in the journal *The Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies*.

The difficulty is that these signals can be individually unreliable,

particularly in loose-fitting clothing, but signals from many sensors placed across different parts of the body can be intelligently combined to get a more accurate composite reading.

Andrew, Ganesan and colleagues explain that their team had to come up with several new ideas to make their vision a reality.

They realised that there is no existing fabric-based method to sense continuous and dynamic changes in pressure, particularly given the small signals that they needed to measure.

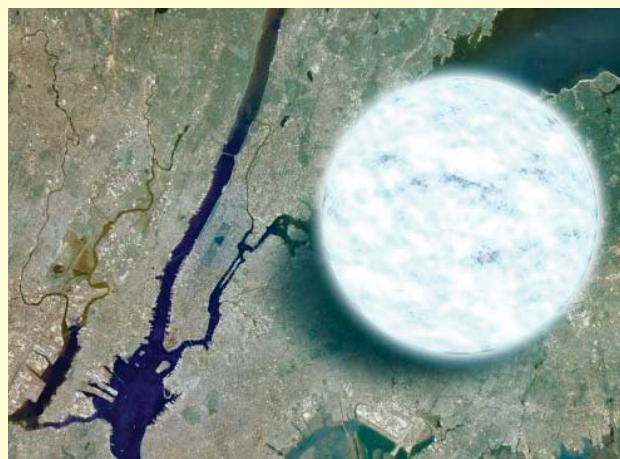
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'MOST MASSIVE PULSAR YET KNOWN DISCOVERED'

Researchers have found the heaviest ever known neutron star—the compressed remains of massive stars—and one of the densest objects in the known universe that weighs 2.14 times more than the Sun.

Astronomers have for long tried to unravel many mysteries surrounding neutron stars, such as how their constituent subatomic particles, neutrons, buckle under pressure, how their spin is affected under pressure, and the tipping point when gravity wins out over matter and forms a black hole.

Researchers using the Green Bank Telescope (GBT) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the US have made an advance in getting answers to these questions.

They discovered that the neutron star designated J0740+6620 is the most massive observed to date, weighing 2.14 times more than the Sun occupying a space that was only 30 kilometre across.

"This is significant because it helps put constraints on the physics happening deep within neutron stars' ultradense cores," Thankful Cromartie, a graduate student at the University of Virginia in the US, and co-author of the study told PTI over email.



'New algorithms can help identify cyber-bullies on Twitter'

Scientists have developed new machine learning algorithms which can successfully identify bullies and aggressors on Twitter with 90 per cent accuracy.

Effective tools for detecting harmful actions on social media are scarce, as this type of behaviour is often ambiguous in nature and exhibited via seemingly superficial comments and criticisms, said researchers from Binghamton University in the US.

The study, published in the journal *Transactions on the Web*, analysed the behavioural patterns exhibited by abusive Twitter users and their differences from other Twitter users. "We built crawlers—programmes that collect data from Twitter via variety of mechanisms," said Binghamton University computer scientist Jeremy Blackburn.

"We gathered tweets of Twitter users, their profiles, as well as (social) network-related things, like who they follow and who follows them," Blackburn said.

The researchers then performed natural language processing and sentiment analysis on the tweets themselves, as well as a variety of social network analyses on the connections between users.

The researchers developed algorithms to automatically classify two specific types of offensive online behaviour, ie, cyberbullying and cyberaggression.

WHATSAPP'S TOP FEATURES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

WhatsApp regularly updates the app with new features for users. While there are exciting features like dark mode, notification previews to come on WhatsApp, there are a bunch of them which are available for users right now.

This year, WhatsApp has majorly focused on privacy and security of users. In doing so, it has rolled out features which give users more control over their privacy on WhatsApp. There are features on making WhatsApp more interactive for users. Here's a look at the latest and exciting features on WhatsApp.

Frequently forwarded

WhatsApp's frequently forwarded tool is an expansion of the company's efforts to curb spam on the app. This feature will help users identify messages which have been forwarded more than five times. This would indicate that the frequently forwarded message is most likely spam.

Fingerprint unlock

First introduced for iPhones, this feature recently hit Android phones, although in beta. As the name suggests, WhatsApp now has



a built-in fingerprint lock which is located in the 'Privacy' section of the app. Enabling this will let users unlock WhatsApp with their fingerprint. Users can also choose to hide WhatsApp content from notifications.

Group invitation

Another privacy feature on WhatsApp is group invitation which prevents being added to groups. Found under the privacy menu, users can now choose if everyone, nobody or their contacts

can add them to WhatsApp groups. Those who choose nobody will instead get an invitation to join the WhatsApp group.

Algorithm-based Status tab

Facebook announced it would change the way it shows WhatsApp Status to users. At present, WhatsApp shows Status updates chronologically. With the new change it will show Status based on which users are interacted with the most. This is similar to how the feed on Facebook and Instagram work.

AMAZON ALEXA NOW UNDERSTANDS HINDI AND HINGLISH

Amazon.com Inc.'s Alexa has mastered Hindi in just a few years.

The voice assistant introduced to India in 2017 gets a major local makeover for one of the largest retail markets. From Wednesday, Amazon launches a version that now speaks Hindi and Hinglish -- a unique blend with English. It can also switch automatically between all three. The new, improved Alexa and Echo speakers hit the market in time for the Diwali shopping season.

The voice assistant lets customers to ask for music, get Bollywood news, cricket updates and more in Hindi and Hinglish on its Echo and other voice-controlled smart speakers. It will respond in an unmistakably Indian accent to Hinglish questions such as "Alexa, Bollywood ke hottest gane sunao" and "Volume badhao" (to ask for the latest Bollywood hits and increase the volume, respectively). "Alexa, latest cricket score batao" yields the latest scores.

Technology giants from Apple Inc. to Google are targeting this nation of 1.3 billion people by training virtual assistants in the heterogeneity of its languages and subcultures. Alphabet Inc. too has introduced a Hinglish-speaking Google Assistant, while Apple has hired native speakers to evolve and enrich Siri. In Amazon's case, Alexa may prove key in a battle against



Walmart Inc. in one of the world's fastest-growing e-commerce arenas, a battle the Seattle online retailer has staked at least \$5.5 billion on.

Until now, Amazon's virtual assistant had a limited vocabulary of names, places and popular songs in Hindi and a few others of the country's roughly one dozen official languages.

Understanding Hindi and Hinglish is critical for companies targeting first-time internet users in the countryside, who are coming online rapidly thanks to cheap devices and cut-rate wireless data. The Hindi internet user base will outgrow India's English internet users by 2021, according to consultancy KPMG. But even Hindi has dozens of dialects and regional

variations.

"Hindi changes every 100 kilometers or so," Rohit Prasad, Amazon's head scientist of Alexa AI, said in an interview. Alexa can handle varied regional accents and dialects. "Alexa has an Indian personality."

Prasad, 43, grew up in Ranchi in India's Hindi-speaking heartland, hailing from a family of engineers. Computers were still new then and as a teenager, he abandoned cricket games to run home and catch Star Trek episodes on the government-run TV channel.

"It was in the realm of science-fiction then but I was endlessly fascinated by computers and humans communicating with each other."

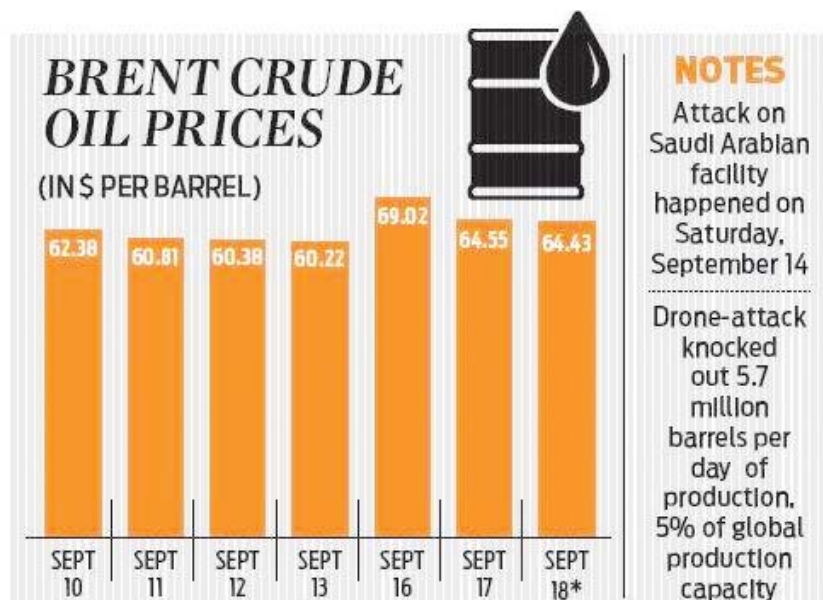
Saudi minister's assurance pushes crude oil prices down

NEW DELHI (TIP): Global crude oil prices continued declining after Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister assured that full production at the drone-hit facilities will be restored to normal by the end of this month. The announcement saw crude prices falling sharply, bringing relief to major crude oil importers like India.

The moderation in oil prices saw Indian stock markets close in the green and the Indian rupee paring its losses, closing 54 paise up versus the US dollar at 71.24 on Wednesday. Oil marketing company stocks also rose with BPCL rising 3.65 per cent, HPCL 3.64 per cent and IOCL 2.68 per cent on the BSE.

As of 9 pm IST on Wednesday, Brent crude was trading at \$64.36 per barrel, down from its Monday close of \$69.02 per barrel. The drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's Aramco-owned crude processing facilities took out a whopping 5.7 million barrel per day (mbpd) of output, nearly 50 per cent of the country's total production and 5 per cent of the global output.

The aftermath of the attack saw crude oil prices rising more than 20% on Monday, the highest single-day spurt since the Gulf war broke



out. Analysts had pointed out that any extended disruption in supply due to the attacks would push crude prices up to as much as \$80 per barrel.

However, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman assured reporters on Tuesday that production would be back to 11 mbpd by the end of this month and that all repairs will be complete by

November end.

"This is good news, since it indicates there will be no major disruption in supplies. OMCs will be able to manage with the stocks they have. But, even that is not likely to be necessary because the Saudis have continued to export shipments to us even after the attacks," said a senior OMC official.



AMBANI UPS STAKE IN RELIANCE IND TO 48.87%

NEW DELHI (TIP): Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has raised promoter stake in flagship Reliance Industries by 2.71% to 48.87%, according to regulatory filing by the company.

Reliance Services and Holdings Ltd, controlled by promoter group firm Petroleum Trust, acquired 17.18 crore shares or 2.71% stake in Reliance on September 13, it said.

The acquisition was pursuant to a scheme of arrangement not directly involving Reliance, the filing said without giving details.

Mukesh Ambani and his private firms held 47.29% stake as on June 30, 2019 in India's second-most valuable company.

FED INJECTS \$75 BN INTO MONEY MARKET

NEW YORK (TIP): The New York Federal Reserve Bank intervened in the US financial markets on Wednesday for the second day, injecting \$75 billion to keep interest rates in line within target, the bank said. Unlike the so-called repo operation on Tuesday, when only \$53 billion of the offered amount was used, on Wednesday it received \$80 billion in requests for the \$75 billion offered.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CHIEF TO QUIT

TOKYO (TIP): The president of the Asian Development Bank, Takehiko Nakao, plans to step down early next year, the regional lender said on Tuesday. Japan has usually headed the ADB as a top donor. Finance Minister Taro Aso said Tokyo would soon nominate a "high-calibre candidate" as Nakao's successor. Aso said the government planned to recommend Masatsugu Asakawa, a former vice finance minister, as Tokyo's choice as "best qualified" for the job. Nakao, 63, will leave on January 16, 2020.

COFFEE DAY ENTERPRISES TO SELL GLOBAL VILLAGE



NEW DELHI (TIP): Coffee Day Enterprises on Tuesday said it has signed definitive agreements with private equity major Blackstone and Salarpuria Sattva Group for sale of Global Village Tech Park at an enterprising value of Rs 2,700 crore. The company Board had recently approved the sale of prime real estate property GV Tech Park as part of efforts to raise funds for paring the debt. "The transaction is at an enterprise value of Rs 2,700 crore subject to certain closing adjustments," the company said.

Volkswagen to pay up to \$87 million in Australia for diesel emissions scandal

Volkswagen said in a statement that it made no admission of liability in the settlement

CANBERRA (TIP): Volkswagen and a law firm say the German automaker has agreed to pay up to 127 million Australian dollars (\$87 million) to settle an Australian class action stemming from its 2015 diesel emissions scandal.

The settlement was announced in the Federal Court in Sydney on Monday and has yet to be approved by a judge.

Maurice Blackburn law firm says Volkswagen will pay between AU\$87 million and AU\$127 million, depending on how many owners of the affected 100,000 vehicles sold in Australia join the class action.

Volkswagen said in a statement that it made no admission of liability in the settlement.

Volkswagen has paid 30 billion euros (\$33.5 billion) in fines and civil settlements around the world after it installed software on diesel vehicles to cheat on emissions tests.



CASH-STARVED AIR INDIA TO PUT ITS CREW ON LOW-FAT DIET



NEW DELHI (TIP): Cash-starved Air India is putting its crew on a diet, changing their inflight menu to special low-fat meals.

Dhananjay Kumar, the state-run airline's spokesman, said Wednesday that the objective is to provide healthy and cost-effective meals to crews on domestic and international flights.

Kumar declined comment on media reports that the cost per meal, mostly vegetarian, will fall to one-third of the current 500-800 rupees (up to \$11) per meal.

The new menu was introduced Monday on flights originating from New Delhi and Mumbai and will be extended to other routes soon.

"Special low-fat diet meals have been worked out on a day-wise basis in order to provide light and healthy meal with a home (Indian) touch," an airline statement said.

The decision comes at a time when the Indian government is trying to divest from Air India, which has debts of nearly 580 billion rupees (\$8 billion).

After an earlier failed attempt to sell the airline off last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is expected to try again in October.

In 2009, the airline fired 10 air hostesses for being overweight after they failed to get back in shape three years after they were switched to ground crew jobs.

contd from page 1

Trump to Join 'Howdy Modi...

Delighted that President @realDonaldTrump will join the community programme in Houston on the 22nd. Looking forward to joining the Indian origin community in welcoming him at the programme."

"The special gesture of President @realDonaldTrump to join us in Houston highlights the strength of the relationship and recognition of the contribution of the Indian community to American society and economy."

On Sept 16, White House had issued a press statement confirming Donald Trump's participation in the event. Highlighting the importance of the event, the press statement noted, "It will be a great opportunity to emphasize the strong ties between the people of the United States and India, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between the world's oldest and largest democracies, and to discuss ways to deepen their energy and trade relationship."

'Howdy Modi - Shared Dreams, Bright Futures' is a community summit hosted by Texas India Forum, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, September 22 at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas. Over fifty thousand people are expected to attend the event who will get to experience "Woven: The Indian-American Story," a 90-minute cultural program that is a celebration of Indian-Americans and their contributions to the cultural, intellectual, and social landscape of the United States.

Presented by the Texas India Forum, Woven is a 90-minute music, dance, and multimedia show featuring close to 400 artists and community members from Texas and across the nation. There are 27 groups performing in a seamless live and multimedia experience that will showcase the diversity in the Indian-American community. Two original songs have been written for the program, which will trace the journey of Indian-American youth learning their roots to understanding how to put that together with the contemporary world.

"A challenge that many second and third generation Indian-Americans go through is navigating the complexity of having a hyphenated identity as an Indian and an American. Woven showcases the multiplicity of Indian-American experience. Our hope is that each person sees themselves in at least one form of expression and recognizes that whatever mix of Indian and American they are, it is just right," said Heena Patel, CEO of MELA Arts Connect and co-producer of the program.

The show will also shine a light on unsung heroes in the Indian-American community who have undertaken selfless acts benefiting the broader American community without any need of recognition. From the classical and folk traditions passed on in basements across America to the creative exchange between Eastern and Western arts and ideas, Woven illuminates the stories of generations of Indian Americans and snapshots of home, and builds on the theme of "Shared Dreams, Bright Futures" that is the foundation of the event.

"We really look forward to presenting this unique and interesting cultural show at the event, which will tell the story of our community in a way that's never really been done before. We want all the attendees and those watching from home to connect with a program that shows the Indian-American community and understand what drives our community to be part of the larger American experience," said Gitesh Desai, spokesperson for the event.

The live audience will be the largest gathering for an invited foreign leader visiting the United States other

than the Pope. The "Howdy Modi" summit has been organized with the support of more than 1,000 volunteers and 650 Texas-based Welcome Partner organizations.

This unique event brings together the President of the world's most influential democracy, the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy, and a bipartisan delegation of Governors, Members of Congress, Mayors, and other public officials.

Hawkish Netanyahu fails to win...

that would be led by former military chief Benny Gantz. Netanyahu's Likud party trailed its main rival Blue and White by 31 to 32 seats on Wednesday, September 18, putting the country's longest serving premier on a shaky ground and raising the possibility of a unity government.

Israelis voted on Tuesday, September 17, in their country's second general election in five months after 69-year-old Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition with a viable majority following April's vote.

The Central Election Committee (CEC) said Blue and White party seemed to be taking a lead over Likud after 91 per cent votes were counted.

As per figures shared by the CEC, the center-left bloc now has 56 seats compared to Netanyahu-led bloc, comprised of right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties, which is at 55 seats in the 120-member Parliament. The Joint List, an alliance of mostly Arab Israeli parties, also has gained a seat standing at 13. These numbers may change slightly when the votes of soldiers are counted later on Thursday.

The secular Yisrael Beiteinu party won nine seats, making its leader and former defense minister Avigdor Lieberman the kingmaker in the elections.

Meanwhile, the Netanyahu's office said the prime minister will not travel to New York next week for the UN General Assembly in the wake of the election results.

Lieberman, an ally-turned-rival of Netanyahu, said, "The picture is clear...There is only one option and it's a broad liberal unity government, comprising of Likud, Blue and White and his own Yisrael Beiteinu." (Source: PTI)

'Howdy Modi' brings together...

Houston on Sunday, September 22. U.S. President Donald Trump along with a number of high-ranking US government officials, including Governors, Members of Congress and Mayors will attend the "Howdy Modi!" event.

"India is the world's oldest and largest democracy, and one of the United States most important allies," Ms. Gabbard said.

"The United States and India must work closely together if we are to address the pressing issues that impact our nations, our countries, and the entire world such as combating climate change, preventing nuclear war and nuclear proliferation, and improving the economic well-being of our people," she said.

Ms. Gabbard described the wonderful opportunity the U.S. and India has for "...a strong and lasting partnership between our two great nations, a partnership based on shared values and objectives".

"Let us work together to usher in a 21st century of aloha - respect and love for others, no matter our race, religion, ethnicity, caste, economic status or political affiliations," Ms. Gabbard said.

The fourth-term lawmaker is a former Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans.

She was part of a select group of Members of Congress to greet and escort Mr. Modi to the podium

when he addressed a Joint Session of Congress in June 2016 and has welcomed him to events promoting greater U.S.-India relations.

A long-time advocate for greater ties between the U.S. and India, she also congratulated Mr. Modi when he was first elected as Prime Minister following the 2014 elections.

Ms. Gabbard, highly popular among Indian American, converted to Hinduism early in her life and has become the first-ever Hindu to be running for the presidency in the U.S.

She supported Senator Bernie Sanders against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary. (Source: PTI)

India's outreach, engagement...

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan during the week across various platforms.

"We have, as of today, more than 75 Heads of State or Foreign Ministers going to be engaged intensively," he said adding that these will not be pull-asides or brush-asides but would be events where either the Prime Minister and his counterparts or the External Affairs Minister and his counterparts will engage in the same room, discussing substantive issues for at least 30 minutes. "And that's what I call when I say that the breadth is unprecedented. We have never, ever had this sort of an engagement of this intensity during the General Assembly session with such a broad number of countries," Akbaruddin said.

He underscored that there is willingness of a large group of countries to engage with India together.

"In past engagements at the UN, we've had plurilateral meetings like the G4 or BRICS at the Ministerial level, but never have we had this engagement of India and a group of countries together, wanting to work collectively with India," he said adding that all the engagements are very action-oriented. "It's very different from normative talking. The UN is known to be sometimes derisively referred to as a talk shop. Talking is important. I don't think that we should deride talk shops because jaw-jaw is better than waw-waw. So talking is important. But more important is that we need to walk the talk and ...What you will see distinctively coming out of the visit this time is concrete, tangible, action-oriented outcomes that we are working on with our partners globally."

Modi, who will be addressing the General Debate for the first time in five years, has a packed bilateral and multilateral agenda beginning September 23 till September 27, when he will address world leaders from the iconic podium in the General Assembly hall. In all, he will be delivering nine key speeches at high-level summits and plurilateral engagements. With Modi making his first visit to the UN after his resounding election victory in May, Akbaruddin said the Indian leader will "articulate his vision of how he sees India's place in the multilateral arena, based on his past experience, but a forward looking vision."

Modi arrives in New York on the evening of September 22 from Houston, where he will address a massive community event along with President Donald Trump. On the morning of September 23, he will be among the first set of speakers at UN Secretary General's high-level Climate Action Summit in the UN General Assembly chamber along with Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern, President of Marshall Islands Hilda Heine and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

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THE ROLE OF SHAKTI IN CREATION

Shakti in Sanskrit means, power or energy. In Hinduism energy belongs to the domain of Prakriti or the female aspect of Creation. Popularly known as the Mother Goddess, Shakti is worshipped in her various manifestations by millions of Hindus.

God is pure and undivided consciousness. You may even say from a perceptual perspective that He is nothingness. In His purest state devoid of qualities He is Nirguna Brahman, that is (nir+guna) devoid of any distinguished features or appearances. Divisions of time and space and the impurities of ego consciousness created by the gunas do not exist in Him. For inexplicable reasons, as He wakes, He sets in motion Prakriti, the universal energy, that was so far latent in Him, and then enters into it. From this union arises ultimately all this reality that we know as the universe. This is something like the modern theory of the origin of the universe. The big bang is actually what sets in motion the latent energy hidden in the cosmic egg (Hiranyagarbha).

All the matter that exists in this universe, that is tangible, sensible, unstable, with in the domains of sensory world and can be transformed from one state to another, is an aspect of Prakriti only. Matter is energy in its grossest form. (The scientific world took thousands of years to arrive at the same conclusion.). The human body and the mind and the various constituents that go into their making are also manifestations or aspects of Prakriti only, but at a higher level.

The energies of the divinities are still higher on the evolutionary scale than the energies in the human beings, while the energies of the Trinity stand probably above the rest. At the highest level is the combined source of their distinguished energies. This is the energy of the Mother Goddess, acting as the Shakti of Isvara. Isvara is the awakened Brahman, Brahman in his dynamic and creative aspect, who provides the field for the play of Shakti. This in brief is the structure and origin of Shakti.

How Shakti manifests things and beings

Now about Her ways of working and how the diversity arises in the manifested universe. According to our beliefs, creation arises out of the union of the Pure Self (Purusha) with matter or energy (Prakriti). Pure Self enters into matter and then awakens the various energies in the matter leading to the formation of a false self called the ego.

This happens over a period of time through the differentiation and combination of the five Mahabhutas (the five gross elements), Panchendriyas (the five sense organs), the karmendriyas (the five organs of action), the tanmantras (the five subtle elements), manas (mind), ahamkara (deluded self) and buddhi (discriminating intelligence).

This is how individual beings come into the world and evolves gradually towards liberation. Before the individual beings are created this way, the same process takes place at macro levels, resulting in the creation of worlds and higher divinities.

Prakriti develops the ego consciousness by this process to make it an important tool in its armory. The ego is driven by the interplay of the three gunas, namely sattva, rajas and tamas, nourished by the activity of the senses and motivated by the force of desires. These things give it a false sense of identity, through the formation of mind



and the mind's awareness of the body.

Prakriti, bondage and delusion

Thus the mind and the body become the field in space and time for the ego to distinguish itself from the rest of the creation and act as if it is the real self and as if it is different and separate from the rest of the creation. This is what we call ignorance that leads to the deluded belief that the individual ego is the real self where as in reality it is not. All the while, the Real Self exists inside, having lost itself in its own reflection in the buddhi or higher intelligence, doing practically nothing, but keeping the body, the mind and the false ego alive and breathing by its mere presence.

The delusion of the individual ego leads to the bondage of the self. The bondage of self does not mean that the Soul suffers. The Self is pure consciousness and there is no suffering in it. No one can touch it and no one can punish it. We say it suffers because it is caught in the cycle of births and deaths and cannot go back to its source. It is a suffering for the soul from our point of view, not for the soul actually. Whether it exists in the heavens or in Timbaktu, for the soul the experience is one and the same. It is eternal, unchanging and pure bliss consciousness.

What actually suffers or believes that it is suffering is the false self or the ego. Suffering however does not prevent the ego from indulging in its desire driven actions unless the suffering becomes too unbearable to force to turn to spiritualism. Normally otherwise, it is so

attached to the world that given an opportunity it would not mind to live for thousands of years. But unfortunately this is not possible because of the logistics and the physical limitations.

So at the end of each life, the ego becomes frustrated at the approach of old age and dies against its own wishes. It dies unhappily because it leaves behind a lot of tasks unfinished, dreams unrealized and the fruits of its past actions untasted. Nature too does not seem to like this happening since it would not let the self escape from its clutches and since perpetuation of delusion by all means is its chief design.

So it has worked out a compromise by which each created ego is permitted to come back again to the earth through

another rebirth and continue its unfinished work. When a being dies, its ego would not dissolve completely. A small portion of it survives containing its basic tendencies, desires and impulses, which becomes attached to the soul as a kind of program file and after passing through the doors of death, heaven or hell as a subtle body is reborn again. This is in essence the cycle of Prakriti.

At the human level, Prakriti keeps us in delusion through the combination of elements and through the interplay of the triple gunas. At the higher levels She enacts the same drama by becoming the Shakti of various worlds and divinities. Since these divinities are awakened souls she would not delude them, but become a force in their consciousness to help them in their assigned responsibilities.

Thus in the world of Brahma, She becomes Saraswathi to assist Brahma in his acts of Creation. In the world of Vishnu, She becomes Lakshmi to help him manage the world by providing the required amounts of wealth and resources. In the world of Siva, she becomes a yogini or a siddhi and helps him in his task of destroying our illusions.

At the same time, being divine in origin and nature, she also helps individuals who worship her directly and seek liberation from bondage through her grace. Since she is the cause of illusion the logic is she is in a better position to relieve us from the bondage. Hence the ascendance of Shaktism as time went by.

Is Shakti really female? Shakti is pure energy, neither male nor female. This interpretation is purely human, figurative and relative and should not be taken literally. It is also wrong to believe that Self is male and the energy is female. Purusha exists in males as well as females and so does Prakriti exists in males also. They are like the two sides of the same truth. It is also difficult to say who is superior to whom. Without energy Self is practically immovable and without Self energy does not have any field for its movements. The Truth at the highest level: pure energy (PRAKRITI) is undivided consciousness (PURUSHA).

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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."

SECOND T20

Virat Kohli masterclass gives India emphatic win over South Africa

MOHALI (TIP): After the washout due to rain in Dharamsala on Sunday, India began their home season in an emphatic manner by crushing visitors South Africa by 7 wickets in the 2nd T20I of a 3-match series in Mohali on September 18.

Virat Kohli's men needed very little time to put behind the disappointment of World Cup 2019 semi-final exit as they dominated West Indies on their Caribbean tour in August. The dominant run only continued as the Men in Blue outclassed South Africa and took an unbeatable 1-0 lead in the 3-match series.

Captain Virat Kohli led from the front with the bat as he struck his 22nd T20I fifty in a well-paced knock. Kohli was untroubled throughout the knock as he hit 4 boundaries and 3 sixes. He kept the scoreboard moving in a nonchalant manner. India gunned down a 150-run chase with 6 balls to spare as Virat Kohli remained unbeaten on 72 from just 52 balls.

Virat Kohli got good support from opener Shikhar Dhawan who went after the South African bowling attack after the early departure of Rohit Sharma who was struck in front for 12 by Andile Phehlukwayo. Dhawan smashed 40 and added 61 runs for the 2nd wicket before David Miller took a stunning catch at long-on to send the the India opener back to the hut.

There was a slight concern around Virat Kohli's fitness as he walked off the field clutching his back towards the end of the South Africa innings but the India captain



showed no signs of trouble as he came up with an array of eye-catching strokes.

Earlier in the day, Virat Kohli wowed cricket fans with a stunning one-handed catch to send back South Africa's newly-appointed captain Quinton de Kock, who was looking set for a big score after getting to a quickfire fifty. It was a game of spectacular catches as Ravindra Jadeja and David Miller left the cricket fraternity in awe with their efforts on the field.

India's chase was spotless for the most part of it. However, Rishabh Pant's cheap dismissal will add to the concerns surrounding his

reckless attitude. Pant perished while trying yet another aerial shot, much to his own disappointment.

Virat Kohli won the toss and sent South Africa into bat. Quinton de Kock (52) was in blazing form in his first innings as South Africa's full-time captain in T20I cricket but a revamped unit lacked the firepower that was needed to battle India at their own backyard.

Opener Reeza Hendricks fell cheaply but de Kock and Temba Bavuma (49) added 59 for the second wicket. However, Kohli's stunning catch to send his counterpart back pegged back South Africa's charge.



BAJRANG LOSES SEMI IN CONTROVERSIAL MANNER

NUR-SULTAN (TIP): Bajrang Punia lost his semifinal bout against home wrestler Daulat Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances after sealing his Tokyo Olympics quota along with Ravi Dahiya, who made his presence felt in a star-studded field at the World Wrestling Championships here on September 19.

Bajrang's frustrated coach Shako Benitidis kicked the coach's block in anger after the 65kg bout ended 9-9 following a nerve-wracking six minutes.

Since Niyazbekov was given a bigger throw of four points in the bout, he was declared the winner.

In the fiercely-fought bout, the referee gave ample time to tiring Niyazbekov to catch his breath and he was not given caution at least thrice.

Instead Niyazbekov was awarded four points when it was Bajrang who effected a throw at the edge of the circle.

"I challenged it and they should have given at least two points to Bajrang for that hold," said coach Benitidis.

Several times, Bajrang raised his hands in frustration but to no avail.

The last edition silver medallist Indian will now fight for the bronze on Friday.

Ravi, who felled a few stars on his way to the 57kg semifinals, lost 4-6 to reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russia and will also fight for the bronze.



HIMA DAS OUT OF WORLDS DUE TO BACK PROBLEM

NEW DELHI (TIP): World junior champion Hima Das has been ruled out of the upcoming World Championships due to a nagging back problem. "Unfortunately Hima will not be able to compete at the World Championships in Doha due to her back injury," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla said.

AFI had on September 9 named seven women, including Hima, for the 4x400m relay and 4x400m mixed relay races at the World Championships to be held from September 27 to October 6. However, Hima's participation in the relay events became a matter of intense speculation after she was left out of the initial entries of the Indian women athletes for the two relay races submitted by AFI to the international body (IAAF) for the showpiece event. Hima has been suffering from lower-back pain after competing at the Asian Games last year. She pulled out of the individual 400m heats midway through the race at the Asian Championships in Doha in April.

TIME FOR INDIA TO LOOK BEYOND MS DHONI: SUNIL GAVASKAR

NEW DELHI (TIP): The debate over MS Dhoni's retirement has been dominating headlines for some time now. There are various opinions when it comes to the experts and former Indian cricket team skipper Sunil Gavaskar joined the conversation on Thursday. In an interview with India Today, Gavaskar said that Dhoni's time is up and Team India should start looking beyond the former skipper. Dhoni has not played for India since the ICC World Cup 2019 and the veteran wicket-keeper batsman made himself unavailable for selection for India's tour of West Indies in August as he took a sabbatical to train with the Para Regiment of the Indian Army in Kashmir.

"Dhoni's time is up. With due respect, the time has come. India should look beyond. With the greatest of respect to Dhoni, I think he should be going without being pushed out," Sunil Gavaskar told India Today.

Earlier, chief selector MSK Prasad addressed questions regarding the future of Dhoni during the announcement of Indian Test squad for their upcoming series against South Africa. India are scheduled to play three T20Is and as many Tests against the Proteas, starting September 15. Prasad was asked regarding



Dhoni's future during the press conference and he replied: "No update on MS Dhoni's retirement, the news is incorrect."

Dhoni also found support from India skipper Virat Kohli who showered praises on the veteran.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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

Weekly Horoscope - September 23 - September 29, 2019

Aries:

Ganesha says this is a period of joys and achievements. Ganesha gives you a lot. In fact, you are inundated with goodies. You manage to achieve a lot but then you have also worked hard for the success. There are no free lunches in life. You will concentrate on increasing your influence and status as well as your bank balance.

Taurus:

You handle finances with flair and wisdom. In this period there is flux, movement, new happenings and even a touch of uncertainty. The negative aspects of life can also be energised and so you should steer very clear of shady deals. What goes around comes around. Be ethical in life or you will pay a heavy price.

Gemini:

Take care to avoid the law and steer clear of litigation. It is better to settle disputes across the table or they could just get exaggerated. Ganesha advises you. There will be many sensitive and emotionally charged moments. This is not a particularly low phase but many doubts will assail you and you will have to think proactively and let go of the doubts and insecurities plaguing you.

Cancer:

You need to charge out of your crease with the right energy, play life on the front foot like Kohli. This will attract the warmth of others as this mood is always contagious. There will be romance in the air and many meets, conferences and family gatherings. There will be fresh achievements and successes and you will be keen on new goals and targets.

Leo:

You are able to carry everyone with you on this achievement spree. Just believe in Ganesha and go with the flow. You are busy and active on the professional and social fronts. A wide spectrum of business and professional transactions deals and negotiations will have to be handled well.

Virgo:

You will be entertaining, attending or giving parties, being a good host / hostess, even dealing with dietetics and nutrition. The family will make demands on you but you will be more than willing to help them out. There could be the illness of elders, parents or in-laws that cause you much discomfort. An old and steady relationship may also come to an end.

Libra:

This is a period when you make a lot of progress on the work front. You set targets and deadlines and go for it big time. In this period you can also be more demanding or more giving; you will oscillate between extremes. But one thing is for sure: your obsession with mundane material pursuits may come to an end. You look at expanding your consciousness.

Scorpio:

There will be definite changes in your psyche and you become wiser and more mature and have a broader understanding of the world. You will reach out consciously and unconsciously and ask more of the world. This works well for you as you are also willing to give more to the world. Existence sees this change and blesses you manifold. Ganesha blesses you too.

Sagittarius:

You are on the right track. Your mind is more settled and you are at peace. There is money to be made and rewards and awards for the taking. The domestic scene is also more settled and there is intense bonding. You are happy. There are many expenses but that can also be read as wise investments. There is buying and selling.

Capricorn:

There are many positive influences at play indicating growth and progress. You are also filled with exaggerated expectations. There could be sudden windfalls, great wealth or luck, and all kinds of wonderful opportunities that take you many rungs up the ladder of success. This is a fortunate time and you should make the most of it, says Ganesha.

Aquarius:

Expenses mount but earnings from various sources manage to keep pace. So, you don't have to worry too much. There is international travel and new love in your life. There will be many new and fruitful associations too. There will also be new circumstances that give you increased freedom or an opportunity to do something different.

Pisces:

You may pursue new courses in education or you may travel to learn more by seeing the world. There is also money to be made in new ventures. You think and act large and your positive approach and vision pay rich dividends. This is a profitable period by all accounts. This is the wish fulfilment period. I am sure success will be with you. Go with the flow, says Ganesha.

Birthday Horoscope September 23 - September 29, 2019

SEPT 23: Ganesha says you can put a relationship (family?) on new footing, whether through putting behind the past or gaining insight into it. A new look for your home could give you a fresh perspective.

SEPT 24: Whether it's because your confidence is low or you're uncertain, you're not in the best position to stand up for yourself. Maybe you should take a break instead of pushing forward. Energies can get misdirected.

SEPT 25: The Moon intensifies yesterday's fortunate developments pertaining to a relationship, giving you a chance to build on them. How and with whom you relate make all the difference now.

SEPT 26: Misunderstandings can cause plans to go askew. It's safer to double-check appointments and other arrangements than just to assume that everything is all set.

SEPT 27: You and / or a partner or friend may not be able to make any headway with plans. If you take stock of monetary and other

resources, you'll see the need to organize things on more realistic lines.

SEPT 28: If you were feeling decisive yesterday, now you'll find that your words have power, and you'll need an outlet for all that mental power. Speak your mind; otherwise, you'll get stuck in an obsessive mind-loop.

Sept 29: Somebody or something can throw a wrench into the works, particularly in regard to litigation, in-laws, travel, and other distant interests. Focus on your objectives. Avoid getting tangled up in red tape.

Get
to the
Point



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