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## University of Houston Receives \$2 Million Commitment to Support Study of Tamil Language and Culture



Sam Kannappan, founding member and board president, Houston Tamil Studies Chair, Inc. (left) with Renu Khator, president, University of Houston; Antonio D. Tillis, dean, UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; and Eloise Brice, vice president, University Advancement attended a ceremonial signing of the agreement

Photo / Courtesy University of Houston

HOUSTON (TIP): A Texas nonprofit organization with a mission to promote Tamil language, culture and literature has made a \$2 million commitment to the University of Houston to establish

*contd on Page 32*

## Social Security Announces 1.6 Percent Benefit Increase for 2020

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 69 million Americans will increase 1.6 percent in 2020, the Social Security Administration announced, October 10.

**Read full story on Page 13**

# A New Chapter in Our Ties: Prime Minister Modi to Xi



MAMALLAPURAM, INDIA (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, October 12, said that their second informal summit here heralds the start of a new era in India-China relations. The 'Chennai vision', he hoped, would build on the first informal summit between India and China last year in Wuhan that had given fresh stability and momentum in bilateral relations.

Strategic communication between the two countries has led to increased stability, he underlined in his opening remarks at the beginning of delegation-level talks. PM Modi and Xi Jinping have met 17 times at structured summits and two informal summits, including the one in Mamallapuram. He recalled that at the Wuhan meeting, the two leaders had decided not to allow differences to fester into disputes.

*contd on Page 32*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Informal Summit in Mamallapuram.

Photo / Courtesy Xinhua

## "You will be held accountable": Pelosi Warns Trump



WASHINGTON (TIP): Speaker Nancy Pelosi heavily criticized President Trump when the White House asserted that the Administration will not comply with House Committee subpoenas as part of the impeachment inquiry. "For a while, the President has tried to normalize lawlessness. Now, he is trying to make lawlessness a virtue. The American people have already heard the President's own words - 'do us a favor, though.' *contd on Page 32*

## Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel peace prize



The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize was given to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Friday October 11, 2019. (File Photo)

NEW YORK (TIP): The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday, October 11 to a dynamic young African leader whose sweeping reforms and surprising embrace of a bitter rival have been praised as an inspiration to the continent and a hopeful counterpoint to strongman movements far beyond it, says an AP report. Now the task for Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is reigning in the ethnic violence that *contd on page 32*

## No Entry If You Can't Pay for Healthcare

WASHINGTON (TIP):

US President Trump has issued a proclamation to suspend the entry of immigrants 'who will financially burden the United States healthcare system.' As per the new rule, immigrant visa applicants will have to demonstrate that they will be covered by health insurance within thirty days of entering the country or have the financial resources to pay for medical costs.

Applicants will be required to meet these requirements before being issued an immigrant visa. A number of exceptions will be made, such as for children of American citizens.

According to a White House statement, 'President Trump is taking this action to ensure we protect the availability of healthcare benefits for American citizens' because 'Large numbers of non-citizens have taken *contd on Page 32*



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## NJ Senator Bob Menendez Leads Congressional Delegation Trip to India



On his trip, Sen. Menendez held a series of meetings with civil society, security and government officials in the country

**TRENTON, NJ (TIP):** After New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, U.S. Senator from the state Bob Menendez, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, led a Congressional Delegation trip to India.

On his trip, Sen. Menendez held a series of meetings with civil society, security and government officials in the country. Sen. Menendez celebrated Gandhi's 150th birthday, commemorated the 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, and met with clean energy partners to discuss how to combat the growing climate change crisis.

On Sept 27 Menendez held a roundtable with Indian-American community leaders from across New Jersey to discuss his commitment to fostering the U.S.-India relationship, as well as his upcoming Congressional

Delegation trip to India. The roundtable was attended by elected officials, medical professionals, entrepreneurs, civic activists and religious leaders.

"Our relationship with India is critically important and has made considerable strides in recent years. Our trade relationship has grown, our defense relationship has grown and our people to people ties are as strong as ever," said Sen. Menendez. "We need to continue growing this relationship, one that will extend long beyond the tenures of leadership in either country."

New Jersey is home to nearly 300,000 Indian Americans, making it the third highest state with an Indian American population, just after California and New York. Indian Americans also make up the largest group of foreign-born residents in the state.

## Julie L. Shapiro is the new CEO of Fund for Public Schools



**Experienced nonprofit leader will engage philanthropic community and expand opportunity for New York City's 1.1 million students**

**NEW YORK(TIP):** Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza announced, October 10, the appointment of Julie L. Shapiro as Chief Executive Officer of The Fund for Public Schools. As Chief Executive Officer, Shapiro will be responsible for fostering public-private partnerships with the New York City business and

nonprofit communities, and securing critical investments for key educational priorities to support the administration's Equity and Excellence for All agenda. Shapiro was appointed by the Fund for Public Schools Board of Directors, of which Chancellor Carranza serves as Chair. "Julie has a track record of advancing equity and excellence through public-private partnership - she has tripled the operating budget of one of the City's major nonprofit organizations committed to empowering young people. We are thrilled that she has chosen to bring her obvious talent to The Fund for Public Schools," said Schools Chancellor and Fund for Public Schools Board Chair Richard A. Carranza. "I am confident that Julie's passion, commitment to innovation, and extensive knowledge of the New York philanthropic community will help us continue to expand opportunities for our 1.1 million students."

"I've spent the past decade working to advance equity and excellence for young people, and I'm so excited to do this work at the scale of the nation's largest school system," said Julie L. Shapiro, Chief Executive Officer of The Fund for Public Schools. "I look forward to partnering with Chancellor Carranza, and engaging New York City's unparalleled private sector and nonprofit community for the benefit of our 1.1 million students and their families." Under Shapiro's leadership, The Fund will continue to promote the Equity and Excellence for All initiatives; increased access to high-quality early childhood education; community empowerment initiatives; and support for historically underserved communities, including students in temporary housing and Multilingual Learners. *Read the full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)*

## Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary celebrated in New York: 5 Honored by Shanti Fund

**HAPPAUGE, NY (TIP):** Shanti Fund celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the Suffolk County Executive Building on October 2nd, which was attended by over 150 guests, including NYS Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Town of Huntington Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, and Consul General of India Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty. Gandhi's favorite bhajans 'Vaishnav jan tau tene kahiye je pir parai jane re' and 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' were presented by Indian and Korean singers. A group of Korean youth also sang many songs in chorus with live orchestra.

The life and message of Mahatma Gandhi was shared by the scholars and honorees of the event -- Dr. Kirit Gosalia of Phoenix, Mr. Rajesh Jain of Kolkata, Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Freeport Public Schools, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty and Publisher of The South Asian Times Mr. Kamlesh C. Mehta. All were honored with Mahatma Gandhi Peace & Non-

Violence Award for their contributions to community while maintaining the Gandhian philosophy and ethics.

Shanti Fund is a not for profit volunteer-run organization dedicated to promoting Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of peace and non-violence through education. In existence for over 25 years, it is the only such organization in the State of New York if not the entire North America.

Shanti Fund is the founder of the unique Gandhi Peace Garden on earmarked 50 acres of land on the vast campus of SUNY Old Westbury on Long Island. Beautiful 150 trees brought from all 50 US States have been planted to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhi Peace Garden was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji from UN on 24th Sept in the presence of General Secretary of UN, Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and South Korea and many other State Heads.

*(Based on a Press Release issued by Parveen Chopra)*



Honoree Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York (third from left) with other honorees

# Indian Consulate Celebrates 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi



Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India, New York, spoke about the life and teachings of the Mahatma in Union Square Park, New York, October 2.

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Consulate General of India in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan(BVB) celebrated 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2nd,2019 in Union Square Park, New York where a statue of the Mahatma stands tall.

The program began with a rendition of

Gandhiji's favorite bhajan titled "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Re Kahiye" by the music academy of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Accompanying them on the violin was Mrs. Vandana Sharma, former Regional Manager of Air India, Americas.

On the occasion, Ambassador Sandeep



A view of the gathering. Seen, among others, from L to R: Dr Naveen Mehta, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, and Vandana Sharma, former Regional Manager of Air India, Americas

Chakravorty, Consul General of India, New York spoke about the life and teachings of the Mahatma. He also spoke about Gandhi@150 celebrations and the recent inauguration of 'Gandhi Peace Garden' at the State University of New York Old Westbury Campus by Prime Minister of India. Dr. Naveen C. Mehta,

Director, BVB, thanked PM Modi for the message on Mahatma Gandhi that he had delivered at the UN.

A pioneer of the initiative that culminated in installation of Gandhiji's statue at the park, Dr. Chandrasekhar, reminisced on the journey that was undertaken to make this idea a reality.

## A MUSICAL CONCERT TO PAY HOMAGE TO MAHATMA GANDHI

**Sitar exponent Pandit Shubhendra Rao performs at the Indian Consulate**



The musical concert to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi featured acclaimed Sitar exponent, Pandit Shubhendra Rao

**NEW YORK (TIP):** In commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and continuing with Gandhi@150 celebrations, the eighth event in the "Baithak@Consulate" series titled 'Homage To The Mahatma' was dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. Held on October 01, 2019 in the Consulate's ballroom, the musical concert featured acclaimed Sitar

exponent, Pandit Shubhendra Rao who was accompanied by Ms. Saskia Rao-de-Haas on Indian Cello and Mr. Aditya Kalyanpur on Tabla.

The event was attended by prominent members of the community, including Mr. Eric Leroy Adams, Borough President of Brooklyn. In his keynote address, Mr. Adams spoke about life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He



A view of the gathering. Seen in the front row, from L to R: Eric Leroy Adams, Borough President of Brooklyn, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Mrs. Taruna Chakravorty

emphasized on how we all are connected to each other and how we affect one-another and how by helping heal others, we end up healing ourselves too.

Amb Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York, in consonance with Mr. Adams also spoke about Gandhiji's influence on leaders around the world and in the U.S.

A protégé of Bharat Ratna Pandit

Ravi Shankar, Pandit Shubhendra Rao and his team had the audience enthralled with beautiful medley of ragas. Remembering Gandhiji and in a tribute to him, the trio played prominent hymns, like "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye Je" and "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram", amongst others that reminded us of the ideals, deeds and teachings of the Father of the Nation.

## Indian American Sampat Shivangi to Serve on Key Panel of US Health Body



*Sampat Shivangi is the founding president of American Affiliation of Physicians of Indian-origin in Mississippi*

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Sampat Shivangi, a renowned Indian American physician, has been invited to serve on the national advisory committee of a key health body dealing with mental health. Shivangi has been invited by the US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M Azar to serve on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services National Advisory Council.

"I am delighted to invite you to serve on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's, Center for Mental Health Services, National Advisory Council," Mr Azar stated in a letter to him. "The appointment is for the term beginning immediately and ending on July 30, 2023," Mr Azar stated.

In a statement, Shivangi thanked Trump and Azar for their consideration and the opportunity to serve. "I am honored that President Donald Trump's Administration and the US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M Azar II, have appointed me to the coveted post to serve on Center for Mental Health Services, National Advisory Council for four year term ending July 30, 2023," he stated. He is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor 2008 and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, 2017 for his contributions to India-US relationship.

## Indian American Agrees to Plead Guilty in Connection with Embezzling over \$3 Million

**BOSTON (TIP):** The former executive assistant of a Waltham-based technology company has been charged and has agreed to plead guilty in connection with a fraud and embezzlement scheme that netted over \$3 million. Shivani Patel, 38, of Vineyard Haven, was charged with bank fraud, money laundering and filing false tax returns. A plea hearing has not yet been scheduled by the Court. According to the terms of the plea agreement, the government will recommend a sentence of 57 months in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine between \$20,000 and \$200,000, restitution and forfeiture.

*(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

# Indian American Physicians Devinder S. Bhatia & Satish Nayak Appointed to Texas Medical Board

**HOUSTON (TIP):** Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Devinder S. Bhatia, M.D., and Satish Nayak, M.D., to the Texas Medical Board for terms set to expire on April 13, 2025. The Board regulates the practice of medicine in Texas.

Devinder S. Bhatia, M.D. of Houston is a Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon. He is the founder, CEO, and president of Southeast Texas Cardiovascular P.A., and is certified by the American Board of thoracic surgery and currently serves as chief of cardiovascular surgery at HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of The Fellow of the Federation of State Medical Boards. He is a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, Society for Vascular Surgery, and the Harris County Medical Society. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Houston Symphony



*Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Devinder S. Bhatia, and Satish Nayak to the Texas Medical Board*

and is a former board member of the Health Museum. Bhatia received a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from

the University of Arkansas and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Satish Nayak, M.D. of Andrews is a family physician, obstetrician and gynecologist at Nayak Clinic. He is a member of the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Medicine, Texas Association of Family Physicians, and the Texas Medical Association. He currently serves as the vice president of the Yeriwah Mega Foundation and is a trustee for the Hindu Association of West Texas. Nayak received a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Karnataka University, a Doctor of Medicine in Obstetrics & Gynecology from Mangalore University, a Doctor of Medicine in family medicine from Westchester County Medical Center, and a Doctor of Medicine in Transitional Medicine from the University of Maryland.

## Indian American Led Economic Development Initiative Earns National Recognition



*Saleha Khumawala, Robert Grinaker Professor of Accounting at the C.T. Bauer College of Business, who leads the Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship Program for aspiring entrepreneurs received the 2019 Award of Excellence for Innovation + Talent (Courtesy University of Houston C. T. Bauer College of Business)*

**HOUSTON (TIP):** The Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship (SURE™) program at the University of Houston C. T. Bauer College of Business has been recognized as one of the nation's top university-led economic development initiatives.

Indian American Saleha Khumawala, Robert Grinaker Professor of Accounting at the C.T. Bauer College of Business, leads the Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship Program for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The project received the 2019 Award of Excellence for Innovation + Talent at the University Economic Development Association annual summit earlier this month. U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary Dennis Alford presented SURE™ representatives with the 2019 Award of Excellence for Innovation + Talent award at the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) annual summit Oct. 1.

SURE™ is an innovative educational model that creates a partnership between UH students, entrepreneurs from the local community and area business leaders. Since its founding in 2012, SURE™ has educated more than 1,200 current and aspiring Houston area

entrepreneurs, trained more than 300 Bauer College students and been involved in the launch or expansion of nearly 300 local businesses.

Khumawalateaches and does research in the field of Government and Non-Profit Accounting and Social Entrepreneurship. She has widely published in prestigious journals such as The Accounting Review, Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance, Accounting Horizons, Advances in International Accounting, Journal of Public Budgeting Accountability and Financial Management and others and has made numerous presentations at national and international conferences. She has successfully led the Study Abroad Programs to India since 2002 for students, faculty and administrators at the University of Houston She is also the coauthor of Government and Not-for-Profit Accounting: Concepts and Practices, 7th edition, John Wiley & Sons, and is an active member of the American Accounting Association and served as the President of the Government and Non Profit Section in 2008. Dr. Khumawala is also an advisor to several nonprofit organizations in Houston

## Indian American Textiles Entrepreneur Arun Agarwal Appointed to Texas Medical Board

*Arun Agarwal of Dallas is Chief Executive Officer of Nextt and has business interests in textiles, cotton trading and real estate*



**DALLAS (TIP):** Texas Governor Greg Abbott appointed Dallas-based, textiles entrepreneur Arun Agarwal to the Medical Board last week. The board's mission is to protect and enhance the public's health, safety and welfare by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence used in regulating the practice of medicine and ensuring quality health care for the citizens of Texas through licensure, discipline and education. Agarwal is one of six Texans to receive this appointment; the others are Devinder S. Bhatia, M.D., Vanessa Hicks-Callaway, Satish Nayak, M.D., Jason Tibbels, M.D. and reappointed Robert David Martinez, M.D.

"I am honored and humbled to serve on the Texas Medical Board for the next five years," said Agarwal. "Texans deserve the best standards in health care, and it will be our duty to regulate the practice of medicine in the state. It will be one of the highlights of my professional career."

Arun Agarwal of Dallas is Chief Executive Officer of Nextt and has business interests in textiles, cotton trading and real estate. He is on the board of the US India Friendship Council, Big Brother Big Sisters, Texas Public Policy Foundation Education Committee, and the US Global Leadership Coalition. *(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*



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& Great Service  
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**Breaking News***At least four  
dead  
in New York  
shooting:  
Police*

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** At least four people died and three were wounded in a shooting at a social club in New York early Saturday, October 12, police said.

No one has been arrested over the shooting, which took place in Brooklyn, and the motive and exact circumstances are not known, a New York police official said.

The local affiliate of ABC News described the place where the shooting took place as an after-hours club.

Four men were pronounced dead at the scene, while two other men and a woman suffered non-life-threatening injuries, the police official said.

Earlier, reports had said as many as five people were wounded.

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# Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba holds its 3rd Annual Global Alumni Meet



Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes and Xavier President Ravishankar Bhooplapur

**ARUBA (TIP):** On October 3-5, Xavier University School of Medicine held its 3rd Annual Alumni Global Meet at its campus in Aruba. This annual meet brings together the Administration, Alumni, Faculty, Students and Special Guests. Xavier welcomed over 50 guests this year to Aruba for the event.

President Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Chairman Mr. Edwin Casey, and Chancellor Dr. JG Bhat welcomed Her Excellency, Prime Minister of Aruba Mrs. Evelyn Wever Croes as the keynote speaker for this year's Global Alumni Meet. The Prime Minister spoke about her own education journey and how from a young age she had an interest in Medicine. She told the students how becoming a doctor is a big responsibility but a rewarding one as well. She wished all the students and alumni the best of luck in



The Xavier Board of Trustees with The Honorable Minister of Social Affairs and Labor of Aruba, Mr. Glenbert Croes

their future endeavors. On behalf of the people of Aruba, The Prime Minister shared her gratitude to Xavier for being a part of Aruba and thanked Xavier for making such a large contribution to the island. Her Excellency concluded by how excited she was for Xavier's new campus which is being built in Hato and how it's a great project for Aruba. President Bhooplapur, Chairman Casey and Chancellor Bhat on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees presented Her Excellency with an award of appreciation.

Xavier was also pleased to welcome the Honorable Minister of Social Affairs and Labor of Aruba, Mr. Glenbert Croes who inaugurated this year's meet. Minister Croes thanked Xavier for making such a positive impact to Aruba and to its people. As the Minister of Social Affairs he spoke how happy he was about the health fairs

conducted by the students at Xavier for the people of Aruba.

Xavier President Ravishankar Bhooplapur addressed the audience spoke on the remarkable achievements that Xavier has achieved including a 96% USMLE Step 1 First Time pass rate and that Xavier holds full accreditation from both CAAM-HP and ACCM. President Bhooplapur then went on to announce the establishing of the Xavier Foundation, a new charitable organization started by the University. President Bhooplapur on behalf of the Board of Trustees announced a goal of raising 5 million dollars in the next 5 years. President Bhooplapur said that 400k had already been pledged at the start of the Global Alumni Meet.

Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)

## The 12th Know Goa Program: January 4 to 18, 2020



**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Indian Consulate in New York has in a press release to The Indian Panorama given details of the 12th Know Goa Program.

The 12th Know Goa Program is scheduled to be held from 04th to 18th January 2020.

"Know Goa Programme (KGP)" is

being organized by Government of Goa, Department of NRI Affairs and have been formulated for the benefit of Goan Diaspora Youth who are born abroad and are foreign nationals but whose parents or ancestors are of Goan origin.

Know Goa Programme is intended for young professionals in the age group of

Last date for submission of Form:  
November 15, 2019

21 to 30 years who have distinguished themselves in various fields and who have shown an abiding interest in Goa and India.

During their visit, the participants will get an opportunity to visit premier educational, cultural, historical and other places of interest, besides interacting with local Goans, elected representatives at all levels, as well as Government dignitaries like Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, etc. The participants during their visit to New Delhi will get an opportunity to see World Heritage Monuments like the Red Fort, Taj Mahal, etc.

The Government of Goa will bear 90%

of the total cost of the lowest economy air fare from the home country of the participant to India and back besides entire cost of local travel, accommodation and meals.

Interested Goan Diaspora youth from the jurisdiction of Consulate General of India in New York (i.e., States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont) may send the scan copy of their filled application to [culture.newyork@mea.gov.in](mailto:culture.newyork@mea.gov.in) on or before November 15, 2019.

Visit the Consulate website  
[www.indiannewyork.gov.in](http://www.indiannewyork.gov.in) for terms and conditions, form and further information.



*... Mother of Hope and Healing*

## **Support Group for Suicide Loss Survivors**

*When the veil of secrecy is lifted, the healing begins...*

Our meetings are offered to anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide. Survivors can be family, friends, co-workers, and so on. Meetings are run as peer support groups and facilitated by trained facilitators. Meetings offer an opportunity for participants to focus on and express their thoughts, feelings, challenges and difficulties in coping with the loss. The atmosphere is supportive, non-judgmental and confidential.

There is no timetable for grief. Listening to the encouraging words from other suicide loss survivors who share their stories gives hope. Grief work and time will allow survivors to move beyond just survival. While the stories of survivors may differ, the aftermath that suicide survivors experience shares a common thread.

***Join us for an evening of support and information***

**Date:** Every Monday

**Time:** 7:30 pm - 9:00pm

**Location:** New Dover United Methodist Church  
687 New Dover Road, Edison NJ 08820

**Cost:** Free

Light refreshments will be provided.

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## AS I SEE IT



By Vappala Balachandran

# Making sense of Imran Khan's utterances, his motive

**Is he being alarmist, or is it scaremongering, frustration, unleashing of non-state actors? Whatever the Pakistan premier's motive, it is clear he is comfortable to run with the hares and hunt with the hounds. Are we ready for the worst-case scenario?**

It is not very clear what Prime Minister Imran Khan had in mind when he said on September 29 at Islamabad airport that those standing by the Kashmiris were doing "jihad" and that Pakistan would support Kashmiris even if the world did not. Was he being alarmist as he was at the UN, or was he using a scaremongering hyperbole to impress the domestic audience?

Was it due to his frustration that his US visit did not result in any dramatic traction in favor of Pakistan's stand on Kashmir despite his aggressive UN speech, meetings with US leaders or major think tanks?

Was it a green signal to Pakistan's political and religious parties who were dissuaded by him on September 19 from marching towards the Line of Control (LoC) to show solidarity with the Kashmiris? He had said on that day after inaugurating the Torkham Terminal on the Afghan-Pak border: "If anyone from Pakistan goes to India to fight 'jihad', he will be the first to do an injustice to Kashmiris, he will be the enemy of Kashmiris." According to unconfirmed reports, Khan also asked them to wait till he forcefully presented the Kashmir issue "like never before" at the UN General Assembly.

Or worse still, was it his signal to unleash the Kashmir-centric non-state actors who were so far held in check through international pressure?

## The Washington angle

Imran Khan's Torkham statement was

applauded by Alice Wells, US State Department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, on September 20 as an "unambiguous and important" call for restraint, although she also added that Washington DC would expect "sustained commitment" by Pakistan to rein in all terrorist groups to maintain regional stability.

For Imran Khan, there are also welcome signs from US Congressman Brad Sherman, Chairman of the US House Sub-Committee on Asia, who has announced that Alice Wells would appear before the Sub-Committee on October 22 to discuss the prevailing situation in the Valley, including human rights. Scott Bushy, Deputy Secretary in charge of democracy, human rights and labor in South Asia, was also expected to testify on Assam (NRC).

On September 26, Alice Wells, while addressing the 74th United Nations General Assembly, had said that the US wanted India to "rapidly" ease restrictions in Kashmir and that they were "concerned by the widespread detentions in the Valley". "We look forward to the Indian Government's resumption of political engagement with local leaders and the scheduling of the promised elections at the earliest opportunity."

In such a background, Imran Khan would not have decided to dramatically harden his overt policy towards India so soon after his return to Pakistan when signs are evident that the US is leaning on him to rescue the failed Taliban-Afghanistan accord. Zalmay Khalilzad was in Islamabad on October 1. Mullah Baradar too visited Islamabad. Also, Turkey and Malaysia, which had openly supported Pakistan on Kashmir, are likely to help during the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) inquisition in Paris.

## Logic of the illogical

One instance comes to mind indicating Imran Khan's apparent inability to

articulate a logical stand on tricky religio-political issues that have dominated Pakistan's history, which he now faces as the Prime Minister. This incident took place seven years ago when he was an Opposition leader. On October 14, 2012, he caused alarm in Pakistan and Afghanistan by justifying Taliban violence, calling it "jihad". He said: "The people who are fighting in Afghanistan against foreign occupation are fighting a 'jihad'."

The occasion he made this statement was also wrong. That was after visiting Malala Yousafzai in a Peshawar hospital after she was severely injured by the Pakistani Taliban in Mingora in Swat valley on October 9 for "preventing obscenity", as stated by Ehasanullah Ehasan, TTP spokesman. Imran Khan's statement then caused tremendous uproar in Pakistan, among the Ulema Council and in Afghanistan.

It is not that Imran Khan was unsympathetic to Malala. On July 13, 2013, he had tweeted: "Malala's courage and commitment to the cause of education, especially girls, is admirable." Or was it because of his admission, as The Guardian (UK) reported on October 14, 2012 that he would not publicly name the Taliban because "he feared it would put his party's supporters at risk".

Whatever might be his motive, it is clear that he is comfortable to run with the hares and hunt with the hounds. This is a dangerous strategy for a Prime Minister of a country which is being accused of being a terror factory. What then could we expect in a worst-case scenario, and are we ready?

Pakistan has already been given notice on October 1 by the US through Randall Shriver, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs, to put a lid on militants to prevent a cross-border attack. Our own services are preparing for a sea or land-based 26/11-type surprise attack.

Should we expect a high-precision drone attack like the September 14



Pakistan PM Imran Khan

File photo

incidents on Abqaiq or Khuras in Saudi Arabia? Amazingly, even after three weeks, we do not have precise details from where these drones were launched. There is no doubt that we are very vulnerable here although Pakistan may not sponsor this type of attack when things are more favorable to them.

That does not mean that non-state actors would not. I would like to caution all concerned on an incident from Mumbai when none of our protective shields worked. On May 23, 2015, at about 5.55 pm, a Jet Air pilot aborted his take-off after alerting ATC on noticing five unmanned objects which looked like drones flying in a "tight" formation on his flight path. According to the Standard Operating Practice (SOP), the ATC asked an inbound flight not to land and alerted the CISF, police, IAF, INS Kunjali and Military Liaison Unit (MLU).

No clue regarding the identity was received till May 26 when police enquiries revealed that they were harmless celebratory "hot air balloons". For three days, rumors were agog that they were drones fitted with explosives directed against certain targets in Mumbai.

*(The author is former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, GOI)*



## GUEST COMMENT

It took plain-speaking from Olivier Andries, the CEO of the French engine manufacturer associated with the Rafale fighter jet, to drive home the point that the ambitious Make in India initiative - launched with fanfare in 2014 - has a long way to go in the defense sector. Andries, who heads multinational Safran, the maker of M88 state-of-the-art engines, told Defense Minister Rajnath Singh that the company planned to invest about \$150 million in India towards training and maintenance, but was apprehensive of

## Make in India: Self-reliance in defense sector a distant dream

the country's tax and customs 'terrorism'. He sought support on easing tax norms for a business-friendly environment. Rajnath had to assure him that India was committed to providing the right climate for investments. The issues red-flagged by the Safran chief prompted the Defense Minister to later tell a delegation of CEOs representing France's defense industry majors that India was open to 'any further tax rationalization' that may be required to encourage Make in India in this sector.

Even though India has significantly improved its global Ease of Doing Business ranking from 142 to 77 in the

past over four years, it is still way behind other Asian nations like Singapore, South Korea (both in the top five), UAE (11), Japan (39) and China (46). In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that since defense modernization and upgrade was a national priority, the import of equipment not being manufactured in India was being exempted from basic customs duty. Many more such confidence-building measures are needed to attract foreign investors.

The transfer of technology is a must for achieving the lofty goal of self-reliance in the defense sector. Last year,

the government had unveiled the strategic partnership model, which envisages a long-term tie-up of Indian entities with global Original Equipment Manufacturers to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains. Amid the mixed response to this policy, the private sector has been demanding a level playing field and a transparent bidding process. Unless the bottlenecks are removed, India - now the fourth largest defense spender in the world - will continue to depend heavily on imports in the high-stakes military arena.

*(Tribune, Chandigarh)*



# THE NEW YORK TAKEAWAY

India must not rest on its laurels - serious challenges lie ahead



By G Parthasarathy

“

India must not rest on its laurels because of what transpired in Houston and New York, as serious challenges lie ahead. We cannot but be concerned about China's recent actions on J&K. China has steadfastly backed Pakistan in the UNSC, UNHRC and UNGA.

”



Pakistan PM Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi

File photo

Visits abroad by India's Prime Ministers have historically been driven by geopolitics, economics, or by energy requirements. Modi's visit to Houston was, however, 'diaspora-driven'. It was the rising profile and growing political activism of the three-million-strong diaspora in the US, which set the stage for an unprecedented get-together. 'Howdy, Modi!' in which 50,000 members participated, featured the leaders of the world's most populous and powerful democracies - PM Modi and President Trump.

As Modi smilingly noted, world leaders greeted him at the UNGA in New York with the words, 'Howdy, Modi!' The Houston meeting had its importance for Trump also as he faces challenges in Texas and elsewhere, ahead of the presidential elections next year. Interestingly, the BJP, which has had a growing presence in the US and only during and after the 1970s 'Emergency' in India, now has growing support from the diaspora in countries like Myanmar, Mauritius and the Gulf.

Modi realized it would be best to get his visit started with offers of expanding business and investment cooperation with the dynamic energy industry of his hosts. His visit was marked by the signing of a \$7.5 billion MoU by PetroNet (India) with US firm Telurian Inc. involving the purchase of 5 million tons of gas annually, with a \$2.5 billion investment by PetroNet. A meeting with senior executives of US oil companies followed. The US is today the largest producer of oil and gas, radically changing the dynamics of global production. It is also emerging as a significant supplier to India, reducing India's dependence on supplies from the volatile Persian Gulf region.

Modi's focus shifted to geopolitics in New York, apart from further interactions with US business tycoons. US companies are increasingly moving out of China after Trump's trade sanctions following allegations of Chinese business malpractices. India

should not lose out in exploiting new opportunities, as US businesses look for new partners. While there was optimism about resolving some, if not all, trade-related differences with the US, it is clear that further negotiations involving mutual concessions are required to resolve key issues. Resolving these differences, hopefully soon, will end US objections to restoring the WTO's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for imports by India, which was done unilaterally by the Trump administration.

India was seen as being obstructive in international efforts to conclude a global agreement on climate change for decades. Modi, however, made drastic changes in our negotiating strategy, which led to the signing of the Paris Accord. He took the position that developing countries should not set unrealistic conditions in negotiations on this crucial issue. This change is a major reason why India is today seen as a responsible global leader on issues of climate change. Trump, however, deservedly faces criticism for refusing to cooperate in discussions on climate change.

Imran Khan arrived in New York with only one aim. He was desperate to persuade the international community to condemn India on the Kashmir issue and its alleged violation of human rights. Pakistan's earlier efforts to get India condemned in the UNSC and thereafter in the UNHRC had failed. China was the only country that backed Pakistan openly, with the British duplicitously backing the Chinese. While there were some noises against India by Turkey and Malaysia, the General Assembly was aghast at Imran's long-winded diatribe against India when he held out the threat of a nuclear conflict!

Modi's address at the UNGA was characterized as 'measured'. Rather than dwelling on bilateral or partisan issues, he focused on issues of global concern like climate change. He stressed on India's commitment to addressing issues

of concern to the common man, like medical care and drinking water. He also alluded to the message of peace and harmony of the Buddha. But we should realistically recognize that the international community will remain focused on how successfully, and soon, we restore normalcy in the Valley. This issue has to be imaginatively addressed.

A young First Secretary in our UN Mission (New York), Vidisha Maitra, exposed details of Pakistan's actions as a state sponsor of terrorism. She pointedly alluded to the epic surrender of the Pakistan army in Dhaka in December 1971 by Imran's kinsman, Lt Gen AAK Niazi. 'Pogroms, Prime Minister Imran Khan Niazi, are not a phenomenon of today's vibrant democracies. We would request you to refresh your rather sketchy understanding of history. Do not forget the gruesome genocide perpetrated by Pakistan against its own people in 1971 and the role played by Lt Gen AAK Niazi. It is a sordid fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh reminded this Assembly about earlier.'

India must not rest on its laurels because of what transpired in Houston and New York, as serious challenges lie ahead. We cannot but be concerned about China's recent actions on J&K. China has steadfastly backed Pakistan in the UNSC, UNHRC and UNGA. It had earlier adopted a neutral stand on J&K after Deng Xiaoping took over in 1978. China demonstrated this policy when its former President Jiang Zemin took a neutral stance on J&K, instead of automatically supporting Pakistan as it used to earlier, during his visits to India and Pakistan in 1996. Moreover, the US and China took an almost similar stand during the Kargil conflict in 1999, when they exercised diplomatic pressure on Islamabad to end its military misadventure and respect the Line of Control.

*(The author is Chancellor, Jammu central university, & former high commissioner to Pakistan)*

## 11 dead, over 100 injured as bus rolls down hill in Nepal

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** An overloaded bus plunged down a hill in central Nepal, killing at least 11 and injuring 108 people, an official said on October 13.

The packed bus was ferrying passengers—who had been celebrating the Hindu festival of Dashain—from Sindhupalchowk to neighbouring Kathmandu.

But the crowded vehicle slipped and fell more than 50 metres at a bend.

“Six people were killed instantly and five more passed away on the way to hospital or while being treated,” district official Goma Devi Chemjong told AFP.

Chemjong said 108 people were injured but only 39 were kept for treatment.

“We are investigating what caused the accident,” she said.

Accidents are common on Nepal’s poorly maintained highways, with the number increasing during the festival season when the roads are far busier and public transport overcrowded. — AFP

## Singapore to become first country to ban ads for very sugary drinks

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Singapore will become the first country in the world to ban ads for the most unhealthy sugary drinks in its latest move to combat rising diabetes rates, the health ministry said October 11.

Products deemed “less healthy” must now display labels grading their nutritional and sugar content, with those considered to be most unhealthy banned from appearing in ads across all media platforms, including broadcast, print and online channels.

“This aims to reduce the influence of such advertisements on consumer preferences,” the ministry said, calling the ban a world-first.

It added that the measures were only a start and it will continue to explore the possibility of a sugar tax or ban.

“We urge SSB (sugar-sweetened beverages) manufacturers to consider reformulating their drinks to contain less sugar even as we further study these measures,” it said.

The ministry said it will obtain industry feedback in the coming months on how to implement the measures and announce more details next year.

According to the International Diabetes Federation, 13.7 per cent of adults suffer from diabetes in Singapore, one of the highest rates among developed nations.

Other marketing bans around the world have focused on restricting children’s exposure to junk food ads.

Some 420 million people around the world today suffer from diabetes, with the number expected to rise to 629 million by 2045, according to the International Diabetes Federation. — AFP

# Pakistan arrests top 4 leaders of JuD/LeT ahead of FATF meeting

**LAHORE (TIP):** Pakistan’s law enforcement agencies on Thursday arrested the “top four leaders” of the banned LeT/JuD on charges of terrorism financing, a move that authorities say would put the “entire core leadership” of these outfits on trial.

The top four leaders of Lashkar-e-Taiba /Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) arrested on Thursday have been identified as Professor Zafar Iqbal, Yahya Aziz, Muhammad Ashraf and Abdul Salam.

The development comes ahead of the Financial Action Task Force’s crucial plenary meeting scheduled to be held in Paris from October 12 to October 15.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the Paris-based watchdog in June last year and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019, or face the risk of being placed on the black list with Iran and North Korea.

A spokesman for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said that there had been an “important progress” in the National Action Plan (NAP) as the main leaders of proscribed organisation JuD/LeT have been arrested by the CTD Punjab in offences of terrorism financing.

“JuD/LeT chief Hafiz Saeed is already in prison facing trial for commission of offences of terrorism financing. Now the entire core leadership of the JuD/LeT will be on trial,” the CTD said.

It further said the CTD Punjab has been investigating offences of terrorism financing wherein these accused had built assets using the funds raised through terrorism financing.



“The suspects further used these assets to raise more funds for terrorism financing. Donors of several assets/properties are also under investigation for providing some of these assets to the suspects and their proscribed organisations namely JuD/LeT,” it said.

“The suspects had formed trusts, like Al-Anfaal Trust, which acted as front entities of these organisations. The assets/properties have already been frozen by the government,” it said, adding the suspects will be produced before the trial court on Friday.

The CTD had arrested Saeed on July 17. He is detained at the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore. The CTD said investigation was launched into financing matters of

proscribed organisations -- JuD and LeT -- in connection with the implementation of UN Sanctions against these Designated Entities & Persons as directed by the NSC (National Security Committee) in its meeting on January 1, 2019 chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan for implementing the NAP.

The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. The US, since 2012, has been offering a USD 10 million reward for information that brings Saeed to justice.

Saeed-led JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the LeT which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people. PTI

## *Pak court rejects plea to terrorism charges against Musharraf*

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** A Pakistani court has dismissed a petition seeking deletion of terrorism charges against former military dictator Pervez Musharraf and transfer of his case from the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) to the sessions court, according to a media report. An Islamabad High Court division bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb resumed the hearing of the petition filed by 75-year-old Musharraf through his lawyer Akhtar Shah. The bench dismissed the petition on Wednesday because of repeated absence of Shah during the hearing of the case, Dawn News reported.

The former military ruler has been seeking deletion of terrorism charges and subsequent transfer of his case from the ATC to the sessions court on the ground that initially the first information report (FIR) was registered under the Pakistan Penal Code against him in connection with the detention of 60

judges of the superior judiciary after the imposition of emergency on November 3, 2007. However, in 2013, a single-member bench of the IHC had ordered the police to invoke the anti-terror law against Musharraf since detaining judges is “an act of terrorism”. The ATC has already declared Musharraf a proclaimed offender in the judges’ detention case as he has been abroad since March 2016, the report said. The prosecution has laid entire evidence against the accused in this case. However, the trial is standstill as the former military leader is absconding in the case.

In 2009, the Secretariat police had registered the judges’ detention case against Musharraf on the complaint of advocate Mohammad Aslam Ghumman.

The complainant said that the former president, soon after the imposition of emergency in 2007, had kept 60 judges of the superior courts under detention for over five months at their residences, it said. PTI

## **Pak slips 3 places to 110th on global competitiveness index**

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** A report by the World Economic Forum says Pakistan has slipped three places and now ranks 110th on the international organisation’s annual Global Competitiveness Index.

The assessment for 2019 came out on Wednesday from the organisation, best known for its annual gathering of the elites in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

The index evaluates factors behind productivity and long-term economic growth.

The report says Pakistan’s ranking deteriorated due to poor performance in key areas of press freedoms, governance, innovation, corruption, life expectancy, productivity and human development.

Pakistan made improvement in some areas such as budgetary transparency and reduction in organized crimes.

The World Economic Forum’s index maps out the competitive landscape of 141 economies, based on more than 100 indicators in a dozen categories. — AP

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## Acting US homeland security chief McAleenan resigns



Acting US homeland security chief Kevin McAleenan has quit after a six-month stint

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Acting US homeland security chief Kevin McAleenan has resigned, US President Donald Trump announced on Friday, October 11 becoming the latest in a long list of top officials to leave the administration.

"Kevin McAleenan has done an outstanding job as Acting Secretary of Homeland Security. We have worked well together with Border Crossings being way down," Trump said in a tweet.

"Kevin now, after many years in Government, wants to spend more time with his family and go to the private sector. Congratulations Kevin, on a job well done!"

McAleenan served in the role for only six months, replacing Kirstjen Nielsen, who sat at the helm of the powerful agency for 18 months.

McAleenan's brief tenure, the Trump administration stepped up efforts to discourage an exodus of migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador by asking Mexico to impede their transit and requiring them to apply for asylum in the first country they enter--meaning either Guatemala or Mexico.

"I want to thank the President for the opportunity to serve alongside the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security," McAleenan said in a tweet.

"With his support, over the last six months, we have made tremendous progress mitigating the border security and humanitarian crisis we faced this year, by reducing unlawful crossings, partnering with governments in the region to counter human smugglers and address the causes of migration, and deploy additional border security resources."

Trump said he would announce a new acting homeland security secretary next week, and that there were "many wonderful candidates".

(Source: Agencies)

# Ex-envoy tells impeachment inquiry Trump ousted her based on 'false claims'

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The former US ambassador to Ukraine on Friday, October 11 told a House of Representatives impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump that Trump ousted her based on "unfounded and false claims" after she had come under attack by his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Marie Yovanovitch, the ambassador who was abruptly recalled from Kiev in May, spent more than nine hours in a closed-door meeting with House members and staff. She had been expected to appear last week but was told not to by the State Department at the behest of the White House, according to Democratic House members. Lawmakers then issued a subpoena for her appearance and she complied.

Yovanovitch, according to a copy of her opening statement posted online by US media, said she was told by a senior State Department official about "a concerted campaign against me" and said Trump had pushed for her removal since the middle of 2018 even though the department believed "I had done nothing wrong." She expressed alarm over damage to diplomacy under Trump and warned about "private interests" circumventing "professional diplomats for their own gain, not the public good."

The impeachment inquiry focuses on a July 25 phone call in which Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate a leading rival seeking to face Trump in the 2020 presidential election, former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, and Biden's businessman son Hunter Biden.

Giuliani has accused Yovanovitch of blocking efforts to persuade Ukraine to investigate the Bidens. The former New York mayor has said he provided information to both Trump and State about Yovanovitch, who he suggested was biased against Trump.

On Friday, Giuliani said: "I was doing it in my role as a defense lawyer" for Trump.

Trump was asked on Friday whether Giuliani was still his personal attorney. He answered, "I don't know." A person familiar with the situation said Giuliani was still Trump's outside counsel but would not represent him on matters dealing with Ukraine.

In her statement, Yovanovitch denied any bias. She said Giuliani's associates "may well have believed that their personal financial ambitions were stymied by our anti-corruption policy in Ukraine."

Democrats have called her removal politically motivated.

Democratic Representative Denny Heck said he was gripped by Yovanovitch's testimony. "It was that amazing, that powerful, that impactful. And I just feel very fortunate to have been there," he told reporters.

Republicans were critical. Representative Lee Zeldin called Yovanovitch's testimony a "clown show."

According to a White House summary,



Former US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch File photo

Trump in his call to Zelenskiy said of Yovanovitch: "the woman was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news." Zelenskiy agreed she was a "bad ambassador" and agreed to investigate the Bidens.

The conversation occurred after Trump withheld \$391 million in security assistance to Ukraine as it faces Russia-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country.

"Although I understand that I served at the pleasure of the president, I was nevertheless incredulous that the US government chose to remove an Ambassador based, as best as I can tell, on unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives," Yovanovitch said in her statement.

Yovanovitch, who entered the Capitol complex for the deposition wearing dark glasses, did not respond to questions.

Yovanovitch has worked under both Republican and Democratic administrations and has had support from members of both parties in Congress. A senior Republican congressional aide described her as someone widely viewed as "professional." Democrats have accused Trump of pressuring vulnerable ally Ukraine to dig up dirt on a rival for his own political benefit.

Biden is a leading Democratic contender seeking his party's nomination to face Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

Democrats have also criticized the Trump administration for what they see as efforts to obstruct the investigation. After Yovanovitch's testimony, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff warned that interfering in the probe would show "the president is violating the constitutional separation of powers and seeking to cover up his misconduct."

He said Yovanovitch had been "a model diplomat and deserves better than the

shabby treatment she received from the president and the Secretary of State."

As Yovanovitch spoke to the House Foreign Affairs, Intelligence and Oversight committees, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted that the administration would comply with the law.

"We're going to do everything we're lawfully required to do," Pompeo said in an interview with WKRN-TV in Nashville.

The investigation could lead to the approval of articles of impeachment - or formal charges against the president - in the House. A trial on whether to remove Trump from office would then be held in the Senate, where Trump's fellow Republicans who control the chamber have shown little appetite for ousting him.

In a call with her fellow House Democrats on Friday afternoon, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the investigation was about finding facts, not Trump's personality, although she said Trump "has become a potty mouth and children are listening." "His policy, his personality, his potty-mouth, that's about the election," Pelosi said, according to an aide who was on the call. "The inquiry is because he has not honored his oath of office. We will honor ours."

Trump had told a rally on Thursday that Biden "was only a good vice president because he knew how to kiss (former President) Barack Obama's ass."

Yovanovitch said the United States' allowing Russian aggression toward Ukraine would "set a precedent that the United States will regret for decades to come."

"Today, we see the State Department attacked and hollowed out from within. State Department leadership, with Congress, needs to take action now to defend this great institution, and its thousands of loyal and effective employees," she said.

Depositions are scheduled in the coming days with more witnesses, including Fiona Hill, former senior director for European and Russian Affairs on Trump's National Security Council, as well as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent and State Department Counselor Ulrich Brechbuhl.

Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, will comply with a subpoena and testify on Thursday, his lawyers said, despite the White House policy against cooperation. But Sondland is not yet authorized to release documents the committees have sought, his lawyers said.

On Thursday, October 10, two businessmen, Ukraine-born Lev Parnas and Belarus-born Igor Fruman, who helped Giuliani as he investigated Biden were arrested in what US prosecutors called a scheme to illegally funnel money to a pro-Trump election committee and other political candidates.

(Source: Agencies)

# Chicago Commemorates 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the main commemorative event was organized in Chicago in the evening of October 2, 2019 by the National Council of Asian Indian Associations (NCAIA) in collaboration with the Consulate General of India, Chicago, and with the support of Indian American community organizations at the Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago.

The event was attended by over 300 guests, which included U.S. elected representatives, friends of India from businesses, academia, media, arts and culture, members of the Indian American community and Indian nationals. Deputy Mayor of Chicago Mr. Samir Mayekar, Cook County Board President Ms. Toni Preckwinkle, State Senator Ram Villivalam and Mayors from neighboring town attended the commemorative event.

Welcoming the guests, Mr. Harish Kolasani, President, NCAIA appreciated the wholehearted support of Indian Community organizations to celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Chicago in a befitting manner.

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Sudhakar Dalela recalled the ideals and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and their relevance for the contemporary world. Consul General also outlined a number of events organized in the course of sesquicentennial celebrations in the Chicago area and U.S. mid-west and planned for the coming weeks by the vibrant Indian community.

The event included a one-hour cultural programme, with music and dance performance on "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" by Natya Dance Theatre and Surabhi Ensemble; a rendition of Bapu's favorite bhajan "Vaishnav Jan To Tene



Deputy Mayor of Chicago Mr. Samir Mayekar, Consul General of India, Chicago Mr Sudhakar Dalela and Mr Harish Kolasani, President, NCAIA

Kahiye" by Ms. Anita Lerche, reflection of students from IIT, Chicago on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, rendition of bhajan by eminent vocalist Indira Naik, and a skit "Gandhi Ek Yugpursh" coordinated by "United for Peace" team and performed by Chicago-based Mandi Theatre Group.

In recognition of the important legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot proclaimed October 02, 2019 to be "Mahatma Gandhi Day in Chicago". The Senate of Illinois State passed a Resolution declaring October 02, 2019, as the "State Day of Peace to Non-Violence" to coincide with the International Day of Non-Violence and encourage the people of Illinois to observe the State Day of Peace to Non-

Violence with appropriate ceremonies, programs and activities.

Ms. Santosh Kumar, Executive Director, MAFS and Chairperson (US Mid-West), NCAIA presented the vote of thanks. Another event was organized in the morning of October 2 by the Gandhi Memorial Chicago, in collaboration with the Consulate, where floral tributes were paid to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue in the Skokie Village, neighboring the City of Chicago. It was a gathering of about 100 people, including Mayor and officials of Skokie village, Consul General, members of Indian American community organizations and Indian nationals.

(Photograph and Press release /Asian Media USA)

## Social Security Announces 1.6 Percent Benefit Increase for 2020

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 69 million Americans will increase 1.6 percent in 2020, the Social Security Administration announced, Oct 10. The 1.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 63 million Social Security beneficiaries in Jan 2020. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2019. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$137,700 from \$132,900. Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their "my Social Security account". People may create or access their 'my Social Security account' online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Information about Medicare changes for 2020, when announced, will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2020 are announced. Final 2020 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security's Message Center. The SS Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. For more, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola). (Press Release)



# Senate Introduces Resolution celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Senator Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas), introduced a Senate Resolution celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2nd, 1869.

The Bipartisan Resolution lays out Gandhi's decades-long struggle for Indian independence from Great Britain, and his pioneering of non-violent protest as a means of political change-which helped to liberate millions of Indians, and inspiring peaceful activists around the world, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I am proud to lead this resolution which honors Gandhi, a man whose memory is held with such reverence around the world. Gandhi was the great spirit that led India's people to freedom. As we honor his towering legacy as a champion of human rights and democracy, we also draw inspiration to face our own challenges today all around the world. Equal rights for women. Equal rights for minorities. Equal rights for



Senator Menendez was on official travel in India, where he celebrated Gandhi's 150th birthday on Oct 2 at the Raj Ghat

the LGBT community. Protection of the environment," said Senator Menendez. "As we mark this momentous 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth, let ourselves recommit to the values that he preached and

embodied."

"Gandhi's unwavering commitment to peaceful dissent inspired countless others not just in India but around the world," said Senator Cruz. "His life, sacrifices, and legacy continue to be a light around the world, calling attention to the tyranny and injustice that dictators seek to conduct in darkness. Let us honor him by continuing to encourage and support all of those seeking to be free.

Senator Menendez was on official travel in India, where he celebrated Gandhi's 150th birthday on Oct 2 at the Raj Ghat, a memorial to Gandhi at the place where he was cremated. The Senator is also holding a series of meetings with civil society, security and government officials in the country. Last week, Menendez also convened a roundtable with Indian American community leaders from across New Jersey to discuss his commitment to fostering the U.S.-India relationship.

## PM MODI TO INAUGURATE KARTARPUR CORRIDOR ON NOVEMBER 8

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited Kartarpur corridor to Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan on November 8, Union Minister Harsimrat Badal said.

Modi will inaugurate the integrated check post on the Indian side, she said.

"With the blessings of Guru Nanak Dev ji, Sikh Panth's ardaas for 'khule darshan deedar' of Sri Kartarpur Sahib to finally become reality! On November 8th, history will be created with PM Narendra Modi ji inaugurating the Kartarpur corridor (ICP)," Badal tweeted.

"What could not have been made possible for 72 years under the Congress rule, PM Modi has corrected that wrong now," she added.

Last week, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had invited President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Modi to attend the 550th Prakash Purb celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, including the historic opening of the Kartarpur corridor.

Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi River, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine.

In a major initiative last November, both India and Pakistan had agreed to set up the Kartarpur corridor.

The corridor will connect Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and facilitate visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev.

## Seven injured as militants hurl grenade in Srinagar market

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** Seven people were injured in a grenade attack by suspected militants in a market area in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar on Saturday, police said.

Militants hurled a grenade in Hari Singh High Street market area -- a few hundred metres from the city centre Lal Chowk -- this afternoon, a police official said.

The grenade exploded on a roadside in the market, injuring seven people, he said, adding that the wounded were rushed to a hospital here.

According to the official, the explosion also damaged windows of a vehicle parked nearby.

He said the shops in the market were shut but a few vendors had set up stalls in the area.

## J&K: Mobile services to be restored by Monday noon

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** The Centre has decided to restore mobile services in Jammu and Kashmir from Monday. The government also stated that all movement restrictions will be completely lifted from Jammu and Kashmir, informed Rohit Kansal, J&K Principal Secretary (Planning Commission), on Saturday.

He added that all postpaid mobile services, which were slated to resume on Saturday, will now be functional from Monday. "All post paid mobile phones stand functional from Monday 12 noon in the remaining areas of Jammu and Kashmir," said Kansal. Restrictions were imposed 69 days ago after the Centre abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The administration has been examining various options with regard to suspension of mobile phone services which have come in for severe criticism for causing hardships to about 7 million residents of the Valley.

At one point, it was planned to open only BSNL services followed by allowing activating only incoming calls run by private telecom operators.

However, it has now been decided to go the whole hog by allowing operationalisation of all postpaid phones run by all operators and numbering around 40 lakh subscriber. This will leave out about 26 lakh prepaid mobile subscribers.

# India gets Air Power: Rajnath Singh inducts first Rafale in Indian Air Force

**PARIS (TIP):** France on Oct 8 delivered the first of the 36 Rafale fighter jets to India as part of the \$8.78 billion (Rs 59,000 crore) deal signed in 2016. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who's on a three-day visit to France, received the first Rafale aircraft at Dassault Aviation's facility in Merignac and even took a sortie on it. Of the total 36 aircraft, four will be flying over the Indian skies by May 2020. The induction of Rafale aircraft in the Indian Air Force will add immensely to India's air power, making it one of the four countries, besides France, Egypt and Qatar, to possess the next-gen fighter jet. The first batch of Rafale will be stationed in Ambala with Vintage 17 Squadron, while the second batch will be stationed at Hasimara in West Bengal.

### What are Rafale's capabilities?

The fully versatile Rafale can carry out all combat aviation missions, including air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence. Its 'delta wings' makes it far superior to its competitors due to extremely stable and supersonic speed.

The aircraft's advanced engine is capable of allowing the throttle to shift from combat to idle power in less than three seconds. It can jam enemy radars, detect targets anywhere including sea, ground and air. Other superior capabilities of Rafale include close air support, dynamic targetting, air-to-ground precision strike, anti-ship attack capability and buddy-buddy refuelling.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh prepares for a sortie in a Rafale Jet in Merignac, near Bordeaux, France.

### Specifications of Rafale

Rafale can attain a maximum speed of Mach 1.8/750 kt (2,222.6km per hour) and can climb to up to 50,000 ft. Though Rafale can fly up to a range of 3,700 km, it can be refuelled mid-air. The 15.27 metre long aircraft has wing length of 10.8 metres each. The aircraft is superior to Sukhoi 30 MK1 in terms of carrying ammunition. While Sukhoi 30 MKI can carry ammunition up to 8,000 kg, Rafale can easily carry bombs up to 9,500 kg.

### What missiles can Rafale deploy

The advanced Rafale aircraft can carry a nuclear weapon, and deploy next-gen air-to-air MICA missile; long-range air-to-air Meteor missile; long-range SCALP missile; anti-ship AM39 EXOCET missile; laser-guided bombs with different warheads; non-guided classic bombs. It also

boasts NEXTOR 30M79130 mm internal cannon. While SCALP can destroy still objects, MICA's stealth power can hit targets beyond visual range (over 100 km). Rafale's cannon can release over 2,500 rounds in one minute.

### Companies associated with offset contract

Apart from Dassault, French companies Thales and Safran are also involved in the Rafale's production. And, as per the deal, these three companies have to plough back defence offsets worth Rs 30,000 crore into India by 2023. While Dassault will spend the money on airframe and system integration, Thales will invest in electronics, radar and counter-measures in aircraft. Safran will develop the M88 engine and landing gear.

## Ravi Shankar Prasad cites success of three films to deny economic slowdown

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Indications of slowdown notwithstanding, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday said three Bollywood movies generating business of Rs 120 crore on the October 2 holiday suggested "sound economy" even as he dubbed "wrong" the NSSO report which had reportedly pegged unemployment rate at 45-year high in 2017.

Days after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the economic slowdown is more pronounced this year in India and Brazil, Prasad said the measurement was incomplete.

He alleged that some people organised against the government are misleading people over unemployment scenario.

"I was also told that on October 2, which is observed as one of the national holidays, three Hindi movies garnered Rs 120 crore



business on that day. Unless the economy is sound in the country, how can only three movies collect so much business in a single day?" Prasad asked while speaking to reporters.

He was in Mumbai to campaign for the BJP for the October 21 Maharashtra assembly polls.

The National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labour force survey (PLFS) had stated that

unemployment was 45-year low. It had stated that the rate was this high in 1972-73 and 2.2 per cent in 2011-12.

The report had generated a lot of political heat, with the then Congress president Rahul Gandhi saying the Modi government had promised two crore jobs, but five years later a "leaked job creation report card" has revealed a "national disaster".

Earlier, Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar had countered the report saying, "It is not finalised. It is a draft report."

Prasad, who holds law and justice, communications and electronics and information technology portfolios, said, "I have given you ten parameters where economy is performing well, but not a single one is reflected in the (NSSO) report. Hence I call it a wrong report."

# Ex-Fortis promoters Malvinder and Shivinder arrested in fraud case by Delhi Police

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Once successful businessmen who were on Forbes' list of billionaires, Malvinder and Shivinder Singh were arrested by the Delhi Police's Economic Offenses Wing Thursday, October 10 evening. The brothers were arrested for allegedly diverting money and causing losses to the tune of Rs 2,397 million.

The two have been accused by Religare Finvest of fraud and misappropriation involving around Rs. 740 million.

Religare Finvest filed its complaint with the police against the Singh brothers in December. Five months later, the brothers were charged with cheating, fraud and misappropriation of funds.

The Enforcement Directorate also initiated a money laundering case against them.

Shivinder Singh and Malvinder Singh were heirs to the multi-billion-dollar Ranbaxy Laboratories founded by their father. They sold it to Japanese firm Daiichi Sankyo in 2008 and focused on the family-owned Fortis Healthcare, a hospital chain, and Religare Enterprises, a financial services firm.

In 2013, Daiichi moved an arbitration tribunal in Singapore alleging that the brothers, while selling Ranbaxy, had concealed information about the US Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Justice investigating



The two brothers, Malvinder Singh (L) and Shivinder Singh (R) have been arrested over allegations of fraud and misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs. 740 million.

the company. The tribunal in 2016 ordered the Singhs to pay Daiichi Rs. 2,562 million. The brothers challenged the decision but in 2017, the Delhi High Court ordered them to pay up.

The brothers' feud began after they lost control of both Fortis Healthcare and Religare.

They resigned as directors from the board of Fortis Healthcare soon after the High Court decision, in February 2018. In September the same year, Shivinder Singh filed a case against his brother alleging "oppression and mismanagement" in their joint businesses - RHC Holding, Religare and Fortis.

The Securities And Exchange Board of India (SEBI) ordered the Singhs and firms related to them to pay Rs. 403 million to Fortis, after it emerged during investigations that they had diverted funds from Fortis and misrepresented financial statements.

Last year, the Supreme Court also dismissed the Singh brothers' appeal and confirmed the international arbitral award, saying it was not inclined to interfere with it.

Earlier this year, the brothers were told by the top court that they could go to jail for disobeying its orders to pay what was due to Daiichi Sankyo.

## PSB?CALLS MEHUL CHOKSI A 'WILFUL DEFAULTER', REVEALS EXPOSURE

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The public sector Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has revealed around Rs 44 crore loan exposure to the absconding diamantaire Mehul Chinubhai Choksi, here on Saturday.

This is the first time the 111-year-old bank has come clean on the default perpetrated by Choksi, who has now settled as a citizen of Antigua & Barbados, the West Indies.

The New Delhi-based PSB has issued notices proclaiming him as a "wilful defaulter" who owes the bank the amount for which it has initiated recovery proceedings against him.

According to PSB, Choksi's company, Gitanjali Gems Ltd., including its merged entity Gitanjali Exports Ltd., had availed the loan from the bank.

Choksi is a director and a guarantor in the company and legal heir to Guniyal Choksi in the loan account.

However, since they failed to clear the loan amount, the PSB declared it as a 'non-performing asset' on March 31, 2018, days after it surfaced that Choksi and his family had fled the country in February that year.

The bank has demanded that Choksi cough out the loan amount plus interest and other costs with effect from October 23, 2018 onwards.

As he failed to comply, the PSB on September 17, 2019 declared him a 'wilful defaulter'.

With this, Choksi joins the bank's band of 27 other defaulters from different fields, based mainly in New Delhi, Punjab and Chandigarh, one in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and two in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, against whom it has filed recovery suits.

## Muslims in India are happiest: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

**BHUBANESWAR (TIP):** The happiest Muslims in the world are found in India, thanks to the Hindu culture, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said here on Saturday.

"Hindu" is not a religion or a language, he said, addressing a gathering of intellectuals. Neither is it the name of a country. "Hindu" is the culture of all those who live in India... one that accepts and respects diverse cultures. When any nation has deviated from the right path, it has come to us in search of truth, he said.

"When Jews were wandering, India was the only nation where they got shelter. The Parsis practise their religion freely only in India. The happiest Muslims are found in India. Why is it so? Because we are Hindus," he said.

## BJP misusing agencies: Cong

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A day after I-T raids on at least five persons working in the Congress' accounts division, the party today cried foul alleging that the BJP was misusing the probe agencies to block financing of candidates in Haryana and Maharashtra where elections are due.

Senior Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said raids had been conducted on five such persons dealing with Congress accounts and probe officers are sitting in the residences of some of them. "All this is being done with an ill intent. It is vendetta politics at its worst. It is pointless to tell this government anything about the rule of law. Our accounts office is under lock and key. We cannot disburse funds to candidates who have to fight the elections. Everything is at a standstill," Sharma said, slamming coordinated raids by I-T officers in Karnataka on two senior Congress leaders, including former Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara.

Addressing reporters, Sharma questioned the BJP and the sources of its electoral funding. "Almost 99 per cent the electoral bonds have gone to the BJP. The amount, in addition to that, has been spent on the elections...it would be in excess of Rs 60,000 crore. From where does that money come?"

# Govt has zero tolerance on custodial deaths, police atrocities: Amit Shah

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Central government has zero-tolerance on custodial deaths, extra-judicial deaths, and police atrocities.

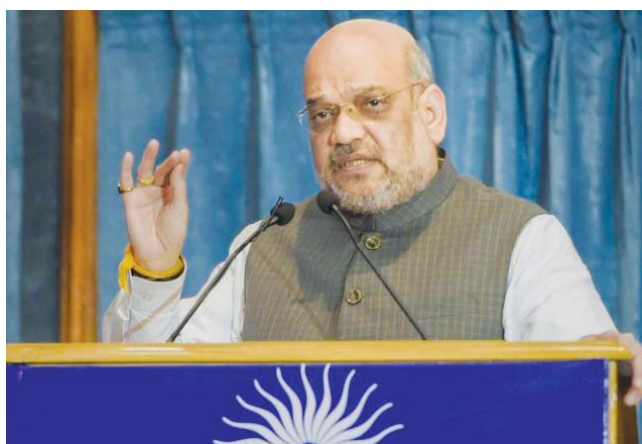
Addressing the 26th foundation day celebrations of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Delhi, Amit Shah also praised the Narendra Modi government of working extensively to protect the human rights and said it was the first time that a government, from 2014 onwards, worked on the human rights matter.

"The Modi government has worked on various fronts on human rights. After Independence, the Modi government worked on human rights matter," Amit Shah said.

"The government is providing electricity to households, free medical services, and gas connections. Providing toilets is also the human rights of people and the Modi government has done a massive work in the direction to provide these rights to the people," he said.

Speaking of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), Amit Shah said, "Forty thousand civilians have been killed since Independence in Kashmir by militants. Is that not an attack against human rights? I would like to ask, do the families of people who died due to terrorism in Kashmir have no human rights?"

"I believe that people being affected by terrorism and Naxal attacks is a human rights issue and should be looked at. We have zero-tolerance against extra-judicial deaths, police atrocities but we should also concentrate equally on terrorism because that's the biggest attack



against the human rights," he said.

"The NHRC should give a platform to the people working for human rights, they need to innovate. The biggest challenge is poverty and violence. Our social structure has an inbuilt system for protecting the human rights of poor, weaker sections, the women and the children," he said.

On human rights norms made by the UNHRC, Amit Shah said that the norms of the UNHRC are different from India's and are not applicable in India.

"I believe human rights norms made by the UNHRC are not applicable in India. Their definition of human rights is different from ours. We should make our own definition of human rights," Amit Shah said.

# Radhe Jaggi Performs in USA To Support India's Rivers

By Mabel Pais



Radhe Jaggi

Photo/ courtesy radhejaggi.com

**"Cauvery Calling" has been launched by Isha Foundation in Talacauvery, Karnataka State, India. Film Actors Rakshith Shetty, Diganth and Shashi Participate In Rally. 87% of Cauvery's tree cover has been removed in the last 50 years. Planting 2.42 billion trees can revive the river. Many events and fundraisers have been planned in support of the effort - including classical dance performances by Radhe Jaggi in several cities in the US, to raise awareness of the campaign. You are cordially invited to attend and enjoy Radhe Jaggi's performances in a city near you and support "Cauvery Calling." To check Radhe's performance schedule, visit [radhejaggi.com/schedule](http://radhejaggi.com/schedule)**



Cauvery River Depleted/Farmer Distress

Photo/ courtesy cauverycalling.org

**R**adhe Jaggi, gave the Bharatanatyam dance opening performance at the annual "Erasing Borders Dance Festival" (EBDF) on September 14 and 15, 2019 in New York city. The EBDF was hosted by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC). Her "Cauvery Calling" fundraising performances began with EBDF.

In Sep 2019, Isha Foundation founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, riding a motorcycle, arrived at Talacauvery (the source of the Cauvery River) in Kodagu district, Karnataka State, India to launch the "Cauvery Calling" campaign. Film Actors Rakshith Shetty, Diganth and Shashi followed him in the rally.

Many events and fundraisers have been planned in support of the effort - including classical dance performances by Radhe Jaggi in several cities in the US and India, to raise awareness of the campaign.

## CAUVERY CALLING

"Cauvery has been the source of wellbeing, prosperity and the very source of life for these lands. A forest-fed perennial river is fast becoming a seasonal stream as 87% of tree cover has been removed in 50 years. Cauvery is calling, do you have a heart to hear?" - Sadhguru

As part of the nationwide "Rally for Rivers" movement, Sadhguru had launched the "Cauvery Calling" campaign aiming to revitalize the fast-depleting south Indian river Cauvery. It will bring together farmers and riverine communities in a collaborative bid to plant 2.42 billion trees to revive the river, which has had 87% of its tree cover removed in the last 50 years.

"Cauvery Calling" is a massive movement to revitalize the south Indian river Cauvery and transform the lives of 84 million people. Over a span of 12 years, it will facilitate planting 2.42 billion trees in the river's basin by reaching out to more than 5 million farmers to shift to Agro-forestry.

This will help revive the river and also increase farmer income by five-times. "Cauvery Calling" is an economic plan with significant ecological impact. It will

set an example for a sustainable river revitalization process that the rest of India and other tropical areas of the world can follow.

The campaign has garnered people's support across states, governments and political spectrum.

## CAUVERY

The name "Cauvery" literally means "one who brings abundance." But this once mighty river is mighty no more.

In the last year, the suffering of farmers and their suicides in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the Cauvery basin, have made national headlines. The depletion of Cauvery and the distress of farmers are two manifestations of the same problem.

## CAUVERY'S DEPLETION

- Cauvery has depleted over 40% in the last 70 years
- 87% of the basin's original tree cover has been lost
- During the summer, Cauvery is unable to reach the ocean
- 70% of Cauvery basin's soil suffers erosion

## FARMERS' DISTRESS

- 83% of farmers in Tamil Nadu and 77% of farmers in Karnataka are in debt
- 17 districts in Tamil Nadu were drought-hit in 2019
- 15 of the last 18 years have been drought years in Karnataka
- Almost half the Cauvery basin suffers critical groundwater depletion

## WHY CAUVERY IS DYING

Cauvery, like almost all rivers in India, is forest-fed. Historically, this region was covered in forests and tree cover. The soil was constantly replenished with nutrients and organic matter by animal waste and plant litter. Organic matter allowed the soil to absorb water, and thus feed Cauvery.

## AS TREES DISAPPEAR

Growing human populations and inefficient agriculture practices have led to an extreme loss of tree cover and the soil is no longer sufficiently replenished. The soil no longer absorbs water efficiently and suffers erosion instead. The soil, having lost its ability to retain water, is unable to sustain Cauvery. As a result, the river is drying up. The falling water levels and dying soil are taking a devastating toll on our farmers, who suffer failed harvests and crippling debt.

## SAVING CAUVERY

To reverse this dire situation, revitalize Cauvery, rejuvenate the soil, and improve farmers' income, "Cauvery Calling" will support farmers to plant 2.42 billion trees. It is estimated that these 2.42 billion trees will increase water retention in Cauvery basin by

about 40%. For learn more on "Cauvery Calling," visit [cauverycalling.org](http://cauverycalling.org)

## RALLY FOR RIVERS

Rally for Rivers, is a movement to save India's lifelines. Supported by over 162 million people, it is the world's largest ecological movement today. Sadhguru launched Rally for Rivers in September 2017 by personally driving over 9300 kms to raise awareness about the dire situation of our rivers. Rally for Rivers provides a comprehensive solution to save India's rivers, and is unique in its structure as a primarily economic program with a significant ecological impact. To learn more, visit [www.rallyforrivers.org](http://www.rallyforrivers.org)

## ABOUT THE ERASING BORDERS FESTIVAL AND THE IAAC

To learn about IAAC and EBDF, visit [iaac.us](http://iaac.us)

## ABOUT RADHE JAGGI

A Bharatanatyam dancer introduced to the art form by her mother at an early age, Radhe Jaggi underwent rigorous training at Kalakshetra Foundation, under reputed gurus, and guided by Padmashree Leela Samson. She recently received the title of "Natya Kalai Arasi" from the Tamil Isai Sangam. Radhe is the recipient of the Natya Ratna from Trinity Fine Arts, Chennai in 2017 and the Rukmini Devi Endowment Award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in 2016.

She has performed in cities in India outside Tamil Nadu, toured the USA for the first time in June 2012, collaborated and worked with Korean artists in Korea. In 2013, she was invited to perform for an invited audience at the House of Commons, London.

Radhe brings to her practice and performance an aesthetic and quiet grace that is subtle yet exuberant. Her style rests on her understanding of movement and expression obtained through her study with her teachers as well as through years of study and practice of yoga.

She also holds a post graduate diploma in Arts Management from DakshinaChitra and has completed a course in Journalism and Business Leadership at Harvard Summer School.

Her other interests vary from literature, fine art and music to scuba diving, mountaineering and travel. To learn more, visit [radhejaggi.com](http://radhejaggi.com)

## ABOUT SADHGURU

Sadhguru, a Yogi Mystic and visionary, is founder of Isha Foundation, a non-profit organization which offers yoga programs around the world and is involved in social outreach, education and environmental initiatives. To learn more, visit [isha.sadhguru.org](http://isha.sadhguru.org)

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



Saving Cauvery

Photo/ courtesy cauverycalling.org



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## PARINEETI'S SAINA NEHWAL BIOPIC TO KICK OFF ON OCT 11

**B** biopic kicks off on October 11 at an institute in Mumbai; actress has been prepping for the role since the last six months.

After wrapping up her upcoming thriller in London last month, Parineeti Chopra has returned to the Bay and immersed herself in prep for her next, the Amole Gupte directed Saina Nehwal biopic. A news agency has learnt that the actress will kick off the film on October 11 in Mumbai.

"I have netted a really good talent who has the acting prowess to play Saina," exulted Amole and informed that the first day's shoot will be at the International Institute of Sports Management, Nilesh Kulkarni's institution where of the 600 students, 85 per cent are national or state level players. "In the first scene, Parineeti as Saina will be answering questions from the fraternity, including journalists, students and sports management people."

The actress has been practising since the last six months to step into the shoes of the Olympian shuttler, taking her coach Eshan Naqvi with her to London.

# KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN LOOKS LUMINOUS ON LATEST MAGAZINE COVER

**A**ctor Kareena Kapoor Khan has appeared on the cover of October's issue of Elle India. The cover was shared online on Saturday, and shows Kareena wearing a golden dress.

The caption of the post, describing Kareena as 'pure gold', noted, "Star light, star bright. A hit radio show. A film career like no other. Like The Beatles said: It's getting better all the time." Kareena is a frequent fixture on magazine covers, and in recent months has appeared on Asiana and Femina.

Her looks were appreciated in the comments section of the post, with fans calling her 'stunning' and 'gorgeous'. A couple of people even called her 'the ultimate diva' and a 'golden goddess'.

While Kareena's last screen appearance was Veere Di Wedding, the actor will make a return to the big screen with this year's Good Newwz, starring Akshay Kumar, Kiara Advani and Diljit Dosanjh, and Angrezi Medium with Irrfan Khan. She also acts as judge on a dance reality show Dance India Dance, and hosts a radio talk show What Women Want. This season, her guests include husband Saif Ali Khan and tennis player Sania Mirza.

In a recent interview, Kareena was asked what she finds most irritating about Saif, to which she replied, "His first instant reaction to anything is 'No'. I'm like 'Saif, what to do you want to do? Should we like, try and step out?'"

Saif and Kareena are paparazzi favourites, thanks to their son, Taimur Ali Khan.



## LISA HAYDON FLAUNTS HER BABY BUMP

**B**ollywood beauty Lisa Haydon is expecting her second child with her hubby Dino Lalvani. The actress recently announced the same on her Instagram.

During her first pregnancy too, the actress gave all the mothers out there some major pregnancy fashion goals! And today, she took to her Instagram account to share a stunning picture of herself flaunting her baby bump post her workout session. In the caption of her post, she revealed that she having a lazy pregnancy phase. I read, "My sister dragged me to the gym today as I've had a really lazy pregnancy. Of course I understand being fit can lead to a healthier labour etc.. but I think it's really important to remember at this stage.. no matter how well I train, I'm only going to get bigger ?? Ok, with that in mind, let's do it. #healthynotskinny".

Meanwhile, the actress shares a kid, Zack Lalvani with her hubby.



## Deepika Padukone shares her 'disco' look



**D**eepika Padukone has come a long way in Bollywood. The beauty won everyone's heart with her stellar performances and established herself as an A-list actress in Bollywood. And the actress never disappoints her fans when it comes making fashion statements. And even when steps out for a casual outing in the city, the actress never fails to amaze us with her wardrobe choices.

And today too, she shared another such stunning picture on her Instagram. In the picture, she can be seen in a white shirt top paired with light blue denim. The actress completed her look with nude makeup and round earrings.



## GWYNETH PALTROW: CHRIS MARTIN, I REMAIN FAMILY DESPITE DIVORCE

Karen Gillan defends Marvel films after Martin Scorsese comments

**K**aren Gillan is the latest Marvel star to come forward in support of the Marvel Cinematic Universe after veteran filmmaker Martin Scorsese dubbed the films as theme parks experience, saying these movies have a heart and soul. The actor, who plays Nebula in the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' series, said the MCU films defined storytelling with visuals.

"I would absolutely say that Marvel movies are cinema. Cinema is storytelling with visuals," Gillan told an American Hollywood digital magazine. She said the 'Guardian' series was a true embodiment of director James Gunn's personality. Gunn was one of the first Hollywood names to respond to Scorsese's remarks, saying he was saddened by the director's opinion.

**A**ctress Gwyneth Paltrow has remained close to her ex-husband and Coldplay rocker Chris Martin for the sake of their children.

She was married to Martin for 10 years and the pair share two children - 15-year-old daughter Apple and son Moses, 13.

Paltrow and the 'Yellow' hit maker have remained close friends, with the two even holidaying together in the Hamptons, New York in August with her husband Brad Falchuk and Martin's girlfriend Dakota Johnson - a decision Paltrow said is best for their brood, reports [aceshowbiz.com](http://aceshowbiz.com).

"My ex and I are really close. We remain a family, even though we're not a couple," Paltrow told a news agency.

The 'Avengers: Endgame' actress added they wanted to split in a way that was "the least traumatic" for their children, but added: "I'm sure I've f\*\*ked the kids up in other ways."

Paltrow and Martin divorced in 2016 and she wed American writer/producer Brad last year.



## ANGELINA ON BRAD PITT SPLIT: 'I FELT A DEEP AND GENUINE SADNESS, I WAS HURT'



**A**ctor Angelina Jolie has said that she lost herself after her split from husband Brad Pitt. Angelina and Brad abruptly parted ways in 2016, after two years of marriage and over a decade together.

She told French magazine *Madame Figaro*, "I had lost myself a bit" when her "relationship with Brad was coming to an end." She added, "I felt a deep and genuine sadness, I was hurt."

Angelina said that she did a bit of soul searching in the moment, and realised, "All these things settle in you and remind you of how lucky you are of being alive." She added that the chance to "reconnect with this humility and this insignificance" has

helped her appreciate the good things in life.

Angelina and Brad have six children - Zahara, 14, Shiloh, 13, and Vivienne, 11, and sons Maddox, 18, Pax, 15, and Knox, 11. She said that she is currently in a "period of transition, like a homecoming, a return to (herself)."

The actor will next be seen onscreen in the Disney sequel, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*. Brad was seen in Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, and after that in James Gray's *Ad Astra*. The former couple was engaged in a bitter custody dispute over their children after the split, but have come to an understanding in recent months.



## AMY SCHUMER WORRIED ABOUT RETURNING TO WORK POST SON'S BIRTH

**A**s a new mother, Amy Schumer said she was initially worried about going back to work after the birth of her first child. The actor-comic and her husband, chef Chris Fischer welcomed their baby boy, Gene in May.

Schumer said though it was tough to leave her child home to pursue her interests, it felt good to be back to the grind. "Five months today and like all moms, I love him so much it hurts. I'm feeling strong and good and like I'm still a human being with interests and ambitions and goals. I'm excited to reach. It's felt good to be back at work. I was so

worried about it and was afraid to go back after he was three months old. A couple of days I've cried from missing him. But it's mostly good to be back and the breaks energize me to be a better mom and appreciate our time even more. I have it a lot easier than many people but I wanted to share my experience," she wrote on Instagram on Sunday. The 'I Feel Pretty' actor also shared a couple of her photographs with her son.

Schumer went back to work barely three weeks after giving birth and performed a set at the Comedy Cellar in New York City.

# NJPAC Partners with GALLERY AFERRO VISUAL ARTISTS IN SPOTLIGHT

By Mabel Pais

**Visual Artists Step Into the Spotlight as NJPAC Launches Partnership With Gallery Aferro**  
The Arts Center's restaurant, NICO Kitchen + Bar, will double as gallery space for artists affiliated with the longtime standard-bearer of Newark's Arts scene

Newark-bound art lovers with an appetite for innovative exhibits are invited to savor "Raw Umber," the inaugural art exhibit of a new partnership between Newark's Gallery Aferro and NJPAC. Through this collaboration, Gallery Aferro will curate a rotating series of group shows in the dining rooms of NICO Kitchen + Bar, NJPAC's upscale in-house restaurant.

The new partnership between the Arts Center and Gallery Aferro, located in Newark's downtown at 73 Market Street, launches with the October 12, 2pm, opening of "Raw Umber," an exhibition of 14 works. (The reception is free and open to the public as part of the Newark Arts Festival, although registration on the NJPAC website is recommended.)

The exhibit's name refers to the family of colors derived from naturally occurring pigments in the earth: rich dark-brown tones, yellows, fiery oranges and reds. This inaugural exhibition will be on view through March 3, 2020 during regular hours at the restaurant on the NJPAC campus at One Center Street.

NICO Kitchen + Bar's up-tempo ambiance and contemporary setting provide the perfect surroundings for satellite exhibits, according to NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber.

"As a mainstay in the city for the past 16 years, Gallery Aferro has provided a showcase for fine art and has championed scores of artists who call Newark home," Schreiber said. "We saw this collaboration as a unique opportunity to acknowledge the gallery's longstanding and venerable role as an advocate for Newark's arts and culture."

The multimedia pieces on display for this and future exhibits will be curated by Gallery Aferro, which was founded in 2003 and is run by artists Evonne M. Davis and Emma Wilcox. Artwork is also available for purchase.

"I've always enjoyed having conversations with John Schreiber. We lead and run two very differently-scaled arts organizations in the same community, but there's a lot of overlap in our circles.

"It felt natural that Gallery Aferro could work with NJPAC, and we just

**".....this collaboration... (is) a unique opportunity to acknowledge the (Aferro) gallery's longstanding and venerable role as an advocate for Newark's arts and culture."**  
- John Schreiber, President & CEO, NJPAC

started talking about ways of sharing the vitality of Newark's art scene and the energy, the prolific energy, that comes out of our artist residencies," said Wilcox.

Most artists participating in "Raw Umber" have collaborated with Gallery Aferro in the past or are among the more than 100 alumni of the gallery's decade-long artist residency program. Among them are:

- Marsha Goldberg, a current artist in residence at Gallery Aferro, whose work is exquisitely sensitive to the atmospheric shifts of light, shadow and air that define our experience of the world.
- Anne Q. McKeown, a master papermaker and longtime resident at Gallery Aferro, who works with painting, printmaking, papermaking and wire drawings to make and take apart systems using color, chance and intuition. McKeown's artworks included in Raw Umber are works on Ugandan bark cloth hand-pounded from fibers, visualizing a visceral tie to the earth.
- Gladys Barker Grauer, known as the "Mother of Newark Arts," who passed away earlier this year. Her piece in this exhibit is a hypnotic self-portrait that features a subtle spider web motif.
- Ibrahim Ahmed iii, an Aferro artist in residence in 2013, who now resides in Cairo. Included in the exhibit is his dramatically scaled portrait, completed before he left Newark.
- L. Gluck of St. Thomas is represented with a deceptively simple early 1960's watercolor.

These pieces are joined by works by Reginald K. Gee, Stephen Flemister, Floyd Newsom Jr, and E. J. Montgomery from the collection of Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, which reveals Newark's cultural connections to multiple generations of important artists of color.

"We wanted to select art that would glow," said Wilcox. "These pieces share a luscious palette of strong tones, and there's some very intense portraiture. This is art that will stare back at you."

**Hours for Nico Kitchen + Bar:**  
**Lunch: Mondays-Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Happy Hour: Mondays-Fridays, 4-7 p.m.**  
**Dinner: Mondays-Thursdays**

**"We wanted to select art that would glow. These pieces share a luscious palette of strong tones, and there's some very intense portraiture. This is art that will stare back at you."**  
- Emma Wilcox, Co-Founder-Curator, Gallery Aferro



"Body Serigraph" by Ibrahim Ahmed III

**until 9 p.m. and Fridays until 11 p.m.**  
**Saturdays and Sundays: open in conjunction with performances.**

## About Gallery Aferro

73 Market Street  
Newark, NJ 07102  
aferro.org or (973-353-9533)

Gallery Aferro, founded and run in Newark, NJ by two artists - Evonne M. Davis and Emma Wilcox - offers year-round exhibitions and a wide range of public events, artist residencies, publications, public art, educational offerings, collaborations, and innovative, community-responsive projects, such as the mobile portrait studio. It all began in 2003.

Gallery Aferro can be visited Wed.-Sat., noon-6 p.m. and by appointment at 73 Market Street, our 20,000-square-foot downtown space, with two gallery spaces, two sound art installations (a vintage payphone and elevator, respectively), a community book room with almost 3,000 books, and on April 13, 2019 our highly popular, biannual open studios.

**Website:** <http://www.aferro.org>  
**Twitter:** @GalleryAferro  
**Instagram:** @Gallery\_Aferro  
**Hashtag:** #GalleryAferro  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/galleryaferro](https://www.facebook.com/galleryaferro)



"Wonder Woman Tapestry" by Theda Sandiford



"Self Portrait" by Gladys Barker Grauer  
Artwork Courtesy / Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ

## About NJPAC

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, N.J., has the most diverse programming and audience of any performing arts center in the country, and is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 9 million visitors (including over 1.7 million children and families) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

NJPAC, One Center Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102

Get Social! Follow NJPAC Online:  
Website: <http://www.njpac.org/>  
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Hashtag: #NJPAC  
Facebook: [facebook.com/NJPAC](https://www.facebook.com/NJPAC)  
YouTube: NJPACtv

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

# South Street Seaport AIA 32<sup>nd</sup> Diwali Celebrations Draw Crowds

## Tributes Paid to Mahatma Gandhi

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Tens of thousands of people enjoyed this year's daylong Deepavali festival at South Street Seaport here on Sunday. This was the 32nd Deepavali organized by the Association of Indians in America (AIA), New York chapter, under the presidentship of Harish Thakkar, an AIA press release said.

"This time around, people from all walks of life thronged the intercollegiate dance competition, fusion music performance, a fashion show, a vegan expo, and fun-filled children's activities, not to speak of the sparkling fireworks. Doing brisk business were booths with a variety of fine cuisine, clothes and handicrafts. There was also an exhibition of the works of contemporary Indian artists", the AIA press release said.

"AIA's annual flagship event Deepavali festival is known for attracting elected officials and dignitaries. Gracing the occasion this time were Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney as well as New York State Assemblyman David Weprin and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Mayor Bill de Blasio sent a representative to present his message and a proclamation recognizing the event. The Indian Consulate was represented by Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha.

Congresswoman Maloney dwelt on the history of AIA, Diwali celebrations at the White House since 2003, and her involvement in making the Diwali stamp a reality. She also spoke about the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi and gifted a large portrait of the Mahatma.

Harish Thakkar, serving his first of two-year term as President of AIA stated in the press release that the arrangements were perfect and the daylong event went very well - a slight drizzle late petered out before the fireworks. Enthusiasm was high, particularly for 'Naach Inferno' dance competition in which seven teams participated and was won by Routh Bhangra girls.

Thakkar, a Gujarati origin techpreneur, introduced many new attractions this time, for instance, Dandiya, for which they got singer Varsha Joshi.

The Vegan Expo in collaboration with World Vegan Vision was another first. It saw people sample some of the foods and the cooking demonstration and listen to doctors speak about the benefits of going vegetarian. World Vegan Vision president H.K. Shah presented 3 free iPads to lucky winners of the raffle draw.

Dallas-born Urban Desi star Amar Sandhu came from the UK to perform and belted out hit songs to the delight of an excited crowd.

Thakkar points out that AIA's motto is 'Indian Heritage, American



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney holds a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at the AIA Diwali celebrations, October 6, at South Street Seaport



A bevy of beauty and charm at the Fashion show



Time to recognize and appreciate



The iconic fireworks. Looking into the camera is AIA President Harish Thakkar

culture. At the same time, he says, "We are doing our part to educate our children and impress the need to keep alive our Indian culture and traditions."

AIA's South Street Deepavali event has become a New York calendar event much anticipated by not just Indians and Indian Americans in the region, but also people of other ethnicities as well as tourists to the Big Apple.

The evening celebrations culminated in an over 20-minute fireworks display on the East River, sponsored by CheapOair and Qatar Airways, which also gave away 2 India tickets to lucky winners. Other sponsors included McDonald's, New York Life, ICICI Bank, Sony Entertainment, Air India, and several media partners including The Indian Panorama. "We are grateful to all our sponsors who make the festival a big success," Thakkar said.

Founded in 1967, AIA is the oldest national organization of Asian Indians in the U.S with chapters and membership spread across the nation. Harish Thakkar, who has been associated with AIA-NY in senior capacities for the last 14 years, is proud to say that AIA-Deepavali festival has become a catalyst for Diwali's widespread acknowledgement in the White House, NY City Hall, Gracie Mansion, government agencies, schools, universities, public institutions and corporations. He and his wife Anita Thakkar, have, on their initiative and expense, been conducting Diwali celebrations under the banner of AIA for schoolchildren in public libraries in Queens, Westchester, and Connecticut, the press release said.

(Based on Press Release issued by Harish Thakkar)

Commitment'. AIA Deepavali is aimed to foster increased understanding and appreciation among the wider American community of India's rich and diverse

# A 40 Under 40 Awardee: Chitwan Saluja

Chitwan recently won a 40 Under 40 award with Consulting -Specifying Engineer magazine which is awarded to exceptional individuals who have made a difference in the industry.

She has also received the 2019 Outstanding Woman Award from Women Builder's Council.

**FAIR LAWN, NJ (TIP):** Chitwan Saluja, LEED AP BD+C, International Associate AIA; 36, Regional Manager for Virtual Design and Construction (North), Jacobs, New York City BA Architecture, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi MS Architectural Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

As platform technologies manager for the north region at Jacobs, Saluja manages the company's building information modeling and technology implementation while contributing to business development efforts, community outreach and the cultivation of an environment of innovation.

Her talent, experience and leadership qualities enable her to provide thoughtful, innovative and practical solutions. Through her proven leadership and her innovative ideas, she has worked with several private and public-sector clients including Columbia University in New York City, NYC Department of Design and Construction, Dormitory Authority of State of New York, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Northwell



Chitwan with her 40 Under 40 Award



Chitwan with her Women Builder's Council Outstanding Woman Award

Health, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Los Angeles Community College District and Pittsburgh Airport, among other clients.

Saluja's background is in the development, implementation and management of technology environments for the design, construction and operation of large facility programs. She is a trusted technology adviser to clients where she provides program level BIM and project controls oversight on active projects. She enjoys spending time with her family and finding different activities to do both indoors and outdoors.

She lives in Fair Lawn, NJ with her husband and 2 kids. She shared her love of her family with The Indian Panorama. She said she is always trying to "find activities that her kids and she could enjoy together such as swimming, painting arts and crafts, pottery etc. to spend quality time with the family".

(Chitwan Saluja can be reached at [chitwan.saluja@jacobs.com](mailto:chitwan.saluja@jacobs.com); [chitwan.saluja@gmail.com](mailto:chitwan.saluja@gmail.com))



Recipients of Outstanding Woman Award at Women Builder's Council. Chitwan is seated in the front row, third from the left

## New Jersey Indian Film Festival Aims to Connect Creative People through Films



The festival will showcase *The Last Color*, produced and directed by Indian American Chef Vikas Khanna

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ (TIP):** The second edition of New Jersey Indian & International Film Festival (NJIIF) will be held on October 19th & 20th 2019 at Regal Hadley Theatre Stadium in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

NJIIF aims to reach out to all American, Indian & South Asian Community through Films & Related Art forms. The festival gives local & International Film Makers & Talents a platform to showcase their talent & films internationally...

The Objective Behind the NJIIF is to Connect Creative People Through Films;

- To bring 2 biggest film production markets together USA & INDIA
- To Promote & Create larger audiences for Independent film maker
- To Showcase Diverse Cultures & To Appreciate Art of Films
- To Bring & Create Market for Indian Regional Films mainly Gujarati / Marathi / Punjabi & Telugu.

**For the year 2019 Following are the competition categories:**

**FEATURE FILM:** A film with a running time of more than 30 minutes to maximum 180 minutes inclusive of all

credits & titles.

**SHORT FILM:** A film with a running time minimum 6 min up to 30 minutes, inclusive of all credits & titles.

**INDIAN FEATURE FILM:** A film which is produced & completed in India, with a running time of more than 30 minutes to maximum 180 minutes inclusive of all credits & titles.

**INDIAN SHORT FILM:** A film which is produced & completed in India with a running time minimum 6 min up to 30 minutes, inclusive of all credits & titles.

**DOCUMENTARY FILM:** A film which is work of non-fiction, intended to document some aspect of reality for the purposes of instruction, education, or for a historical record. with maximum length of 90 min.

**SHORT OF SHORTS:** A film with a running time minimum 1 min to maximum 6 minutes, inclusive of all credits & titles.

**NEW JERSEY FILMS:** Films which are made locally in New Jersey State of

USA by NJ film makers. These films can be from 6 min to 30 min for Short Film & 30 min to 180 min for Feature Film.

### Award Categories:

01. Best Feature Film
02. Best Director Feature Film
03. Best Male Actor In Feature Film
04. Best Female Actor In Feature Film
05. Best Writer Feature Film
06. Best Cinematographer Feature Film
07. Best Editor Feature Film
08. Best Short Film
09. Best Director Short Film
10. Best Male Actor In Short Film
11. Best Female Actor In Short Film
12. Best Writer Short Film
13. Best Cinematographer Short Film
14. Best Editor Short Film
15. Best Documentary Film
16. Best Short of Shorts (1 to 6 min)
17. Best Feature Film NJ
18. Best Short Film NJ
19. Best of Best Film (Festival's Choice)

# US troops in Syria came under fire from Turkish incursion: Pentagon

**KOBANI (TIP):** US troops near the northern Syrian border came under artillery fire from Turkish positions on October 13, a Pentagon spokesman said, warning that the US was prepared to meet aggression with "immediate defensive action".

The US military confirmed an explosion around 9 pm (1800 GMT) within a few hundred metres of its post near the town of Kobani, in an area "known by the Turks to have US forces present".

"All US troops are accounted for with no injuries. US forces have not withdrawn from Kobani," Navy captain Brook DeWalt said in a statement.

US President Donald Trump has faced a firestorm of criticism for appearing to greenlight Turkey's offensive into northeastern Syria, which began after Trump ordered US troops to pull back from the border.

Turkey is targeting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a key US ally in the five-year battle to crush the Islamic State group. The SDF lost 11,000 fighters in the US-led campaign.



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Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said earlier on Friday that Trump had authorised-but not yet activated—"very significant new sanctions" to dissuade Turkey from further offensive military action.

"The United States remains opposed to the Turkish military move into

Syria and especially objects to Turkish operations outside the security mechanism zone and in areas where the Turks know US forces are present," DeWalt added.

"The US demands that Turkey avoid actions that could result in immediate defensive action." AFP

## Power outages, evacuations as Typhoon Hagibis takes aim at Japan

**TOKYO (TIP):** Powerful Typhoon Hagibis churned towards Japan on October 12, heading straight towards the capital with potentially record-breaking rains and sparking evacuation orders, transport disruption and power outages even before making landfall.

Rated "large and very strong", the storm has already forced the cancellation of two Rugby World Cup matches, disrupted the Suzuka Grand Prix and grounded more than 1,600 flights.

It is forecast to crash into land in central or eastern Japan on Saturday evening, packing maximum gusts of 216 kilometres per hour (134 miles per hour), Japan's Meteorological Agency (JMA) said. Hagibis is forecast to be the first storm rated "very strong" to hit the nation's main island of Honshu since 1991 when the category system was introduced, local media said. It is also an unusually large storm, and expected to bring "brutal winds and violent seas" to large swathes of the country, the agency said. AFP

## 16 killed in Burkina Faso mosque attack: security sources

**OUAGADOUGOU (TIP):** Sixteen people died and two were seriously injured in an attack on a mosque in Burkina Faso's volatile north, security sources said on October 13. Armed men attacked the Grand Mosque in Salmossi on Friday evening, a source told AFP, adding that 13 died on the spot and three succumbed to their injuries later. Two of the wounded are in critical condition, the source added.

A resident from the nearby town of Gorom-Gorom confirmed the attack, saying Salmossi residents had fled their homes afterwards. Although hit by jihadist violence, many Burkinabes oppose the presence of foreign troops - notably from former colonial ruler France - on their territory.

On Saturday, about a thousand-strong crowd marched in the capital Ouagadougou, "to denounce terrorism and the presence of foreign military bases in Africa."

"Terrorism has now become an ideal pretext for installing foreign military bases in our country," said Gabin Korbeogo, one of co-organisers of the march. "The French, American, Canadian, German and other armies have set foot in our sub-region, saying they want to fight terrorism. But despite this massive presence... the terrorist groups... are growing stronger." Until 2015, landlocked Burkina Faso was largely spared violence that hit Mali and then Niger, its neighbours to the north. But jihadists - some linked to Al-Qaeda, others to the so-called Islamic State group - started infiltrating the north, then the east, and then endangered its southern and western borders. AFP

# Iranian oil tanker hit by two missiles near Saudi port

**SAUDI PORT OF JEDDAH (TIP):** An oil tanker belonging to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) was hit and damaged by two missiles on October 12, Iranian state news IRNA reported.

The missiles were "possibly" fired from Saudi soil, Saheb Sadeghi, head of the public relations of the National Iranian Tanker Company, told state-run Press TV.

Reports that the missiles were fired from Saudi territory were later dismissed by NIOC, as reported by IRNA.

Iran has not offered any publicly available evidence for the incident. The ship is still moving and traveling south, according to the tracking service Marine Traffic.

No Iranian government officials have blamed the attack on any side at this stage.

Commenting on the incident, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said according to the semi-official Fars News Agency: "Those behind this dangerous adventurism are responsible for the consequences of such act."

The tanker was 60 miles (96 kilometers) from the Saudi port of Jeddah on the Red Sea when the incident occurred, damaging its body, IRNA reported.

According to the news service, the resulting explosions caused oil to leak into the Red Sea.

Iran's Press TV also tweeted Friday: "Report: Explosion in #Iranian tanker has set vessel on fire near #Saudi port city of #Jeddah."



All the tanker's crew members are safe, IRNA reported. Investigators are looking into the sources of the missiles.

News of the incident caused oil prices to rise on Friday. Prices for Brent Crude jumped 2% to just over \$60, while WTI Crude climbed nearly 2% to \$54.

A series of attacks on oil tankers and production facilities in the region has increased tensions in recent months.

In September, Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil processing facility - the largest of its kind in the world - was attacked in a series of drone strikes which halved the country's production.

Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the attack, but both Saudi and US investigators claimed "with very high probability" that it was launched from an

Iranian base.

Shortly after that attack, President Donald Trump said the US was "locked and loaded." He added that the US was waiting on Saudi Arabia to find out "under what terms we would proceed."

Speaking to CNN, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif denied responsibility for the September attack and warned of "all-out war" if the US or Saudi Arabia conducted military strikes against his country.

The drone strikes followed attacks on tankers in the Strait of Hormuz in July, including the capture of the UK-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero by Iran. The vessel was eventually released from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas in late September. -CNN

# SKINCARE TIPS FOR BUSY WOMEN

Skincare routines can be anything between one to 15 steps, depending on how invested you are in yours. There are a multitude of factors that contribute to the length and breath of a person's skincare routine—you could be someone with very problematic skin that you believe needs a heap of products to be fixed, or just someone who enjoys indulging in skincare and practising elaborate routines. Or maybe, you're simply not invested enough to put work and time into a regimen with more than three steps, but would still like to see the brilliant results. As beauty writers and editors, we're constantly testing new beauty products, combinations and routines to find what works and what doesn't. Here is guide to getting more out of your skincare routine, by reducing it to the bare minimum you need.

## Get your nighttime routine right

Downsizing your skincare routine to avoid a large number of products and steps is the dream, and it only gets easier to do when you take proper care of your skin in the first place. Think about it like this, if you go to bed with leftover makeup, assuming you'll just wash it off in the morning, you're more likely to wake up with dull skin and new breakouts in the AM. Thanks to this, you'll feel the need for a brightening serum or mask and a spot treatment for your acne too. On the other hand, if you effectively clean your skin at night, you'll wake up with fresh skin, so your morning routine can start off with a simple cleanser suited to your skin type, followed by a moisturiser and sun protection.

## Combine your skin treatments

It's fairly easy to follow a cleanse, tone, moisturise and sun protection routine, but if you're also adding serums and boosters, it can feel like too much. The best way to reduce the number of steps here is to maximise what you're getting from your products. The combinations and possibilities are endless, and it's all about being smart with your skincare. If you have dry and dull skin, tackle your dryness with a hyaluronic acid serum and use a moisturiser with Vitamin C to brighten your skin. If you feel like your skin isn't getting as much Vitamin C as you'd like, incorporate a face cleanser that is rich in it. Often, your sunscreen



can offer additional skincare benefits too.

## Combine your SPF and base makeup

Let's clear the air on one thing first: using any makeup product that comes with added SPF is good for you, but it does not mean you can skip sunscreen. However, using a tinted sunscreen is a great option if you want to blend the two steps. The difference here is that with a tinted sunscreen, the product's primary focus is to protect your skin from the sun (which is the most important), with an added benefit of providing a hint of coverage.

## Buy less

In a world where offers and deals are doled out by brands and e-commerce websites on the daily, it's hard to keep yourself from giving in. While we're all for playing around with new beauty products, it can

confuse your skin and overcomplicate your routine if you've still got jars and tubes that are more than half full. In light of over-purchasing, a #ShopYourStash movement was initiated on Instagram that asks you to finish using the beauty products you own before diving into a new purchase. This way, you're using a new formula from your current beauty arsenal without spending additional money, and also minimising waste in turn.

## Follow the skincare routine you set

Four steps or 10, if you don't follow your skincare routine, your skin won't cooperate with you. It is unreasonable to hope that concerns like acne and dullness will go away if you leave them alone. Even a simple regimen, customised to your skin type, will show results when followed regularly.

## SPOTS YOU SHOULD NEVER APPLY PERFUME

Applying perfume is like the cherry on top of getting ready in the morning—who doesn't love smelling like a bed of roses or spicy seduction? But as every perfume enthusiast knows, it's definitely possible to over-do it and spray, well, everywhere, but spritzing fragrance in these five spots is a big no-no.

### Eyes

Perhaps one of the most obvious spots to avoid spraying perfume is near your eyes. Alcohol-based perfumes contain ethyl—some even consist of up to 95 percent, which can cause irritation and stinging if it comes into contact with sensitive areas, like your eyes.

### Hair

Hair naturally absorbs scents, which is why it might initially seem like a good idea to spray the fragrance in your locks. However, alcohol-based perfumes can really dry it out, especially if you spray the perfume directly onto your hair. Instead, Cosmopolitan suggests spraying perfume onto your hairbrush, then brushing your hair to avoid damage or try spritzing the ends, ever so lightly.

### Hands

While applying perfume on your wrist might be one of the most popular ways to smell great throughout the day, if the fragrance happens to accidentally get onto your hands in the process, alcohol-based perfumes can make your skin dry and potentially cause cracking and bleeding. Plus, should you happen to rub your eyes after getting perfume on your hands, it could cause irritation.

### Armpits



Spraying perfume onto your armpits poses as another potential cause of irritation. The interaction between your perfume and your armpits' sweat glands could result in itching and burning.

### Genitals

Similarly, spraying perfume near private areas can also result in skin dryness. For women, fragrances can "potentially irritate the vagina and cause inflammation, itchiness, and pain," according to Insider Health. These 15 other every day habits can also mess with your vaginal health.

### Where to spray instead

The best places to spritz perfume are on your body's pulse points, including your wrists, neck, and the back of your knees. By applying perfume to these heat-emitting areas, your favorite fragrance won't irritate your skin. Want to make it last longer? Start with these tricks to make your perfume linger.

## FOOD CORNER

### HANDI PANEER

#### Ingredients

200 gms paneer, 2 ginger, grated, 1/2 tsp turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp chilli powder, 1/2 tsp garam masala powder, 1 tomato, 2 stalks coriander leaves, 2 pinches powdered black pepper, 4 tbsp refined oil, 3 onion, chopped, 1/2 cup beaten curd

#### Method

- Put oil in a handi, stir fry the chopped onions on medium flame, when done, reduce the flame to low. Then add two pieces of grated ginger, turmeric powder, chilli powder, garam masala and mix well. Add chopped tomato and green chilli, and cook on low flame for about 10 minutes. Add half cup beaten curd and cook till dry, before adding salt. Add half cup water and bring it to a boil. Mix in malai paneer and coriander, cook till the masala dries.
- Add pepper and remove from the flame. Serve in a large bowl.





# MEN SHOULD QUIT DRINKING 6 MONTHS BEFORE CONCEPTION

**M**en should avoid consuming alcohol for six months before trying for a baby to ensure that their child has a healthy heart, according to the first large-scale analysis to examine the role of paternal drinking.

The research, published on Thursday in the *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*, found that fathers drinking three months before conception increased the risk of congenital heart disease in babies by 44 per cent, while this risk was 16 per cent for mothers, compared to not drinking.

There was a 52 per cent higher likelihood of these birth defects if fathers indulged in binge drinking—defined as five or more drinks per sitting—while this risk was 16 per cent for mothers, researchers said.

“Binge drinking by would-be parents is a high risk and dangerous behaviour that not only may increase the chance of their baby being born with a heart defect, but also greatly damages their own health,” said study author Jiabi Qin, from Central South University in China.

Qin said the results suggest that when couples are trying for a baby, men should not consume alcohol for at least six months before



fertilisation while women should stop alcohol one year before, and avoid it while pregnant.

Congenital heart diseases are the most common birth defects, with about 1.35 million babies affected every year.

These conditions can increase the likelihood of cardiovascular disease later in life, even after surgical treatment, and are the main cause of prenatal death.

Alcohol is a known teratogen—which causes malformation of an embryo—and has been connected with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), researchers said.

Around one in four children with

FASD have congenital heart disease, indicating that alcohol might also be implicated in these disorders, they said.

Previous studies investigating the link between alcohol and congenital heart disease have focused on prospective mothers, with inconclusive results.

This is the first meta-analysis to examine the role of paternal alcohol drinking, researchers said.

They compiled the best data published between 1991 and 2019, which amounted to 55 studies including 41,747 babies with congenital heart disease and 297,587 without.



## WANT TO CUT FOOD INTAKE? DINE ALONE

**I**f you are planning to cut down on your daily food intake to get into shape, better dine alone as a new research has found that people tend to eat more with friends and family.

Eating “socially” has a powerful effect on increasing food intake relative to dining alone, said the study published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

“We found strong evidence that people eat more food when dining with friends and family than when alone,” said research leader Helen Ruddock from the University of Birmingham in Britain.

Previous studies found that those eating with others ate up to 48 per cent more food than solo diners and women with obesity eating socially consumed up to 29 per cent more than when eating alone.

For the study, the researchers evaluated 42 existing studies of research into social dining.

The researchers found that people eat more with friends and family because having food with others is more enjoyable and social eating could increase consumption.

Social norms might ‘permit’ overeating in company but sanction it when eating alone and providing food becomes associated with praise and recognition from friends and family, strengthening social bonds.

## AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE LINKED TO AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR: US STUDY

**E**xposure to air pollution is associated with increased chances of exhibiting aggressive behaviour, according to research conducted in the US.

Researchers from Colorado State University (CSU) in the US analysed a set of studies, finding strong links between short-term exposure to air pollution and aggressive behaviour, in the form of aggravated assaults and other violent crimes across the US.

The results, appearing in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, were derived from daily Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime statistics and an eight-year, detailed map of daily US air pollution.

Scientists typically measure rates of pollution through concentrations of ozone, as well as of “PM2.5,” or breathable particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller, which has documented associations with health effects.

# Aspirin could cut air pollution harms in half, study claims

**A**spirin may lessen the negative effects of air pollution, an intriguing new study concludes.

Researchers from Columbia, Harvard and Boston Universities analyzed a subset of data collected from 2,280 male veterans from the greater Boston area who were given tests to determine their lung function. Participants' average age was 73.

The researchers examined the relationship between test results, self-reported non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) use and ambient particulate matter and black carbon in the month preceding the test.

The study -- it was published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* -- accounted for a variety of factors, including the health status of the person and whether he was a smoker. They found that using any NSAID nearly halved the effect of particulate matter on lung function, with the association consistent across all four weekly air pollution measurements.

Particulate matter comes from a range of sources, including the burning of fossil fuels in vehicles



and power plants.

“Our findings suggest that aspirin and other NSAIDs may protect the lungs from short-term spikes in air pollution,” first and corresponding author Xu Gao, a post-doctoral research scientist in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Columbia Mailman School, said in press

statement. “Of course, it is still important to minimize our exposure to air pollution, which is linked to a host of adverse health effects from cancer to cardiovascular disease.” A previous study from Columbia University found that B vitamins may also play a role in lowering the negative impact of air pollution.

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### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: [sanandmd@gmail.com](mailto:sanandmd@gmail.com)

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: [gitanjlianand@gmail.com](mailto:gitanjlianand@gmail.com)



## RESEARCHERS USE DRONES TO MEASURE WEIGHT OF WHALES

In a first, researchers have developed a model to accurately calculate the weight of southern right whales using measurements made by drones of the colossal mammal's body length, width, and height.

The study, published in the journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, noted that the only way to get information on the body mass of whales until now was to weigh dead or stranded individuals.

The researchers, including those from the British Ecological Society in the UK, developed the new method to learn more about the physiology and ecology of whales.

"Knowing the body mass of free-living whales opens up new avenues of research. We will now be able to look at the growth of known aged individuals to calculate their body mass increase over time and the energy requirements for growth," said Fredrik Christiansen, lead author of the study from Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies in Denmark.

Christiansen added that the calculated weight could be used to look at the daily energy requirements of whales, and estimate how much prey they needed to consume.



## NASA's InSight lander 'hears' strange sounds on Mars

NASA has released recordings of eerie sounds on Mars picked up by one of its missions to the Red Planet, the InSight lander.

Far below the human range of hearing, these recordings had to be speeded up and slightly processed to be audible through headphones, NASA said on Tuesday.

The spacecraft's exquisitely sensitive seismometer, called the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS), can pick up vibrations as subtle as a breeze.

The instrument was provided by the French space agency, Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), and its partners.

The instrument was designed to listen for quakes on Mars, known as marsquakes.

Scientists want to study how the seismic waves of these quakes move through the planet's interior, revealing the deep inner structure of Mars for the first time.

But after the seismometer was set down by InSight's robotic arm, Mars seemed shy. It did not produce its first rumbling until this past April, and this first quake turned out to be an odd duck.

# 'PERSONALISED DJ' ALGORITHM THAT MATCHES SONGS TO CHANGING MOODS

Researchers have developed a "DJ-like" algorithm that can create ultra-personal music playlists which adapt to listeners' changing moods.

The algorithm called DJ-MC could outdo streaming music services by making playlists that change depending on each individual's shifting emotion, according to the research published in the journal *MIS Quarterly*.

"Whether you're getting into the car after a long day of meetings, or you're getting out of bed on a weekend morning, it should tailor its recommendations to your changing moods," said Maytal Saar-Tsechansky, a professor at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin in the US.

The programme runs a series of feedback loops. It tries out a song, the listener rates it, and the programme heeds that rating in choosing the next song.

"Then you alter the model accordingly," said Elad Liebman, a PhD student in computer science at UT Austin, who conceptualised the programme.

DJ-MC adapts to the listener's mood, considering not only which songs they will enjoy, but also in what order, the researchers said.



Songs are organised intelligently, leading to an expressive, "DJ-like" sequence, instead of a random, arbitrary-sounding one, they said.

According to the researchers, DJ MC plans its moves 10 songs ahead, like a chess player.

While one song is playing, the programme generates tens of thousands of possible sequences, and it predicts which one will please the listener the most, they said.

The programme serves up the next song on that playlist—and

while that song is playing, it creates and tests new sequences.

The researchers noted that in machine learning, the mechanism is known as a Monte Carlo search which inspired the name of the programme: DJ-MC.

The programme could be adapted to other kinds of media, from news stories to videos, they said.

"Learning algorithms don't have taste, they just have data. You can replace the dataset with anything, as long as people are consuming it in a similar fashion," Liebman said.

## Light brighter than the sun to help virtually read 2,000-year-old scrolls

Scientists at Britain's national synchrotron facility have harnessed powerful light beams to virtually unwrap and decipher fragile scrolls dating back some 2,000 years in a process they hope will provide new insights into the ancient world.

The two complete scrolls and four fragments—from the so-called Herculaneum library, the only one surviving from antiquity—were buried and carbonized by the deadly eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD and are too fragile to be opened.

The items were examined at the Diamond Light Source facility in Oxfordshire, home to Britain's synchrotron, a particle accelerator in which beams travel around a closed-loop path to produce light many times brighter than the sun.

"The idea is essentially like a CT scanner where you would take an image of a person, a three-dimensional image of a person and you can slice through it to see the different organs," said Laurent Chapon, physical science director of Diamond Light Source.

"We... shine very intense light through (the scroll) and then detect on the other side a number of two-dimensional images. From that we reconstruct a three-dimensional volume of the



This is an end view of one of the two Herculaneum scrolls from L'Institut de France being scanned at Diamond Light Source by the University of Kentucky, Digital Restoration Initiative team. Credit: Diamond Light Source

object... to actually read the text in a non-destructive manner," Chapon said.

The ink on the scrolls is difficult to see, even through a synchrotron, because it is carbon-based like the papyrus it is written on. But scientists hope the density of the paper will be different where written characters are present. By scanning the fragments where characters are visible, they hope to create a machine-learning algorithm that

will decipher what is written on the scrolls. The data generated by the process will be analysed by scientists at Kentucky University in the United States using advanced computing techniques to decipher the scrolls' contents.

"The library at Herculaneum was the only library that survived from antiquity and because of that the material inside is extremely valuable," said Brent Seales, professor of computer science at Kentucky University.

# India readies next round of measures to boost economy

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and top officials of the finance ministry are working on administrative measures and incentive packages to boost the sluggish economy as the government is "deeply" concerned about the steep fall in key economic parameters besides dwindling revenue collections, three officials aware of the developments have said.

The PMO and the North Block have been conducting a series of meetings with central and state government officials to boost revenue generation, which is a necessary condition for prospective stimulus packages to create demand and induce consumption to boost the economy, they said.

One of the officials said that liquidity is no longer a major concern and the government has addressed investors' sentiments by announcing unprecedented cuts in corporate tax rates by sacrificing Rs1.45 lakh crore. The government could now shift its focus to fuelling demand and stoking consumption, he said on condition of anonymity.

On the demand side, discussions are centred around reducing



income tax rates sans exemptions, prodding banks to offer attractive EMIs for auto and housing loans, rejigging real estate laws and tax structure and reducing compliance cost for builders on the condition that the same could be passed on to consumers, the official said.

The government is also exploring some incentive to perk up automobile sales, the official added. It is, however, finding it difficult to cut Goods and Services Tax (GST) on automobiles because states are unwilling to take about Rs 60,000-crore revenue hit, he said. Other proposals being discussed include

raising public investments in infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, and asking state-run firms to front-load their budgeted expenditure, he added.

The government is expecting demand to pick up because of some recent decisions. The cabinet on October 9 raised dearness allowance (DA) of five million central government employees and 6.5 million retired employees by 5 percentage points, hoping that the Rs 10,600 crore-package will boost consumption in the ongoing festive season.

Source: HT

## US-China trade talks 'going very well', says Trump

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump offered an upbeat assessment of US-China trade talks and said he would meet at the White House on Friday with the leader of the Chinese negotiating team.

Expectations were low that the negotiations would do much to resolve a 15-month trade battle that is weighing on the global economy.

But as the first of an expected two days of talks wrapped up Thursday, Trump told reporters at the White House, "We're doing very well ... We're going to see them tomorrow, right here, and it's going very well." Chinese Vice Premier Liu He is leading the delegation in the 13th round of negotiations with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The world's two biggest economies are deadlocked over US allegations that China steals technology and pressures foreign companies to hand over trade secrets as part of a sharp-elbowed drive to become a world leader in advanced industries such as robotics and self-driving cars.

Under Trump, the United States has slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports and is planning to hit another \$160 billion December 15. That would extend import taxes to virtually everything China ships to the United States. China has hit back by targeting about \$120 billion in US goods, focusing on farm products.

The high cost of the tariffs and uncertainty over when and how the trade war will end have taken an economic toll, especially on manufacturing companies.

A private survey last week found that US factory output had dropped to its lowest level since 2009, when the economy was in the grips of a deep recession.

## AUTO SECTOR CRISIS DEEPENS IN INDIA



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Passenger vehicle sales slumped 23.7% in September, the 11th straight month of decline, prompting an industry body to flag more job cuts if sales failed to pick up soon.

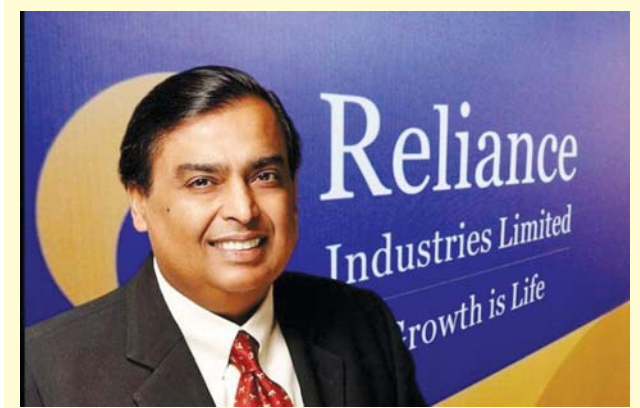
Passenger vehicle sales dropped to 2,23,317 units in September, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) data showed, while passenger car sales dived 33.4% to 131,281 units. SIAM's data comes as the domestic automobile industry faces a crippling slowdown in demand that has led to production cuts and thousands of job losses. The industry is seeing longest-ever streak of sales decline.

"We are preparing for best-case and worst-case scenarios ... worst case there will be more production and job cuts," said SIAM president Rajan Wadhwa.

Car and auto component makers have cut thousands of jobs and halted some production as the industry grapples with various challenges amid a broader economic slowdown. The government stepped in last month, announcing a corporate tax rate to boost manufacturing and lift growth. On Friday, SIAM's Wadhwa said it expected some improvement in the situation on the back of the festive season.

However, Wadhwa refrained from giving out a forecast for future sales, saying SIAM would maintain a cautious stance until October performance numbers are in.

Aggregate revenue for listed automobile companies is estimated to have dropped by one-fourth in July-September, Crisil, the Indian arm of S&P rating agency, said in a note on Thursday.



## MUKESH AMBANI RETAINS TOP POSITION, ADANI JUMPS 8 SPOTS TO BECOME SECOND RICHEST ON FORBES LIST

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The past year has proved challenging for the India's 'wealth creators' as Forbes' 2019 list of business tycoons saw their total wealth dropping by 8 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech, had said that the country's wealth creators help in reducing poverty and deserve respect and encouragement.

"In all, 14 were poorer by \$1 billion or more, and nine members from last year's ranks dropped off. More than a third of that decline was due to the remarkable largesse of tech tycoon Azim Premji, who gave away a chunk of his fortune in March and consequently dropped in the ranks to No 17 from No 2," Forbes said.

The Forbes India Rich List 2019 showed industrialist Gautam Adani jumped 8 spots on the list to become the second richest India with net worth of \$15.7 billion while Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani maintained his numero uno spot with \$51.4 billion.

Ashok Leyland owners Hinduja brothers stood third with a net worth of \$15.6 billion, Shapoorji Pallonji Group's Pallonji Mistry occupied the fourth spot with a \$15 billion net worth, Kotak Mahindra Bank's Uday Kotak was ranked fifth with \$14.8 billion net worth followed by HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar with a net worth of \$14.4 billion.

"Mukesh Ambani remains the richest Indian for the 12th year in a row. He added \$4.1 billion to his net worth as Jio, a three-year-old telecom unit of his Reliance Industries, became one of India's biggest mobile carriers with 340 million subscribers," Forbes said. The list saw six new debutants including Byju's Founder and CEO, Byju Raveendran at no 72 with net worth of \$1.91 billion, Manohar Lal and Madhusudan Agarwal of Haldiram Snacks at no 86 with net worth of \$1.7 billion, Rajesh Mehra of Jaquar, at no 95 with \$1.5 billion net worth and Sandeep Engineer of Astral Poly Technik with \$1.45 billion net worth.

## Visa, Mastercard shun FB's Libra digital currency plan

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Visa and Mastercard on Friday announced their departure from Facebook's Libra project, a major setback to the social network's plan for a worldwide digital currency.

Along with the two payment giants, several other large companies have said they're exiting Libra. Payment processing company Stripe is stepping back, as well as e-commerce company eBay.

PayPal was the first of Libra's big partners to leave, announcing last week it would no longer be involved.

Facebook has faced substantial criticism since the summer when it unveiled plans to create a separate, private currency system to allow users to make cross-border payments more easily. The Libra Association, based in Switzerland, was supposed to give the currency project a comfortable arm's length distance from Facebook, which wouldn't own Libra.

Despite those efforts, financial regulators, as well as members of Congress on both sides of the political divide, noted the privacy issues raised with the social networking company controlling a currency, while also expressing concern about how Libra could be used for money laundering like Bitcoin or Ether, other digital currencies.



### Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone **011-91-8141234275** [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)

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

## Weekly Horoscope - October 14 - October 20, 2019

**ARIES:** You start the period on an upbeat note. This is good time to incorporate the fruits of previous successes, analyse them, re-look them over and appreciate them for what they were. The whole purpose is to get to know yourself better, to understand your life in a more holistic manner and therefore be better able to take conscious control of it. There is more to life than an intellectual understanding of it; you have to understand the essence of life experiences.

**TAURUS:** You have lived through an entire gamut of experiences, there has been an entire road show of life; you should come to grips with it all and move ahead on the basis of that understanding. This is the theme for the start of the period. Ganesha wishes you well as you plough ahead. You should watch out for mood swings and tendencies to go under when the chips are down.

**GEMINI:** There is rapid progress despite your emotional plays which will not mar work. You are far ahead of your times and may not fit in with the humdrum demands of everyday work and life. You could easily be misunderstood too. But your business or professional life will run smoothly and employers, superiors and colleagues will appreciate the calm, controlled manner in which you handle your work.

**CANCER:** Harmonious relationships will also reflect your own inner stability. There may be some domestic issues including bereavement but that is all part and parcel of life. Ganesha wishes you well. There could be many expenses and emotional moments, like the children leaving home. There are many positives now. Your outlook on life has reached a point of equilibrium.

**LEO:** You have a good understanding of life, and everything is working well for you. This is not a time of testing and so you don't know how well your ideas will stand up to future crises. But life is dynamic and many things that have no relevance to past experiences and lessons can happen at a terrific pace. It is imperative to keep your mind open and flexible and be ready to learn all the time.

**VIRGO:** Do not be closed to experiences as they can often catch you in unguarded moments. Continue to examine yourself and see how you can improve your life and times. Ganesha wishes you well. There will be all types of thoughts that will hamper your growth. You move around in circles without being able to arrive at the crux of the issue. There could be a crisis in your personal relationships.

**LIBRA:** Love seems harder to come by and you may turn cold with those who have been close to you once upon a time. Or you may want to maintain contact and they may just cool off. This is a period of testing old relationships to find out whether they can survive, are still concerned about you, and if they can contribute to your life. But all this is difficult and messy. New relationships are hard to come by and you are unsure about old relationships.

**SCORPIO:** There is some stability now and you begin to find your feet. But this is a good time to make sweeping changes, not only in your consciousness, but also in the circumstances in which you live. You have been eyeing changes for a long time now and conditions that have been developing slowly will force major changes upon you now.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may have to start a whole new phase of life. You will have to be flexible and allow the changes to enter your life. Initially, there will be a lot of resistance and you may even detest the idea of a new start in your life. But you will have a new birth of awareness and will be able to deal with your life unhampered by old patterns of thought.

**CAPRICORN:** You seek to break all barriers and doors to allow the sunlight in, metaphorically speaking. Do not despair. Ganesha will guide you the right way. This is a period of expansion and also the heavy interplay of emotions. As they say in everyday language, 'you won't know if you are coming or going'. There are several domestic issues to sort out including the health of a parent or an ailing relative.

**AQUARIUS:** If someone has been unwell for some time, this may be a time for emergency medical aid. Pets will also face distress and the mood will be glum all around. You get into your shell and feel even worse. There will be problems at work and spiralling expenses. You will be busy with loans, funds, and every fiscal instrument you can lay your hands on. You may be tired and dispirited.

**PISCES:** This is an intense period but may also be a very discouraging time. Your vital energies are pretty low, and you may feel quite incapable of dealing with the problems that may surface. This could also be a time of material and financial adversity. You may have to re-examine your attitudes toward money. It may be a good idea to cut corners and prune your lifestyle.

### Birthday Horoscope October 14 - October 20, 2019

**OCT 14:** Ganesha says - your social life heats up. Invitations to join friends or family at a distance, perhaps for the up - coming holidays, may start rolling in. The only problem now is working around budgetary restrictions.

**OCT 15:** Take the pressure off a relationship and don't push it to the breaking point by just agreeing to disagree. Think carefully before making commitments, otherwise you could end up over your head.

**OCT 16:** Keeping a low profile will give you a chance to rest up for upcoming activities. You'll get lots of enjoyment from working quietly on personal interests, perhaps learning something new.

**OCT 17:** Trying something new - a hobby, sport, game or a little romantic adventure - could be just what you need to get your energies flowing. Break from routine. It's time to think young.

**OCT 18:** Someone from your past could come to mind, if not actually make an appearance.

Weigh the pros and cons of a money matter and the right decision will become clear. A talk provides answers.

**OCT 19:** The moon puts you in the spotlight now. You have the ability to secure attention and favours if you use your initiative wisely. The pace of daily life picks up.

**OCT 20:** Not much will go according to plan, so you'll be better off not setting your heart on any particular results. But what appears initially to be an upset could have fringe benefits. Look for the silver lining.

# KARVA CHAETH

**K**arva Chauth / Karwa Chauth, one of many Hindu festivals, is a fasting ritual observed by all married Hindu women who seek the longevity, prosperity and well-being of their husbands. This festival is very popular amongst married Hindu women in the western and northern parts of India, primarily in Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh. During the Karwa Chauth festival, married Hindu women dedicate the day to their husbands. Normally, women who observe this festival are called "Saubhagyavati" meaning "joyous and happy status of wifehood." The festival was emerged also as a day for celebrating autumn. Hindu married women enjoy the company and companionship of relatives and friends. As of recently, the celebration has been given a more religious touch.

Karva is another word for 'pot' (a small earthen pot of water) and chauth means 'fourth' in Hindi (a reference to the fact that the festival falls on the fourth day of the dark-foortnight, or krishna paksh, of the month of Kartik).

The festival originated and came to be celebrated only in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. The hypothesis is that military campaigns were often conducted by Hindus who were defending India against Mughal invaders, they would often leave their wives and children to go off to war. Their wives would often pray and celebrate a day of socialising, with other women, by preparing special meals, and dressing up in their finest regalia, and having what would today be deemed as a romantic evening with their husband before he went off to war.

Women whose husbands had already gone off to war, join the fast to pray for the safety of their husbands at this time as they ventured away from home to defend India. The festival coincides with the wheat-sowing time (i.e., the beginning of the Rabi crop cycle). Big earthen pots in which wheat is stored are sometimes called Karvas, so the fast may have begun as a prayer for a good harvest in this predominantly wheat-eating region.

There is another story about the origin of this festival. Earlier, girls sometimes barely teenagers used to get married, go and live with their in-laws in very remote villages. Everyone would be a stranger there for the new bride. In case she had any problems with her husband or in-laws, she would have no one to talk to or seek support from. Her own parents and relatives would be quite far and unreachable. Telephones, buses and trains were not heard of in those days. People had to walk almost a whole day to go from one place to other. Once the girl left her parent's home for in-laws, she might not be back before long. Thus the custom started that, at the time of marriage, when bride would reach her in-laws, she would befriend another woman there who would be her friend (kangan-saheli) or sister (dharam-behn) for life. It would be similar to god-friends or god-sisters.

Their friendship would be sanctified through a small Hindu ceremony right during the marriage. The bride's friend would usually be of the same age (or slightly older), married into the same village (so that she would not go away) and not directly related to her in-laws (so there was no conflict of interest later).

Emotionally and psychologically, it would be very healthy and comforting for the bride to have her own 'relative' near her. Once the bride and this woman had become god-friends or god-sisters, they



would recognize their relation as such. They would treat each other like real sisters. During any issues later in life, involving even the husband or in-laws, these women would be able to confidently talk or seek help from each other. Moreover, the bride's parents would treat her friend just like their own daughter. Thus Karva Chauth started as a festival to celebrate this special bond of friendship between the brides and their god-friends. A few days before Karva Chauth, married women would buy new karvas (spherical clay pots) -- 7"-9" in diameter and 2-3 litres capacity-and paint them on the outside with beautiful designs. Inside they would put bangles and ribbons, home-made candy and sweets, make-up items, and small clothes. The women would then visit each other on the day of Karva Chauth and exchange these karvas.

## Rituals

Women begin preparing for Karva Chauth a few days in advance, by buying cosmetics (shringar), traditional adornments or jewelry, and puja items, such as the Karva lamps, matthi, henna and the decorated puja thali (plate). Local bazaars take on a festive look as shopkeepers put their Karva Chauth related products on display. On the day of the fast, women from Punjab awake to eat and drink just before sunrise. In Uttar Pradesh, celebrants eat soot feni with milk in sugar on the eve of the festival. It is said that this helps them go without water the next day. In Punjab, sargi is an important part of this pre-dawn meal and always includes fenian. It is traditional for the sargi to be sent or given to the woman by her mother-in-law. If the mother-in-law lives with the woman, the pre-dawn meal is prepared by the mother-in-law.

The fast begins with dawn. Fasting women do not eat during the day. In traditional observances of the fast, the fasting woman does no housework. Women apply henna and other cosmetics

to themselves and each other. The day passes in meeting friends and relatives. In some regions, it is customary to give and exchange painted clay pots filled with put bangles, ribbons, home-made candy, cosmetics and small cloth items (e.g., handkerchiefs). Since Karva Chauth follows soon after the Kharif crop harvest in the rural areas, it is a good time for community festivities and gift exchanges. Parents often send gifts to their married daughters and their children.

In the evening, a community women-only ceremony is held. Participants dress in fine clothing and wear jewellery and henna, and (in some regions) dress in the complete finery of their wedding dresses. The dresses (saris or shalwars) are frequently red, gold or orange, which are considered auspicious colors. In Uttar Pradesh, women wear saris or lehngas. The fasters sit in a circle with their puja thalis. Depending on region and community, a version of the story of Karva Chauth is narrated, with regular pauses. The storyteller is usually an older woman or a priest, if one is present. In the pauses, the Karva Chauth puja song is sung collectively the singers

perform the feris (passing their thalis around in the circle).

The fera ceremony concluded, the women await the rising of the moon. Once the moon is visible, depending on the region and community, it is customary for a fasting woman, with her husband nearby, to view its reflection in a vessel filled with water, through a sieve, or through the cloth of a dupatta. Water is offered (arka) to the moon (som or chandra, the lunar deity) to secure its blessings. She then turns to her husband and views his face indirectly in the same manner. In some regions, the woman says a brief prayer asking for her husband's life. It is believed that at this stage, spiritually strengthened by her fast, the woman can successfully confront and defeat death (personified by Yama). In Rajasthan the women say "Like the gold necklace and the pearl bracelet, just like the moon may my suhaag always shine brightly."

The husband now takes the water from the thali and gives his wife her first sip and feeds her with the first morsel of the day (usually something sweet). The fast is now broken, and the woman has a complete meal.

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# Fox News veteran Shepard Smith quits; hopes 'facts will win the day'



Chief news anchor of Fox News Shepard Smith made an exit, October 11, ending his 23-year-old association with the channel.

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Shepard Smith, the chief news anchor of Fox News and a sometime critic of US President Donald Trump, abruptly quit the network on Friday, October 11 after 23 years.

In an unexpected on-air statement at the end of his daily "Shepard Smith Reporting" show, Smith said he had asked to leave the conservative-leaning cable

news network, which is the most-watched in the United States.

His farewell message ended with the hope that "the truth will always matter."

"Recently I asked the company to allow me to leave Fox News.

After requesting that I stay, they obliged. Under our agreement I won't be reporting elsewhere, at least in the near future," Smith said.

"Even in our currently polarized nation, it's my hope that the facts will win the day, that the truth will always matter, that journalism and journalists will survive," Smith said.

Smith, who was also managing editor of the network's breaking news unit, has been one of the few senior journalists on Fox News to criticize Trump.

His departure follows attacks by Trump on the network's less friendly coverage of his administration since the US House of Representatives began an impeachment inquiry, which opinion

polls suggest has growing support from Americans.

The New York Times reported earlier on Friday that US Attorney General William Barr met this week with Rupert Murdoch, whose Fox Corp owns Fox News.

"FoxNews doesn't deliver for US anymore. It is so different than it used to be. Oh well, I'm President!," Trump tweeted on Thursday.

In March, Smith took issue with Trump's criticism of the late Republican Senator John McCain, and in August Smith spoke out about the "unmistakable rise of white nationalism and white racism in America" which Democrats say Trump has not done enough to discourage.

In September, Smith called out Trump for his mistaken insistence that the state of Alabama was in the path of Hurricane Dorian. Trump, who has repeatedly criticized the US media as "the enemy of

the people," has lashed out publicly against Shepard.

"Watching Fake News CNN is better than watching Shepard Smith, the lowest rated show on @FoxNews," Trump tweeted in August.

Smith has been with Fox News since it was launched in 1996 and his departure took colleagues by surprise.

"Shepard Smith just dropped a bomb ... He was part of the glue that held Fox together. He is a supreme pro who made us all better," Fox News chief White House correspondent John Roberts tweeted on Friday.

Fox News President Jay Wallace in a statement called Smith "one of the premier newscasters of his generation." "While this day is especially difficult as his former producer, we respect his decision and are deeply grateful for his immense contributions to the entire network," Wallace said.

(Source: Agencies)

contd from page 1

## A New Chapter in Our Ties: Prime Minister Modi to Xi

The visiting Chinese President Xisaid, "I'm sure that our discussions today will further bring forward our relations".

The delegation-level talks involved, besides PM Modi, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.

Xi was more forthcoming on the Indian hospitality, stating that he was "really overwhelmed" and the trip to South India was a memorable experience for me and us [the delegation]."

The two leaders had met on Friday, October 11 evening and toured the temples of Mamallapuram that was followed by a cultural programme and dinner. In a late-night briefing, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the two leaders discussed bilateral issues and their respective national visions.

By and large, the visit of the Chinese President appeared to miss the enthusiasm of his earlier visit. In comparison, it was a low-key visit.

## University of Houston Receives \$2 Million Commitment to Support Study of Tamil

an endowment supporting the study of Tamil heritage. The Tamil language is considered the oldest in the world - spoken by more than 70 million people worldwide - primarily in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore.

Houston Tamil Studies Chair, Inc., which is the donor, is a nonprofit that was founded last year with the goal of establishing the Tamil studies chair at the University of Houston and providing a forum for the growing population Tamil-Americans in the United States -

approximately 250,000 people. "As Tamil-American families assimilate into the fabric of the multi-cultural society in this great nation, and as all our children get educated in American Universities, HTSC takes great pride in leading this initiative to expand awareness of the rich Tamil culture, language and literature within an educational setting," said Sam Kannappan, founding member and board president of Houston Tamil Studies Chair, Inc. The initial \$1 million pledge will create The Houston Tamil Studies Chair, Inc. Research Endowment in the UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. These funds will support research program costs, equipment and seminars with invited scholars who are experts on Tamil societies and the Tamil diaspora in the United States.

An additional \$1 million will rename the endowment The Houston Tamil Studies Chair Inc. Endowed Professorship. The educator who will hold this professorship will be a global research trailblazer with expertise on the rich diversity of Tamil culture and its global diaspora, according to Antonio D. Tillis, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

## "You will be held accountable": Pelosi Warns Trump

The President's actions threaten our national security, violate our Constitution and undermine the integrity of our elections. The White House letter is only the latest attempt to cover up his betrayal of our democracy, and to insist that the President is above the law", Pelosi said in a statement.

"This letter is manifestly wrong, and is simply another unlawful attempt to hide the facts of the Trump Administration's brazen efforts to pressure foreign powers to intervene in the 2020 elections. Despite the White House's stonewalling, we see a growing body of evidence that shows that President Trump abused his office and violated his oath to 'protect, preserve and

defend the Constitution. "The White House should be warned that continued efforts to hide the truth of the President's abuse of power from the American people will be regarded as further evidence of obstruction. Mr. President, you are not above the law. You will be held accountable", she warned.

## Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel peace prize

followed the loosening of repressive controls, and resisting any urge to crack down. "He deserves it and the new challenge is keeping it," one outspoken African activist, Nigerian Shehu Sani, said of the award.

Abiy, a favorite to win despite speculation about young climate activist Greta Thunberg, told the Nobel committee he was humbled and thrilled to receive its 100th peace prize, calling peace "a rare commodity in our region." He hoped the award would encourage other African leaders.

So far this week, 11 Nobel laureates have been named. The others received their awards for their achievements in medicine, physics, chemistry and literature. The economics award is to be announced on Monday.

With the glory comes a 9-million kronor (\$918,000) cash award, a gold medal and a diploma to be awarded at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. Even though the peace prize is awarded in Norway, the amount is denominated in Swedish kronor.

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advantage of our country's generous public health program.' Immigrants admitted into the country are nearly three times more likely to lack health insurance than United States citizens, and contribute to the problem of uncompensated healthcare costs', the statement added.

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Tel: 646-247-9458  
Email: editor@theindianpanorama.com  
**DALLAS EDITION**  
P.O. BOX 121695, ARLINGTON, TX 76012  
**Lovlien Kaurr, VP & Bureau Chief**

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# KALIMPONG IS A MUST-VISIT FOR YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY

Located at a height of 1,247 metres (3,933 ft) above sea level, Kalimpong is just 51 km from Darjeeling and 70 km from Siliguri. There are two National Highways originating at Siliguri that take you up to Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Though the distance is rather short, there is a major difference in weather and atmosphere between these two popular getaways.

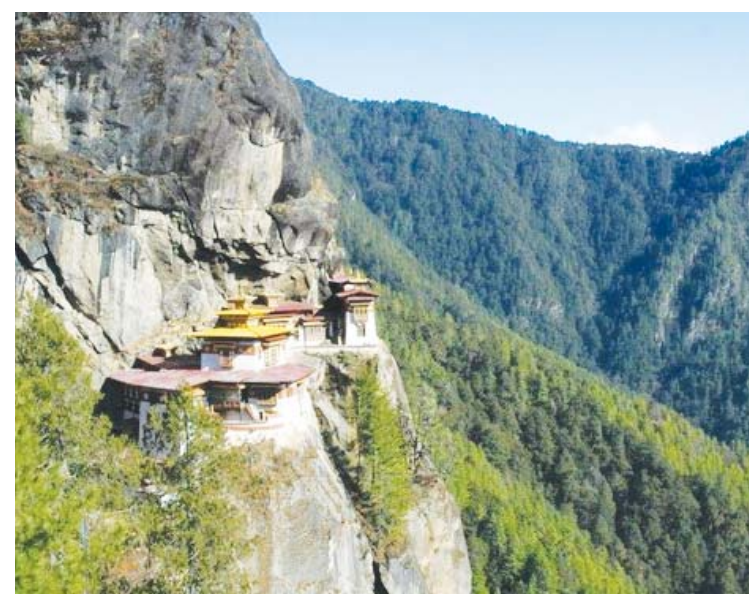
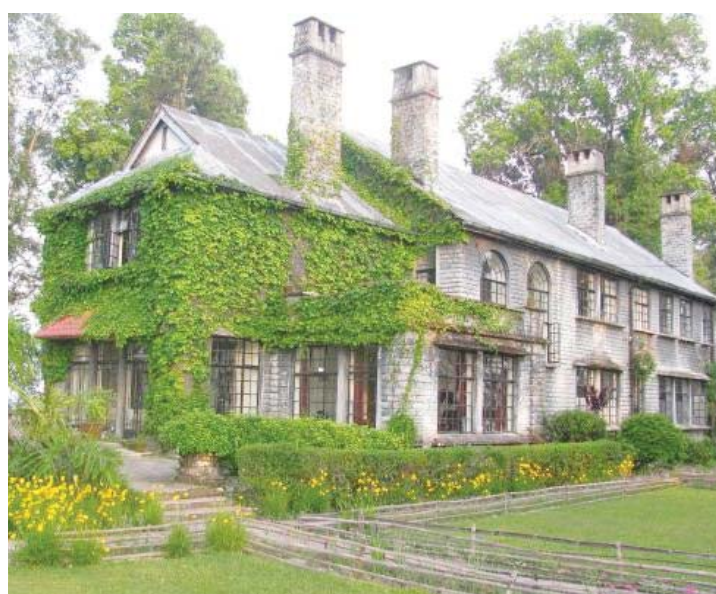
Despite the fact that there are a number of tea gardens in Siliguri, it is totally urban with enough cars and trucks to make you want to get away as fast as possible. Darjeeling, on the other hand, is colder, mistier, more crowded and bustling. Kalimpong also has mists but it offers more of a holiday mood. The temperature is seldom colder than 12-16 degrees and on a sunny summer's day, the temperature may rise to as high as 30 degrees.

The drive to Kalimpong up the Teesta Valley from Siliguri is truly magical. The river seems to change mood with every turn until reaching Teesta Bazaar, where one normally stops for tea. Kalimpong has its bi-monthly "Haats". Mixing with the locals and experiencing the traditional culture is never a problem here. The place is an interesting mix of modern and traditional. Besides Indian goods, a huge variety of stuff from Bhutan, Sikkim, Tibet and Nepal seem to filter in here, making the place a shopper's paradise.

Kalimpong is known to have originally been part of Bhutan. It was earlier called "Dalingkote" by the Bhutias and was an important centre for Indo-Tibetan trade, being close to the important mountain passes of Nathu-la and Jelep-la. It was renamed when the British acquired the area after the Anglo-British War in 1864 and was raised to the stature of a subdivision in April 1916. With its mild climate, the British found Kalimpong to be a perfect location for a sanatorium. In the early days, it was the weather that attracted British settlers and soon a main street "was laid out in correct boulevard style with rows of trees". At the time this street included Dr Graham's Homes and a Gothic Church, to which a clock tower was added in 1891.

The British colony is said to have had 1,200 members in 1916. With Kalimpong's weather being a great attraction, the numbers continued to grow and so did the need for schools. A number of private schools planned on the lines of Eton and Harrow were created in the region. However, the school that is still remembered is known Dr Graham's Homes -- conceived as a home for underprivileged children created in 1900 by the Scottish Missionary Rev. Dr. John A Graham. It has been recorded that during Dr Graham's lifetime, the "Homes" consisted of 35 buildings, including cottages, schools, industrial and farm buildings, a hospital, a swimming bath and a park where around 600 domiciled European and Anglo-Indian children of both sexes -- from 2 to 18 years -- were educated.

There are many theories about the name Kalimpong. One theory claims that in Tibetan, the name means "Assembly



(or Stockade) of the King's Ministers". Another theory is that the name is derived from the translation "ridge where we play" in Lepcha, as it is known as a place for tribal gatherings and summer sports.

Kalimpong is home to Nepalis, Lepchas and other ethnic groups and is now an important religious centre for Buddhism. The first Buddhist Monastery to be built here was the Thongsha Gumpa.

The Tharpa Choling Monastery is located in the centre of the city and a Bhutanese monastery on the 12 Mile Road. The Tibetan Buddhist monastery Zang Dhok Palri Phodang is known for a number of rare Tibetan Buddhist scriptures. However, it is important to

note that even as early as in 1900s, there was a mosque and a Hindu temple in Kalimpong.

The Kalimpong Science Centre, established in 2008 is a recent addition. It offers scientific awareness among the students of the town. The locals and visitors tend to spend more time atop the Deolo Hill, the highest point in Kalimpong. But the most important aspect of this lovely hill station has been kept till the last. Horticulture is one of the most important money-earners in Kalimpong. It has a splendid flower market notable for its wide array of orchids and nurseries that export Himalayan grown flower bulbs, tubers and rhizomes.

Kalimpong is a major production

centre for the popular flower Gladioli and some of India's best orchids that are exported to many parts of the world.

Of late, Kalimpong's cactus cultivation is making waves. Its nurseries attract people from far and near for the stunning collection of cactii cultivated here.

The many strains of cactus though not indigenous to the area, have been carefully cultivated over the years. The plants have adapted well to the altitude and environment and now prove to be one of the chief draws of visitors.

Kalimpong's annual flower show in October is a big draw. The best season for visiting Kalimpong is spring when orchids bloom wild on trees and the nurseries have their finest selection and their most exotic varieties in bloom.

## INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

# Ashwin, Umesh prove a point, SA wilt again



**PUNE (TIP):** "I don't get frustrated and I don't want to get frustrated either," R Ashwin said at the end of the third day's play in the second Test, referring to the struggle for the spinners on Saturday because of the resistance offered by the South African tail.

It was a statement of the star spinner's attitude and approach to the game and gave a peek into his mindset, how he has overcome recent struggles, losing his position as the lead spinner of the team and then making a strong comeback.

The Visakhapatnam Test against South Africa was memorable for Ashwin due to the bagful of wickets, including a seven-for in the first innings. His performance in the second Test at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium here would also have given him equal satisfaction.

The level of his skill made for compelling watching, especially the way he prised out skipper Faf du Plessis and Quinton de Kock in a four-wicket haul that helped India dismiss the visitors for 275 in reply to India's 601/5 declared. It gives India the opportunity to enforce the follow-on on Sunday morning if they want, having taken a potentially match-winning lead of 326.

Ashwin's statement on Saturday wasn't merely for himself, it seemed apt for India's other bowling star of the innings, Umesh Yadav, as well. Sailing in the same boat, the pacer was a revelation in his first Test since last December. He made early inroads into the South African innings with three top-order wickets. The effort couldn't have come at a better time for the

Vidarbha Express after being on the fringes of the squad for most of the past two years.

Not picked in the original squad, he would well have been playing domestic cricket for Vidarbha but for the injury to Jasprit Bumrah. Talk of making a statement!

The importance of his early strikes was felt following the resistance offered by the South Africa lower order. It showed it was not such a difficult wicket to bat on and the bowlers were only getting the rewards for their effort.

For South Africa, the fight came from an unlikely source—the ninth-wicket pair of Keshav Maharaj and Vernon Philander. The two bettered South Africa's ninth wicket partnership against India with an effort of 109 runs in 43.1 overs.

Maharaj, who went for plenty with the ball, was the top-scorer with 72, but Philander was resistance personified, valiantly playing out 192 balls to remain unconquered on 44. Among the main batsmen, only Faf du Plessis lived up to his reputation with a solid 64.

When there is such dominance from a player like that of Virat Kohli on the second day, every other performance can get lost in its dazzle, and so it happened with Yadav's impressive effort with the new ball on Friday evening. After his captain was done with his epic 254 not out, Umesh came out firing on all cylinders.

Playing after a long gap, the pressure was on him when he was handed the new ball. To his credit, he straightaway made an impact. A great sight when in full flow with an explosive run-up and a well-

balanced delivery stride, he came out charging on Friday evening and broke the spirits in the SA dressing room with the wickets of the openers, the highly-rated Aiden Markram and in-form Dean Elgar.

Markram is the next big hope of the Proteas batting, their replacement for AB De Villiers. To see him fall to a pacer would have taken the wind out of their sails. It was the kind of track, seaming with good carry, Markram is more used to batting on than India's batsmen. Here he was a dead duck to the second ball he faced from Yadav, caught right in front off a full and swinging delivery.

Markram had perfect preparation, with two hundreds in the lead up to the series, against India A, and in the tour game. His low scores in the two Tests thus will be confidence shattering. Yadav took his second wicket when Elgar played on due to his indecisiveness. The pacer in the morning reduced the Proteas to 53/5 with Theunis de Bruyn falling to a spectacular catch by wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha.

When the sixth-wicket partnership between du Plessis and de Kock was starting to grow (75 runs in 102 balls), the off-spinner got the ball to dip and turn past de Kock's hanging bat and hit the bail. With du Plessis, who continued to show stubborn resistance, Kohli changed Ashwin's end and it worked. At the total of 162, the offie set up the batsman with a big off-break, and followed it up with one which went straight with the arm, drifted, took the edge and was nestled in the slip's hands.

Source: HT



## WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING: MANJU ONE STEP FROM GOLD, MARY KOM FEELS ROBBED

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** At the national selection trials in August for the women's world championships, Manju Rani's childhood coach Sahab Singh and uncle Sunil Kumar looked tensed as they watched her bouts. They were hoping Manju didn't get a raw deal as was the case earlier in her career and had to shift from Haryana and represent Punjab. Having made the switch in 2017, Rani won the national championships in January, and there has been no looking back.

"Whenever there is a trial or fight, we just pray she doesn't get a biased decision because she has suffered a lot in Haryana and we had to enter her for competitions from Punjab. Once she made it to the national camp, she has been taken good care of and the trials have been open and fair," said Sahab Singh.

Rani's stature has rapidly risen in the last 10 months since she started representing India at the international level. On Saturday, she brought out her fearless streak to defeat Thailand's Chuthamat Raksat 4-1 in 48kg and make it to the world championships final in Ulan-Ude, Russia. Rani will face second-seeded Russian Ekaterina Paltceva in the gold medal match.

## KIPCHOGE SMASHES 2-HR MARATHON BARRIER

**VIENNA (TIP):** Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge made athletics history when he became the first person to run a marathon in under two hours, stretching the limits of human endeavour and passing a milestone few thought could be reached for decades if at all.

Guided by green laser beams shone on to the road and helped by 41 world-class athletes choreographed into rotating teams of pacemakers, the Olympics champion and world record holder smashed the barrier by 20 seconds, finishing in one hour 59.40 minutes.

It was regarded as the biggest achievement in athletics since Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile in 1954 but was not recognised as a world record by the sport's governing body as it was not in open competition and used rotating pacemakers. As the pacemakers peeled away for the last kilometre, Kipchoge accelerated down the final straight, smiled and pointed at people in the crowd who gave him a rousing reception. Barely sweating, the 34-year-old looked as if he had completed a quiet morning run as he reflected on an achievement which he compared to landing on the moon. "From the first kilometre, I was really comfortable," he said after before being mobbed by his teammates. "I have been training for this for four and a half months, I have been putting my heart and mind to run under two hours for a marathon and make history."



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