

Indian girl receives 'Changemaker' award



Payal Jangid (17) receiving the award from Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina J. Mohammed
Photo / via Twitter

NEW YORK (TIP): A teenaged Indian girl has received the "Changemaker" award here by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for her fight against child marriage in her village in Rajasthan. Payal Jangid received the award on Tuesday, September 24 night here during the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards hosted by the Foundation. "The award recognizes her campaign to end child labor and child marriage," the foundation said in a tweet. (Source: PTI)

Harmony and Peace : Modi's Message to the UNGA

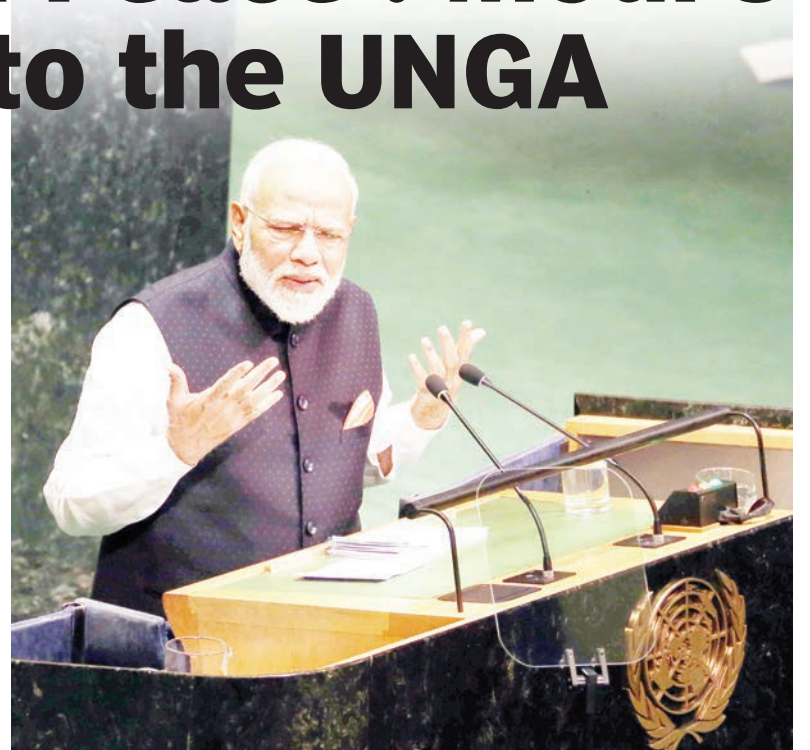
I.S. SALUJA

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the 74th UNGA, September 27, was not the man the world saw and heard at Howdy Modi, Houston on September 22. Nor was he anywhere near his usual self when he addressed rallies of thousands back in India. Here was a calm and relaxed philosopher Narendra Modi speaking about the age-old Indian culture which looked upon the world as a family and believed in Mahatma Gandhi's principles of "Truth and Non-violence".

Modi said that the whole world was celebrating this year the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who gave the message of "Truth and Non-violence". He exhorted the international community to embrace the message of the Indian Spiritual Master Swami Vivekanand who delivered a message of Harmony and Peace a hundred years ago on the US soil, at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago.

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India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon world leaders to strive for harmony and peace. Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-snapsIndia



GOPIO Stalwart Inder Singh has died



Inder Singh, Founding Member, former President and Chairman, and Executive Trustee of GOPIO Foundation has died Sept 27 morning.

NEW YORK (TIP): GOPIO's Founding Life Member, former President and Chairman and current Executive Trustee of GOPIO Foundation has died September 27 morning at a hospital in the Los Angeles area. GOPIO Treasurer Kewal Kanda informed Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO International. Inder Singh was 87.

In a message, Dr. Abraham said: "It is a great loss for all of us, GOPIO, Indian community in the USA and the Indian Diaspora. May his soul rest in peace. GOPIO will do appropriate tribute for his contribution to build GOPIO and for his service to the Indian American community and the Indian Diaspora". For more information, please contact Dr. Thomas Abraham at 203-328-8010

'Abki Baar Trump Sarkar': Modi endorses Donald Trump for 2020 US Presidency

"I present to you my family of 50,000": Modi to Trump



Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes US President Donald Trump at NRG Stadium, Houston, Sept 22

I.S. SALUJA

HOUSTON (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's community reception in Houston on September 22 turned out to be an election rally for US President Donald Trump whom Modi described as "my friend" and "India's friend". Modi heaped

praises on Trump for having strengthened American economy and providing leadership to world. Trump reciprocated with a list of achievements of Modi a little later before inviting Modi to speak. It was quid pro quo of the finest order.

contd on Page 2

Sikh American Deputy Sheriff shot and killed in the line of duty in Texas

Sandeep Dhaliwal was a local hero whose efforts during the Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Maria received high praise from people and administration



HOUSTON, TX (TIP): A Sikh law-enforcement officer has been fatally shot multiple times during a traffic stop in the U.S. state of Texas, a media report said, September 27.

Harris County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sandeep Dhaliwal, 42, pulled over a vehicle when someone approached him from behind and opened fire near Cypress city, the Houston Chronicle quoted Sheriff Ed Gonzalez as saying.

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'Abki Baar Trump Sarkar': Modi endorses Donald Trump for 2020 US Presidency



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, hands held, walk in the NRG Stadium, Houston, Sept 22

COND FROM PAGE 1

Amid chants of "Modi, Modi", Prime Minister endorsed Trump for 2020 US Presidency when he said "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar", reminding the gathering of Indian Americans of the chant during recent general elections in India earlier this year where the chant was "Abki baar Modi Sarkar". Modi a little later, inviting Trump to address the gathering said that Trump had introduced his family to him when he had visited the White House during his last visit to the US, and he was now presenting to him "my family of 50,000", to the great delight of the man who loves crowds and applause.

At hand were about 60 lawmakers belonging to both the Republican and the Democratic Party.

An estimated 50,000 strong crowd went hysteric whenever Trump praised Modi or later, when Modi spoke about India's strength and resolve to deal with a hostile Pakistan.

Defended his government's actions in Kashmir and, in thinly veiled remarks, Modi accused Pakistan of harboring terrorists and promoting terrorism in the region.

Trump sat in the front row as the Indian

prime minister told cheering crowds his decision to remove all autonomy from Indian-administered Kashmir would bring progress and better rights for its people.

India has faced international criticism over its actions in Kashmir. Thousands of people have reportedly been detained, and access to mobile or internet services has been severed for millions of people in a communications blackout, part of a security clampdown in the wake of Delhi's decision.

The rally, on Sunday, marked the first time Modi had discussed the decision to remove Kashmir's special status on a world stage, and followed months of fierce rhetoric from Pakistan, which also claims the disputed region and has sought to raise the issue with the UN.

Without directly naming Pakistan, Modi accused the country of "hatred towards India" and of supporting terrorism.

"Whether it is the 9/11 attack in America or the 26/11 attack in Mumbai, where are its conspirators found?"

"The time has come for a decisive fight against terrorism and those who support terrorism," he said. "I want to stress here that President Trump is standing firmly against this."



A group of Sikhs with PM Modi. Seen, among others are J.S. Bakshi (second from left), H.P. Singh (third from left), Dr. Surinder Singh (fourth from left)

Trump, who was given a rapturous welcome at the event, said he was committed to protecting "innocent civilians from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism".

About 50,000 Indian Americans attended the "Howdy Modi!" rally, where crowds chanted "Modi! Modi! Modi!" as he took to the stage, following a 90-minute cultural program featuring 400 dancers.

Trump, introduced by Modi as "my friend, a friend of India, a great American president", was given a standing ovation at the event in Houston, a Democratic stronghold in Republican-dominated Texas. Houston is expected to be a critical battleground in Trump's 2020 re-election bid.

Modi, who was re-elected this year with a thumping majority, enjoys wide support among Indians both at home and abroad, especially among the middle classes, said Manoj Joshi, a fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi-based thinktank. "He is extremely popular, particularly when it comes to the Indian

diaspora in the US where there is a lot of Gujarati diaspora, from his home state," he said.

The rally was held as Kashmir remains under a security crackdown, apparently to prevent unrest. Outside the stadium, protesters accused Modi's government of human rights abuses against Kashmiris.

Iltija Mufti, the daughter of the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, said on Twitter: "While people in Kashmir have been gagged, mass hysteria is orchestrated elsewhere to justify this decision." Her mother was among thousands reportedly detained as part of a crackdown by security services.

Modi's speech came just days before the UN general assembly's meeting in New York, where the Pakistani prime minister, Imran Khan, is expected to accuse Modi of being complicit in torture and mass detention in Indian-administered Kashmir. Michael Kugelman, a south Asia expert at the Wilson Center, in Washington DC, said while Modi generally preferred to keep quiet about Kashmir with global audiences, it was unsurprising that he had raised the issue in Texas.

"I think he wanted to try to blunt international criticism by demonstrating just how popular the move [to remove Kashmir's special status] was among Indians - including Indian Americans in the US," said Kugelman. "And indeed his comment got louder applause than just about anything he or Trump said during the whole event."

Though the scrapping of Kashmir's special status faces major opposition within the region, it is widely supported elsewhere in India.

It was unsurprising an Indian leader would criticize Pakistan in a political speech, said Kugelman, but he added: "It is significant that Modi did so with Trump seated right in front of him, and at a moment when the US-Pakistan relationship has enjoyed a renaissance thanks to Islamabad's help with Taliban talks in Afghanistan."

(With inputs from Agencies)



The jampacked NRG Stadium to welcome Prime Minister Modi

PM Modi receives Global Goalkeeper award for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, says people in India behind its success

PM Modi dedicated the honor to crores of Indians who made the initiative a part of their daily lives

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the 'Global Goalkeeper Award' for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by the government.

The award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was presented to PM Modi by Bill Gates in New York on Wednesday, Sept 25 morning. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or the Clean India Mission, was one of the first few ambitious projects that PM Modi launched in his first term at the Centre in 2014.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Global Goalkeeper Award at tonight's Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards. This award recognizes the progress India has made in providing safe sanitation under his leadership.

Getting the award in the year of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary is personally significant for me. When 130 crore people take a pledge, any challenge can be overcome," PM Modi said in a series of tweets.

The Prime Minister said he shared the honor with his countrymen and dedicated the award to those Indians who transformed the Swachh Bharat



Bill Gates presents the Global Goalkeeper Award to PM Modi

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

campaign into a "people's movement".

"No such campaign was seen or heard about in any other country in the recent

past. It might have been launched by our government, but people took control of it," Modi said. Stressing that the success

of the campaign could not be measured in numbers, the prime minister said the poor people and the women of India were benefitted the most by it.

Due to lack of toilets, a number of girls had to drop out of schools. Our daughters want to study, but because of lack of toilets, they had to abandon their education mid-way and sit at home," PM Modi added.

Modi said he was told that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had also reported that as rural sanitation had improved in India, it had led to a decline in heart problems among children and improvement in the Body Mass Index (BMI) among women.

Gandhiji used to say a village could only become a model when it was completely clean. Today we are heading towards making the entire country a model, the PM said.

"The campaign has not only improved the lives of crores of Indians, but it has also played a significant role in achieving the goals set by the UN," Modi said.

The cleanliness campaign was launched by the Modi government during its first term on October 2, 2014.

Imran Khan at UN General Assembly demanded India lift 'inhuman curfew' in Kashmir



Pakistan Prime Minister remained fixed on Kashmir issue in his 50-minute speech at UNGA Sept 27

decision to revoke Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and criticized the government's move to put in place a communication lockdown.

He said India ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, flouting 11 resolutions of the UN Security Council, the Shimla agreement and its own Constitution.

"What is the world community going to do? Is it going to appease a market of 1.2 billion, or is it going to stand up for justice and humanity," the Pakistani Prime Minister asked.

"...This is the time to take action. And number one action must be that India must lift the inhuman curfew" in Kashmir, he said. "It must free all political prisoners," he added.

Self-determination

He went on to say that the world community must give the people of Kashmir the right to self-determination.

Asserting that the situation in Kashmir will deteriorate once India lifts the curfew, Mr. Khan said, "You hope for the best but be prepared for the worst."

He said once the curfew is lifted, "there will be a reaction" and India would blame Pakistan.

"Two nuclear-armed countries will come face to face, like we came in February," he said, a reference to the stand-off between the two nations following the Pulwama terror attack on an Indian police convoy and India's subsequent air strikes on terror camps in Balakot in Pakistan. (Source : PTI)

Leadership Matters: "Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World"

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi - a global icon of peace and non-violence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a high-level event on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA, Sept 24 in the ECOSOC Chamber of the UN Headquarters.

The event was graced by H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the UN, H.E. Mr. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica and H.E. Ms. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Other dignitaries who took part in the event include the Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Mr. Lotay Tshering, First Lady of Republic of Korea H.E. Ms. Kim Jung-Sook, senior officials of the UN and diplomats from member states.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar gave the welcome remarks. The participating dignitaries together inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park at the UN Headquarters (contributed by Government of India to the UN), the Gandhi Peace Garden at State University of New York College at Old Westbury and unveiled the special commemorative edition of the Gandhi@150 Postage Stamps brought out by the UN Postal Administration. PM Modi in his keynote address talked

about the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi to the cause of greater human freedom in the 20th century; emphasis on the welfare of all (Sarvodaya); championing of the downtrodden (Antyodaya); and prescient concern for environmental sustainability. PM said that Mahatma Gandhi's faith in collective will, shared destiny, moral purpose, people's movements and personal responsibility are extremely germane to contemporary times.

PM said that violent conflict, terrorism, economic inequalities, socio-economic deprivation, pandemics and the looming existential threat of climate change are impacting people, states and societies. Leadership is crucial to addressing any and every one of these issues and the values promoted by Gandhi serve as moral compass for enlightened leadership.

Secretary General Guterres said that Gandhi gave us a talisman to judge any policy and indeed any action - to assess if the proposed action would enhance the life, dignity and destiny of the poorest person we had met. Sanitation, maternal health, primary education, gender balance, women empowerment, reduction of hunger, and ensuring partnerships for development formed the basis for Gandhi's life and practice long before the MDGs or SDGs were designed. In fact, the Sustainable Development Goals are Gandhian philosophy in action. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Article 370

Mr. Khan spoke at length about India's

Indian American Physician charged for unlawfully distributing opioids

NEW YORK (TIP): The Justice Department announced Sept 24 the second coordinated law enforcement action of the Appalachian Region Prescription Opioid (ARPO) strike force, resulting in charges against 13 individuals across five Appalachian federal districts for alleged offenses relating to the over prescription of controlled substances through "pill mill" clinics. Of those charged, 12 were charged for their role in unlawfully distributing opioids and other controlled substances and 11 were physicians. The alleged conduct resulted in the distribution of more than 17 million pills.

Dr. Sriramloo Kesari, 77, of Charleston, West Virginia, was charged with allegedly unlawfully distributing controlled substance without a legitimate medical purpose. This case was investigated by the DEA, HHS-OIG and Hurricane Police Department. These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant Chief Kilby Macfadden and Trial Attorney Sean O'Connell of the Fraud Section.

This action follows the first such takedown in April of this year, which involved charges against 60 defendants, including 53 medical professionals, in 11 federal districts, alleging the illegal distribution of more than 23 million pills. The charges brought in April have already resulted in 11 guilty pleas in seven federal districts, including guilty pleas by nine medical professionals, including seven physicians.

Indian American doctor pleads guilty to running pill mill

CINCINNATI (TIP): An Indian origin owner and operator of a Hamilton pain clinic pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court Sept 23 to illegal distribution of controlled substances, health care fraud and violating the anti-kickback statute.

Nilesh Jobalia, 54, of Cincinnati, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Susan J. Dlott.

Benjamin C. Glassman, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Lamont Pugh III, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General; Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost; Anthony Groeber, Executive Director, State Medical Board of Ohio; Steven Schierholt, Executive Director, State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy; and Stephanie B. McCloud, Administrator, Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation, announced the plea. "Today Dr. Jobalia accepted responsibility for trafficking drugs by means of a prescription pad, health care fraud, and receiving kickbacks," U.S. Attorney Glassman said.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian American SBU Students Chosen for Selective Millennium Fellows Program

NEW YORK (TIP): Two India Americans are among Eleven Stony Brook students among a select group from 69 colleges around the globe chosen for the Millennium Fellowship, a partnership between the Millennium Campus Network and the United Nations Academic Impact initiative and the Millennium Campus Network. The students are all working on various projects that focus on the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Lakshita Kundal and Agam Singh have been selected to be Millennium Fellows. This year there was a record 7,020 applications for this selective program from young leaders on 1,209 campuses across 135 nations.

Lakshita Kundal's Plastic-Free Project (PFP) serves to educate, challenge, and inspire college students to shift from conventional to conscious living. PFP calls all students to take part in a 21-day challenge uniquely designed to help them develop eco-conscious lifestyle habits to tackle today's most pressing environmental issues, especially ocean pollution, with the opportunity to win prizes and awards.

Launched in 2018, the selective Millennium Fellowship is a semester-long leadership development program. Students receive the fellowship based on their leadership on sustainable development-related projects that



Lakshita Kundal (Front row extreme right) is one of the student co-campus directors for the program
Photo / Courtesy SBU

advance the SDGs in their communities. As Millennium Fellows, they will participate in a leadership development program to improve their student organizing, partnership building and community impact skills.

Indian American Honored with Under-40 Innovators Award at Design Automation Conference

LAS VEGAS (TIP): Vijay Raghunathan, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University has recently been conferred the Under-40 Innovators Award, sponsored by Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The award recognizes the top young innovators, who have made a significant impact in the field of design and automation of electronics. Raghunathan, along with four others was honored at 56th Design Automation Conference at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas.

Vijay Raghunathan is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Purdue University and the director of the Embedded Systems and IoT Lab, which he founded in 2006. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from UCLA and his B. Tech. degree in electrical engineering from IIT Madras, India. At Purdue University, his team investigates the design of new hardware and software architectures for next-generation embedded systems, IoT edge devices, and wearable/implantable electronics, with an emphasis on ultra-low power design, micro-scale energy harvesting, edge analytics, and reliable/secure system design. Vijay also



Vijay Raghunathan is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Purdue University

holds an appointment as the Anand Rajaraman and Venky Harinarayan Visiting Chair Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras. Vijay has co-written more than 100 journal and conference papers (several of which have won best paper and best design awards) and has presented numerous keynotes, invited talks, and tutorials on the above topics.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian National with Altered German Passport intercepted by Dulles CBP

STERLING, VA (TIP): U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers intercepted an Indian national in possession of a fraudulent German passport Monday at Washington Dulles International Airport. The man was refused admission to the United States.

Authorities declined to prosecute the Indian man. Privacy laws prevent CBP from releasing his name because he was not criminally charged.

The 28-year-old Indian national arrived from Accra, Ghana, Sept 15 Monday morning and presented the German passport to a CBP officer during inspection. The CBP officer detected discrepancies in the passport's biographical page and referred the man to a secondary examination.

File photo of the back patch of a CBP officer in an airport environment. During the secondary examination, CBP officers were unable to access the passport's electronic chip and suspected the chip to be altered or damaged. Under questioning, the man admitted to purchasing the passport in Ghana. CBP officers seized the passport and refused the Indian national admission to the United States.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)



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Whistleblower on Trump-Ukraine contacts is CIA officer

WASHINGTON (TIP): A whistleblower whose complaint accuses US President Donald Trump of trying to induce the Ukrainian government to take actions against former Vice President Joe Biden, is a CIA officer, media reports said on Friday, Sept 27. The unnamed CIA officer once worked at the White House, the BBC quoted several US media outlets as saying.

A lawyer for the whistleblower warned that trying to identify the officer could place them "in harm's way". This development comes after the complaint, which refers to a controversial phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on July 25, where the American leader pushes his counterpart to investigate corruption claims involving Joe Biden's son, Hunter, was released by the US House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on Thursday.

"In the course of my official duties, I have received information from multiple US government officials that the President of the US is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 US election," the whistleblower wrote in the complaint dated August 12. "This interference includes, among other things, pressuring a foreign country to investigate one of the President's main domestic political rivals," he said, describing Trump's personal lawyer, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, as "a central figure in this effort", Efe news reported. The whistleblower added that senior White House officials tried to "lock down" all details of the phone call. He said that details of the call were stored in a "stand-alone computer system reserved for codeword-level intelligence information, such as covert action". The complaint was addressed to Senator Richard Burr and Representative Adam Schiff, the respective chairmen of the Senate and House panels charged with overseeing intelligence, Efe news reported. Democrats on Tuesday opened an impeachment inquiry against the Trump, accusing him of seeking foreign help in the hope of smearing Joe Biden and of using military aid to Ukraine as a potential bargaining tool.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing and dismissed the impeachment proceedings as a "hoax" and "another witch-hunt". Meanwhile, an audio recording has emerged in which Trump demands to know who provided information to the whistleblower - and describes them as "close to a spy", the BBC reported.

The release of the whistleblower complaint on Thursday came as lawmakers on the House Intelligence Committee began to question President Trump's top intelligence official on the issue. Acting National Intelligence Director Joseph Maguire had initially refused to share the complaint with Congress. But under questioning by the committee on Thursday, Maguire said he believed the whistleblower had acted in "good faith" and "did the right thing". (Source: IANS)

India's Pinkathon is Coming to New Jersey for International Pinkathon Day

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy announced that Pinkathon is coming to New Jersey for International Pinkathon Day on October 20th. Started in 2012, Pinkathon is India's biggest women's run created with the objective of spreading awareness about women's health related issues, breast cancer in particular, and to encourage women to adopt health and fitness in their daily lifestyles by means of running. An intl Pinkathon Day has been organized since 2018 and this year will be celebrated in 12 countries on October 20th. First Lady Tammy Murphy also visited the Magic Bus, a successful NGO which works with children and young people taking them on a journey from childhood to livelihood and out of poverty. Magic Bus has transformed the lives of one million children and young people, helping them move out of poverty. The First Lady met with adolescents, who shared their experiences and how the Magic Bus has transformed their lives.



Pinkathon is India's biggest women's run created with the objective of spreading awareness about women's health related issues

Great happenings at the Mattoo Center For India Studies at Stony Brook University

NEW YORK (TIP): Over 200 people gathered on September 21st at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, New York to celebrate 22 years of accomplishments of the Mattoo Center for India Studies at Stony Brook University.

Professor Arvind Panagariya, former Chairman of Niti Ayog and Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University delivered the Keynote address. Giving a capsule history of India's economic reforms, he declared that India is expected to become a seven trillion-dollar economy, the world's third largest, before 2030. Stony Brook's Interim Provost, Dr. Minghua Zhang, thanked the Indian American community for their unwavering support, which has enabled the Center to become "an academic success, a community asset, and an international resource on India." Dr. Nicole Sampson, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, praised the Center as an "incubator of creative work, scholarship, and teaching, in fundamental liberal arts as well as medicine, technology and business." Welcoming the guests, the philanthropist, Dr. Nirmal K. Mattoo noted that the Center's remarkable growth and expansion over the years is a model of the Indian American community's partnership with a public university to create expertise and resources for the study of India.

Professor S.N. Sridhar, founding Director of the Center, remarked that the

Professor Arvind Panagariya, former Chairman of Niti Ayog and Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University delivered the Keynote address. Giving a capsule history of India's economic reforms, he declared that India is expected to become a seven trillion-dollar economy, the world's third largest, before 2030.

Center has succeeded in mainstreaming India in the university curriculum and showcased India's contributions to world civilization and Indian Americans' role in American society. With 33 India-related courses taught annually, impactful faculty research, conferences, exhibits, lecture series by distinguished scholars and artists, publications and outreach programs, and student scholarships, the Center has emerged as one of most high-profile India Studies programs in the country. In March, through the Dr. Krishna Gujartary Seminar on Leadership and Values, the University hosted Preet Bharara, the former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York to an overflow audience. In May, Mr. A.J. Nagaraj, Assistant Vice-President for Advancement, organized a get together

in Manhattan for India Studies alumni. This year, Sanskrit is again being taught after a hiatus. The Center is also making its impact far beyond the campus, with study abroad programs, invited expert courses, collaborative research projects and jointly sponsored seminars in India.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of the arrival of the renowned authority on Indian philosophy, Professor Arindam Chakrabarti as the inaugural Nirmal K. and Augustina Mattoo Chair in Classical Indic Humanities. Prof. Chakrabarti's inaugural address, "Pain, Poetry, and Practice of Philosophy," has been published by the Center. Prof. Chakrabarti and the Center are spearheading a two-day celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. On October 2nd, Professor Tridip Suvrud, former director of the Sabarmati Ashram will deliver a lecture "What do we celebrate when we celebrate Gandhi?" and on October 3rd he will lead a panel discussion on "True and False Civilization."

The Gala featured elegant Bharatanatyam and fusion dances by Sophia Salingaros and was ably compered by Urvashi Kaul of Columbia University.

For details, contact Professor S.N. Sridhar at (631) 327-1318 (cell) or Ms. Frances Kelley at (631) 632-9742 or s.sridhar@stonybrook.edu

(Press Release)

PM Modi meets Global CEOs and Senior Executives of leading American Companies

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, September 25, chaired an exclusive roundtable discussion, at New York, with 42 global captains of industry from across 20 sectors. The companies that participated in the roundtable had a combined net worth of US\$ 16.4 trillion, of which their net worth in India is US\$ 50 billion.

The gathering included Ms. Ginni Rometty, Chairman, President and CEO of IBM; Mr. Douglas McMillon, President and CEO of Walmart; Mr. James Quincey, Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola; Ms. Marillyn Hewson, CEO of Lockheed Martin; Mr. Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JP Morgan; Mr. James D. Taiclet, CEO of American Tower Corporation and co-chair of the India-US CEO forum; and Senior Executives from Apple, Google, Marriott, VISA, Mastercard, 3M, Warburg Pincus, AECOM, Raytheon, Bank of America, Pepsi to name a few.

The DPIIT- and Invest India-organized interaction included the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Sh. Piyush Goyal, and senior officials from the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and Ministry of External Affairs.



Global CEOs and Senior Executives of leading American Companies with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York, Sept 25

The participants appreciated the great strides made by India in striving towards ease of doing business and many reforms which have led to a conducive environment for investors. The business leaders complimented the Prime Minister on taking strong decisions with a focus on Ease of Doing Business and making India more investor friendly. The leaders also mentioned that their companies remained committed to the growth story of India and, on the back of this,

continued to grow their footprint in India.

The CEOs briefly outlined their specific plans in India and also put forth recommendations to aid India's efforts towards skill development, Digital India, Make in India, inclusive growth, green energy and financial inclusion.

In response to the CEOs' comments, the Prime Minister stressed upon continued political stability, predictability of policy, and pro-development and pro-growth policies. He further emphasized the

development of tourism, plastic recycling and waste management initiatives, and to enhance the business of MSMEs, especially those which create more opportunities for farmers and agriculture. He urged the companies to leverage the Startup India innovation platforms in partnership with other countries - to make solutions not only for India, but for the world, including challenging issues like nutrition and waste management.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Announces New Partnership with Producers Guild of India

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey delegation continued their economic trade mission in Mumbai, promoting New Jersey's innovation economy. In another action-packed day on Sept 21, Governor Murphy announced a partnership with the Producers Guild of India to support Bollywood film production in the Garden State. Governor Murphy also met with Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal at an event with the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Murphy spoke to the Producers Guild of India (PGI) to promote New Jersey as a destination for Bollywood filming. "In New Jersey, we are serious about making movies," Governor Murphy said. "And, I firmly believe there is a natural partnership just waiting to be uncovered between New Jersey and Bollywood." The Governor signed an MOU on behalf of the Secretary of State and New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission with the PGI, launching a new collaborative relationship. The MOU is designed to share ideas and best practices on film production and promotion and to assist the India Producers Guild with the production of films and other cinematic content including location scouting and support for



Governor Murphy spoke to the Producers Guild of India (PGI) to promote New Jersey as a destination for Bollywood filming



Bollywood film production in New Jersey.

Governor Murphy promoted New Jersey as a business destination for investment to more than 150 senior corporate and government officials at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC). Indian Commerce Minister Goyal was also on hand to address the members. The IACC was established in 1968 and is the apex bi-lateral Chamber to enhance US-India economic engagement.

Governor Murphy promoted New Jersey as a business destination for investment to more than 150 senior corporate and government officials at the Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC).

AS I SEE IT



By Happymon Jacob

Another Chance in Afghanistan



US soldiers in Afghanistan

It is perhaps for the best that the U.S.-Taliban talks were called off earlier this month. The Taliban leadership's proposed visit to Camp David in the United States would have led to a slew of significant geopolitical changes with implications for the region and beyond.

Perhaps the Taliban became far too greedy and impatient, or the U.S. President has pulled out what he thinks is the Trump card to gain a negotiating advantage especially given that the American establishment is not too happy with the deal. There were misgivings about the deal that the chief U.S. negotiator to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, was about to ink with the Taliban.

Back to square one

The Taliban, having fought against and displaced the powerful coalition forces over the past 18 years, has the luxury of time on its side, even as it is steadily increasing its political legitimacy within Afghanistan. Recall that this is not the first time U.S.-Taliban talks are breaking down, and every time the Americans have had to come around to negotiating again. Mr. Donald Trump on the other hand may not have the luxury of time. As for the international community, it has grown tired of the Afghan story.

In any case, we are back to another season of heavy fighting in Afghanistan with devastating attacks being mounted by the Taliban far more frequently than before.

What implications does the cancellation of U.S.-Afghan talks have for the volatile South Asian region in general and for India in particular?

Implications for Afghanistan

The direct fallout from the American pullout from the negotiations is more bloodshed in the country. The gloves are now off (not that the Taliban was greatly restrained earlier) and the Taliban has already started carrying out major attacks with the American troops fighting back. However, the current dispensation in Afghanistan, led by President Ashraf Ghani, might not be too displeased with the outcome. The September 28 elections are likely to go ahead, and Mr. Ghani has a chance to continue as President without having to share power with the Taliban - a prospect Kabul has been uneasy about for

a long time - to the extent that he actively discouraged all talks with the Taliban that did not involve Kabul. The Ghani government will also be pleased with the fact that U.S. troops are likely to continue in the country, for if left alone the government will not survive long.

The larger question that should concern the Afghan people is whether the Taliban is a changed lot or not. The Taliban has been making direct and indirect assertions about how they are a much-evolved group on the question of girls' education, treatment of women and minorities, among others. But these are claims at best and that is precisely why a deal with the Taliban should include commitments on its domestic behavior.

What it means for India

Even with a properly negotiated deal, the ascent of the Taliban in Afghanistan would have meant a certain amount of regional uncertainty and geopolitical recalibration. Pakistan, for instance, has been counting on the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan which it deeply believes gives it strategic depth vis-à-vis India. Pakistani triumphalism in the context of Afghanistan would have meant pinpricks for India. Now that there is no deal between the Taliban and the U.S., there is likely to be more violence internally within Afghanistan while the external implications would be more or less contained. This calculus might change if and when the Taliban returns to power and foreign troops withdraw.

India's best bet in Afghanistan would be a negotiated withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, for this would check the Taliban's proclivity to engage in

Donald Trump's calling off Taliban peace talks is to India's advantage; an outreach to the outfit could secure it.

trouble-making outside Afghan territory.

A non-negotiated withdrawal of U.S. forces would be the worst-case scenario for India even though that is unlikely to happen. This will mean little check on the Taliban's behavior at home and in the neighborhood. It will also enhance Pakistan's ability to control elements of the Taliban for tactical or strategic anti-Indian uses.

Once the Taliban returns to power in Afghanistan, on its own or as part of a power-sharing arrangement, Indian civilian assets and interests in Afghanistan could come under increased pressure. Today, with the Pakistani side up in arms against India, thanks to New Delhi's Kashmir decision, the possibility of the Taliban going against Indian interests is much higher, if we were to assume Pakistan to be a major influence on the Taliban's actions.

The Kashmir question

Kashmir in many ways will continue to be at the center of how the emerging geopolitical situation in Afghanistan will impact India. While it is true that a repeat of the late 1980s, when scores of unemployed Afghan fighters turned up in Kashmir at the behest of the Pakistani agencies, is unlikely to happen today for a number of reasons, including due to physical barriers and the amassing of Indian troops on the border, some presence of the Taliban fighters cannot be

India's best bet in Afghanistan would be a negotiated withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, for this would check the Taliban's proclivity to engage in trouble-making outside Afghan territory.

ruled out. More significantly, however, if a non-negotiated withdrawal of the U.S. forces takes place, it could lead to an open season for Taliban's regional engagement which could potentially be influenced by Pakistan's strategic calculations. Even if there is a deal between the U.S. and the Taliban, the fact that the Taliban will have "forced" the Americans out of Afghanistan would provide a shot in the arm to Pakistan, and young Kashmiris who are willing to take up arms against the Indian state. "If a superpower like the U.S. can be pushed out of Afghanistan by the Taliban with help from Pakistan, would it be too difficult to beat India?" is the argument doing the rounds among sections of aggrieved Kashmiri youth.

The manner in which talks between the Taliban and the U.S., were being conducted would have led to negative consequences for New Delhi. To that extent, the breakdown of the Trump-Taliban talks is advantage India. The U.S. and the international community, while picking up the threads of negotiations in the days ahead, will need to ensure that there are enough guarantees built into a deal to disincentivize undesirable external behavior by the Taliban.

India, on its part, needs to reach out to the Taliban, not to recognize it but to engage with it, in its own national interest. In fact, we are already pretty late in this game, and with the Chinese, Pakistanis and even the Russians converging on the importance of the return of the Taliban to the Afghan scheme of things, one wonders whether India will ever be able to make inroads into the higher echelons of the Taliban. In any case, any outreach from the Indian side would make the government in Kabul led by Mr. Ghani, unhappy. This leaves India in a difficult situation. Hence, such an outreach will also need to be carefully calibrated and discreetly executed.

(Happymon Jacob teaches at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, and is the author of 'Line on Fire: Ceasefire Violations and India-Pakistan Escalation Dynamics')

READER'S WRITE

On PM Modi's speech at UNGA



Prime Minister Modi delivered a great speech at the UNGA. My English teacher in 8th grade used to say "The proof of pudding is in eating." India is a highly

developed country with developing country's problems. Just look at the recent report presented by the Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India and National Institute of Nutrition. Two of three deaths in children are due to malnutrition. Despite India's 50% increase of GDP since 1991, more than

1/3 of world's malnourished children live in India. Among these, 1/2 of children are under weight and the 1/3 of wealthiest children in India are overweight or obese. What a paradox!

Prime Minister Modi in his mega UN address, very succinctly expressed about Vishwa shanti. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "If we are to teach real peace in the world.....we shall have to begin with the children."

I am mindful about the midday meals and the efforts of the government as

well as the NGOs. Did you know about the recent scandals about the midday meals? What is the solution?

The policy makers should revisit the roots of our culture, Manasa- Vacha-Karmana and put into practice.

May I ask your audience to read a book "In spite of the Gods, the rise of modern India" by Edward Luce?

Jai Hind.

*Dr. VK Raju,
Morgan Town, VW*

Howdy Modi: A Circus for the NRI's with Dead Souls!



By Dave Makkar

“In reality under Modi, the share of the wealth of the richest 1% has increased to 73% in 2018, from 49% in 2014 and now they own 85% of the nation's wealth. In the name of "Acchey Din Aaney Wale Hain" India now stands 103rd from 55th in 2014 on the Global Hunger Index along with Nigeria and has been categorized as a country with 'serious' levels of hunger.”

There is a famous Roman saying, "If you can't give them bread, give them circuses" fits more on Modi than any other leader in the democratic world.

Howdy Modi in Houston (USA) was another circus like ongoing circuses in India since 2014; Ram Mandir, Cow Protection, Namami Gange, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Yoga Day, abolition of Article 370, etc. by PM Modi to divert attention from the rapidly sinking India; financially, industrially, militarily, morally and ethically.



Modi has become master in the art of organizing multimillion-dollar extravaganza circuses as a political leader. The 2-year long circus (Presidential style campaign) prior to his becoming PM of India in 2014 costing over Rs. 30,000 crore called "Acchey Din Aaney Wale Hain" "Abki Baar Modi Sarkar" (Good Days are coming because Modi government is coming!) With 185 shows in 295 constituencies; Modi promises "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" (Collective Efforts, inclusive Growth). In reality under Modi, the share of the wealth of the richest 1% has increased to 73% in 2018, from 49% in 2014 and now they own 85% of the nation's wealth. In the name of "Acchey Din Aaney Wale Hai" India now stands 103rd from 55th in 2014 on the Global Hunger Index along with Nigeria and has been categorized as a country with 'serious' levels of hunger.

Again this Circus was revived prior to 2019 elections under the banner of unfulfilled promises "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" made in 2014 with a very heavy dash of Hindutva because of the massive



job losses, hunger, poverty, massive non-performing loans with banks & closures of numerous businesses under Modi's 5 years of rule. All the government machinery, corporate money, massive cash from dubious sources and 95% media were at Modi's disposal. Modi was instrumental in giving party ticket to known communal, criminals, rapist, bomb makers and terrorist accused. Modi won the elections with a bigger margin than 2014! According to ADR, Modi inducted 22 criminals in his new cabinet of Ministers.

After winning again in 2019; Howdy Modi is Modi's first circus in a foreign country and 3rd in USA since 2014. Modi the star campaigner for himself & those who support him had a shock of his life when he got a hard slap from US House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer indirectly rejecting his style of functioning and his vision for India. Modi who is used to of bashing rather abusing Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and first PM Jawahar Lal Nehru in his all political rallies; was forced to learn history of India and how the foreigners look at India. Steny Hoyer said, "India, like America, is proud of its ancient traditions to secure a future according to Gandhi's teaching and Nehru's vision of India as a secular democracy where respect for pluralism and human rights safeguard every individual." He also recalled that Nehru on the eve of Independence had spoken of Gandhi's ambition "to wipe every tear from every eye" and that "as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over." "In that sense, the work of our countries is not over."

A shameless and self-praising Modi after that spoke in 8-10 Indian languages, "All is well in India". He is Promoting Transparency, Public Participation & anti-corruption by Gutting the Right to Information, turning the CBI & ED into agencies that gives Free Ride to the politicians & corporates that are on his side of the political divide!

As per the Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The Worker Population Ratio in India from 49.9% in 2014 stands at a record low of 46.8%. Employment Rate of 50.80% in 2012 and is now at a record low of 46.80% in 2018. The unemployment is 6.1% with 31 million unemployed is highest in 45 years.

Recent Gallup survey revealed a big decline in the percentage of Indians who rate their lives positively enough to rate it as "thriving" since Modi assumed office. "Beginning in 2015, rural Indians began reporting increased difficulty paying for

food." More than one in four rural Indians (28%) reported not having enough money to pay for food at some point that year (compared with 18% of urban Indians who reported the same hardship)."

India Tops the Global Charts in; Malnourishment, Blindness, Diabetes, Leprosy, Environmental Pollution, Traffic Accidents and Suicides by Farmers. Lags behind; Bangladesh in Human Development Index, Nigeria in Global Hunger Index, Sudan in Human Capital Score, & Pakistan in GDP Growth Rate.

GDP from over 8% in 2014 has fallen to below 5% in real terms. According to RBI, GNPA's of banks (bad loans) have gone up from Rs 2.63 lakh crore in March 31, 2014 to Rs 10.39 lakh crore as of March 31, 2018. A nearly four-fold increase under Modi regime.



According to Modi, still "All is well in India!"

Modi all these years as PM of 1.35 Billion Indians has miserably failed to understand that "Leaders are defined by what they do, not how much they talk and how well they dress up". After the euphoria, showmanship, theatrics and symbolism of Howdy Modi; when Modi landed in New York for country's business, despite calling Trump his close buddy and acting like his campaign manager with Indian's money at Howdy Modi failed to get the Indo-US bilateral Trade deal signed. India had been expecting reinstatement to the Generalized System of Preferences, under which it gets better access to the US market, which was revoked in June this year. This also never materialized. This means that nearly 2,000 products, including auto products and textiles, and up to \$5.6 billion in Indian exports can no longer enter the United States duty-free. As a consolation prize; Trump crowned Modi as Elvis Presley and Father of India knowing it too well that Mahatma Gandhi is the Father of the Indian Nation since its birth. Pathetically Modi accepted both the Titles awarded to him by his close buddy Trump without raising any objections.

The worst is Modi failed to get Trump's statement that "Kashmir is India's internal matter". Rather Trump made a statement that India and Pakistan should sought out Kashmir issue amicably. Also he again retreated his past statement that if both leaders of India and Pakistan agrees, "he is willing to mediate on the issue of Kashmir." That makes "Kashmir" bilateral issue rather than internal issue of India. Saudi Arabia that was supporting India till Feb. 2019 on Kashmir supported the resolution of OIC that represent 57 states



on 9-26-19 calling on India to "rescind" its actions revoking Article 370 in criticizing the government's actions there. In 2017 Saudi's conferred the highest Civilian Award to Modi during his Riyadh visit. In early 2019 Saudi Prince MSB called Modi his elder brother during his visit to India! It's the biggest Diplomatic failure for Modi in the international arena.

Modi must stop doing circuses in foreign countries; a new and rather vulgar trend he started in 2014 is hurting India & NRI's image in the world. Many Indian PMs have visited USA many times in the history, yet they keep expenditures in mind. After all the Indians pay taxes for their expenditures.

PM Nehru's visit to the US in Nov. 1949: without any special PR campaign, NRI crowd management or hyped-up media publicity a large crowd of Americans not Indians only gathered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to listen to his speech.

Now, 50,000 Indian / Indian origin dead souls gathered to hear Narendra Modi's blatant lies in a multimillion-dollar circus sponsored by Modi's Indian corporate friends & NRI rich supporters and Indian taxpayers in Houston. Entire mainstream Indian media & blind followers of Modi are calling it as a huge success and Modi's greatest accomplishment. Modi & his supporters cannot change the history that Jawaharlal Nehru remains the only Indian Prime Minister to be greeted on arrival at the airport by a US President -and it happened twice: President Harry S Truman in 1949 & President John F Kennedy in 1961 both received him off the plane.

Howdy Modi rather "Rowdy Modi" was not even Howdy India. Modi has impaired vision of secular democracy where respect for pluralism and human rights for every individual is safe guarded by the state. He has failed miserably on this account. Even his vision of Hinduism is impaired because Religious texts and History cannot be read and understood in dreams. By hosting Modi in Houston, Indian American organizers have insulted Houston; an inclusive city where every 4th person is an immigrant, with 145 languages, 70 countries menus & people from more than 100 countries are living in peace and harmony. Majority of these financially successful NRI's still feel as they are 2nd grade citizens of America. The only way they can have limelight to boost their ego is by posing with corrupt leaders of India in USA and getting garbage civilian awards from India. The same type of politicians in the first place forced them to leave India because of their impaired vision of Democracy, Freedom and corruption free governance.

(Dave Makkar is a Social & Political Activist. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

Polls open in Afghan presidential election: Officials

KABUL (TIP): Polls opened for Afghanistan's presidential election, officials said, following a bloody campaign that has been marred by a wave of violence. "Voting has begun all over the country, and we are glad the people are already in big lines at polling centres waiting to cast their votes," Independent Election Commission spokesman Zabi Sadaat told AFP. AFP

Brother gets life for Pak social media star's killing

LAHORE (TIP): Qandeel Baloch's brother was jailed for life by a court on Friday, three years after the social media star's chilling murder sent shock waves across Pakistan, triggering an outpouring of grief on social media and igniting fierce debate over the prevalence of "honour killings" of women. Fouzia Azeem, better known as Qandeel, was strangled to death at her home in Multan in the Punjab province on July 15, 2016. Her brother Muhammad Wasim confessed to the murder of his 26-year-old sister and said she had brought "disrepute" to the "family's honour" with her risqué videos and statements posted on social media. Sessions Court Multan Judge Imran Shafi announced the verdict in the case in the presence of all suspects and parents of Baloch. PTI

ICG: 'Dangerous' actions against Muslims risk Sri Lanka peace

COLOBO (TIP): A "harsh and dangerous" crackdown on Sri Lankan Muslims following deadly bombings on Easter Sunday poses a major threat to the Indian Ocean nation's peace and security, a think-tank has warned.

The assailants behind the church and hotel bombings in April were fringe actors, but politicians and Sinhalese nationalists have used the attacks to "justify actions that have harassed and humiliated the broader Muslim community", the International Crisis Group (ICG) said in a new report on Friday.

The attacks, which killed more than 250 people, were claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS). But Sri Lankan police said members of an offshoot of a local Muslim group, National Thowheed Jamath, were responsible.

It was the deadliest single day of violence in the country, which is still recovering from a bloody civil war with ethnic Tamil separatists, and the first experience of Muslim-on-Christian mass violence, the report said.

Since then, more than 1,800 Muslims were arrested under emergency laws and nearly 300 remain in custody, it said. Muslims account for 10 percent of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese Buddhist-dominated population.

Families of those arrested told the ICG that many of those imprisoned had no connections to the attacks, but had been reported to the authorities out of fear and bigotry.

www.aljazeera.com

Toll rises to 38, over 452 injured in quake in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The death toll in the devastating earthquake that rattled Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and several north-eastern cities in the country rose to 38 on Wednesday as authorities stepped up rescue operations to save people trapped in debris of several toppled buildings.

The epicentre of the powerful 5.8-magnitude earthquake, which occurred at around 4 pm on Tuesday at a depth of only 10 kilometres, was near Mirpur city in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), roughly 20 kilometres north of Jhelum in Punjab, according to the US Geological Survey.

The earthquake resurrected the haunting memories of a monster tremor that had wrecked the region 14 years ago.

The quake — which also jolted several cities of Punjab and Khyber-Pakthunkhwa province — killed 38 people, with the most number of victims belonging to the Mirpur district, Dawn reported, citing a situation report released by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The number of casualties was likely to increase as around 100 of the injured were admitted to different hospitals in a critical condition.

The areas worst hit were Mirpur city, a small town Jatlan and two villages Manda and Afzalpur, where buildings and homes collapsed, trees were uprooted and cracks appeared on roads large enough to swallow cars.

Other cities where the tremors were felt included Islamabad, Lahore, Sialkot, Sargodha, Mansehra, Gujrat,



Chitral, Malakand, Swat, Sahiwal, and Rahim Yar Khan.

The quake was powerful and created panic as people ran out of buildings, eyewitnesses said.

"I lost my house. I lost everything," Abdullah Khan, whose home in Jatlan village on the outskirts of Mirpur was flattened by the quake, was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune.

The affected people are also experiencing water and food shortages amid reports of looting of relief material in the Sang and Sanwal Sharif area. Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday visited quake affected areas of PoK and reviewed the repair efforts at Jatlan Canal Road.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Mohammad Afzal said at a briefing in

Islamabad that trucks loaded with relief items, including 200 tents, 800 blankets, 200 kitchen sets, and 100 medical kits would reach the people affected by the earthquake soon.

"The NDMA is already providing medicines, food items and tents, which were in its stock in the affected areas, to the victims," he added.

Afzal said 452 people were injured, including 160 are in serious condition and 450 houses were also damaged.

Special Assistant of PM on Information Firdous Ashiq Awan said that government would compensate the families of dead and injured and also help them to rebuild damaged houses.

"An initial assessment is being done and soon a relief package will be announced by the government of Pakistan," she said. PTI

Pak, Turkey, Malaysia to jointly launch Islamic TV channel: Imran Khan

NEW YORK / LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia have decided to jointly launch an English language Islamic television channel to correct misperceptions and confront the challenges posed by Islamophobia, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said.

Prime Minister Khan, who is in New York to participate in the 74th session of the United Nation General Assembly, said the channel will telecast series and films produced on Muslims to educate and inform the world on the Islamic history.

"President Erdogan, PM Mahatir and myself had a meeting today in which we decided our 3 countries would jointly start an English language channel dedicated to confronting the challenges posed by Islamophobia and setting the record straight on our great religion - Islam," Khan said in a tweet.

"Misperceptions which bring people together against Muslims would be



corrected; issue of blasphemy would be properly contextualized; series and films would be produced on Muslim history to educate/inform our own people and the world; Muslims would be given a dedicated media presence," he said.

The prime minister attended a high-level, round table discussion on 'Countering Hate Speech' co-hosted by Pakistan and Turkey, according to a media report.

In his address, Khan called for effective measures to counter hate speech and Islamophobia, asserting that there was a need to address both the causes and consequences of these phenomena.

The prime minister pointed out that marginalisation of any community could lead to its radicalisation.

President Erdogan termed hate speech as among the worst crimes against humanity. PTI

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OCI Application Process Simplified

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) application process in USA has been simplified with effect from September 20, 2019.

Instead of a two-step application process, the applicant will now submit the OCI application form and upload related documents directly at the Government of India website (<https://ociservices.gov.in/welcome>).

Now there is no restriction of Consular Jurisdiction for OCI applicants. The applicant will be free to apply at Indian Embassy Washington DC or any of the Consulates General of India (CGI) in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York or San Francisco. While submitting the application on the Government of India website, the applicant will need to select the location where he/she wants the OCI application to be processed.

On completion of online application process, the applicant should print the form, related documents and affidavits and submit them at the Outsourcing Partner, Cox & Kings Global Services (CKGS) office in the selected location.

US House backs release of Trump whistleblower complaint 421-0

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US House of Representatives voted 421-0 on Wednesday, Sept 25 for a resolution calling on President Donald Trump to release a whistleblower complaint to Congress, despite the administration letting them view the classified document at secure locations in the US Capitol.

Two House members voted present and 10 did not vote.

The document is central to the impeachment inquiry into the Republican president announced on Tuesday by the Democratic House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, after reports that Trump had tried to put pressure on Ukraine's president to help smear a political rival.

The Senate passed a similar resolution by unanimous voice vote on Tuesday, Sept 24.

Republicans joined Democrats in backing the release of the document, after many lawmakers argued that Trump's associates were defying a law calling for whistleblower complaints to be sent to Congress if they are found to be credible.

Trump 'sought Ukraine's help' for 2020

Whistleblower says White House tried to 'lock down' details of phone call to Prez Zelenskiy

WASHINGTON (TIP): A whistleblower report released by a congressional panel on Thursday, Sept 26 said President Donald Trump used his office to solicit Ukraine's interference in the 2020 election to advance his personal political interests, risking US national security.

The Trump administration officials tried to "lock down" all details of US President Donald Trump's phone call to his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskiy, it said.

The Democratic-led US House of Representatives Intelligence Committee released a declassified version of the report made by the whistleblower, which triggered weeks of controversy and prompted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to launch a formal impeachment inquiry into the Republican President.

"I am deeply concerned that the actions described below constitute 'a serious or flagrant problem, abuse, or violation of law or executive order' that 'does not include differences of opinion concerning public policy matters', consistent with the definition of an 'urgent concern'," the report said.

Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Democratic presidential front-runner Joe Biden, in coordination with US Attorney General William Barr and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, according to a call summary released by the Trump administration.

Moments after the whistleblower report was made public, the committee began a hearing at which acting Director



of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire, was set to testify about the document after refusing for weeks to share the report with Congress. Saying that more than six White House officials had made contact about Trump's communication with Ukraine, the report cited concerns that efforts to put pressure on Ukraine "pose risks to US national security", undermining efforts "to deter and counter foreign interference in US elections". Trump has denied wrongdoing and accused Democrats of trying to destroy him politically.

A federal law required that the report be sent to lawmakers after an inspector general determined that it was urgent

and credible. Shortly before the hearing, the intelligence committee's chairman, Democratic Representative Adam Schiff, announced that it had received the declassified complaint and released it to the public. "This complaint should never have been withheld from Congress. It exposed serious wrongdoing and was found both urgent and credible by the Inspector General," he said.

Trump denounced the report. "The democrats are trying to destroy the republican party and all that it stands for," he tweeted.

What the complaint says

The whistleblower received info from US officials that Trump used his office to solicit interference from a foreign country ahead of the 2020 US election. The interference included pressuring a foreign country to investigate one of Trump's "main domestic political rivals"

Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani is a central figure in the interference report, and Attorney General William Barr also appeared to be involved. The complaint cites concerns that efforts to pressure Ukraine "pose risks to US national security" and undermine efforts "to deter and counter foreign interference in US elections"

White House lawyers directed that an electronic transcript of the Trump-Zelenskiy call be removed from a computer system. About one dozen White House officials listened to the Trump-Zelenskiy call.

Saudi Arabia to offer tourist visas for first time

RIYADH / WASHINGTON (TIP): Saudi Arabia said on Friday, September 27, it will offer tourist visas for the first time, opening up the ultra-conservative kingdom to holidaymakers as part of a push to diversify its economy away from oil.

Kickstarting tourism is one of the centerpieces of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform program to prepare the biggest Arab economy for a post-oil era.

The announcement comes just two weeks after devastating attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure -- blamed by Washington on Iran -- which roiled global energy markets.

"Opening Saudi Arabia to international tourists is a historic moment for our country," tourism chief Ahmed al-Khateeb said in a statement.

will be surprised... by the treasures we have to share -- five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a vibrant local culture and breathtaking natural beauty." Saudi Arabia will open applications for online tourist visas to citizens of 49 countries

on Saturday, Bloomberg News quoted Khateeb as saying.

The austere kingdom, which forbids alcohol and has a strict social code, is seen by many as a hard sell for tourists.

Prince Mohammed is seeking to change that through a sweeping liberalization drive that has brought new cinemas, mixed-gender concerts and sporting extravaganzas to Saudi Arabia.

International criticism of the kingdom's human rights record, including the gruesome murder last year of critic Jamal Khashoggi and a crackdown on female activists, could further put off foreign visitors, observers say.

Fears of a regional conflict after the September 14 attacks on state oil giant Aramco may also dampen the kingdom's appeal to holidaymakers.

Visas are currently restricted to expat workers, their dependents and Muslim pilgrims travelling to holy sites in Mecca and Medina.

Saudi Arabia last year began issuing visas to visitors to attend sporting and

cultural events in a bid to kickstart tourism.

The government, reeling from low oil prices, says it hopes tourism will contribute up to 10 per cent of the gross domestic product by 2030, compared to three percent currently.

It says by 2030 it aims to attract up to 100 million annual visits by both domestic and foreign tourists.

The sector is expected to create up to one million tourism jobs, the government says, as the kingdom battles high youth unemployment.

Saudi Arabia has splurged billions in an attempt to build a tourism industry from scratch.

In 2017, the kingdom announced a multi-billion-dollar project to turn 50 islands and other pristine sites on the Red Sea into luxury resorts. The country is also developing historic sites such as the centuries old Mada'in Saleh, home to sandstone tombs of the same civilization which built the Jordanian city of Petra.

(Source: Agencies)

Mysore, now officially known as Mysuru, is a small city tucked in the foothills of the western ghats in the Indian state of Karnataka. It is a city of royal heritage and rich culture as it served as the capital of the Mysore Kingdom for almost 6 centuries under the Wodeyar Dynasty. It still maintains a royal feel and atmosphere and is ideal for a weekend getaway. Contrasting to Bangalore, the busiest metropolitan city in Karnataka, in Mysore life is slow paced. It is an epitome of peace, great weather, and humble people. The primary language spoken here is Kannada but most people also speak Hindi and English. The city is small and can be easily covered over a weekend. Nearby places like Srirangapatna, Bandipur, Madikeri, Wayanad etc. are also as mesmerizing and great for road trips.

The best time to visit Mysore is throughout the year but September to January is perfect for sightseeing. The weather is pleasant throughout the year except for three months of summer from February to April when the temperatures soar up to 29-30 degree Celsius. The nearest airport is in Bangalore, from there direct buses ply to Mysore. You can also drive down from Bangalore or take the train to reach Mysore within 3 hours.

Sri Chamundeshwari Temple

It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Durga, overlooking the city of Mysore situated at an elevation of about 900 feet from sea level. It is the main temple of Karnataka called the Naada Devathe (State Goddess). Among the many festivals celebrated here, Navratri or Mysore Dasara is the most grandly celebrated festival in the month of September-October by decorating the goddess in 9 ways to depict the 9 different aspects of the Goddess. It's one of the oldest temples in Mysore and one among the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas. During Dasara, the whole city lights up and twinkles like a crown jewel. Food Melas, exhibitions and the royal procession of the idol of the Goddess in a Gold Mantapa consorted by the majestic elephants and horses on the streets of Mysore are the main attractions during the festival. Nearby you can also see the Lakshminarayana Temple and Jwalamuki Thirupurasundari Temple.

The Mysuru Palace

It is located in the center of the city facing the Chamundi Hill. It's a historical heritage and the seat of the royal kingdom of Mysore. It is a three-story stone structure with Marble domes. Its unique architecture is what attracts the tourists to this Palace. During the day tourists are allowed to enter a part of the Palace and the gardens. At night the whole Palace and its three gateways light up for about an hour making it the most beautiful sight in Mysore.

The Mysuru Zoo

The Mysore zoo is a 4 km walk and a nice place to spend a day with kids. It has various animals and birds most fascinating of them being the White Peacock, the Royal Bengal tiger, Ostriches, and Owls. It's a plastic-free zone with a small eatery inside. Best time to visit is early in the morning as soon as it opens at 8:30 am. It is closed on Tuesdays!

Karanji Lake

Just beside the zoo is a small lake surrounded by lush greenery called the

MYSORE: THE ROYAL CITY



Karanji Lake. Boating is allowed in the lake and there is a walk-through aviary where you can see birds of various kinds and a butterfly park. The lush green nature park with a lake view makes it an ideal location to spend the day relaxing in nature's lap.

Ranganathitoo Bird Sanctuary

This bird sanctuary is located 16 km from Mysore in the Mandya district. It comprises of islets on the banks of the Kaveri river. You can enjoy a variety of flora and fauna here. Roughly 170 species of birds are found here including the painted stork, black-headed ibis,

spoonbill, pelican, egret, Asian open bill stork, etc. Boating is available throughout the day where you can spot, up close, crocodiles basking in the sun on the rocks or swimming beside you. Best time to visit is June to November.

Brindavan Gardens

Situated on the KRS dam road, this is the second most famous place in Mysore after the Palace. This garden lies adjoining the Krishnarajasagara Dam across the river Kaveri. This terraced garden was built in 1927 - 1932 spread across 60 acres speckled with trees, fountains and colorful ornamentation.

The main attraction is the light and sound show which starts at 7 pm.

St. Philomena's Cathedral

It is a beautiful Catholic church constructed in 1936 inspired by the Cologne Cathedral in Germany. It is Asia's second largest church with twin spires of about 175 feet. It has stained glass windows depicting scenes from the bible and can seat up to 800 people in the main hall.

RAJYA SABHA BYPOLL FOR SEATS HELD BY JAITLEY, JETHMALANI ON OCT 16

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said by-elections to one Rajya Sabha seat each from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar would be held on October 16.

The UP seat fell vacant on August 24 following the death of former Union Minister Arun Jaitley while the Bihar seat, held by another former Union minister Ram Jethmalani fell vacant following his death on September 8.

The ECI said October 4 would be the last day for filing the nomination; scrutiny would be held on October 5, and October 9 would be the last day for withdrawal of candidature. Voting will be held on October 16 between 9 am and 4 pm and the counting will be held the same day from 5 pm. The tenure of the seat held by Jaitley is till April 2, 2024 while that of Jethmalani is till July 2, 2022.

Mukesh Ambani richest Indian for 8th year in row



MUMBAI (TIP): Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore, according to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List.

London-based SP Hinduja and family, with assets worth Rs 1,86,500 crore, retained the second rank in the list, followed by Wipro founder Azim Premji at the third place with wealth of Rs 1,17,100 crore.

According to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List, the number of Indians having a net worth of more than Rs 1,000 crore has grown to 953 this year from 831 in 2018; while the number of billionaires in terms of US dollar has reduced to 138 from 141.

"The combined wealth of top 25 in the list equates to 10 per cent of India's GDP and that of 953 accounts for 27 per cent," it said.

Haryana Polls: 'Betrayed' Akali Dal to fight elections alone

AMRITSAR (TIP): The Shiromani Akali Dal on Thursday lashed out at the BJP for taking in its lone Haryana MLA, saying it was against the principle of "coalition dharma" and announcing that it will contest the state elections next month on its own. In a strong statement issued after a meeting in Amritsar chaired by party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, the SAD said its old ally had "betrayed" it, news agency PTI reported.

Kalanwali MLA Balkaur Singh joined the BJP in New Delhi on Thursday, where he praised Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for providing an "honest" government to the state.

"To protest this unethical step of making our MLA join their party at a time when we were in talks with them over seat sharing, we have called off the alliance with them in Haryana," SAD spokesperson Dr Daljit Singh Cheema told PTI.

Noting that the SAD had always stood through thick and thin with the BJP in national interest, the meeting in Amritsar said it was the BJP which had committed to contest the Haryana elections jointly with the SAD. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had even held a press conference on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections and announced that the BJP and the SAD would contest the assembly elections jointly while soliciting support for BJP candidates, the panel said.

Intensify anti-militancy ops in J&K, target key militants: Doval

JAMMU (TIP): National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has called upon all security agencies to ensure that the people are able to carry out their daily routine works in Kashmir without any fear of militants and lauded security forces that no complaints of human rights violations were reported from any part of the Valley during past over one and a half month since scrapping of special Constitutional provisions of the State.

He was also reported to have issued directions to security forces to intensify anti-militancy operations but ensure that there was no collateral damage. Anti-militancy operations have been hit since August 5 as security forces were mainly concentrating on maintenance of law and order situation in the Valley.

Doval issued the directions at high-level security review meetings in Srinagar, the summer capital of the State, before returning to the Union capital after his second visit to the Valley since August 5 when the Central Government had scrapped Articles 370 and 35-A and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

The National Security Advisor had yesterday visited South Kashmir towns of Awantipora and Pulwama and inter-acted with police officials to take first hand review of situation.

Complimenting the State administration and security forces for their good work and



maintaining law and order in the entire State, Doval called upon security forces to ensure that the common people in Kashmir are able to carry out their daily routine works without any fear of the militant groups.

He was reported to have told security agencies to instill confidence among the people that the militant groups won't be able to harm them which will help people to resume their normal routine.

Doval's direction assumed significance as there had been reports that in some areas the militants and their Over Ground Workers (OGWs) had been threatening the shopkeepers and transport operators for not yielding to their strike calls.

In view of reports that Pakistan sponsored militant outfits may carry out some demonstrative and sensational acts of terror, Doval directed that security of vital installations must be ensured and all arrangements regarding strict vigilance and keeping troops on alert be made a priority.

In his inter-action with Army and BSF, the NSA stressed that in view of reports of large-scale infiltration attempts, the Anti-Infiltration Grid along the border should be put on high alert and wherever attempts of infiltration are reported, strong action must be taken against the militants.

Doval called upon para-military forces, police and civil administration to win hearts and minds of the people and immediately respond to the emergencies and issues raised by the people. He was briefed that Pakistan sponsored militant outfits were committing excesses on the people, killing shopkeepers, threatening and intimidating fruit growers. He directed concerned departments and agencies to take strict action against such elements and facilitate common masses as much as possible.

Doval enquired about law and order situation and position of essential services and supplies in the Kashmir valley from the civil and police administration and security and Intelligence agency officials. He was reported to have issued certain guidelines for further improvement of situation and return or complete normalcy in the Valley in the next few days.

He appreciated that no complaints regarding the human rights violations were reported from any part of Kashmir valley during the past over one and half month. He urged the security forces to keep maintaining good conduct and peace in the State.

As bad air season nears, India lags behind on AQI monitoring

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has one air quality monitoring station for every 7 million people while China has over eight times that number, according to top environmental scientists who believe that the scale of the air pollution problem affecting Indians may be more severe than understood due to lack of adequate monitoring.

India will need at least 1,600 more monitoring stations to make up for the shortfall, according to a projection by a team made up of scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, IIT Kanpur and Indian pollution research group UrbanEmissions.info, and Canadian academicians.

"What we cannot monitor we cannot maintain — be it health, economy or air quality. At present the number of air quality monitoring stations is inadequate in India and therefore it is very difficult to get a proper picture," said SN Tripathi, head of the civil engineering department at IIT-Kanpur and one of the scientists involved in the report.

Much of north India, especially the Indo-Gangetic plains, reels under hazardous levels of pollution for most of the winter months. The air pollution in the national capital of Delhi, where the crisis triggered closure of schools and advisories to avoid the outdoors in recent years, has been linked to shorter life spans by several studies.

The condition in other cities may also be alarming. "Only about 5% of our census towns are monitored



now. Alternative methods such as satellite monitoring and low-cost monitoring can help us do better mapping of pollution and exposure to inform action. But cities will still need some reference regulatory monitors to assess trend and compliance with clean air targets," said Anumita Roy Chowdhury, executive director (research and advocacy), of Centre for Science and Environment.

AYODHYA CASE

Will be a miracle to deliver verdict in 4 weeks: SC to lawyers

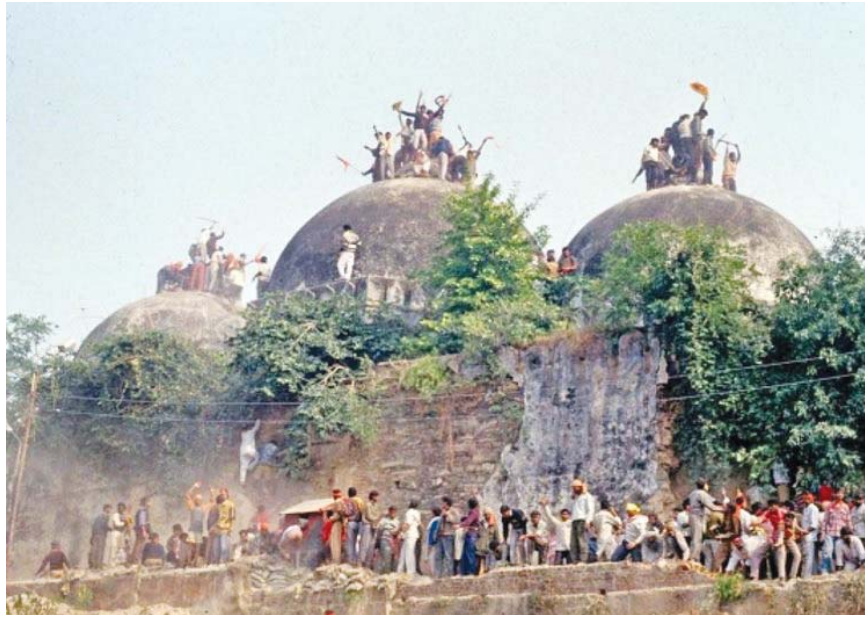
NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday once again stressed on the need to complete arguments in the Ayodhya land dispute case by October 18. "If arguments can't get over by October 18, there won't be extra day," Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi told both sides arguing the case.

The CJI said the bench will have only four weeks to write the judgment and it will be a "miracle" if the court delivers the judgment in four weeks. Justice Gogoi retires as the CJI on November 17.

The five-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, and justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer had last week set October 18 target to complete hearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title case. The CJI had called for a joint effort from all parties.

The mediation panel comprised former SC judge FMI Kalifulla, spiritual guru and founder of Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu, a renowned mediator.

The panel had conducted negotiations between Hindu and Muslim litigants for over four months to explore the possibility of an out-of-court settlement. The



panel was initially given eight weeks to explore the possibility of a settlement, but on May 10, after the panel submitted an interim report to the court, the SC granted it an extension of three months, till August 15.

The bench started holding daily hearings from August to fast-track the case that has been pending for decades after a Supreme Court appointed mediation committee failed to develop a consensus among the parties for a solution.

The mediation proposal was

opposed by the Uttar Pradesh government and the Hindu parties, except the Nirmohi Akhara, one of the main parties to the civil suit. The mediation suggestion was however welcomed by the Muslim side.

More than a dozen appeals were filed against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties—the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

Vikram had hard-landing; NASA releases images of Chandrayaan 2 landing site

WASHINGTON (TIP): Vikram had a "hard landing", NASA said on Friday, as it released high-resolution images captured by its reconnaissance orbiter of the Moon's uncharted south pole where the Chandrayaan 2 lander attempted to soft-land during the ambitious mission three weeks ago.

The module had attempted a soft landing on a small patch of lunar highland smooth plains between Simpelius N and Manzinus C craters before losing communication with ISRO on September 7.

The site was about 600 km from the south pole in a relatively ancient terrain, according to the US space agency.

"Vikram had a hard landing and the precise location of the spacecraft in the lunar highlands has yet to be determined," the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

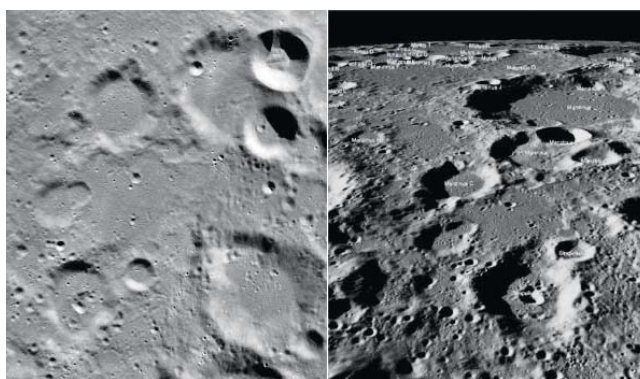
"The scene was captured from a Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) Quickmap fly-around of the targeted landing site image width is about 150 kilometres across the centre."

Vikram was scheduled to touch down on September 7. This event was India's first attempt to soft land on the Moon and could have propelled it into a select club of countries to have landed on the lunar surface.

After Vikram lost contact with ground stations, just 2.1 km above the touchdown site, the possibility of establishing contact with the lander had a deadline of September 21, because after that the region entered into a lunar night.

ISRO had said the mission life of the Vikram lander and the Pragyan rover it carried will be one lunar day, which is equal to 14 Earth days.

The lunar nights can be very cold, especially in the south polar region where Vikram is lying.



Temperatures could drop to as low as minus 200 degrees Celsius during the lunar night.

The instruments aboard the lander are not designed to withstand that kind of temperature. The electronics would not work in absence of solar energy and would get permanently damaged.

The NASA orbiter passed over the Vikram landing site on September 17 and acquired a set of high-resolution images of the area; so far the LROC team has not been able to locate or image the lander.

"LRO will next fly over the landing site on October 14 when lighting conditions will be more favourable," John Keller, Deputy Project Scientist Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission, Goddard Space Flight Centre, told PTI via email.

"It was dusk when the landing area was imaged and thus large shadows covered much of the terrain; it is possible that the Vikram lander is hiding in a shadow. The lighting will be favourable when LRO passes over the site in October and once again attempts to locate and image the lander," NASA said.

PM MODI TO FLAG OFF 1ST BATCH OF KARTARPUR PILGRIMS ON NOV 9

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the integrated check post (ICP) in Kartarpur Sahib on November 9, three days before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, and flag off the first Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)-led group of pilgrims from India to Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of the guru, which is now in Pakistan.

Union minister for food processing, Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced on Thursday that the PM will also visit Sultanpur Lodhi, another important city in the life of the first Sikh guru to take part in a function organised by SGPC.

The main event is scheduled for November 12 when the guru's 550th birth anniversary falls.

"I am grateful to Narendra Modi Ji for committing to attend 550th parkash purab celebrations," tweeted the Union minister.

The work on the four-lane highway, a bridge and a passenger terminal as part of the Kartarpur corridor, from Dera Baba Nanak Sahib (Punjab, India) to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur (in Punjab, Pakistan), is in full swing on the Indian side, with Pakistan too recently announcing that it would complete work on its part of the corridor October.

According to Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, a Punjab cabinet minister, the state government's functions to commemorate the anniversary will start from November 1 in Sultanpur Lodhi.

Money laundering case: ED seeks Vadra's custody

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) told the Delhi High Court that it wanted custodial interrogation of Robert Vadra because the "money chain" in money laundering case was "directly linked to him".

Vadra, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law, was not cooperating in the investigation, the agency added before Justice Chandra Shekhar. Vadra is facing allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property estimated at £1.9 million (over Rs17 crore).

"We need his custodial interrogation as the money chain is directly linked to him," the agency's lawyer told the judge. Denying the ED claims, Vadra's lawyer said his client had cooperated in the investigation by appearing before the agency whenever summoned. He said his client answered the questions put to him by the ED. "Not confessing" to allegations against him does not mean he was not cooperating, he said. The court listed the matter for final arguments on November 5. It was hearing the ED plea challenging the anticipatory bail granted to Vadra by a trial court.

Manmohan turns 87, Modi sends wishes in Punjabi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today turned 87 with greetings pouring in from all quarters. PM Narendra Modi wished Singh on Twitter and followed up his greetings with a letter in Punjabi.

The acclaimed economist-turned-politician received a range of phone calls including from President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, former President Pranab Mukherjee, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan and former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on his special day. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also called.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi wished Singh on Twitter, "On his birthday, let us acknowledge Dr Manmohan Singh ji's selfless service, dedication and incredible contribution to the cause of nation building. My best wishes to him on his birthday. I pray for his good health and happiness in the years to come."

Incumbent Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, however, lavished generous praise on Singh in a statement.

PLANUSA's NYCLC Hosts Third Annual Fundraiser to CELEBRATE IDG 2019

By Mabel Pais

Theme: "Challenges and Hope South of the Border"
Special Guest Honored: Journalist Crisitan Benavides
PIX11 reporter, and three-time Emmy Award winner

PLAN INTERNATIONAL USA'S (PLAN) NYC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (NYCLC) IS HOSTING ITS THIRD ANNUAL FUNDRAISER IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL. THE EVENT WILL FEATURE JOURNALIST CRISITAN BENAVIDES, WHO WILL SPEAK AT THE EVENT.

To Celebrate the International Day of the Girl, join Plan's NYCLC on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2018 from 6 to 9 pm at Grant Thornton (venue sponsor) NYC, 757 Third Avenue, 9th Floor

This year's theme is "Challenges and Hope South of the Border" celebrating the potential of girls globally. Girls are often prevented from realizing their basic rights. They are silenced and excluded from the choices that shape their futures. Plan and the NYCLC believe girls belong in school, on the playing field, and in leadership positions. Their voices belong in discussions that affect the political and economic life of their communities and countries.

This year's event will feature a conversation with three-time Emmy winning journalist Crisitan Benavides, who recently traveled to Central America's Northern Triangle to report live from the root of America's migrant crisis.

The event will also feature a discussion about the challenges girls face around the world and how these barriers can be overcome. The event on October 2 will focus on Plan International's programs in El Salvador and Guatemala to improve the lives of children and families there.

Funds raised at the event will support scholarships for middle school girls in Guatemala, build employment



Crisitan Benavides

and entrepreneurship skills for youth in Guatemala, and help to combat gender violence in El Salvador.

In recent years, tens of thousands of families from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala have migrated to the United States seeking asylum from the region's violence and civil wars.

Featured Speakers

Crisitan Benavides, PIX11 reporter and three-time Emmy Award winner, this past spring traveled to Central America's Northern Triangle to report live from the root of America's migrant crisis. He will join a discussion about the challenges girls face around the world and how these barriers can be overcome.

Rose Nguyen is a freshman at Princeton University and a member of Plan International USA's Youth Advisory Board. She will speak at the event about her experiences with Plan and the organization's youth activities.

Parth Patel is a senior at the University of Florida studying computer engineering and a member of Plan International USA's Youth Advisory Board. He will speak at the event about his experiences with Plan and the organization's youth activities.

For more detailed information about the event, visit:
events.planusa.org/event/nyclc-international-day-of-the-girl-celebration-2019/



Rose Nguyen

Plan International USA

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan believes in the power and potential of every child.

Working together with children, young people, supporters, and partners, Plan strives for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. For more information, please visit PlanUSA.org.

The NYC Leadership Council

The NYC Leadership Council is a group of passionate New York City and tri-state business owners and professionals who support Plan's global gender equality initiatives, designed to ensure girls everywhere can learn, lead, decide, and thrive.

Program

"Challenges and Hope South of the Border"

Join the New York City Leadership Council for Plan International USA to celebrate International Day of the Girl.

This exciting event will focus on programs in El Salvador and Guatemala, where Plan is helping girls build secure futures, right in their own communities.

Silent Auction

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Reception

Musical Performance by singer, songwriter, and activist, Morley



Parth Patel
Photos / Courtesy Plan-USA 2019

A Conversation with Emmy Award-Winning Reporter, Crisitan Benavides, WPIX 11 News

Meet Plan International USA's Youth Ambassadors

Save Your Place: Get your tickets today to save your place at the celebration.

Sponsorship

- Individual and Corporate Sponsorships available.
- You can help create a brighter future for girls in Central America.
- As a sponsor, you will be recognized in Plan's marketing materials, at the event, and on social media.
- This exciting event will focus on programs in El Salvador and Guatemala, where Plan is helping girls build secure futures, right in their own communities.
- Attendees will include strong advocates for women and girls around the world. You can join forces with this powerful group and reach an audience of influential women, including members of the NYC Leadership Council and women leaders from across the New York area.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, visit
<https://events.planusa.org/event/nyclc-international-day-of-the-girl-sponsorship/e245781>

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

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SONAKSHI TO HAVE SPECIAL APPEARANCE IN LAAL KAPTAAN

Sonakshi Sinha will be seen in a special appearance in Saif Ali Khan-starrer Laal Kaptaan. The actor's voice-over will be heard in the promo of the film, directed by Navdeep Singh.

The story revolves around a naga sadhu (Saif) and his quest for revenge. The director said Sonakshi is a fabulous actor and working with her was a great experience.

Revenge is all he seeks and his HUNT reveals tomorrow, #LaalKaptaan, in theatres from 18th October. #SaifAliKhan @cypplOfficial @ErosNow @Nopisingh @zyhssn @deepakdobriyal #ManavVij pic.twitter.com/6DUE71EexZ

— AANAND L RAI (@aanandlrai)
September 23, 2019

"It's a special appearance but a pivotal one. I wanted somebody who would leave an impression, someone with star quality and appeal. Sonakshi fit the bill perfectly. I'll leave her part as a mystery. All I'll say is she's the most glamorous thing in the film," Navdeep said in a statement. Deepak Dobriyal, Zoya Hussain and Manav Vij also star.

ANKITA LOKHANDE JOINS BAAGHI 3, WILL PLAY SHRADDHA KAPOOR'S SISTER

Ankita Lokhande has bagged her second Bollywood project. The actor will next be seen in Tiger Shroff's Baaghi 3, a continuation of the hit action franchise.

Ankita, who made big-screen debut with Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi, will play Shraddha Kapoor's sister in the third instalment of the action series. The actor said she wanted to do an out-and-out commercial film and Baaghi 3 was the perfect choice.

"It is very challenging, but I am confident that my character will strike a chord with the audience. The third instalment is different from the previous two, as Baaghi 3 is more about family bonding," she said in a statement.

Ankita added, "I play a fun-loving girl, who shares a great bond with her sister. I haven't played anything like this on TV or in Bollywood and the audience will see me in a never-seen-before avatar in my next outing."

Tiger said at an event that expectations are high after the success of Baaghi 2. He said, "There is pressure because I didn't expect Baaghi 2 would do the numbers which it did so there is lot of expectations among audience for Baaghi as a franchise."

The film, directed by Ahmed Khan, will see Tiger Shroff reunite with Shraddha, who appeared in the first film. Riteish Deshmukh plays Tiger's brother in the film, produced by Sajid Nadiadwala. Baaghi 3 is scheduled for a March 6, 2020 release.



AMITABH BACHCHAN TO BE HONoured WITH DADA SAHEB PHALKE AWARD

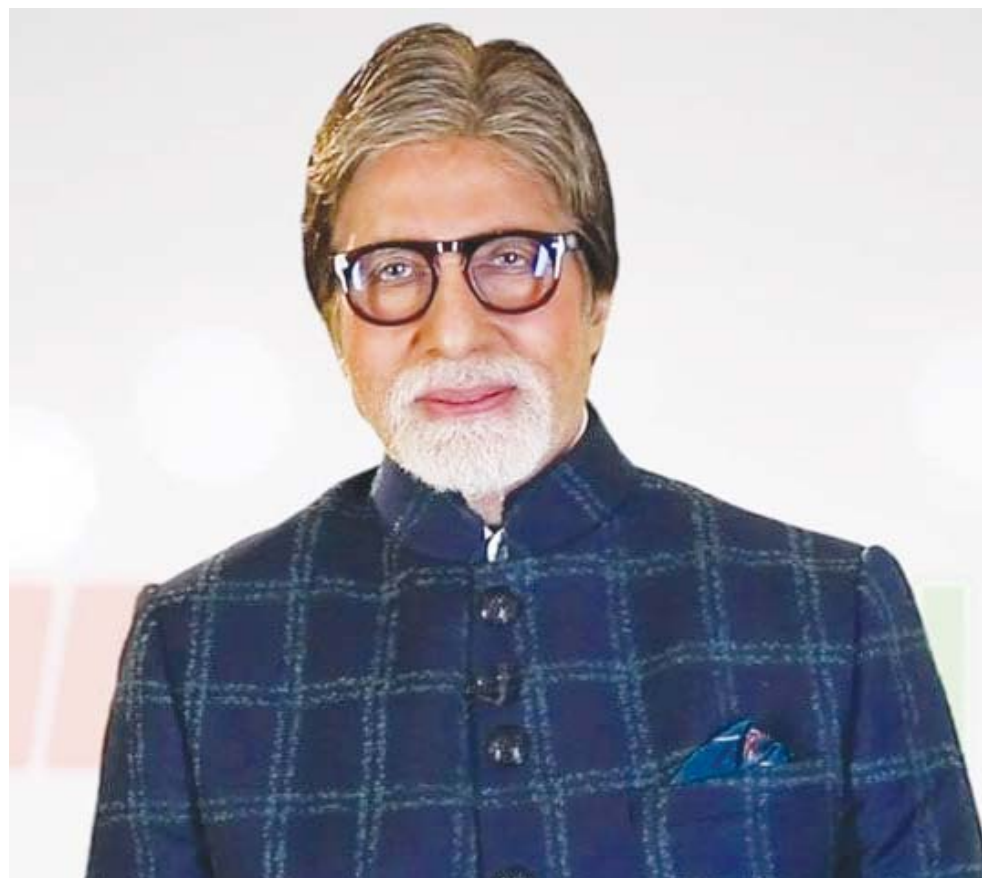
It was in 1969 that Amitabh Bachchan made his big screen debut with Saat Hindustani, and five decades later, he is still busy entertaining the audience with his performances. At 76, Big B has just added another feather to his already-bejewelled cap: Amitabh Bachchan has been selected for the Dada Saheb Phalke award for the year 2018 for his contribution to the Indian film industry.

Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar took to Twitter to make the big announcement.

He wrote, "The legend Amitabh Bachchan who entertained and inspired for 2 generations has been selected unanimously for #DadaSahabPhalke award. The entire country and international community is happy. My heartiest Congratulations to him."

The announcement was delayed this year on account of the Lok Sabha elections 2019. The National Film Awards announcements this year too were postponed by a few months.

Speaking to India Today Television, legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar said, "Main kya kahun unke [Amitabh Bachchan] baare mein. Poori duniya kehti hai ki woh bahut bade artiste hai, aur



bahut achche insaan hain. Mujhe unki saari filmein pasand hai. Lekin unhone Anand mein bada achcha kaam kiya hai." Filmmaker Karan Johar was the first one to congratulate Big B on social media, calling him a bonafide rock star. KJo wrote, "The most inspiring legend of Indian Cinema!!!! He is a bonafide rock star!!!! I am honoured and proud to be in the Era of AMITABH BACHCHAN! The prestigious #DadaSahebPhalkeAward to @SrBachchan."

Amitabh Bachchan, who is unstoppable at 76, is busy with innumerable projects. If he is playing a khadoos landlord in Gulabo Sitabo with Ayushmann Khurrana, he is also part of an adventure fantasy drama called Brahmastra along with Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Bachchan, whose body of work is unparalleled in Hindi cinema, has been honoured with four National Film Awards, for the films Agneepath, Black, Paa and Piku. He also received the Padma Shri in 1984, the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

The Dada Saheb Phalke award, the highest recognition in Indian cinema, was conferred on the late Vinod Khanna in 2017.



Natalie Portman excited to wield the hammer

Oscar-winner Natalie Portman who is all set to return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe with 'Thor: Love and Thunder' said that she is very excited to "wield the hammer".

According to a report, Portman said, "I'm very excited to wield the hammer." "They came to me with the idea and said, 'We have this idea for you that was a storyline in some of the comics where Jane becomes Lady Thor,' and I was like, 'This is very exciting!'" she added.

She went on to explain her absence from the 2017 film 'Thor: Ragnarok' saying, "Obviously, I wasn't written into because of where it took place. It wasn't really on Earth, and my character is on Earth."

The news that Portman will be the first female Thor was announced at this year's Comic-Con at San Diego.

DEMI MOORE REVEALS TURBULENT RELATIONSHIP WITH ASHTON KUTCHER

Demi Moore has opened up about her relationship with ex-husband Ashton Kutcher in her new memoir *Inside Out*. Kutcher was 25 and Moore was 41 when the pair started dating in 2003. The couple wed in 2005 and were married for 8 years before their 2013 divorce.

Moore shares details about their sex life in her memoir. "I put him first, so when he expressed his fantasy of bringing a third person into our bed, I didn't say no. I wanted to show him how great and fun I could be."

"They were good people, but it was still a mistake. I was strangely flooded with shame, I couldn't shake the feeling that this whole thing was somehow my fault," Moore wrote.

The actress claims that the openness in their relationship was the cause of Kutcher ultimately straying. "Because we had brought in a third party into our relationship, Ashton said, that blurred the lines and, to some extent, justified what he's done."

In an interview with Diane Sawyer on *Good Morning America*, Moore spoke about how she and Kutcher had tried and failed to have a baby. Moore had a miscarriage two years into their relationship, but the pair continued to try for a baby using IVF "quite a few times."

"I can't even bring into words how lost, empty, desperate, confused [I was]. I really lost sight of everything that was right in front of me, which was the family I had. And I think that the weight that it put on Ashton, it's kind of a natural thing to pull back, when somebody's clinging too tight," Moore told Sawyer.



JENNIFER LOPEZ'S 'HUSTLERS' INSPIRATION THREATENS LAWSUIT FOR USE OF HER STORY IN HIT FILM



The real-life inspiration for Jennifer Lopez's character in "Hustlers" is threatening to sue the movie's production company claiming that it never paid her for her life story.

Samantha Barbash was the alleged mastermind behind a ring of strippers who took it upon themselves to go after some of Wall Street's elite men in one of the most provocative scams in recent memory. The ring's exploits were the subject of a 2015 *New York Magazine* article titled "The Hustlers at Scores."

The article was adapted into the hit film, which scored STX Entertainment its biggest opening weekend of all time, reports *Forbes*.

According to *Variety*, Barbash's attorney Bruno Gioffre sent STX a letter Monday demanding it works out a deal to compensate his client within 10 days or face a lawsuit. In response, the outlet reports STX defended its right to make movies about actual events. "We will defend our right to tell factually based stories based on the public record and look forward to resolving this matter before a judge," an STX spokesperson said.

Barbash spoke to *TMZ* last week and she explained that producers did approach her to see if she would sign away her rights. However, she says the offer was low and she was already reluctant to sign away her story, so she declined.



MEGAN FOX: BEING SEXUALISED BY HOLLYWOOD LED TO PSYCHOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN

Megan Fox said being constantly viewed as a sex symbol in Hollywood led her to have a psychological breakdown. Best known for films such as 'Jennifer's Body' and 'Transformers' series, the actor said the typecasting created a fraught relationship with the media so much so that she developed a fear of public appearances.

"It wasn't just that movie, it was every day of my life, all the time, with every project I worked on and every producer I worked with. It preceded a breaking

point for me. I think I had a genuine psychological breakdown where I wanted just nothing to do. I didn't want to be seen, I didn't want to have to take a photo, do a magazine, walk a carpet, I didn't want to be seen in public at all because of the fear, and the belief, and the absolute certainty that I was going to be mocked, or spat at, or someone was going to yell at me, or people would stone me or savage me for just being out, so I went through a very dark moment after that," Fox told an *American* entertainment television newsmagazine.



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE MAHATMA

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was an eminent freedom activist and an influential political leader who played a dominant role in India's struggle for independence. Gandhi is known by different names, such as Mahatma (a great soul), Babuji (endearment for father in Gujarati) and Father of the Nation. Every year, his birthday is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday in India, and also observed as the International Day of Nonviolence. Mahatma Gandhi, as he is most commonly referred to, was instrumental in liberating India from the clutches of the British. With his unusual yet powerful political tools of Satyagraha and non-violence, he inspired several other political leaders all over the world including the likes of Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr and Aung San Suu Kyi. Gandhi, apart from helping India triumph in its fight for independence against the English, also led a simple and righteous life, for which he is often revered. Gandhi's early life was pretty much ordinary, and he became a great man during the course of his life. This is one of the main reasons why Gandhi is followed by millions, for he proved that one can become a great soul during the course of one's life, should they possess the will to do so.

Childhood

M. K. Gandhi was born in the princely state of Porbandar, which is located in modern-day Gujarat. He was born into a Hindu merchant caste family to Karamchand Gandhi, diwan of Porbandar and his fourth wife, Putlibai. Gandhi's mother belonged to an affluent Pranami Vaishnava family. As a child, Gandhi was a very naughty and mischievous kid. In fact, his sister Raliat had once revealed that hurting dogs by twisting their ears was among Maohandas' favorite pastime. During the course of his childhood, Gandhi befriended Sheikh Mehtab, who was introduced to him by his older brother. Gandhi, who was raised by a vegetarian family, started eating meat. It is also said that a young Gandhi accompanied Sheikh to a brothel, but left the place after finding it uncomfortable. Gandhi, along with one of his relatives, also cultivated the habit of smoking after watching his uncle smoke. After smoking the leftover cigarettes, thrown away by his uncle, Gandhi started stealing copper coins from his servants in order to buy Indian cigarettes. When he could no longer steal, he even decided to commit suicide such as Gandhi's addiction to cigarettes. At the age of fifteen, after stealing a bit of gold from his friend Sheikh's armllet, Gandhi felt remorseful and confessed to his father about his stealing habit and vowed to



Mahatma Gandhi at Boulogne station, on the way to England to attend the Round Table Conference as the representative of the Indian Nationals.



Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in Santiniketan in February 1940.

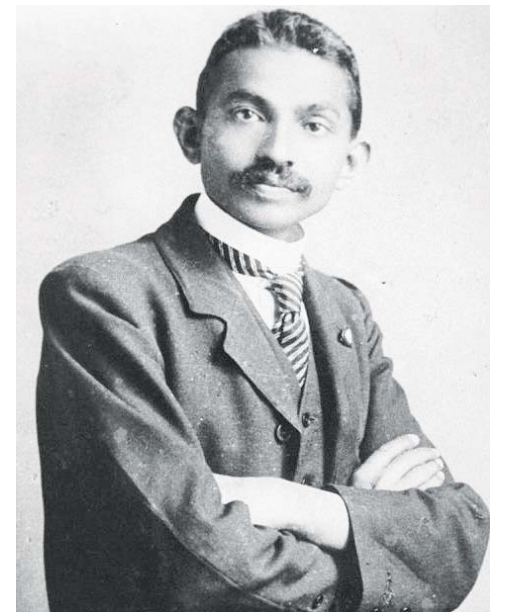
him that he would never commit such mistakes again.

Early Life

In his early years, Gandhi was deeply influenced by the stories of Shrivana and Harishchandra that reflected the importance of truth. Through these stories and from his personal experiences, he realized that truth and love are among the supreme values. Mohandas married Kasturba Makhanji at the age of 13. Gandhi later went on to reveal that the marriage didn't mean anything to him at that age and that he was happy and excited only about wearing new set of clothes. But then as days passed by, his feelings for her turned lustful, which he later confessed with regret in his autobiography. Gandhi had also confessed that he could no more concentrate in school because of his mind wavering towards his new and young wife.

Education

After his family moved to Rajkot, a nine year old Gandhi was enrolled at a local school, where he studied the basics of arithmetic, history, geography and languages. When he was 11 years old, he attended a high school in Rajkot. He lost an academic year in between because of his wedding but later rejoined the school and eventually completed his schooling. He then dropped out of Samaldas College in Bhavnagar State after joining it in the year 1888. Later Gandhi was advised by a family friend Mavji Dave Joshiji to pursue law in London. Excited by the idea, Gandhi managed to convince his mother and wife by vowing before them that he would abstain from eating meat and from having sex in London. Supported by his brother, Gandhi left to London and attended the Inner Temple and practiced law. During his stay in London, Gandhi joined a Vegetarian Society and was soon introduced to Bhagavad Gita by some of his vegetarian friends. The contents of Bhagavad Gita would later have a massive influence on



his life. He came back to India after being called to the bar by Inner Temple.

Gandhi in South Africa

After returning to India, Gandhi struggled to find work as a lawyer. In 1893, Dada Abdullah, a merchant who owned a shipping business in South Africa asked if he would be interested to serve as his cousin's lawyer in South Africa. Gandhi gladly accepted the offer and left to South Africa, which would serve as a turning point in his political career.

In South Africa, he faced racial discrimination directed towards blacks and Indians. He faced humiliation on many occasions but made up his mind to fight for his rights. This turned him into an activist and he took upon him many cases that would benefit the Indians and other minorities living in South Africa. Indians were not allowed to vote or walk on footpaths as those privileges were limited strictly to the Europeans. Gandhi questioned this unfair treatment and eventually managed to establish an organization named 'Natal Indian Congress' in 1894. After he came across an ancient Indian literature known as 'Tirukkural', which was originally written in Tamil and later translated into many languages, Gandhi was influenced by the idea of Satyagraha (devotion to the truth) and implemented non-violent protests around 1906. After spending 21 years in South Africa, where he fought for civil rights, he had transformed into a new person and he returned to India in 1915.

Gandhi and the Indian National Congress

After his long stay in South Africa and his activism against the racist policy of

Continued from P20

the British, Gandhi had earned the reputation as a nationalist, theorist and organiser. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, a senior leader of the Indian National Congress, invited Gandhi to join India's struggle for independence against the British Rule. Gokhale thoroughly guided Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi about the prevailing political situation in India and also the social issues of the time. He then joined the Indian National Congress and before taking over the leadership in 1920, headed many agitations which he named Satyagraha.

Champan Satyagraha

The Champan agitation in 1917 was the first major success of Gandhi after his arrival in India. The peasants of the area were forced by the British landlords to grow Indigo, which was a cash crop, but its demand had been declining. To make the matters worse, they were forced to sell their crops to the planters at a fixed price. The farmers turned to Gandhiji for help. Pursuing a strategy of nonviolent agitation, Gandhi took the administration by surprise and was successful in getting concessions from the authorities. This campaign marked Gandhi's arrival in India.

Non-cooperation Movement

Non-cooperation Movement was one of Gandhi's most important movements against the British. Gandhi urged his fellow countrymen to stop co-operation with the British. He believed that the British succeeded in India only because of the co-operation of the Indians. He had cautioned the British not to pass the Rowlatt Act, but they did not pay any attention to his words and passed the Act. As announced, Gandhiji asked everyone to start civil disobedience against the British. The British began suppressing the civil disobedience movement by force and opened fire on a peaceful crowd in Delhi. The British asked Gandhiji to not enter Delhi which he defied as a result of which he was arrested and this further enraged people and they rioted. He urged people to show unity, non-violence and respect for human life. But the British responded aggressively to this and arrested many protesters.

On 13 April 1919, a British officer, Dyer, ordered his forces to open fire on a peaceful gathering, including women and children, in Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh. As a result of this, hundreds of innocent Hindu and Sikh civilians were killed. The incident is known as 'Jallianwala Bagh Massacre'. But Gandhi criticized the protesters instead of blaming the English and asked Indians to use love while dealing with the hatred of British. He urged the Indians to refrain from all kinds of non-violence and went on fast-to-death to pressure Indians to stop their rioting.

Swaraj

The concept of non-cooperation became very popular and started spreading through the length and breadth of India. Gandhi extended this movement and focused on Swaraj. He urged people to stop using British goods. He also asked people to resign from government employment, quit studying in British institutions and stop practicing in law courts. However, the violent clash in Chauri Chaura town of Uttar Pradesh, in February 1922, forced Gandhiji to call-off the movement all of a sudden. Gandhi was arrested on 10th March 1922 and was tried for sedition. He



was sentenced to six years imprisonment, but served only two years in prison.

Dandi March

During the period of 1920s, Mahatma Gandhi concentrated on resolving the wedge between the Swaraj Party and the Indian National Congress. In 1927, British had appointed Sir John Simon as the head of a new constitutional reform commission, popularly known as 'Simon Commission'. There was not even a single Indian in the commission. Agitated by this, Gandhi passed a resolution at the Calcutta Congress in December 1928, calling on the British government to grant India dominion status. In case of non-compliance with this demand, the British were to face a new campaign of non-violence, having its goal as complete independence for the country. The resolution was rejected by the British. The flag of India was unfurled by the Indian national Congress on 31st December 1929 at its Lahore session. January 26, 1930 was celebrated as the Independence Day of India.

But the British failed to recognize it and soon they levied a tax on salt and Salt Satyagraha was launched in March 1930, as an opposition to this move. Gandhi started the Dandi March with his followers in March, going from

Ahmedabad to Dandi on foot. The protest was successful and resulted in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in March 1931.

Negotiations over Round Table Conferences

Post the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Gandhi was invited to round table conferences by the British. While Gandhi pressed for the Indian independence, British questioned Gandhi's motives and asked him not to speak for the entire nation. They invited many religious leaders and B. R. Ambedkar to represent the untouchables. The British promised many rights to various religious groups as well as the untouchables. Fearing this move would divide India further, Gandhi protested against this by fasting. After learning about the true intentions of the British during the second conference, he came up with another Satyagraha, for which he was once again arrested.

Quit India Movement

As the World War II progressed, Mahatma Gandhi intensified his protests for the complete independence of India. He drafted a resolution calling for the British to Quit India. The 'Quit India Movement' or the 'Bharat Chhodo Andolan' was the most aggressive movement launched by the Indian

INSPIRING QUOTES

- *Be the change that you want to see in the world.*
- *A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes.*
- *I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet.*
- *Nobody can hurt me without my permission.*
- *Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony*
- *The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong.*
- *An ounce of practice is worth a thousand words.*
- *A coward is incapable of exhibiting love; it is the prerogative of the brave.*
- *Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.*

national Congresses under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi was arrested on 9th August 1942 and was held for two years in the Aga Khan Palace in Pune, where he lost his secretary, Mahadev Desai and his wife, Kasturba. The Quit India Movement came to an end by the end of 1943, when the British gave hints that complete power would be transferred to the people of India. Gandhi called off the movement which resulted in the release of 100,000 political prisoners.

Freedom and Partition of India

The independence cum partition proposal offered by the British Cabinet Mission in 1946 was accepted by the Congress, despite being advised otherwise by Mahatma Gandhi. Sardar Patel convinced Gandhi that it was the only way to avoid civil war and he reluctantly gave his consent. After India's independence, Gandhi focused on peace and unity of Hindus and Muslims. He launched his last fast-unto-death in Delhi, and asked people to stop communal violence and emphasized that the payment of Rs. 55 crores, as per the Partition Council agreement, be made to Pakistan. Ultimately, all political leaders conceded to his wishes and he broke his fast.

Assassination

The inspiring life of Mahatma Gandhi came to an end on 30th January 1948, when he was shot by a fanatic, Nathuram Godse, at point-blank range. Nathuram was a Hindu radical, who held Gandhi responsible for weakening India by ensuring the partition payment to Pakistan. Godse and his co-conspirator, Narayan Apte, were later tried and convicted. They were executed on 15th November 1949.

Mahatma Gandhi's Legacy

Mahatma Gandhi proposed the acceptance and practice of truth, non-violence, vegetarianism, Brahmacharya (celibacy), simplicity and faith in God. Though he would be remembered forever as the man who fought for Indian independence, his greatest legacies are the tools he used in his fight against the British. These methods inspired several other world leaders in their struggle against injustice. His statues are installed all over the world and he is considered the most prominent personality in Indian history.

UN IDG 2019

By Mabel Pais

2019 Theme - "GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable" Investing in girls is investing in a better future that is equal for all

Since 2012, 11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl (IDG).

International Day Of The Girl (IDG) exists to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face all over the world. ... IDG is meant to promote the empowerment of young girls everywhere, while also advocating for the attainment of their basic human rights, like education and bodily autonomy.

THEME

"GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable"

Twenty-five years ago more than 30,000 women from 200 countries arrived in Beijing for the World Conference on Women determined to recognize the rights of women and girls as human rights. What started as global women's movements campaigning for sexual and reproductive health rights, political participation and equal pay, to name a few, expanded to movements organized by and for adolescent girls.

Today, girls' movements are stopping child marriage, promoting girls' education, standing up against gender-based violence, demanding action on climate change, tackling issues of self-esteem, and standing up for girls' rights to enter temples or public spaces during menstruation. Girls are also engaging with municipalities to advocate for financial investments in their communities and for truly inclusive development that recognize their needs. Girls are proving they are unscripted and unstoppable.

For this year's International Day of the Girl (October 11), the UNICEF is working alongside and supporting all girls to amplify their voices and stand up for their rights. Under the theme, "GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable", International Day of the Girl will celebrate achievements by, with and for girls since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and passage of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

BACKGROUND:

Marking 25 years of progress for girls

In 1995 at the World Conference on Women in Beijing countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing the rights of not only women but girls.

Twenty-five years later, the Platform for Action remains a powerful foundation for assessing progress on gender equality. It calls for a world where every girl and woman can realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to attend and complete school, to choose when and whom she marries, and to earn equal pay for equal work.

The next two years are pivotal for gender equality as the global community celebrates progress and highlights areas



Young adolescent girls in Rajasthan, India.

Photo / UNICEF 2018-Soumi Das



Empowering girls in Brazil via Sports.

Photo / UN Women 2017 - Gustavo Stephan.

for acceleration to empower girls and women. First, 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), where governments recognized that reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality are key to sustainable development.

This November, countries will advocate for achieving zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

In 2020, the global community will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. As a follow-up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Beijing Declaration is the first to specifically call out girls' rights. Because girls are discriminated against from the earliest states of life, through their childhood and into adulthood, the Platform of Action has one strategic objective with nine indicators specific to advancing girls' rights. The Platform of Action nine indicators for girls:

1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls
2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls.
3. Promote and protect the rights of girls and increase awareness of their needs and potential.
4. Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training.
5. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition.
6. Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labor and protect young girls at work.

7. Eradicate violence against girls.
8. Promote girls awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life.
9. Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of girls

Beyond Beijing+25, 2020 marks five-years since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5, which calls for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere by 2030. To achieve the SDGs we will need to include the voices and power of girls.

ICPD and the Beijing Declaration unleashed remarkable political will and worldwide visibility for gender equality. Beijing also connected and reinforced the activism of women's movements on a global scale. Since then, governments, civil society and the public have translated the Platform for Action's promises into concrete changes in individual countries. These have ushered in enormous improvements in the lives of women and girls.

CAMPAIGN

As part of a year-long effort with and for girls, UNICEF and partners will bring together programming, advocacy, communication, fundraising, and public engagement elevating progress for and with girls. A communications toolkit and key messages are available.

More information will also be available at: <https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality/international-day-of-the-girl-2019>

Key moments will include:

- o **International Day of the Girl**
- o Digital movements and events globally, including Working Group on Girls

Speak Out event at UN New York, Plan International's Girls Takeover and a Girl Summit in Geneva.

- o Release of UNICEF's report on 25 years of progress for girls.

Futurizing Beijing and Europe Regional Beijing+25 Consultation
26-30 Oct 2019

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the promise

12-14 Nov 2019

World Children's Day: 30th Anniversary of CRC

20 Nov 2019

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 Nov -

16 Days of Activism

10 Dec 2019

International Women's Day

8 Mar 2020

64rd Commission on the Status of Women:

25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
9-20 Mar 2020

UN General Assembly

15-30 Sep 2020

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- o Share stories of girls who are "unscripted" and "unstoppable" in their communities, families or schools. Examples could be girls stopping discrimination and child marriage, girls breaking stereotypes, or girls increasing access to secondary education and skill development.
- o Interview women aged 35-45 years old who were girls when the Beijing Declaration of Action was adopted in 1995 and ask them what's changed for them in the past 25 years. What's a piece of advice they would give to their younger selves or girls today.
- o Profile people in your organization- especially those who work in protection or humanitarian issues and ask them to retell a story of "the bravest girl they have ever met." Example this could be a story of a girl who was so stubborn she ran away three times from forced marriages because all she wanted to do was finish school.

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(Excerpted from various links of un.org)

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

US offered to remove all sanctions on Iran in exchange for talks: Iranian Prez

GENEVA (TIP): The United States offered to remove all sanctions on Iran in exchange for talks but Tehran has not yet accepted the offer due to the current “toxic atmosphere”, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on September 27.

Rouhani, speaking on his return from the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said he met there with US officials at the insistence of Germany, Britain and France.

“It was up for debate what sanctions will be lifted and they (the United States) had said clearly that we will lift all sanctions,” Rouhani said, according to his official website.

Iran was ready for negotiations but not in an atmosphere of sanctions and pressure, the Iranian president said.

“This action wasn’t in a manner that was acceptable, meaning that in the atmosphere of sanctions and the existence of sanctions and the toxic atmosphere of maximum pressure, even if we want to negotiate with the Americans in the 5+1 framework, no one can predict what the end and result of this negotiation will be,” he said.

Crude slipped on the report, adding to earlier losses caused by a faster-than-



expected recovery in Saudi output, slowing Chinese economic growth, a Wall Street Journal report saying that Saudi Arabia had agreed a partial ceasefire in Yemen.

Brent crude was trading below \$62 a barrel. Rouhani did not meet US President Donald Trump in New York and European and Gulf officials expect Washington to keep tightening the vice

on Iran’s economy.

The United States and Iran are at odds over a host of issues, including the US withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, US accusations — denied by Tehran — that Iran attacked two Saudi oil facilities on September 14, and Iran’s detention of US citizens on what the United States regards as spurious grounds. Reuters

China, Kiribati establish diplomatic relations

BEIJING (TIP): China and Kiribati have established diplomatic relations, Chinese state media reported on September 28, days after the tiny Pacific island nation severed ties with Taiwan.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Kiribati’s President Taneti Mamau on Friday signed a joint communique to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries on the sidelines of the UN climate summit, Xinhua reported.

The move is a coup for Beijing just days before it marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, and comes a week after the Solomon Islands also dropped diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

And it leaves the self-ruled island more isolated than ever with just 15 states left that recognise it. Taiwan has been a de facto sovereign nation since the end of a civil war in 1949, but China still views the island as its territory and has vowed to seize it-by force if necessary.

Over the decades, as China’s economic and military power has grown, most countries, including the United States and most Western nations, switched recognition to Beijing. Only a handful still recognise Taiwan, largely in Latin America and the Pacific. Taipei has accused Beijing of using “dollar diplomacy” to buy off its few remaining allies. AFP

US airstrike kills 17 IS militants in southwestern Libya

TRIPOLI (TIP): The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) said it carried out an airstrike that killed Islamic State (IS) militants in southwestern Libya, in coordination with the UN-backed government.

“In coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord, US Africa Command conducted an airstrike targeting ISIS-Libya terrorists in southwest Libya on September 26,” AFRICOM said in a statement on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The statement assessed that 17 terrorists were killed in the airstrike, causing no civilians casualties.

“This ongoing campaign against ISIS-Libya demonstrates that US Africa Command persistently targets terrorist networks that seek to harm innocent Libyans,” said AFRICOM’s Director of Intelligence Heidi Berg.

“We will continue to pursue ISIS-Libya and other terrorists in the region, denying them safe haven to coordinate and plan operations in Libya,” Berg added. AFRICOM stressed continued support for diplomatic efforts to stabilise the political situation in Libya “in order to maintain our common focus on disrupting terrorist organisations that threaten regional stability,” the statement said. IANS

More than 100 dolphins die on island beach off West Africa

LISBON (TIP): Authorities in the Cape Verde islands off West Africa are waiting for experts from Spain to help determine why more than 100 dolphins died on a local beach. Local media report that around 200 melon-headed dolphins were found on a beach on Boa Vista island on September 26. Officials, residents and tourists managed to drag some of them back out to sea, but many returned. Bulldozers buried 136 dead dolphins. BIOS Cape Verde, a volunteer environmental association in the former Portuguese colony, said on its Facebook page Friday it took samples from 50 dolphins and four others were placed in deep freeze by the local council. The group said veterinarians from the University of Las Palmas in Spain’s Canary Islands are due in the coming days to perform tests. — AP

Facebook hides ‘likes’ in Australia trial to ease anxiety

SYDNEY (TIP): Facebook on Friday said it began hiding the number of “likes” for posts in Australia, a trial designed to ease social pressure that could be rolled out worldwide. Account holders across the country will also be blocked from viewing the number of reactions and video views on other people’s posts from Friday, but will still be able to see how people respond to their own. “We don’t want Facebook to feel like a competition,” the company said in a statement. AFP

UK PM Johnson says will obey the law, confident of Brexit deal



LONDON (TIP): British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday his government will obey the law and remains confident the country can leave the European Union with a deal.

Johnson has vowed that Britain will leave the bloc on October.

31 with or without a divorce agreement, but parliament has passed a law to compel him to seek an extension if he has not got an agreement by October 19.

He was asked on Friday if he was looking for ways to delay or get around

the new law, which he has dubbed a “surrender act”.

“We will obey the law, but we’re confident we can come out on October 31 and the best way to do that is to get a deal,” Johnson told reporters.

“That’s why the surrender act is so damaging,” he added. “It has had the effect with our European friends making them think: ‘maybe parliament can block this thing, maybe they will be forced to extend.’ If you’re in a negotiation that obviously makes it more difficult.” Reuters

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR KITCHEN THIS FESTIVE SEASON

With the onset of the festive season, beginning with Navratris Saturday, many people get busy with the annual festive cleaning ritual which also includes paint finishes, incorporating new furnishings and shopping, among others.

And one of the most important areas of the home, which can be called the heart of the house, is the kitchen.

Kitchen these days have become a second living room where families tend to spend time together creating memories. Which is why it becomes essential to give some importance to the kitchen as well, by adding some vibrancy to it.

Here are dos and don'ts to consider when making your kitchen festive-ready.

Dos

CHOICE OF COLOUR: The style and size of your kitchen, and how it complements your overall home decor, play an important role in choosing the colour. Since the range of colours available is vast, it shouldn't be too gaudy for you to dislike it in the future.

2. Soothing touch: Kitchen is a space that is frequently visited by everyone in the house. It is a space to not only cook but also grab a quick bite, hence should have a calming effect. Glossy light colours lend a chic look to the kitchen, and also give it a soothing effect.

APPLICATION OF COLOUR: Colour doesn't always have to be added to walls. You can opt for a combination of coloured and textured shutters to add some vibrancy to the kitchen.

Don'ts

OPT FOR ONE SHADE: Never add colour to the entire kitchen as it may look fancy initially but slowly you will start getting bored of the same. Mix it with neutral and pastel shades to set the perfect tone.

DARK COLOURS: Dark and extra bright colours usually suit a bigger space. Don't choose extremely bright or



dark colours in case your kitchen is small because such shades make the kitchen look even more smaller.

FUNKY COLOURS: If you wish to experiment with a funky colour, you may do so in another part of the house but not here as it ruins the warm and welcoming feel of the space.

Kitchen Cleaning Hacks

KEEP YOUR DISPOSAL SMELLING FRESH: Few things are quite as offputting as a smelly disposal. One of our favorite kitchen sink cleaning hacks is lemon ice cubes. To make them, simply fill an ice cube tray with lemon wedges, rock salt, and water. Once frozen, pop the

cubes down the drain and run your garbage disposal until the ice is gone. Rock salt scrubs the blades while ice helps knock off any gunk and grime.

REJUVENATE OLD BAKING SHEETS USING HYDROGEN PEROXIDE AND BAKING SODA:

The dynamic duo of baking soda and hydrogen peroxide can restore more than just your sinks and tub—it can make even your most battered baking sheets (get it?) look brand new again. Simply layer your sheet with baking soda followed by a few sprays of hydrogen peroxide, then finish with another layer of baking soda. Now go back to watching that show on Netflix

and come back in a few hours to wipe your restored baking sheets clean.

CLEAN YOUR OVEN WHILE YOU SLEEP: Forget autoclean—the high-temp oven setting is known to set off the fire alarm and can leave your kitchen in a smelly funk. Instead, fill up a spray bottle with your own homemade solution of 1/3 cup water, 1/3 cup white vinegar, and 1/2 cup baking soda. After removing the grates from your oven, coat the inside with the solution, making sure to avoid the heating elements. Close the door and head to bed, letting the solution work its magic for up to 12 hours. When you wake up, clean the oven with soapy water and dry using a plush cloth.

POLISH WOODWORK WITH LEMON OIL AND VINEGAR: Prefer natural solutions to commercial cleaners? This DIY wood polish leaves both a lovely scent and shine. To make it, fill a spray bottle with 1 part lemon oil to 1 part white vinegar. Spray the solution directly onto a dry microfiber cloth and use it to wipe down your cabinets, pantry door, and baseboards.

SOAK YOUR RANGE HOOD FILTER: Wonder why your stove's hood vent is hidden behind that clunky shield? It's because it gets greasy, dusty, and pretty gross... really fast. The filter is just doing its job, but you don't have to live with all that buildup. In your biggest pot, boil water and gradually add 1/2 cup baking soda. Next, place the filter in the pot to soak. The entire filter might not fit in your pot, so soak each side separately if necessary. Once one side is clean, turn the filter around and let the other side soak.

WAYS TO USE YOGURT FOR SMOOTH, SUPPLE SKIN

Yogurt is rich in lactic acid and anti-bacterial properties which can keep all your skin woes at bay and help you achieve glowing, flawless skin which you've always dreamt of.

Honey

Got dull and dry skin? Start off by mixing 1 tsp honey with 1 tbsp of besan and one teaspoon of curd.

Apply the mask and leave it on for 15-20 minutes before washing your face with lukewarm water.

Oatmeal

If you've any skin woes, then this face mask is your best bet. Simply, mix one tsp of yogurt with 1 tsp oatmeal and 1 tsp of honey. Apply it on your face and let it sit until dry. Wash it off with cold water and pat dry.

Lemon Juice

Lemon's antibacterial properties help reduce the appearance of blemishes to maintain flawless skin. It also has bleaching qualities which will lighten and brighten your skin. Add 1 tsp of lemon juice to a tablespoon of curd. Apply it on your face and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water.

Turmeric

Turmeric helps in enhancing your skin's texture and makes it soft. Add some turmeric powder in your usual face mask and voila, hello to glowing, baby soft skin! Start off by mixing 2 tsp of sandalwood powder with



one tablespoon of turmeric powder and 2 teaspoons of curd. Apply it onto your face and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water.

Bananas

Banana has super hydrating, nourishing and skin tightening properties. It also acts as an astringent to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Add one tablespoon of curd and one tsp of lemon juice to mashed banana. Apply it on your face and let it sit until dry. Wash it off with cold water and voila, hello to baby soft skin!

FOOD CORNER

BANANA BURFI

INGREDIENTS

5 banana, 100 gm sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1 teaspoon pistachios, 1/4 cup milk powder, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon crushed lightly cashews, 50 gm ghee

METHOD

- To make this delicious Navratri special recipe, heat 1 tsp ghee in a pan over moderate flame. Add crushed pistachios and cashews to the pan. Lightly fry them till they turn golden in colour.
- Now take another heavy bottomed pan and heat it over medium flame. Add the remaining ghee and the bananas in it. Mix well. Add sugar and stir well. After a minute, add cocoa powder, milk powder and butter. Reduce the flame and gently stir till all ingredients are evenly combined.
- When the mixture starts to leave the sides of the pan and the bananas are well mashed, remove and transfer to a greased plate. Allow it cool. Before the mixture hardens completely, cut it into desired shapes and garnish with cashewnuts and pistachios.



4 VITAMINS YOU NEED TO NOURISH YOUR SKIN

Vitamins play a crucial role in nourishing the body and the skin, and their deficiency leads to maladies like dark spots, redness, wrinkles, rough patches and excessive dryness.

Fitness expert and Vitabiotics Vice President Rohit Shelatkar lists the most important vitamins for a healthy skin and their sources.

Vitamin A

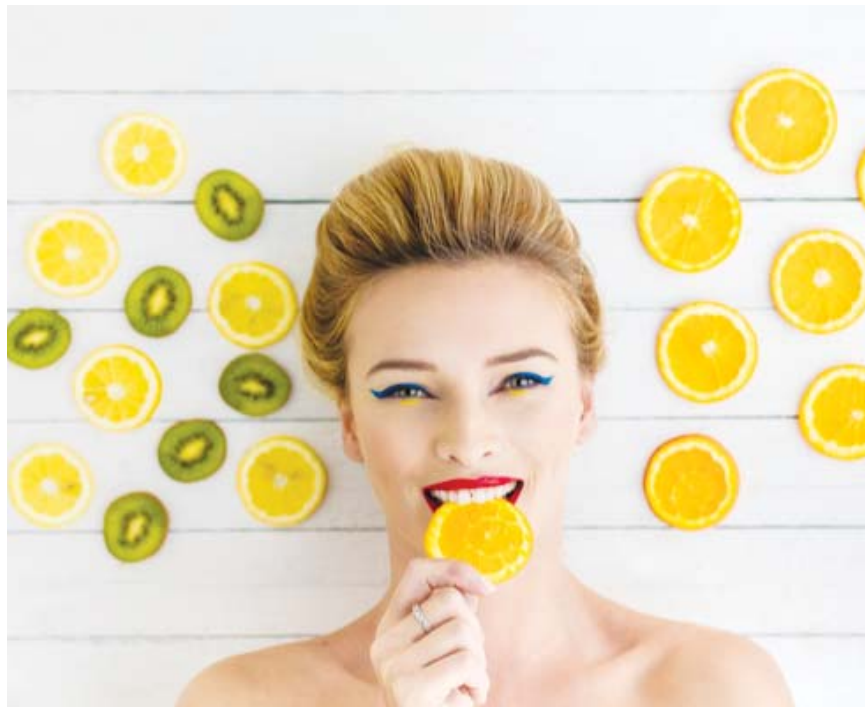
Also called Retinol, this is a compound which stimulates the production of new skin cells and actively works to counter acne and signs of ageing like formation of wrinkles and lines. Vitamin A is found naturally in foods like carrots, sweet potatoes, eggs, dairy products and spinach.

Vitamin B3

Niacinamide or nicotinamide - a form of vitamin B3 - is among the eight vitamins responsible for maintaining good health. This is a water-soluble vitamin known for its anti-inflammatory properties, which is used to treat skin ailments like acne, spots, hyperpigmentation and rosacea - a skin condition characterised by spreading of redness due to rashes. Chicken breast, tuna, salmon, peanuts, green peas, mushrooms and potatoes are some foods rich in vitamin B3.

Vitamin C

The anti-oxidant properties of



vitamin C help prevent acne and protect the skin from the effects of free radicals and creation of collagen structures. Taking adequate Vitamin C can help repair skin and reduce wrinkles. Citrus fruits, strawberries, tomatoes, mangoes, bell peppers, broccoli and Brussel sprouts are some sources of vitamin C.

Vitamin E

Also known as Tocopherol, vitamin E is a powerful anti-oxidant

that protects skin from free radicals. Free radicals are generated by internal and external factors.

Their internal generation happens when the body converts food into energy, while externally, the skin gets them through pollution, exposure to UV rays, and excessive smoking and drinking. Natural sources of Vitamin E include almonds, hazelnuts, sunflower seeds, olive oil, spinach, corn and mangoes.



GREEN TEA COMPOUND MAY HELP FIGHT 'SUPERBUGS'

A natural antioxidant commonly found in green tea may help eliminate antibiotic resistant bacteria or superbugs, according to a study.

The study, published in the Journal of Medical Microbiology, found that the antioxidant epigallocatechin (EGCG) can restore the activity of aztreonam, an antibiotic commonly used to treat infections caused by the bacterial pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

P. aeruginosa is associated with serious respiratory tract and bloodstream infections and in recent years has become resistant to many major classes of antibiotics, according to the researchers from the University of Surrey in the UK.

Currently, a combination of antibiotics is used to fight *P. aeruginosa*.

However, these infections are becoming increasingly difficult to treat, as resistance to last line antibiotics is being observed, researchers said.

To assess the synergy of EGCG and aztreonam, the team conducted in-vitro tests to analyse how they interacted with the *P. aeruginosa*, individually and in combination.

Dengue virus is becoming resistant to vaccines

The mosquito-borne deadly dengue virus that infects about 400 million people globally every year—especially in the tropic and sub-tropic regions of the world—is undergoing changes that are helping it evade vaccines and therapeutics, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal PLOS Pathogens, notes that one of the strains of the virus, DENV2 has smooth spherical surface particles while growing at the carrier mosquito's physiological temperature of 29 degrees Celsius.

According to the researchers including Professor Pei-Yong Shi from the University of Texas Medical Branch in the US, the smooth particles transform into bumpy ones at the human physiological temperature of 37 degrees Celsius.

This ability to morph helps the virus evade the immune system of the human host, and understanding the mechanism behind this transformation is important for therapeutics and vaccine development, the researchers mentioned.

"We found that in laboratory-developed DENV2 strains, mutations in the virus' E protein caused its transformation into bumpy particles," said Xin-Ni Lim, the study's lead author who is from the Duke-National University of Singapore Medical School.

High sugar consumption in childhood increases risk of adult obesity: Study

The high obesity rates currently observed among adults in the US may have been due to dietary changes that took place decades ago, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Economics and Human Biology noted that while many health studies identified sugar as a major factor in the obesity epidemic, its consumption in the US began to decline in the late 1990s, even when the obesity rates continued to rise well into the 2010s.

The researchers, from the University of Tennessee (UT) in the US, said that the changes we see now in adult obesity rates may have started decades ago with high-sugar diets in childhood, when those grown-ups were children.

"While most public health studies focus on current behaviours and diets, we took a novel approach and looked at how the diets we consumed in our childhood affect obesity levels now that we are adults," said Alex Bentley, lead researcher of the study from UT.

The researchers noted that in Tennessee alone, the adult obesity rate more than tripled, from about 11 per cent in 1990 to almost 35 per



cent in 2016.

According to the researchers, by 2016, nearly 40 percent of all adults in the US, which was about 93 million people, were affected by obesity.

Excess sugar consumption, particularly those in sugar-sweetened beverages, is a well-known contributor to both childhood and adult obesity, the researchers said.

"Since the 1970s, many available

infant foods have been extremely high in sugar," said Hillary Fouts, coauthor of the study from UT.

Fouts added that sugar consumption during pregnancy was known to cause an increase in fat cells in children.

"Up to this point, no studies had explicitly explored the temporal delay between increased sugar consumption and rising obesity rates," said Damian Ruck co-author of the study.

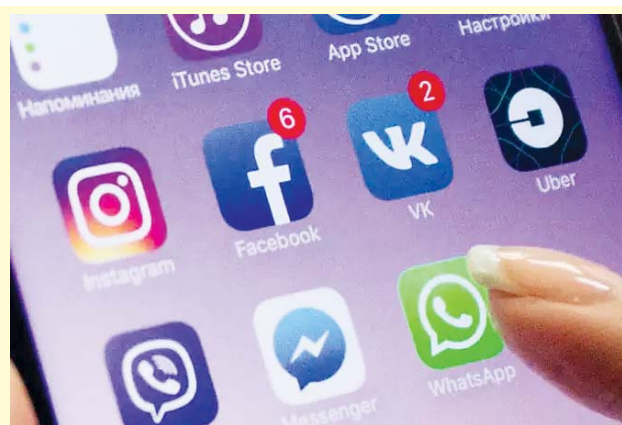
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WHATSAPP QUIETLY ROLLS OUT TOOL TO SHARE STATUS ON FACEBOOK

Facebook-owned instant messaging app WhatsApp has begun rolling out a feature for Android users to let them share their status stories directly on Facebook Story and other apps.

Just like Instagram, WhatsApp's status Stories let users post images, text and videos on your profile that disappear after 24 hours.

WhatsApp hasn't made an official announcement yet but several users reported this on Twitter.

"So WhatsApp has a new feature, you can share your story on WhatsApp to Facebook. For me, this is quite interesting, a centralized mode of communicating to various platforms," posted one user.

"The New #WhatsApp update allows you to share your statuses on to your #FacebookStory as well," wrote another.

To use this feature, tap on share button which will show you the apps you can share your WhatsApp status with. Tapping on "Share to Facebook Story" will let you share WhatsApp Status to Facebook Story.

Currently, there was no option to have WhatsApp status automatically shared to another service and the instant messaging app intends that the feature should be an active decision on the part of the user.

The roll out appears to be part of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's plan to create a unified app combining WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram to let over 2.6 billion users communicate with each other cross-apps by 2020.

The move could let the social networking giant tout higher user engagement to advertisers, thus, ramping up its advertising division at a time when growth has slowed down.

Google wins in 'right to be forgotten' fight with France

Google won its fight against tougher "right to be forgotten" rules after Europe's top court said on Tuesday it does not have to remove links to sensitive personal data worldwide, rejecting a French demand.

The case is seen as a test of whether Europe can extend its laws beyond its borders and whether individuals can demand the removal of personal data from internet search results without stifling free speech and legitimate public interest.

"Currently, there is no obligation under EU law, for a search engine operator who grants a request for de-referencing made by a data subject... to carry out such a de-referencing on all the versions of its search engine," the European Court of Justice (CJEU) said.

"However, EU law requires a search engine operator to carry out such a de-referencing on the versions of its search engine corresponding to all the (EU) member states," it added. The case arose after France's privacy watchdog CNIL in 2016 fined Google 100,000 euros (\$109,790) for refusing to delist sensitive information from internet search results globally upon request in what is called the "right to be forgotten." Google took its fight to the French Council of State which subsequently sought advice from the CJEU.

These included a satirical photomontage of a female politician, an article referring to someone as a public relations officer of the Church of Scientology, the placing under investigation of a male politician and the conviction of someone for sexual assaults against minors.

VENUS MAY HAVE BEEN HABITABLE FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS: NASA STUDY

Venus may have hosted liquid water for 2-3 billion years, until a dramatic transformation starting over 700 million years ago resurfaced around 80 per cent of the planet, according to a NASA study.

The research gives a new view of Venus's climatic history and may have implications for the habitability of exoplanets in similar orbits.

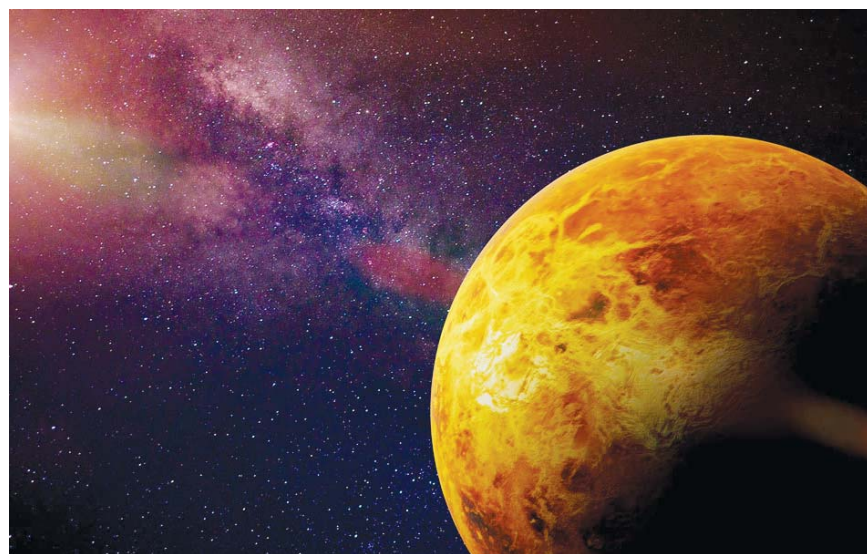
Forty years ago, NASA's Pioneer Venus mission found tantalising hints that Earth's 'twisted sister' planet may once have had a shallow ocean's worth of water.

To see if Venus might ever have had a stable climate capable of supporting liquid water, researchers from NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in the US created a series of five simulations assuming different levels of water coverage.

In all five scenarios, they found that Venus was able to maintain stable temperatures between a maximum of about 50 degrees Celsius and a minimum of about 20 degrees Celsius for around three billion years.

A temperate climate might even have been maintained on Venus today had there not been a series of events that caused a release, or 'outgassing', of carbon dioxide stored in the rocks of the planet about 700-750 million years ago.

"Our hypothesis is that Venus may have had a stable climate for billions of years. It is possible that the near-



global resurfacing event is responsible for its transformation from an Earth-like climate to the hellish hot-house we see today," said Way.

Three of the five scenarios studied by researchers assumed the topography of Venus as we see it today and considered a deep ocean averaging 310 metres, a shallow layer of water averaging 10 metres and a small amount of water locked in the soil.

For comparison, they also included a scenario with Earth's topography and a 310-metre ocean and, finally, a world completely covered by an ocean of 158 metres depth. To simulate the environmental conditions at 4.2 billion years ago, 715 million years ago and today, the researchers

adapted a 3D general circulation model to account for the increase in solar radiation as our Sun has warmed up over its lifetime, as well as for changing atmospheric compositions.

Although many researchers believe that Venus is beyond the inner boundary of our solar system's habitable zone and is too close to the Sun to support liquid water, the new study suggests that this might not be the case.

"Venus currently has almost twice the solar radiation that we have at Earth. However, in all the scenarios we have modelled, we have found that Venus could still support surface temperatures amenable for liquid water," said Michael Way from GISS.

Amazon's new initiative: Bring access to Cortana, Alexa and other assistants from single device

Amazon.com Inc has launched an initiative that would allow users to access its Alexa, Microsoft Corp's Cortana and multiple other voice-controlled virtual assistant services from a single device.

The move comes as competition has intensified among global technology companies to dominate the market for voice assistants, which are commonly housed in smart speakers and mobile devices.

The notable exclusions from Amazon's 'Voice Interoperability Initiative' are Alphabet Inc's Google Assistant, Apple Inc's Siri and Samsung Electronics Co's Bixby.

Google was approached by Amazon but only over the weekend, giving it a very small time frame to evaluate the proposal, a source familiar with the matter said.

"We just heard about this initiative and would need to review the details, but in general we're always interested in participating in efforts that have the broad support of the ecosystem and uphold strong privacy and security



practices," a Google spokesperson said.

The initiative, which has been supported by more than 30 companies, also includes Salesforce.com's Einstein.

Chip companies including Intel Corp, Qualcomm Inc, MediaTek Inc and NXP Semiconductors NV will develop the related hardware, Amazon said.

Spotify, Tencent, Baidu, BMW,

Bose, Harman, Orange, Sonos, Sony Audio Group are also supporting the partnership.

Microsoft and Amazon have collaborated in the past. The two companies two years ago announced that their voice assistants will be able to talk to each other, a rare move in itself as most virtual assistants are known to use data from their own ecosystems and not talk to one another.

ADB lowers India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5%

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today sharply lowered India's growth forecast from 7.2% to 6.5% for the current fiscal, though it indicated that the country will grow faster than China.

The multi-lateral lending agency in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Update for 2019 cut the growth projection for India, which recorded an over six-year low growth of 5% in April-June quarter this fiscal.

"India's growth forecast for fiscal year 2019 is lowered to 6.5% after growth slowed markedly to 5% in the first quarter, April-June. Abrupt declines in manufacturing and investment reflect uncertainty ahead of General Election, subdued lending by banks and other financial institutions, stress in the rural economy, and a weakening external outlook," the agency said.

However, India is expected to rebound to 7.2% growth in fiscal 2021 and join most other sub-regional countries in performing at or near their ADO 2019 growth forecasts for next year, it added.

The Manila-headquartered funding agency had projected



India's economy to expand at 7.2% in its ADO for 2019-20 released earlier in April this year and cut it down to 7% in the supplement to the ADO in July.

As regards China, it has projected that growth will slip from 6.6% last year to 6.2% in 2019, and 6% in 2020 — below previous projections — with increased government spending and a strong housing

market partly offsetting the impact of the trade dispute with the US and sluggish manufacturing investment.

"In Hong Kong, China, recent political tensions, spillover from the trade conflict, and the global electronics downturn will slow growth in 2019 and 2020 well below ADO 2019 projections," it said further.

Oil extends losses after Donald Trump douses trade talk optimism

SINGAPORE (TIP): Oil prices fell on Wednesday for a second day on worries that fuel demand could fall after US President Donald Trump doused recent optimism over China-US trade talks and reignited concerns about global economic growth.

Brent crude futures fell 47 cents to \$62.63 a barrel by 0442 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude dropped to \$56.94, down 35 cents.

Both benchmarks have fallen to their lowest level since before the attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities on Sept. 14.

"What really pulled the rug from underneath oil was Donald Trump's comments on trade last night ... He's still maintaining quite a belligerent position," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst for Asia Pacific at OANDA.

Trump criticised China's trade practices at the United National General Assembly on Tuesday and said he would not accept a "bad deal" in US-China trade negotiations.

China is the world's largest oil importer and second-largest crude user. The United States is the largest consumer of oil.

Trump also said he saw a path to peace with Iran even as he denounced Iran for "bloodlust", cooling other risk premiums built into oil prices.

Oil rallied last week following a crippling attack on Saudi Arabia's oil installations that has disrupted supplies from the world's top exporter. To meet its supply obligations to Saudi refineries overseas, Saudi Aramco is buying oil from other Middle East producers.

"Right now, the market is very concerned about the demand side of the equation, but I would caution against being complacent about what's happening in the Middle East," said Howie Lee, an OCBC economist.

SPICEJET PLANS TO BUY 100 AIRBUS PLANES, WORTH \$13 BILLION



India's SpiceJet Ltd. is weighing an order for at least 100 Airbus SE planes as Boeing Co. grapples with the fallout over its grounded 737 Max.

The budget carrier, a major global customer for the Max, may buy a "sizable" number of Airbus A321LR and XLR jets to accommodate a planned expansion, SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh said Tuesday. No decision has been made, he said, and the airline would consider a competing midrange jetliner if Boeing decides to build one.

Airbus has "pushed us hard since the day we started flying Boeing aircraft, and of course with the current problems, they've pushed us harder," Singh said in an interview at Bloomberg's headquarters in New York. "They have made us a commercial offer and we are evaluating it."

The discussions with Airbus threaten Boeing with a high-profile defection at a time when the US planemaker is enmeshed in one of the biggest crises in its 103-year history. SpiceJet, India's second-largest airline, has 13 Max jets already in its fleet and has committed to buy as many as 205 of the single-aisle workhorses as it expands capacity to handle the nation's fast-growing demand for air travel.

While Singh didn't specify the exact size of a potential transaction, he said "any aircraft order that SpiceJet places would at least be 100 aircraft." That would value the deal in excess of \$13 billion, based on 2018 list prices before customary discounts for the A321neo.



ECONOMY TO START LOOKING UP IN H2 OF CURRENT FISCAL, SAYS FM SITHARAMAN

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today hoped the economy will start looking up in the second half of the current financial year as consumption rises and banks increase their lending operations.

Weeks after meeting public sector bankers, the Finance Minister met private sector lenders and financial institutions that, according to her, categorically stated they are not facing liquidity crisis. They also said there is enough demand for loans, she added.

She indicated that economic slowdown seems to have bottomed out and the coming festive season will help the economy start looking up. She said the private sector banks and financial institutions told her that the slump in commercial vehicle sales is "cyclical" and likely to pick up in the next one or two quarters.

Thomas Cook collapse sparks Britain's largest repatriation since World War II



LONDON (TIP): British travel firm Thomas Cook collapsed on Monday, leaving hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers stranded and sparking the UK's biggest repatriation since World War II.

The 178-year-old debt-plagued group, which had struggled against fierce online competition for some time and blamed Brexit uncertainty for a recent drop in bookings, declared bankruptcy after failing to secure £200 million (\$250 million, 227 million euros) from private investors.

Monday's bankruptcy, which followed a lengthy period of chronic financial turmoil after a disastrous 2007 merger deal, left around 600,000 tourists stranded worldwide according to Thomas Cook, while its 22,000 staff are out of a job.

Maruti slashes prices of select models by Rs 5,000

NEW DELHI (TIP): The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday reduced the prices of select models by Rs 5,000 (on ex-showroom prices).

These models include all variants of Alto 800, Alto K10, Swift Diesel, Celerio, Baleno Diesel, Ignis, Dzire Diesel, Tour S Diesel, Vitara Brezza and S-Cross, MSI said.

The new prices will be applicable from September 25 across the country. This price cut will be over and above the current promotional offers.



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 30 - October 6, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says in your perception of your role in the family, 'provider' is usually very high in priority. This is typical Arian stuff. And you take it seriously. Funds and income for family prosperity, gain, security will be vitally important to you, and handled as such. You'll even take on a second job to create this fund for your family. And you don't stash it away! Perhaps even your servants get a raise to keep them working happily and efficiently - the way you do yourself!

TAURUS: You are understanding, gentle, communicative and family and friends all draw close in a circle of mutual affection, warmth, caring. There's an aura of peace, comfort, plenitude surrounding you all this period. Wishes and dreams will also become realities as you live them out. You will know the right way to defuse conflicts and face-offs, and harmony will prevail, in a feeling of blessedness, luxury, fun.

GEMINI: A time when organising your work - in terms of routine and communication - and your household will be important. It will not only be necessary but highly profitable. It will help you see your way clearly in conflict situations and help you take the right decisions and yet go with the flow. Pleasant repercussions will happen, in both the family scene and with colleagues, co-workers, bosses and superiors.

CANCER: You are given a period of truly stupendous power, achievement and glory by Ganesha now. It will seem that you can't put a foot wrong even if you try! You fulfil even the most far-fetched seeming goals, targets, and have the patience and the drive to resolve disputes and differences, too. It's not only at work that you will use brilliant skills and techniques, but in the sphere of family, of intimate relationships, of parenting, of duty and of love.

LEO: Your personal space has been so beautifully energised and activated that it may seem ideal. Yet you seek to arrange and organise it even better. This will involve you in two related but different activities: a) your care and concern over parents and in - laws, older people, humanitarian causes, social schemes, b) New projects / ventures will be discussed threadbare, planning and executed with skill, precision and perfect timing.

VIRGO: A period packed with so much that it's difficult to describe. There's fun, laughter, romance, good times, entertaining, ceremonies and even perhaps a wedding. There are also leisure pursuits, sports, hobbies. Perhaps games of chance and lotteries, too, where you could easily win some quick bucks. Even speculation and playing the market. That's still not the entire picture. You seek other.

LIBRA: In the cornucopia that Ganesha has for you as a build - up this period, the family scene will be truly beautiful - togetherness, ties, bonding. Love, romance and marriage will be equally good, too. To turn to more practical matters - home budgets will need care, foresight and planning, and you will work towards creating a financial support system for the family. Your own health will be good, too, so that you can cope comfortably, easily with all that you take on.

SCORPIO: A great inflow of serenity and confidence in your temperament and mental makeup benefits you greatly. You can handle the conflicts, confrontations, squabbles that may have to be dealt with easily and impartially. Also, there is success in your work - targets and family objectives, too. You not only get things done, but do it with grace and style, and much enjoyment.

SAGITTARIUS: Money flows in for all your needs, from household and domestic expenses to venture capital, high finance. You can handle them with still, expertise, and the rewards come! A rise in status, as well as raises, promotions, perks are almost definite, with the added prestige they bring. While all this may give you the confidence to plan fresh new ventures, you need to exercise care, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN: I'm sure you must have paid heed to Ganesha's advice. Otherwise, the dream run you've been having for the last period would be a hard act to follow, even for Ganesha. Profits, benefits, easy gains, lots of cash. Legal matters, joint - funds will all work out very smoothly. You will perform a true quantum leap in terms of your sincere faith, heightened spiritual awareness, devoutness in prayer. You feel it is the best way to express your gratefulness, your appreciation and love for God.

AQUARIUS: Your public persona will not match up to your performance - both will be brilliant, effortlessly pleasing. You're a whiz at group activities and team work, so that you get true co-operation from others. This helps you cope with the rivalry that you are bound to face now. You attract good people near you, the family draws closer; as do your friends. Great achievements flow, as a result; not least of which are family warmth, love, solidarity.

PISCES: Good relationships could well and truly sum up the theme for this period - and right through to the end of the period. Contacts, communications, reaching out, drawing people closer. Meetings, conferences, even intimate interactions will be meaningful, productive. Benefits come to you from travel and short trips. You will break boundaries and barriers of all kinds.

Birthday Horoscope September 30 - October 6, 2019

SEPT 30: Ganesha says you'll have to deal with a friend's jealousy of possessiveness when you've finally started feeling that being free from such constraints is better.

OCT 1: Financial restrictions, a lack or loss, or the need to scale back is a reminder to reshape material plans and do what's responsible re: money.

OCT 2: You're on edge and restless. Someone's in a fighting mood or being too possessive or jealous, and you don't want any part of it.

OCT 3: Wandering emotions pin this day on feelings rather than action, but if you play these cards right, tonight affords accord and improvement.

OCT 4: A greater idea, insight, or plan can be the result of your hard efforts

to succeed. Business news shows just how far you've come.

OCT 5: Take a leap into life this morning through a friendly association and by afternoon you'll feel happy and vitalized among good friends.

OCT 6: Your heart is always open, but, today, you feel even more sensitive and compassionate toward others. This good nature carries into a lunchtime encounter that warms everyone's hearts

NAVRATRI: THE NINE-DAY FESTIVAL OF GODDESS DURGA

SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 7, 2019

Navratri is the festival of nine-day, which holds immense significance for the Hindus. It is also one of the most ancient festivals. The festival of Chaitra Navratri was held in its most elemental form even in prehistoric times as Mata Shakti Durga was worshipped. In order to have the blessings of Maa Durga Shakti in human life, Hindus worship Maa Durga and all her feminine aspects of divine femininity over nine days and nine nights.

The Navratri 2019 dates of the Ashwin month are from September 29 until October 7. It is one of the festivals celebrated across the length and breadth of India, though the celebrations in one part of the country are quite different than the other. With various customs and traditions, each region of India has its unique way of celebrating the Navratri by honouring the multiple forms of Mother Goddess with their rituals and ceremonies.

Performing rituals of Navratri is the most significant way of experiencing the essence of this Hindu festival. In the auspicious and awe-inspiring occasion, divine love pervades through all devotees who emerge more courageous and wiser through the nine-day rigor. In the vein of all vedic traditions, Navratri customs help to inculcate spiritual habits. Hence, prayers, chants, 'bhajans' and reading of important religious texts make up a significant portion of this festival. Devotees pay obeisance to this feminine divine energy that is believed to maintain the balance of the universe.

Navratri is one of the most anticipated festivals in India with social and spiritual connotations. Navratri Hindu festival is spread out over nine consecutive days in the Chaitra and Ashwin months to consecrate the divine aspects of Ma Shakti as Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. The festival is associated with their symbolic connotation as epitome of courage, wealth and skill respectively.

Broadly, on the first three days, devotees venerate Goddess Durga as she represents power in its divine form that removes negativity and proclivity towards immoral behavior. She is, invoked as Kumari, Parvati and Kali which are aspects of Ma Durga and represent her adolescence-to-maturity stage. During the next three days, Goddess Lakshmi blessings for material and spiritual prosperity are sought with puja and powerful mantra chantings. Over the next three days, Goddess Saraswati is invoked to seek blessings for erudition and skills in the arts. The devotee puts books and musical instruments near the deity to acquire true knowledge and wisdom to see him/her through this life and beyond. The ninth day of 'Mahanavami', the concluding day of Navratri puja, is considered an auspicious day for conducting pujas such as 'Aparajita' puja and 'Kanya Puja'. The tenth day celebrates the momentous events associated with Lord Rama as well as Ma Durga, who killed the demon



'Mahisasura'.

Rituals of Navratri

Customs of Navratri which stand out prominently in terms of strict observance include the following:

On the very first day, barley or 'jowar' seeds are sown in a decorated clay pot and by the tenth day, the tender shoots are distributed among the devotees. A photograph or an idol of the eight-armed Goddess seated on a lion, along with the 'yantra' is installed.

'Kalash Sthapna' is done which involves installing a water pot or 'kalash', sprinkled with holy water and filled with mango leaves and coconut.

The morning 'puja' is performed after a bath, and the day-long fast is broken after doing the evening puja.

During the puja, 'shankh' is blown, fresh flowers, 'doob' or sacred grass, 'paan' and fruits are offered to the deity, chapters from the sacred 'Durga Saptshati' and 'Chandipath' are recited, followed by 'arti' and prasad distribution.

A very significant ritual is performing 'Kanya Puja' on 'Ashtami' and 'Navami', which involves worshipping nine young girls, in pre-puberty stage, representing the nine forms of goddess Durga. Each girl is treated to a meal comprising puri, sweet bread, halwa, a sweet dish, made of semolina and Bengal gram curry. After washing their feet, the devotees break their fast.

Ayudha or Astra Puja is held on the eighth/ninth day. Tools, vehicles and equipments are worshipped on this day.

Among some communities, it is also considered an auspicious time to initiate learning for children by invoking Goddess Saraswati. Hence, Lalita-puja and Saraswati-puja is done ritualistically to start formal education of children.

A Garba performance precedes 'aarti' conducted in honor of Maa Durga.

Fasting or 'vrat' from sunrise till

sunset is undertaken for night days.

In the Navratri Hindu festival, the devotee should observe abstinence and austerity.

On the eight day, a 'yagna' is performed with offerings of ghee and til for mental and spiritual cleansing.

Lemon or bhasma or ash is used for cleaning substances for 'abhishek'.

In Gujarat, a garbh-deep or a lamp is lit within an earthen pot with several perforations representing the unison of body and soul.

Customs of Navratri

Since all the nine days are dedicated to different incarnations of Ma Durga, it is customary to wear colors that symbolize the qualities of the deity. The first day venerates Shailputri Devi who embodies aspects of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. On this day, red clothes are worn. The second day is dedicated to Brahmacharini Devi who represents a life of abstinence. Wearing blue colored clothes is considered auspicious on this day. On the third day, Chandraghanta Devi, the bestower of glory and beauty, is

invoked. On the fourth day, Kushmanda Devi is worshipped and yellow is the color to honor her. The fifth day is in honor of Skandmata Devi. Grey is the color to be worn on the sixth day and is dedicated to Katyayani Devi, while orange is the color for protection symbolized by Kalratri Devi on the seventh day. On the eighth day, pink clothes are worn to honor Mahagauri Devi. The ninth day is dedicated to Siddhidatri Devi, whose blessings earn devotees all 'siddhis'.

On all these nine days, devotees should meditate on the different forms of Ma Durga and seek her grace.

Some of the Navratri customs carry a lot of significance for married women. This Navratri Hindu festival sees heavy involvement of married women who seek blessings of prosperity and a long married life. Some of the customs of Navratri include showing complete devotion through actions such as doing 'bhajans' and 'japa', eating vegetarian food and staying away from negative influences to be able to soak in the wisdom and inner strength gained thus.

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"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."



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Indian American among 24 arrested in attempted child sex crimes in metro Atlanta



Mahesh Kumar Saroj, W/M, Alpharetta, GA, 35, is an Information Technology professional who was arrested along with other 23 individuals

ATLANTA (TIP): The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office along with 13 law enforcement agencies finished an undercover operation called "Operation Just Cause" which resulted in 24 arrests including an Indian origin man for attempted child sex crimes in metro Atlanta.

Mahesh Kumar Saroj, W/M, Alpharetta, GA, 35, is an Information Technology professional who was arrested along with other 23 individuals.

These individuals traveled or were willing to travel to the county for criminal sexual

encounters with young children. The operation took several months of planning and was aimed at child predators and other suspects targeting children for human trafficking and other criminal acts in the state of Georgia.

Indian American Sasha Ahuja Named to Commission of Gender Equity by Mayor de Blasio

NEW YORK (TIP): NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Sept 17 the appointment of six new Commissioners to the Commission on Gender Equity (CGE), an agency tasked with supporting City agencies in dismantling institutional barriers for women, girls, transgender and gender non-binary New Yorkers.

Indian origin Sasha Ahuja has been named Chief of Staff at Girls for Gender Equity and Chair of New York City's Equal Employment Practices Commission. "New York City is committed to using every tool we have to create a truly equal city for all New Yorkers, no matter their gender," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "These new members bring invaluable expertise to the Commission and will continue our work in the fight for gender equity."

"New York City's mandate to promote gender



Indian origin Sasha Ahuja has been named Chief of Staff at Girls for Gender Equity and Chair of New York City's Equal Employment Practices Commission

equity - especially through a racial justice lens - could not be more urgent. I am eager to use my role as a Commissioner on New York City's Commission on Gender Equity to ensure that folks most directly impacted by systemic inequity in our city have a seat at the decision making table to influence policy that impacts their lives," said CGE Commissioner Sasha Ahuja, Chief of Staff at Girls for Gender Equity and Chair of New York City's Equal Employment Practices

Commission.

Ahuja pursued her bachelors' study from the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College and an M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University. She currently serves as Chief of Staff at Girls for Gender Equity, a Brooklyn-based organization that led the New York City Young Women's Initiative.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Harmony and Peace : Modi's Message to the UNGA

Listing the achievements of his government, he said the Indian example will inspire many developing nations. He said the dreams for the realization of which his government is working are the dreams of the whole world.

He began with the initiative "Swachh Bharat" (Clean India) which he described as the biggest cleanliness drive of the world. Under the initiative, 110 million toilets have been made in less than 5 years, which, he said must be an inspiration to the whole world. Incidentally, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation honored Modi with Global Gatekeeper Award for his "Swachh Bharat" initiative two days before he addressed the UNGA.

The other achievements he listed included the health insurance scheme under which 500 million are benefitted annually, the financial inclusion scheme under which 370 million poor people have opened bank accounts. These schemes give the poor allover the world a new hope. Digital identification program, containing corruption which saved the country \$20 billion are some other initiatives of his government which may well be emulated by other nations. Of late, inspired by the UN's recommendation of end to single plastic use, India has launched an initiative in this respect.

From the past achievements of his government Modi moved on to some plans in the future. Water conservation and water supply to 150 million homes in the next 5 years is one of the priorities of his government. There are plans to build in far flung rural areas 60,000 miles of roads.

By 2022, when India will be celebrating 75 years of Independence, 200 million homes for the poor will have been built.

So much has been possible, Modi said because of the cooperation of all. Together we progress has been the principle his government followed. Mutual Trust, mutual cooperation and development.

India's successful initiatives may well encourage other nations to follow suit.

Turning to India's age-old culture, Modi said that India has always believed in peace, not in conflicts. His country has taken initiatives for the benefit of the whole world because India believes the whole world is a family.

India has been a leading nation in dealing with the issue of global warming. In order to contain damage from natural disasters, India took the initiative of setting up "Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure" which will create an infrastructure which will be resilient to natural disasters.

Prime Minister Modi mentioned next the extraordinary contribution of Indian soldiers to UN Peacekeeping. He said the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers are unparalleled.

Modi waned the international community of the threats from terrorism. He called upon member nations to come together to put down terrorism.

He said the 21st century modern technology is bringing about many changes in the spheres of social life, personal life, economy, security, connectivity and international relations, and added that under the circumstances a divided world is in nobody's interest. Nor does the world have the option to stay confined to national boundaries. "In this new era, we will have to give new strength and direction to multilateralism and to the United Nations", Modi said.

He reminded the world community of the message of Swami Vivekanand who a hundred years ago, at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago had said: "Harmony and Peace; Not Dissension". Modi said, "India's message to the world today is similar to Swami Vivekanand's - Harmony and Peace."

Sikh American Deputy Sheriff shot and killed in the line of duty in Texas

Dhaliwal was a 10-year veteran on the force, and the agency's first Sikh deputy. "He was a hero," Gonzalez said. "Deputy Dhaliwal was a trailblazer."

He was taken by helicopter ambulance to the Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he died. Authorities detained a possible suspect, the sheriff tweeted.

According to the media report, the dashcam video shows Dhaliwal and the suspect, still in his car, having a conversation with no sign of confrontation. A few seconds after Dhaliwal returned to his squad car, the suspect ran up and shot him.

Mr. Gonzalez recounted Dhaliwal's efforts after Hurricane Harvey in Texas in August 2017, and how he went to Puerto Rico after the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria in September that year.

Dhaliwal worked with United Sikhs, a global humanitarian relief and advocacy nonprofit, to help organize the donation of truckloads of supplies for first responders after Harvey.

Four years ago, the then Sheriff implemented a policy to allow Dhaliwal to wear turban and beard for the first time while patrolling Harris County streets.

There are no words to speak to how heartbroken we are, how devastated, Mr. Gonzalez said.

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INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

One more on-field aggression may get Virat Kohli banned from international cricket

NEW DELHI (TIP): Indian skipper Virat Kohli has reached a dicey situation as he, who received an official warning and one demerit point for breaching ICC Code of Conduct in India's third T20 match against South Africa on Sunday, is just one demerit point away from getting banned from international cricket. On Sunday, Kohli had an inappropriate shoulder contact with pacer Beuran Hendricks in the fifth over of the Indian innings while taking a run.

This was after Kohli was found guilty of a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct during Sunday's third T20I against South Africa in Bengaluru. In a statement released, the ICC said: "Kohli was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "Inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator)" during an International Match."

The Indian skipper tally of demerit points has increased to three after securing one demerit point each during the Pretoria Test against South Africa on in 2018 and against Afghanistan in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

Now the aggressive Indian captain needs to keep his aggression in check as India have just started a hectic home season. India will now play three Test matches with South Africa cricket team. Later, India will host Bangladesh for three T20Is and two



Tests in November, and then go for bilateral series with West Indies, Zimbabwe, Australia and New Zealand.

As per cricket rule book, when a player reaches four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, the player is suspended. It means if Kohli receives another demerit point before January 16 next year – two years from the Centurion Test – he will get a suspension.

Virat Kohli was found to have made "inappropriate" shoulder contact with Beuran Hendricks while taking a run, and now has three demerit points on his disciplinary record

What does ICC rule-book say?

- When a player reaches four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, they are converted into suspension points and a player is banned
- Two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player
- Demerit Points to remain on a Player or Player Support Personnel's disciplinary record for a period of twenty-four (24) months from their imposition following which they will be expunged.



BUMRAH OUT OF SA TESTS WITH STRESS FRACTURE IN BACK, UMESH CALLED

NEW DELHI (TIP): Jasprit Bumrah, India's top pace bowler across formats for the last two years, has been ruled out of the three-Test series against South Africa due to a stress fracture in his lower back.

Bumrah has been replaced in the Indian squad by paceman Umesh Yadav. The Test series against South Africa begins in Visakhapatnam on October 2.

The injury could force Bumrah out of next month's T20I and Test series against Bangladesh as well. Since making his Test debut against South Africa in January 2018, Bumrah has picked up 62 wickets in 12 Tests at an average of 19.24. He is yet to play a Test series in India, but he did very well on the tours of South Africa, England, Australia and the West Indies over the last 21 months.

Bumrah's injury is a big setback to India and a warning sign as well, because it raises questions asked about managing his workload in the light of his slingy, unconventional bowling action. Bumrah has bowled a staggering 724.3 overs in international cricket since January 1, 2018.

"The injury was detected during a routine radiological screening. He will now undergo rehabilitation at NCA and will be monitored by the BCCI Medical Team. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umesh Yadav as Bumrah's replacement," the Indian cricket board (BCCI) said in a media statement.

ROHIT'S OPENING GAMBIT

VIZIANAGARAM (TIP): Rohit Sharma will begin a last-ditch effort to save his start-stop Test career with a trial run in the unfamiliar opener's slot when he leads the Board President's XI in a three-day warm-up game against South Africa.

The national selection committee and the team management have decided to promote Rohit as an opener due to his attractive strokeplay. India's next five Tests — three against South Africa at home and two against New Zealand away early next year — could make or break the 32-year-old's Test career. He will open with Mayank Agarwal for the Board President's XI, and the two will look to strike an understanding before the first Test, which begins in Visakhapatnam on October 2.

From the Indian point of view, the second player to watch with interest in the game is fast bowler Umesh Yadav, who has been drafted into the Test side as the replacement of the injured Jasprit Bumrah. Yadav, who played the last of his 41 Tests in late 2018, will be keen to rattle the likes of Faf du Plessis and Aiden Markram in order to make a statement.



MESSI, RAPINOE STARS OF NIGHT

MILAN (TIP): Lionel Messi won the FIFA Men's Player of the Year award on Monday with Megan Rapinoe bagging the women's prize to cap a historic year for the United States' World Cup icon.

Barcelona striker Messi's victory in Milan was a surprise as he edged out Virgil van Dijk, who won the UEFA player's award last month after helping Liverpool to the Champions League last season. Juventus' forward Cristiano Ronaldo had also been shortlisted for the award, but did not attend the ceremony as he lost out to his rival in the famous La Scala opera house.

Both Messi, 32, and Van Dijk, 28, are now in the running for the coveted Ballon d'Or which will be announced on December 2.

Rapinoe beat fellow World Cup winner Alex Morgan and England's Lucy Bronze to the women's title, with US coach Jill Ellis winning women's coaching award. The 34-year-old Rapinoe won the Golden Boot for being top scorer and the Golden Ball for the best player at the World Cup, and also became the face of the tournament for her outspoken views on US President Donald Trump.

Messi was top scorer in the Champions League last season with 12 goals before Barcelona were dumped out by Liverpool in the semifinals. The Argentine also won the European Golden Shoe after scoring 36 goals, won



La Liga title with Barcelona and helped Argentina to bronze at 2019 Copa America.

Van Dijk had been bidding to become just the second defender — after Italian Fabio Cannavaro in 2006 — to be recognised by FIFA as the world's best player. And he missed out on completing a treble for Liverpool with manager Jurgen Klopp winning the men's coach of the year award and Alisson Becker the goalkeeper prize.

Two-time women's World Cup-winning coach Ellis beat Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman, runners-up in France 2019, and England's Phil Neville for the award.

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