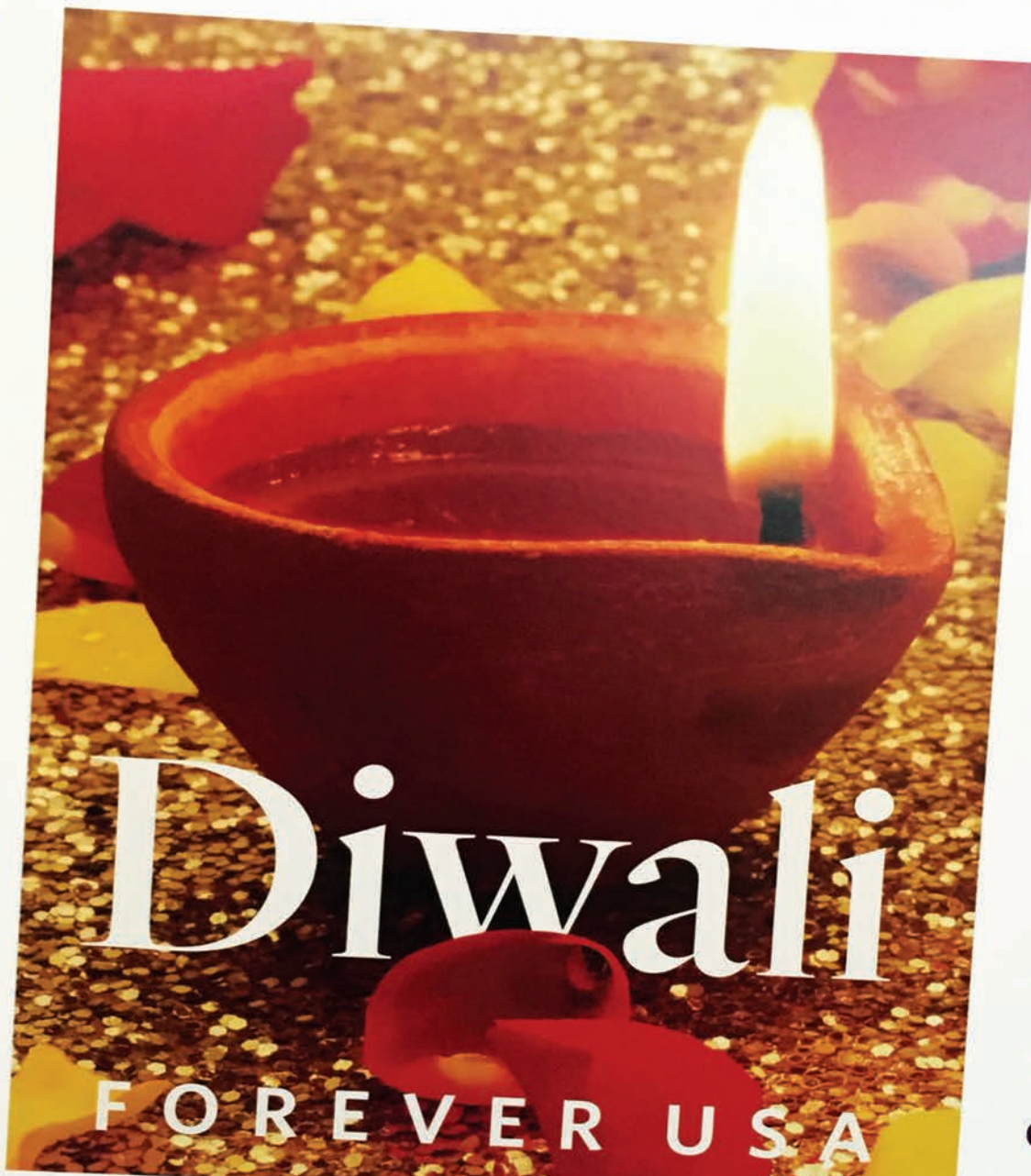


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# Assembly Elections, By Elections to Lok Sabha: Congress shows signs of Recovery

**BJP-Shiv Sena alliance wins in Maharashtra; Haryana ends up with hung Assembly**

**MUMBAI / CHANDIGARH (TIP):** The ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance on Thursday, October 24, managed to retain control of the Maharashtra Assembly, but with a reduced mandate. The alliance suffered losses in Vidarbha and western Maharashtra, with nine Ministers losing in the election.

With reduced numbers, the BJP will now be dependent on the Sena to form the government. Upping the ante, Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, speaking at a press conference after the results, said it was time to implement the 50-50 formula for power-sharing, as decided earlier.

The BJP also lost the Lok Sabha by poll in Satara, where it had fielded the



Generals all. Sharad Pawar, Devendra Phadnavis, Manohar Lal Khattar, Bhupinder Singh Hooda

incumbent Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Udayanraje Bhosale after he switched sides.

Proving all exit polls wrong, the opposition Congress-NCP combine

crossed the 100-seat mark riding an anti-incumbency wave in the rural belt of the State. In absolute numbers, the BJP-Sena tally fell by 29 seats while the Congress-

*contd on Page 42*

## Lotus Management Group Inc. Hicksville sued for Recovery of Unpaid Wages

**HEMPSTEAD, NY (TIP):** An ex-employee of Lotus Management, Hicksville has sued the company for recovery of unpaid wages. The employee filed a suit in the District Court of Nassau County Small Claims Department, October 23. The hearing is fixed for November 27, 2019.

In a conversation with The Indian Panorama, the employee said that she was compelled to file a suit for recovery of unpaid wages after the employer ignored her repeated requests to pay her the rightfully earned wages. She said she has all correspondence in the form of exchange of emails as evidence. She alleged that non-payment of duly earned wages caused her a lot of hardship. She characterized the action of the employer as a form of harassment which, she said she plans to report to the NY State Labor Department and other agencies concerned with protection of workers' rights.

## 'Will play constructive role in govt formation': Jagmeet Singh, NDP leader



National Democratic leader Jagmeet Singh

**OTTAWA (TIP):** Indian-origin Canadian politician Jagmeet Singh, who has emerged as the "kingmaker" after the general election, on Tuesday, October 22 promised that his New Democratic Party would be "constructive" in the formation of the new minority government by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and would approach the issue with "open minds and an open heart". As Trudeau returned to the nation's capital on Tuesday to begin planning for his second term, his Liberal Party

*contd on Page 42*

## Canadians Give Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party Narrow Victory



Liberal leader Justin Trudeau and wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau wave as they go on stage at Liberal election headquarters in Montreal, Monday, Oct. 21, 2019. Photo / Courtesy The Canadian Press - Paul Chiasson

**MONTREAL (TIP):** Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has won but lost majority. Trudeau came out on top in a mess of an election, taking 157 seats, a wide stretch ahead of the Conservative Party's 121. Rounding out a diverse Parliament were the separatist Bloc Québécois with 32, the left-wing

*contd on Page 42*

## Air India Ready for Festival Season: Roul

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Air India acting Regional Manager Americas Kamal Roul in an interview to The Indian Panorama claimed Air India was fully geared and committed to provide the passengers the happiest travel experience.



Kamal Roul, Air India Acting Regional Manager Americas

Air India operates daily flights to India from New York, New Jersey, San Francisco and Chicago, and 3 times a week from Washington and Toronto.

Mr. Kamal Roul, before being posted in New York as Finance Manager Americas with additional charge of acting Regional Manager Americas has worked as Accounts Manager at Chicago and New York. (Read the Interview in November 8 edition).



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## Indian Emeritus Professor Romilla Thapar is supported by American Historical Association

*Professor Thapar is a distinguished scholar, deeply respected by historians on many continents, says the letter*



**NEW YORK (TIP):** On October 7, American Historical Association President John McNeill sent a letter to Vice Chancellor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi to discourage the university's review of Romila Thapar's status as emeritus professor. McNeill cited her impressive record of contributions and achievements, including being named an AHA Honorary Foreign Member.

"The American Historical Association expresses deep concern over Jawaharlal Nehru University's decision to review Romila Thapar's status as emeritus professor. Professor Thapar is a distinguished scholar, deeply respected by historians on many continents. Considering her extraordinary record of scholarly achievement, the Association believes that there is no need to review her richly deserved position as emeritus professor", he wrote in the letter.

"The AHA is the largest association of professional historians in the world, with over 12,000 members. In 2009 the AHA named Professor Thapar an honorary foreign member-one of the highest honors the Association bestows-in recognition of her standing as one of India's most distinguished historians. "To put it simply," we wrote in our award citation, "Professor Thapar's work is the bedrock of all scholarly study of the early South Asian past." He further added.

## Indian American Michigan Biodiesel Dealer Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud

**BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN (TIP):** A Bloomfield, Michigan, biodiesel fuel dealer pleaded guilty Oct 22 to filing a false income tax return, announced Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the Justice Department's Tax Division and U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider of the Eastern District of Michigan.

According to plea documents, Chandra Yarlagadda, 54, owned and operated Alpha Bioenergy LLC (Alpha), formerly known as Naturol Bioenergy LLC, which purchased and sold biodiesel fuel. Pursuant to the Clean Air Act and related federal regulations, companies that purchase and sell biodiesel fuel are required to purchase Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) for any volume of renewable fuel bought or sold.

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

# Indian American Margaret Abraham Installed as Wachtel Professor at Hofstra University

**NEW YORK (TIP):** In recognition of a career dedicated to promoting research and social justice, Margaret Abraham, PhD, professor of sociology and senior vice provost for academic affairs, was installed last month as Hofstra University's Harry H. Wachtel Distinguished Teaching Professor for the Study of Nonviolent Social Change.

Dr. Abraham has served the University in varied capacities, including special advisor to the provost for diversity initiatives, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and director of the Women's Studies Program. She teaches courses and senior seminars such as Violence Against Women; Domestic Violence; Globalization, Work and Citizenship; Women, Gender, and Development; and Public Sociology. In 2014 she was elected president of the International Sociological Association (ISA) for a four-year term.

Dr. Abraham has been involved in research and activism in the fields of



*Dr. Abraham has been involved in research and activism in the fields of domestic violence and social justice for more than 25 years (Courtesy - Hofstra University)*

domestic violence and social justice for more than 25 years. Her acclaimed work as both speaker and author has been profiled and quoted in numerous domestic and international publications. She has been honored for her community action research by many

organizations, including Sakhi for South Asian Women; Apna Ghar; Indus Women Leaders; Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center; Office of the Executive, Nassau County, State of New York; and Domestic Harmony Foundation, Long Island.

## Indian Historian Ramachandra Guha Named Honorary Member of American Historical Association



*Ramachandra Guha is a historian and biographer based in Bengaluru*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Renowned Indian Historian Ramachandra Guha has been named American Historical Association's Honorary Foreign Member for a foreign scholar who is distinguished in his or her field and who has "notably aided the work of American historians." The Association has honored foreign scholars since 1885, when the AHA awarded Leopold von Ranke with its first testimonial of honorary membership.

According to the selection criteria, recipients of honorary memberships must be foreign scholars who are distinguished for their work in the field of history and who have markedly assisted the work of American historians in the scholar's country. The AHA Council encourages nominations that address the need for broader geographic coverage; in recent years most nominations and honorees have been from western Europe. The Committee on Honorary Foreign Members and Awards for

Scholarly Distinction will serve as the jury and will recommend an individual for approval by the Council. The Committee consists of the president, president-elect, and the immediate past president.

Ramachandra Guha is a historian and biographer based in Bengaluru. His books include a pioneering environmental history, *The Unquiet Woods* (University of California Press, 1989), and an award-winning social history of cricket, *A Corner of a Foreign Field* (Picador, 2002), which was chosen by *The Guardian* as one of the ten best books on cricket ever written. *India after Gandhi* (Macmillan/Ecco Press, 2007; revised edition, 2017) was chosen as a book of the year by the *Economist*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, and as a book of the decade in the *Times of London* and *The Hindu*.

Ramachandra Guha's most recent work is a two-volume biography of Mahatma Gandhi. The first volume, *Gandhi Before India* (Knopf, 2014), was chosen as a notable book of the year by the *New York Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The second volume, *Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World* (Knopf, 2018), was chosen as a notable book of the year by the *New York Times* and *The Economist*.

Guha's awards include the Leopold-Hidy Prize of the American Society of Environmental History, the Daily Telegraph/Cricket Society prize, the Malcolm Adideshiah Award for excellence in social science research, the Ramnath Goenka Prize for excellence in journalism, the Sahitya Akademi Award, and the Fukuoka Prize for contributions to Asian studies.

## Indian American Historian Priya Satia Wins AHA's Prize for Best Book in World History



*Priya Satia specializes in modern British and British empire history, especially in the Middle East and South Asia*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Priya Satia the Raymond A. Spruance Professor of International History at Stanford University, has been awarded the American Historical Association's Jerry Bentley Prize for best book in world history for *Empire of Guns: The Violent Making of the Industrial Revolution*.

The prize, established in 2014, honors the contributions to world history of the late University of Hawaii historian who was a founding editor of the *Journal of World History*. The award recognizes the best book each calendar year dealing with global or world-scale history with connections or comparisons across continents. The prize will be awarded on Jan. 3, 2020, at the American Historical Association's 134th annual meeting in New York City.

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



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# Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, USA South & Central New Jersey Vibhag celebrates Vijayadashami

**Chief Guest Prof. Saluja stresses on importance of cohesive bonds between different social groups**

**PISCATAWAY, NJ (TIP):** The South and Central New Jersey of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) celebrated Vijaya Dashami festival in Piscataway, NJ on October 13, 2019. The Hindu Festival of Vijaya Dashami also marks the 30th anniversary of the founding day of the HSS in the United States.

Every year, HSS celebrates Vijayadashami as a one of the opportunities to reaching out to the larger community and demonstrate the skills they have acquired over the period of the time. During this HSS volunteers showcase various activities that children, young adults, youths and family members have learned during a weekly congregation known as "Shakha" (branch).

The event started with Aayudh Pooja (worshipping the weapons), which signifies the worshipping the divine force working behind tools inspiring to perform well. that benefits the entire society. It was followed by hoisting of the saffron flag on the background of HSS marching band. Young volunteers of HSS performed



*Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Chief Guest made a passionate plea for shedding bias of any kind, and follow the path of humanism*



*Sai ji Patil, Sah-Karyavahika of NorthEastern Sambhag of HSS exhorted the volunteers of HSS to follow the path of righteousness which is the message of Vijayadashmi*

Pataka Yoga, which is a co-ordinated exercise by kids with a small flag in their hand. This was followed by Dand Prayog and Samata. These events demonstrated discipline and practice volunteers have performed since past few months. Lezim aka yogchop is another co-ordinated activity on the background was performed by volunteers. Another group of volunteers performed Niyudha, followed by Yogasana presentations. The well-coordinated activities were presented by groups, and not by individuals, true to the mission of the organization that focuses on bringing the Hindu community together.

All HSS activities were in the group and in co-ordinated and synchronized manner. For few activities, HSS uses its own marching band, which comprises of Indian and Western musical instruments. Ghosh or marching band demonstrated their marching skills while playing different musical compositions.

After demonstrations, Chief Guest Prof. Indrajit Saluja and visiting HSS speaker Sai ji Patil were introduced to the audience.

Prof. Saluja is Chief Editor-Publisher of The Indian Panorama, a newspaper published from New York and Dallas and a published poet. He was a lecturer in India.

Prof. Saluja shared his thoughts about the society and importance of cohesive bonds between different social groups. He stressed on integral humanism and pleaded for rejection of biases or preferences to be better human beings to serve the society. He shared his childhood experiences about Sangh, how he used to enjoy going to Shakha.

Sai ji Patil spoke next. Sai ji is from Pittsburgh and has held several key positions in the organization before becoming the Sambhag Karyavahika.

Saiji referred to the battle between Ram and Ravan and underlined the importance of following the path of righteousness by worshipping knowledge, power and wealth as divine powers during Vijayadashami

HSS's South and Central New Jersey Vibhag has a total 12 Shakhas comprising of different groups as family, teenagers, young working professionals and seniors. This was the first time, newly formed South and Central New Jersey Vibhag celebrated the Vijayadashami Utsav. The Utsav was attended by 400 people. Mr. Rajeev Bhambri, former COO of India Abroad was among the gathering with his wife and two daughters as was Mr. Harvender Pal (HP) Singh from Parikh Worldwide.

A prayer was offered in conclusion of the event that summarizes the HSS mission to bring the individuals to work together and spread peace and prosperity in the world.



*Flag hoisting*



*HSS Band*



*Prayers*

## Children Helping Children: From Shelter to Summer Camp

**NEWARK, NJ (TIP):** Last month CH3 held its annual Color Walk 2019 at the picturesque Overpeck County Park in New Jersey for the first time. CH3 is the next generation of philanthropic leaders in Children's Hope India (CHI). A group of six enthusiastic teenagers from the New York area, ages 13-16, came together in early 2014 determined to make a difference. Their mandate became "Children Helping Children." Since then, CH3 has evolved into a cohesive group of over a dozen members. CH3 has also started chapters in New York City and New Jersey.

The Color Walk is a fundraiser organized and executed by high school



*CH3 held its annual Color Walk 2019 at the picturesque Overpeck County Park in New Jersey for the first time*

members of CH3 NJ, NYC and Long Island. Funds were raised through generous support by donors and sponsors, coveted raffle prizes and registration fees from the 150+ walkers in attendance. The energetic Bollywood workout led by Rujuta Vaidya, having vibrant colors applied at each mile marker and the beautiful weather together created an extremely fun morning for all.

CH3 had a hugely successful event which brought in a little over \$10,000. The funds collected will be used to send several children from a shelter in Newark, NJ to a summer camp in 2020. This is "Children Helping Children" in action!



# GOPIO Health Council Hosts Successful Third Health Summit in New Jersey



GOPIO Health Council Chair Dr. Tushar Patel welcomes guests at the Inaugural Session of the Third Indian Diaspora Health Summit. Sitting from l. to r. Hitesh Bhatt, Rahul Shukla, Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha, H.R. Shah, Ram Gadhavi and Dr. Thomas Abraham

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** GOPIO International Health Council, The Consulate General of India, New York, TV Asia with support from GOPIO Central Jersey and Connecticut Chapters, Indian Health Camp of NJ, Princeton Lions Club and Central Jersey Business Organization hosted their third Health Summit on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at TV Asia Auditorium, in Edison, NJ. Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha attended the event as a Chief Guest along with CEO and Chairman of TV Asia Padma Shree Dr. H.R. Shah, Piscataway Township Councilman Kapil Shah, and other community leaders from various organizations. It was an entire day event to include comprehensive discussion on medical, dental, mental health, alternative medicine, life-style modifications and wellness and yoga sessions from various renowned experts from the tri-state.

In his welcome remarks GOPIO International Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham provided history of GOPIO and urged everyone to become a life

member and support GOPIO's efforts to help Indian diaspora and appreciated everyone for their help in third health summit. GOPIO Health Council Chair Dr. Tushar Patel mentioned that Access to care especially preventive health care is the biggest challenge in south Asians.

Host and TV Asia Chairman/CEO Padma Shree Dr. H. R. Shah appreciated GOPIO's efforts in making Indian Diaspora healthier by holding this type of event and extended his support for future health summits.

Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha mentioned that we have vulnerabilities in terms of our genetic makeup and our earliest problems were access to healthcare and insurance for healthcare but now the number of doctors in India are reducing, so we have created more medical schools to fix this. Access to health care and prevention is the most important aspect in Indian diaspora, he added.

Guest speaker Hitesh Bhatt, CEO and Founder of Bhatt Foundation, Inc. provided wonderful information on

health care technologies in 21st century and explained how we can expand global healthcare without raising money - created the foundation.

Rahul Shukla, CEO of SS White Technologies and Shukla Medical provided his keynote address and mentioned that we are much nicer to others than ourselves, this is primarily because we don't like taking care of ourselves.

The first session included the topics of metabolic syndrome, diabetes & other chronic diseases which are vulnerable in Asian Indians. The panel discussion was superbly moderated by Dr. Annah Kuriakose, Program Director of South Asian Diabetes Center at Saint Peter's Hospital along with four panelists to include Dr. Nayan Kothari, Internal Medicine, Dr. Roopa Roy, Endocrinologist, Dr. Bhambhani, Clinical Pharmacist & Ms. Shah, dietitian and nutritionist. The panelist discussed various topics of diabetes, diet, risk factors for Indians and how to prevent and maintain a healthy life.

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

## Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize 2020 by Hofstra University: Nomination Deadline Nov 1

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** Hofstra University is accepting nominations for the 2020 Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize, until November 1, 2019 - a \$50,000 award to a living individual or organization that has contributed to the promotion of interfaith dialogue, tolerance and understanding.

The goal of this international award is to bring greater visibility to the critical role that religious dialogue plays in the pursuit of peace, and to provide direct support to further such activities. His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso, was named the first winner of the Guru Nanak Prize in 2008. The prize is awarded every two years.

The Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize was established with a gift from the family of the late Sardar Ishar Singh Bindra and Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra, prominent



Sikh-Americans; the family still lives in Brookville, New York.

A panel of judges composed of religious leaders, academics and individuals known for their commitment to interfaith dialogue will consider the recent and career accomplishments of

nominees. A nominee may, for example, have organized members of different faith communities to work toward a common goal; produced a work of art or literature that contributes to or publicizes the importance of interfaith dialogue; or uses a position of authority or power to bring faith communities together. Nominees may be designated on the basis of a single contribution or a lifetime of contributions.

Nominators should provide a brief description of themselves (no more than 100 words), and a two-page letter describing the individual or organization being nominated and the activities the nominator believes qualify the nominee for consideration. Nominations may be submitted via an online form at [hofstra.edu/nanakform](http://hofstra.edu/nanakform) or by email at [gurunanakprize@hofstra.edu](mailto:gurunanakprize@hofstra.edu)



## "UN Day 2019"

Ambassador Mukerji recalls, on the UN Day, the initiatives India took at the United Nations for human rights, gender Equality and multilateralism, among others.



By Ambassador Asoke  
Kumar Mukerji

**UN** Day has been celebrated on 24th October every year in India since 1948. India signed the UN Charter on 26 June 1945 at the San Francisco Conference as one of the 50 founding-members of the United Nations. The Charter came into effect on 24 October 1945 following its ratification by the majority of signatory countries, including the five original permanent members. At the Session of the UN General Assembly held on 31 October 1947, a resolution was adopted declaring 24 October as "United Nations Day". The objective of this was to highlight the aims and achievements of the United Nations, in order to sustain support for the work of this universal inter-governmental organization. India became independent of British colonial rule on 15 August 1947. The adoption of this UN General Assembly resolution less than two months after India's independence a major opportunity for her to contribute to the objectives of the UN Day Resolution.

Decolonization, a universal agenda for sustainable development, and the negotiation of the first normative frameworks for upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms are three

major achievements of the United Nations over the past 72 years. India has played a role in each of these. As the first major colonial country to gain independence, India led the process for the UN General Assembly to adopt the Decolonization Resolution in December 1960. This resolution created the platform for two major changes in the functioning of the United Nations. Both these changes were initiated by newly independent developing countries to make the United Nations more responsive to their aspirations.

The first Summit of the Nonaligned Movement was held in Belgrade in September 1961. India was among the founder members of this movement, which has grown from 24 countries to 122 countries today. The Nonaligned Movement enabled newly independent countries to assert their sovereignty in international relations at a time the world was divided into the two confrontational military alliances of the Cold War. Even today nonalignment remains a valid option for many sovereign countries as they face the growing polarization between the major powers that challenges the founding principles of the United Nations.

The second change was the creation of

the Group of 77 developing countries in the United Nations in 1964. The emergence of the G-77 compelled the UN to revisit the UN Charter's commitment to "the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples". As a result, the UNDP was established in 1965 to support the accelerated national development objectives of developing countries. India became the first Chair of the G-77 in 1970.

The convergence of the twin objectives of development and climate change resulted in the adoption of the UN's Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development in September 2015 by world leaders, including India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The objective of this initiative is to eradicate poverty through an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach on sustainable development.

India was among the three co-sponsoring member-states for the UN General Assembly resolution mandating the negotiation of the Genocide Convention of 1948 to outlaw mass atrocity crimes. India was instrumental in enshrining the legal concept of gender equality into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights treaty adopted on 10 December 1948.

The theme chosen by UN member-states



to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN next year is "reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism". This theme is significant as the UN seeks to respond to the major challenge posed to the principle of international cooperation by assertive unilateralism among the major powers. India's response to this challenge was indicated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech to the UN General Assembly in September this year, when he called on all member-states to "give new direction and energy to multilateralism, and to the United Nations." To mark UN Day, India is committed to upholding multilateralism through an inclusive, multi-polar strategic framework to meet her national interests.

*(The author is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. He can be reached at 1955pram@gmail.com)*

### AS I SEE IT



Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau

## Trudeau holds on: Onus on him to improve India-Canada ties

**C**anada's electorate has given a not-so-clear mandate. The ruling Liberal Party's victory in the general election is anything but impressive, but it has managed to buck anti-incumbency and keep the resurgent Conservatives out of power. The Liberals won 157 seats out of 338, way ahead of the main opposition party (121), even though with a lesser vote share (33.1 per cent) than that of the Conservatives (34.4 per cent). It's back to the drawing board for the Tories, who couldn't prevent a major split of the anti-Liberal vote.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has his work cut out as he prepares to form a minority government with the 'issue-based' support of left-leaning New

Democratic Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh. It was a below-par performance by the NDP as well, which got 24 seats, 20 less than its tally in the 2015 polls. However, the party's Punjab-origin leader is now in a position to keep the ruling party on its toes. Jagmeet is expected to press Trudeau to do a lot more to tackle climate change and global warming, besides seeking a significant increase in the housing and healthcare budget as well as the taxes imposed on the ultra-rich.

Even as Jagmeet is set to play the role of 'the opposition within the government', the poll results have shown that the identity politics pursued by him has failed to turn the tide for the NDP. His sympathies for Sikh separatists in the

Maple Country have made him a controversial figure in India too. Trudeau's first innings was marked by an uneasy relationship with India as his dispensation was perceived to be lenient towards Canada-based activists and groups that were trying to revive the Khalistan movement. Earlier this year, New Delhi had asked Ottawa to address its concerns in this regard. With Canada now boasting of more Sikh MPs than India, the minority community will continue to have an important bearing on the state of affairs. How the Trudeau-Jagmeet team tackles the ticklish K-issue will determine the course of bilateral ties.

*(Tribune, Chandigarh)*



### GUEST COMMENT

**As the BJP found out, hyper nationalism has its limits in Assembly polls**

**T**he alliance of the BJP and the Shiv Sena retained power in Maharashtra and the BJP emerged as the single largest party in Haryana, substantially beating anti-incumbency in both States, but also falling short of their claims and rhetoric. In Haryana, the BJP will require the support of at least six MLAs outside its fold for a majority. The Opposition, despite their sluggish campaign and scattered thinking, exceeded expectation in both States. Results of by-elections in 51 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha constituencies across 18 States were also

## Tamed Victors : On Assembly Elections

announced on Thursday. Drawing any political trend lines based on these outcomes would be premature, but certain pointers are noteworthy. The BJP had front-loaded its campaign with nationalist topics such as the status of Kashmir and the National Register of Citizens, deliberately avoiding any serious discussion on the economy and livelihood issues. It is possible that the BJP and allies got what they got because of this campaign, but these issues did not evidently overwhelm other voter concerns such as unemployment and farm crisis. The BJP and the Sena are winners, but tamed and curtailed compared to the Assembly results of 2014 and the Lok Sabha election earlier this year. The rout of many turncoats from other parties that the BJP had recruited recently is an evident expression of public

disapproval of such tactics. The results also indicate that the BJP's current arsenal is more effective in national elections. The results from Tamil Nadu where the AIADMK did well and Kerala where the Left appeared to regain some lost ground are also indicative of the differentiation that the voters tend to make between Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The Haryana Governor must now ensure that the formation of a new coalition government is transparent as there could be attempts to influence legislators and parties.

The Congress-NCP alliance in Maharashtra improved its tally considerably and in Haryana, the Congress doubled its 2014 tally. In Haryana, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) emerged as a formidable regional outfit. These are

indicators of a yearning among the electorate for an alternative to the BJP that has amassed political power but also alienated many social groups. That this growth of the Opposition has happened despite the absence of any coherence or coordination at the top is remarkable. Faced with brazen harassment by state agencies, and dispirited by serial electoral setbacks, the Opposition had become lifeless but these results indicate that prospects of an alternative are not entirely dark, particularly when it comes to State polls. The BJP might be tempted to intensify its hyper-nationalist agenda to boost its performance, while the Opposition might slip back into a comatose state, counting inaction itself as a strategy. Both would be disastrous, for the respective camps and the country.

*(The Hindu)*





# Two elections and a dent to a jingoistic edifice

The BJP's pursuit of a hypernationalist approach in Maharashtra and Haryana did not fetch it complete dividends



By Valerian Rodrigues

The BJP has been pursuing a particular strategy in Maharashtra and Haryana - a strategy in tune with its overall jingoist approach. It wanted to break the hold of the dominant castes in the two States, the Marathas in Maharashtra who form over 30% of the State's population and the Jats in Haryana, of almost the same proportion of that State's population.

It is important to step aside and reflect on the enormous significance of the electoral outcomes to the Maharashtra and Haryana state Assemblies within six months of the thumping victory of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the NDA alliance in these States to the Lok Sabha. The strength of the BJP has declined decisively in both the States in the number of seats it has won. This is particularly the case if we compare it to the Lok Sabha elections of 2019, when the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance led in 230 Assembly segments out of 288 in Maharashtra and in 79 out of 90 in Haryana.

## Impact on support base

All available evidence suggests that the BJP has suffered a dent with regard to its support base among the rural poor, the unemployed and informal labor as

well as among a significant section of farmers. Those who moved over to the BJP looking for green pastures and who were derided by their former party colleagues as 'turncoats', have not fared well, unless there were other outwitting considerations. Dalits, the minorities and other marginal sections have also reasserted their political agency, although it may seem feeble at present. The All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul (AIMIM) led by Asaduddin Owaisi, and the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi led by Prakash Ambedkar seem to have consolidated their hold over their respective constituencies, which they also clearly demonstrated in the Lok Sabha election of 2019.

In the reserved constituencies of Haryana there appears to have been a shift away from the BJP to the Congress. The intimacies of one's hearth and home represented by ethnic bonds and ties seem to have gotten off better than wider ideological appeals. At the same time, the middle class, distanced from their social attachments, as is the case in Gurgaon and the sprawling urban enclaves of Maharashtra, regions under the spell of the Sangh Parivar such as Konkan, and the non-agricultural upper castes in general seem to hold on to the BJP very ardently. It is important to point out that the ideological formation made up of Hindutva, national jingoism and majoritarianism (that has bonded the BJP and Shiv Sena) continues to appeal to significant sections in Maharashtra, although the mirage of instant jobs and riches, muscular nationalism and Pakistan-bashing did not invoke the same response in Haryana any longer. On the whole, in both the States, the difference between victory and defeat has narrowed down considerably in comparison to 2014 and 2019. Both States today have deeply divided polities with all their consequences.

This is not any State election in India: Maharashtra has the largest State GDP in India and continues to remain a major player at the Centre, a role that began right from Independence. Electoral outcomes to the State Assembly, therefore, have their ramifications on the everyday life of a wider public beyond the confines of the State. On the other hand, most of the leaders who campaigned in Haryana - this includes the Prime Minister in particular - made the Haryana elections a referendum to the dilution of Article 370 that pertained to the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. There was also generous anti-Pakistan rhetoric dished out from BJP platforms. Much of this rhetoric was clearly directed at the electorate of the State where a significantly larger proportion of young men are drawn to join the ranks of India's defense forces. That this rhetoric eventually did not succeed to deliver a clear win gives hope that national security is not a wild card that can be employed anywhere and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he speaks during an election campaign rally ahead of Assembly polls, in Hisar district of Haryana, Friday, Oct. 18, 2019. Photo / Courtesy PTI

everywhere.

## BJP, Congress strategies

The BJP has been pursuing a particular strategy in Maharashtra and Haryana - a strategy in tune with its overall jingoist approach. It wanted to break the hold of the dominant castes in the two States, the Marathas in Maharashtra who form over 30% of the State's population and the Jats in Haryana, of almost the same proportion of that State's population. Breaking the hold of dominant castes was seen as essential to reinforcing national identity and in securing a majority without the support of the minorities. In both the States, the BJP succeeded in weaning away a significant strata of dominant castes through rewards as well as using threats of deprivation. This strategy had its implications and has rebounded through new modes of political assertion by the dominant castes. They seem to have extended support to one another irrespective of the political party they belonged to.

The Congress has always worked on forging a winning combination of castes and communities for far too long and had become adept in the same. Its former president Rahul Gandhi attempted to break up this strategy of forging winning coalitions and wanting to form an ideological platform for social transformation. It proved an oxymoron. On the one hand it required that the Congress changed its representative format at all levels, political and organizational, to make it attractive to the social constituencies concerned while on the other pursuing an ideological platform of the kind invariably involved alienating entrenched interests in the Congress.

The Rahul Gandhi strategy had much to gain by reaching out to the "Marathi mannos" plank, at present the unique selling point of the Maharashtra Navnirman Samiti (MNS), to the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) bloc of Dalits, Adivasis, Dhangars, Kolis, Agris, Banjaras, Malis and Kaikadis forged by

Prakash Ambedkar by appealing to the Phule-Ambedkar mobilizational axis, and to Muslims under the AIMIM plank. In Haryana, his strategy was to forge a Dalit leadership under Ashok Tanwar which was rebuffed by Jat leadership. But with Rahul Gandhi's exit from the party leadership, the party simply went back to its old ways of welding a winning combination by falling back on its traditional leadership. While there would be some comfort in certain circles within the party with the results of the election, the party strategy can hardly be a response in the longer run to its electoral woes. Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party was mainly fighting to protect its turf, particularly in western Maharashtra, against the poaching of the BJP and attempts to discredit him, and the results show that he has succeeded in this limited objective credibly.

## The media discourse

Much of the media and opinion polls in particular supported the BJP chorus in suggesting the triumph of the BJP and its allies in both the States. Even the exit polls could not shine through such blinkers. Among the major pollsters, except for one or two the rest forecast over 200 seats to the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in Maharashtra and over 70 seats to the BJP in Haryana. While a few in this profession may be guilty of inducements, the same cannot be said about the entire trade. It may be that India's public culture is increasingly getting attuned to accept the values and claims of the BJP as normal and those opposed to it as aberrations. Such distorted readings of what undoubtedly is the most important mode of reproducing our public life has invariably done much injustice to those deleteriously affected by them. It is quite possible to argue that a fairer and more critical stance of the media would have probably led to different results.

(The author taught Political Science at Mangalore University and Jawaharlal Nehru University)



## 16 sentenced to death for burning Bangla teen alive

**DHAKA (TIP):** Sixteen persons, including the head of a madrasa, were sentenced to death by a Bangladeshi court on October 24 for burning alive a teenage girl for refusing to withdraw a sexual harassment complaint against him.

The gruesome murder took place in April when a gang of killers poured kerosene on 18-year-old Nusrat Jahan Rafi and set her afire on the roof of the madrasa in the southeastern Feni, some 162 kilometres outside Dhaka.

"They (convicts) will be hanged until death," Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Mamunur Rashid pronounced the judgement.

The incident had sparked nationwide public outrage and mass demonstrations across Bangladesh with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordering expedited investigation in the quickest possible time. She also met Rafi's family and vowed to bring the killers to justice.

The police said the madrasa's principal, Siraj Ud Doula, who was already in jail on sexual harassment charges, had ordered his cohorts to kill Rafi if she refused to withdraw the allegation.

In the chargesheet, it was stated that the teen was murdered on the principal's order. The judge simultaneously fined all the convicts 1 lakh taka (USD 1,181) each to be given to Rafi's family. The convicts include two women, a local leader of the ruling Awami League and a member of the madrasa governing committee. Bangladeshi law requires the death reference hearing in the High Court ahead of a convict's execution. — PTI

## Anger at Singapore restaurant 'grab-a-crab' machine

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** A Singapore restaurant on October 24 suspended a bizarre promotional stunt where customers use an arcade-style machine with a mechanical claw to catch live crabs after it sparked uproar online. A video of the machine, containing the creatures and emblazoned with a picture of a smiling red crab under the phrase "Come and catch me", went viral after being posted this week. The game sees customers pay \$3.7 to use a joystick to move the claw over the creatures before lowering it to try to grab one. AFP

## Thai king dismisses 6 palace officials for misconduct

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has dismissed six palace staffers, just days after stripping his royal consort of her titles and military ranks for what he termed disloyalty. The six palace officials were dismissed and stripped of their ranks and royal decorations on October 24. AP

# Pakistani opposition raises alarm about health of ex-PM Sharif

**LAHORE (PAKISTAN) (TIP):** Pakistan's main opposition party said on October 24 the health of its leader, jailed former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, is deteriorating and the government is victimising him by delaying treatment as part of a campaign against him and his family.

Sharif, 69, a three-time prime minister, is serving a seven-year jail sentence after a conviction for corruption last year.

He denied the charges that he said were politically motivated.

He was taken to hospital in the city of Lahore on Monday and his party, the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz, PML-N, has raised concern about what it says is his alarmingly low platelet count.

"He has undergone several scans and tests and doctors are still trying to find the cause," the party's deputy secretary general, Atta Tarar, told Reuters.

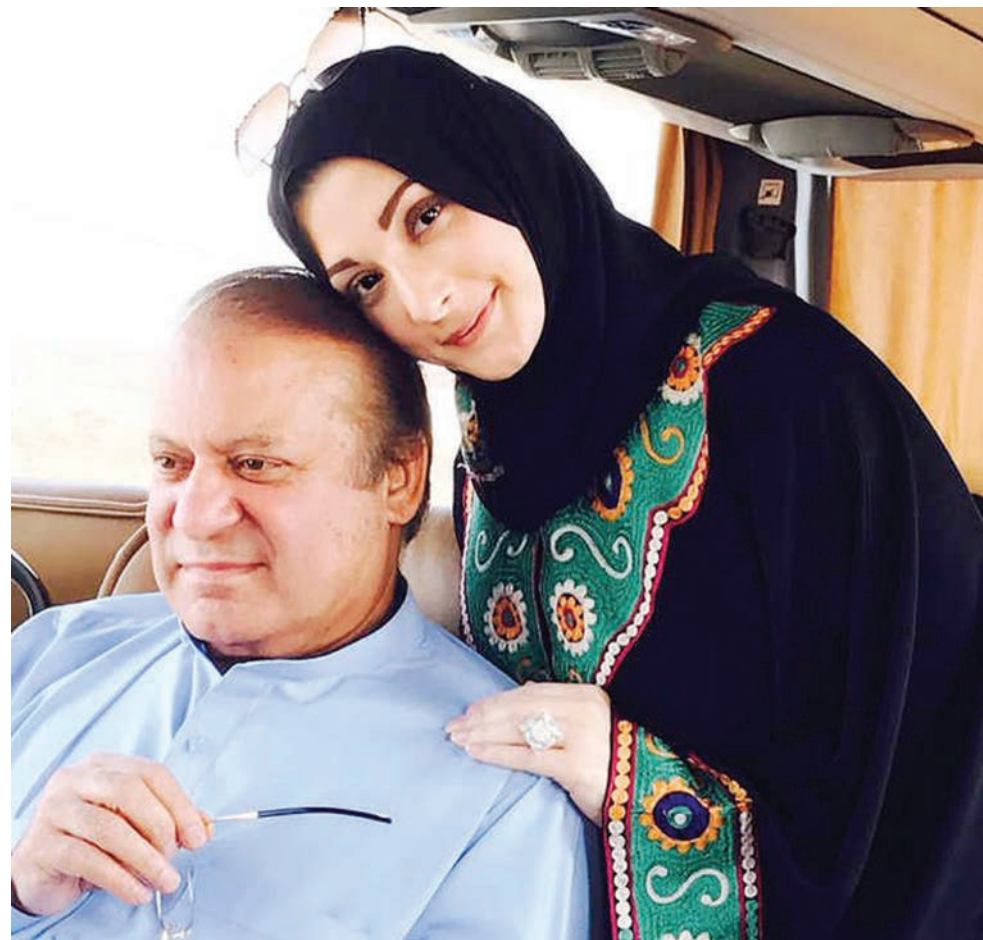
The government has dismissed party complaints about Sharif's treatment saying he is getting the attention he needs. It said Sharif had a low platelet count that might have been caused by medication he is taking.

But the party's secretary for information, Maryam Aurangzeb, condemned what she called a "deliberate delay" in Sharif's move to hospital and in his treatment.

"The government is crossing all limits of political victimisation against PML-N and the Sharif family," Aurangzeb said.

The government of Prime Minister Imran Khan denies that the legal action against Sharif and other members of his family including elder daughter Maryam Nawaz, who is also in detention for suspected graft, is politically motivated. The provincial government has said Sharif could be sent abroad for treatment, as his party has suggested, if a court allowed it.

Maryam, who recently assumed



leadership of the party and was detained in August on suspected corruption, was allowed to visit her father in hospital late on October 23. Her medical condition is also poor, party officials say. "Maryam Nawaz who was also admitted to the same hospital last night for medical reasons has been sent back to jail early Thursday," Aurangzeb said.

"It also speaks of the government's ruthlessness." Maryam, who led big anti-government rallies across the country this year, is one of the few opposition figures to openly criticise Khan and the powerful military, accusing them of stifling her party's political activity.

Sharif's younger daughter, Asma Nawaz, was travelling back to Pakistan from abroad to see her father, said another party official. "She is deeply concerned about her father's health," the official, Azma Bukhari, told Reuters.

Top officials of the other main opposition party have also been detained on suspicion of corruption.

Former President Asif Ali Zardari, widower of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was arrested by the anti-graft agency in June.

Officials of his Pakistan People's Party say his detention is government persecution. The government denies involvement in the case. Reuters

# Bored of male heroes, Afghan girl coders build their own champions

**HERAT (AFGHANISTAN) (TIP):** Like the princess who hops over goblins and throws daggers at evil wizards in the video game they built, a team of women coders in patriarchal Afghanistan wants to inspire a generation of girls to smash obstacles. The young women are part of an after-school training programme called Code to Inspire in the western city of Herat, where they learn tech skills and create games and apps to educate girls across Afghanistan and beyond.

Their highest-profile success has been this year's release of "Afghan Hero Girl", built over six months by 12 young women, a phone app in which a princess wearing a green veil leaps around a crumbling castle in a quest to defeat a wizard and rescue her family. Fereshteh Forough, a computer

science teacher and a former refugee who founded Code to Inspire in 2015, said students were sick of the lack of female representation in the gaming industry and told her they were bored of "playing games where men are superheroes".

The game represents "the challenges and obstacles that women are facing every day in Afghanistan and despite all the backlashes they keep fighting and going through it," Forough, who is now based in New York, said in an email exchange with AFP. In a country where girls often have only limited educational opportunities, internet access is patchy and women face deeply ingrained discrimination at every turn, Forough sees tech skills as having a transformative potential.

Like many Afghans, she worries about

an eventual return to power of the Taliban, who during their brutally repressive rule in the 1990s banned women from working or going outside the house. "By learning how to code you can do online remote work from the safety of your house if you (can) access the internet," she said.

"The work that we do ... is about equality, empowerment and change so that these young ladies are able to add value to their communities and fight for their social, political and economic equality," she added. Women's rights and education for girls have made significant gains since the fall of the Taliban nearly two decades ago, but challenges remain as the insurgents frequently attack girls' schools and threaten female students. AFP



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# BJANA Celebrates Diwali

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** BJANA (Bihar Jharkhand Association of America), 40+ years old organization held its annual Diwali function on Sunday, October 20th at the Royal Albert palace in Fords, New Jersey. The jam-packed event at the ball room was attended by a record number of over 500 community members and was bustling with energy throughout. The event was filled with breathtaking performances by participants of all ages ranging over 7-8 decades and every program was unique and immensely entertaining in its own way. Kids performed an amazing skit highlighting the great personalities from Bihar and Jharkhand like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sharda Sinha and M S Dhoni to name a few. The high energy dance by the BJANA women's group was definitely one you would like to watch over and over again. The program that culminated in getting a lot of couples on stage from the audience was the popular couple dance.

The Chief guest for the event was Deputy Consul General Shri. Shatrughna Sinha who spoke about the



BJANA events bringing community close to home and how it has become close to his heart. Mr. Sinha talked about hosting one business and investors summit for Bihar and Jharkhand. Dr. Sudhir Parikh spoke about his long-term Association with BJANA. The event was also graced by other dignitaries like the FIA President



Alok Kumar, many past Presidents and Community Leaders.

The President of BJANA, Mr. Vinay Singh addressed the guests by welcoming everyone and also taking them through all the activities of the BJANA and apprising every one of the fundraising and charity activities of BJANA. Dr. Avinash Gupta, BJANA Vice-President felicitated some of the Community achievers and the distinguished senior members of the Community group. Alok Kumar, FIA President urged the community to come together in raising funds for the badly flood affected regions of Bihar.

There were vendors showcasing their designer wear which definitely enticed some folks. The BJANA kids had set up a 'kids' corner' with home baked goods, the proceeds going to the Central Food Bank of New Jersey and all of their items were sold out.

The guests had a gala time enjoying the sumptuous lunch leading into open dance floor at the end. Everyone left with smiles with lots compliments for the organizing team. *(Press Release)*



## Republicans disrupt Prez impeachment probe hearing

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A US House of Representatives impeachment inquiry devolved into chaos on October 23 as Republican lawmakers, encouraged by President Donald Trump to get tougher in fighting Democratic efforts to impeach him over dealings with Ukraine, stormed into a high-security hearing room and delayed testimony by a witness. The more than two dozen Republican lawmakers, who were not authorised to attend the hearing, entered before Laura Cooper, the US defence official who oversees Ukraine and Russia matters, was due to testify behind closed doors before Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

The Republicans yelled complaints that the Democrats in charge of the inquiry were conducting it in private, lawmakers and aides said. Republicans who are members of the three congressional committees conducting the inquiry have taken part in the process throughout. After a delay of about four hours, Cooper began her testimony. It was a dramatic confrontation in the House of Representatives inquiry that threatens Republican Trump's presidency even as he seeks re-election next year. — Reuters

## US Senate Session Starts with a Sikh Prayer for the first time

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Giani Sukhvinder Singh of Philadelphia Sikh Society, Milbourn Gurdwara, created history when he prayed in the Senate Chamber Wednesday, Oct 16.

As the contingent of Sikhs descended on the nation's capital to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the birth of their founder, Guru Nanak, U.S. Sen. Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., invited Singh and other Sikhs from Delaware County to the morning prayer and an evening reception. In doing so, Singh became the first Sikh to deliver invocation in the Senate's history.

In his prayer, Giani Sukhvinder Singh touched on the commonalities shared by all faithful as he asked for guidance for the senators and all Americans. "By the grace of the true Guru, Almighty God, we call you by many names but you are one," he said. "Keep your divine hand over the members of the Senate as they help steer the future of our great nation. (Put) love in our hearts and sound judgement in our minds. Remind us of our purpose to love and serve one another and create a more peaceful world."

"There had never been a Sikh delivering the opening prayer," Toomey said. "I think it was kind of overdue for the Sikhs." On the floor of the Senate,



Giani Sukhvinder Singh of Philadelphia Sikh Society with Senator Patrick Toomey.

Photo / Courtesy Sikh Siyasat

Following the prayer, Senator Toomey paid effusive tributes to Sikhism and spoke about the enormous contributions of Sikh Americans to USA. He also expounded on the universal message of Equality of entire Humankind given by Guru Nanak 500 years back.

"Guru Nanak's most famous teachings include that there is only one God, that people ... need not go through an intermediary such as a priest to access

the one God and that all people were created equal," Toomey, a Catholic, said. "He preached that his followers should meditate and follow God, that they should earn an honest living and share with those who are less fortunate than themselves."

He also said that the Sikh faith is the sixth largest religion in the world with 30 million believers around the globe, 700,000 in the United States and between 10,000 and 30,000 in Pennsylvania.



# Sitharaman Gives Clarion Call for 'Concerted Action' to Handle Global Slowdown

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the IMF - World Bank Annual Meetings 2019 - gave a clarion call for 'concerted action' to mitigate the disruption on account of synchronous slowdown and to invoke the spirit of multilateralism for global growth.

On the side-lines of the Annual Meetings, she also attended the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings of the G20 and the BRICS. She took this opportunity to also interact with industrial and institutional investors in New York and in Washington DC and hold bilateral meetings with Finance Ministers of some countries and others. There were 30 meetings of the World Bank/ IMF/ G20/ BRICS, investors and bilateral meetings.

Sitharaman led the Indian delegation to the Annual Meetings Plenary session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group held on Oct 18, 2019 in Washington DC. She also attended the Working Lunch Session of the Development Committee (DC), the ministerial-level committee of the IMF and the World Bank. In the DC Lunch, the members discussed about the global



India's Finance Minister was on an official tour to Washington DC to attend the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank and other associated meetings

Picture / courtesy Indian Embassy

economic outlook. In her intervention, the Finance Minister mentioned that trade wars and protectionism have generated uncertainties that will

ultimately impact flow of capital, goods and services. She called for 'concerted action' to mitigate the disruption on account of synchronous slowdown and

to invoke the spirit of multilateralism for global growth. She further said that the increased trade integration, geopolitical uncertainties, and high accumulated debt levels necessitate strong global coordination and that we need not wait for the slowdown to become a crisis.

Earlier in the day, Sitharaman also led the Indian delegation to the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in which the deliberations centered on international taxation and Stablecoins. The Ministers and Governors also took updates from the G20 Deputies on Quality Infrastructure Investment, Debt Sustainability, Financing for Universal Health Care and Building Effective Country Platforms, and from the Africa Advisory Group on the Compact with Africa (CwA) initiative. On the discussions at the session regarding the work underway on developing a consensus solution on tax challenges arising from digitalization, the Finance Minister stated that a unified approach to the nexus and profit allocation challenges is a promising one that merits serious attention. A solution that is simple to implement, simple to administer and simple to comply with is needed.

## USISPF Board Meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi



USISPF Board members with PM Narendra Modi

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** On October 21, a delegation of USISPF board members led by USISPF Chairman John Chambers met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss avenues for strengthening U.S.-India bilateral relations, growing private sector initiatives, and ease of doing business in the country. USISPF Board members expressed optimism in India's reform agenda on the back of several reforms such as the reduction in corporate taxes, roll-back of angel tax among others. There was strong consensus within the group to accelerate US industry engagement in India's start-up and innovation space and deepen

commitment to raise the standard of living.

The delegation also presented Prime Minister Modi with three recent USISPF reports: on U.S.-India bilateral trade (report estimates that by 2025, bilateral trade could range between \$283 billion to \$327 billion); high-tech manufacturing (identifying the potential for India's high-tech sectors to offer an additional investment of \$21 billion, and create jobs for the Indian economy); and coal gasification (USISPF has constituted a working group of American and Indian companies in the coal gasification sector, and is working with the Government of India to bring the latest technology and



Hardeep Singh Puri spoke with KPMG India CEO & Chairman Arun Kumar on the role of trade in the US-India relationship

investments in this sector).

USISPF also hosted its annual board meeting in New Delhi, on October 20. The guest of honor at this year's meeting was the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, who spoke with KPMG India CEO & Chairman Arun Kumar on the role of trade in the US-India relationship.

Minister Puri provided insight that the trade issues on the table "are not of serious nature" and, in many cases, are close to resolution. He also highlighted

that the relationship between the US and India goes far beyond these issues, although "the trade component also reflects the nature of the relationship."

Other guests included Members of Parliament, Government of India officials, and Edgard Kagan, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy. Ambassador Ken Juster, the U.S. ambassador to India, also met with the board to discuss the bilateral relationship and ways to deepen US-India relations.



## 8 HARYANA MINISTERS LOSE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

**CHANDIGARH (TIP):** Eight Haryana ministers lost the assembly elections, which saw just two of the 10 ministers fielded by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) returning to the state assembly.

Cabinet minister and five-time MLA Anil Vij retained his traditional bastion of Ambala Cantonment, whereas minister of state Dr Banwari Lal emerged victorious from Bawal.

Vij drubbed Congress rebel Chitra Sarwara, who fought as independent, by over 20,000 votes.

Dr Lal retained Bawal, defeating Dr ML Ranga by over 32,000 votes.

The minister who lost the elections are Ram Bilas Sharma (Mahendragarh), Capt Abhimanyu (Narnaund), Om Prakash Dhankar (Badli), Kavita Jain (Sonipat), Krishan Lal Panwar (Israna), Manish Kumar Grover (Rohtak), Krishan Kumar Bedi (Shahbad), and Karan Dev Kamboj (Radaur).

The BJP had earlier denied tickets to two of its ministers-Vipul Goel and Rao Narbir Singh.

The saffron party's idea of shifting minister Karan Dev Kamboj from Indri to Raduar also failed to yield positive results.

Manohar Lal Khattar retained his Karnal constituency.

Grover and Kamboj lost to their rivals by just over 2,000 votes, whereas other ministers faced defeat by over 10,000 votes.

Lone woman minister in the Khattar cabinet, Kavita Jain, a three-time MLA, lost her traditional Sonipat seat to Surender Panwar of the Congress by a margin of over 32,000 votes.

Among the other prominent faces for the ruling BJP who tasted defeat in the elections was its state president Subhash Barala.

Subhash Barala lost the contest from Tohana to Jannayak Janta Party candidate Devender Singh by a huge margin of 52,302 votes.

BJP's Prem Lata, the wife of former Union minister and prominent Jat leader Birender Singh, was defeated by JJP leader Dushyant Chautala by 47,452 votes from Uchana Kalan.

The Congress witnessed a major upset in Kaithal, where senior party leader Randeep Singh Surjewala lost to BJP's Leela Ram.

The three-time legislator and Congress Party's chief spokesperson was defeated by a margin of 1,246 votes. It was a second blow to Surjewala, who had tasted defeat in the Jind byelections early this year.

Congress candidate and former Haryana Assembly speaker Kuldeep Sharma also faced defeat at the hands of BJP nominee Nirmal Rani from Ganaur.

Kuldeep Sharma was defeated with a margin of over 10,000 votes.

Former BCCI president Ranbir Singh Mahendra's defeat was another setback for the party. He lost to JJP's Naina Chauatla from Badhra with a margin of over 13,000 votes.

Senior Congress leaders Karan Dalal and Anand Singh Dangi also faced defeat. While Dalal was trounced by BJP candidate Deepak Mangla from Palwal, Dangi lost to independent candidate Balraj Kundu from Meham.

Congress candidate Ashok Arora, who switched over from the INLD before the polls, was defeated by BJP's Subhash Sudha from Thanesar.

# Maha, Haryana results may affect BJP's Rajya Sabha math

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A poorer than expected performance in Haryana and Maharashtra will hurt the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Rajya Sabha.

A better performance in these two states would have helped the BJP in making up for its potential losses because of its assembly election losses in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in 2018. Still, Thursday's results will mean only a marginal decline in the Rajya Sabha seats for the BJP (and BJP-Shiv Sena) for these two states and an equally marginal increase for the Congress.

Maharashtra and Haryana send 19 and five members respectively to the Rajya Sabha. Of the five members from Haryana, the Congress has just one, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has three while Subash Chandra is an independent. To be sure, Chandra was backed by the BJP. In Maharashtra, the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have seven MPs, while the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 11 MPs.

Of the five Rajya Sabha seats from Haryana, two each will have elections in 2020 and 2022. Of the 19 Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra, seven will have elections in 2020, while another six will have elections in 2022. The other seats in both Haryana and Maharashtra will only be up for re-election in 2024. Among the 13 Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra which will be up for election in 2020 and 2022, the NDA has seven seats while the Congress-NCP has five.

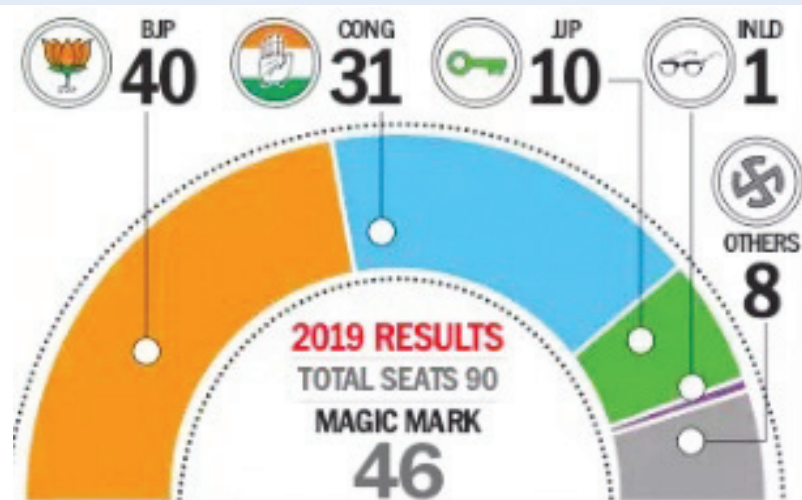
Among the four Rajya Sabha seats which will go to polls in 2020 and 2022 in Haryana, the Congress has just one.

According to information given by PRS legislative research, the number of MLAs required to elect a Rajya Sabha MP in Haryana and Maharashtra is 30 and 36 respectively.

Since two seats will go to polls in Haryana and seven seats will go to polls in Maharashtra simultaneously in 2020, the BJP will not have enough votes of its own to send more than one Rajya Sabha member in Haryana and the BJP-Shiv Sena, with a tally of 163 seats,



## HARYANA

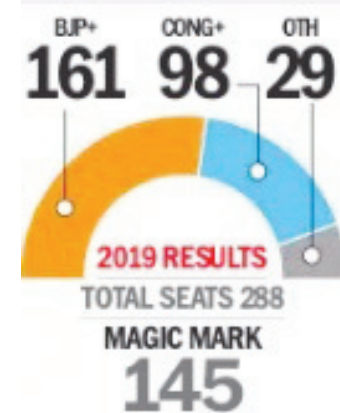


will be able to send four Rajya Sabha MPs from Maharashtra. The Congress will be able to send one Rajya Sabha MP from Haryana, and the Congress-NCP combine, with a tally of 103, two from Maharashtra in 2020. Things will be more or less similar in the 2022 polls, as the number of seats which will have elections are same in Haryana and one less in Maharashtra.

Given the fact that parties which are not aligned with either the BJP or the Congress have gained a significant number of seats, 18 in Haryana and 20 in Maharashtra, they too will play a significant role in determining who gets to send its members from the Rajya Sabha.

The BJP which has 82 MPs in the upper house currently, against the Congress's 45, will also suffer some losses in its Rajya Sabha

## MAHARASHTRA



tally from the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, where it lost to the Congress in 2018.

Source: HT

## 6 short of majority, BJP govt may be back in Haryana

**CHANDIGARH (TIP):** With the BJP winning 40 seats in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar seems set to head a minority government in the state with the help of Independents. Though the BJP failed to cross the halfway mark, PM Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah today left nobody in doubt that Khattar would head the government in the state.

"The people of Maharashtra and Haryana have reposed their trust in the CMs of the two states and they will work even harder in the next five years to serve them," the PM said while addressing workers at the BJP headquarters in Delhi. The BJP Parliamentary Board

authorised Shah to take all decisions regarding government formation in Haryana and Maharashtra. Sources said the CMs of the two states would not be changed.

Sources said Rania Independent MLA Ranjit Singh and Sirsa MLA Gopal Kanda were already on their way to Delhi, accompanied by a BJP MP, to meet Shah. They are expected to lend support to the party. While the BJP won 40 seats, the Congress sprung a surprise bagging 31 seats. Despite PM's public signal on the formation of a BJP government in Haryana, the Congress kept hopes of a post-poll coalition in the state alive with top leaders urging Opposition unity to keep the saffron brigade at bay.





# Kartarpur Corridor agreement signed, pilgrims can carry Rs 11,000 and a 7kg bag

**DERA BABA NANAK (TIP):** India and Pakistan finally signed on Thursday an agreement to operationalise the Kartarpur Corridor paving way for Indian Sikh pilgrims to pay visit the holy Darbar Sahib shrine in Pakistan. Pakistan has assured India to make sufficient provision for Langar (community kitchen) and distribution of "Prasad".

The main point of contention in the signing of the Kartarpur Corridor agreement was the insistence of Pakistan to levy \$20 as service charge per pilgrim per visit. India has consistently urged Pakistan to not levy any fee on the pilgrims.

In the previous three secretary-level meetings, India pushed for a levy-free pilgrimage for the devotees arguing that levy on pilgrims is not in consonance with the religious and spiritual sentiments of people.

India, however, agreed for the Kartarpur Corridor agreement "in the interest of the pilgrims" and timely opening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor before the 550th Prakash Purab.

While the Agreement has been signed, India has again urged Pakistan to reconsider its insistence on levying the fee. India is ready to amend the agreement accordingly.

Meanwhile, the home ministry



Officials of India and Pakistan after signing an agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor in Gurdaspur on Thursday.

has issued a "dos and don'ts" for the pilgrims. Children below 13 years and elderly persons of about 75 years and above will have to travel in groups. The pilgrims will travel in the morning and shall have to return the same day.

Pilgrims, who wish to visit the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur in Pakistan will be allowed to carry a maximum of Rs 11,000 and a 7-kg bag, and will not be allowed to venture beyond the shrine.

Eco-friendly material, preferably cloth bags, should be used during the pilgrimage and the surroundings should be kept clean.

The pilgrims will be allowed to visit only Sri Kartarpur Sahib and not anywhere outside.

All pilgrims who propose to visit Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal district of Pakistan, will have to register online ([prakashpurb550.mha.gov.in](http://prakashpurb550.mha.gov.in)) in advance and the applicant is required to register himself/herself in advance of proposed date of travel.

Registration does not confer a right to travel, the Home Ministry said. Pilgrims will be informed by SMS and email of the confirmation of registration 3 to 4 days in advance of the date of travel.

## CHIDAMBARAM TO SPEND DIWALI IN JAIL, CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL OCT 30

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A Delhi court on Thursday allowed the Enforcement Directorate to extend senior Congress leader P Chidambaram's remand till October 30 in the INX Media money laundering case.

Chidambaram, 74, who was granted bail by the Supreme Court on Tuesday in the INX media corruption case filed by the CBI, is under the ED's custody.

He was arrested by the CBI on August 21 in the INX Media corruption case.

The case was registered on May 15, 2017 alleging irregularities in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007, during Chidambaram's tenure as finance minister.

Chidambaram has also contended in his application that both the CBI and ED case arise out of the same financial transaction and therefore, there cannot be separate remand for both.

The plea further claims that Chidambaram was always available for questioning by the ED and had appeared before the agency and answered all questions on all the four dates he was summoned, the last being February 8.

## On J&K, SC asks govt how long curbs will continue

**New Delhi (TIP):** The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre how long it intends to continue with the restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

"For how many days do you want restrictions? It is already two months now. You have to come clear on this and you have to find out other methods," a bench of Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai said.

"You may impose restrictions, but you (government) have to review your decisions."

During the hearing, the court also pointed out that the judges do not have any personal life. "My brother (Justice Gavai) had a family function today and he wanted to skip the day in court. But I requested him to come."

The court which was hearing various miscellaneous petitions seeking relaxation and other issues in the Valley, listed the matter for November 5.

## PM Modi may ink key pacts in Saudi Arabia next week

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India and Saudi Arabia will sign several agreements, including one on forming a Strategic Partnership Council and another on a joint venture for retail outlets for petroleum products, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Riyadh next week.

Modi, visiting the kingdom at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, will hold a bilateral meeting with the Saudi ruler and delegation-level talks with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman on October 29. He will deliver the keynote address at the plenary session of the Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh the same day.

The Strategic Partnership Council, which will be headed by PM Modi and the Saudi crown prince, was first mooted during Mohammad bin Salman's visit to India in February. The agreement on the council will be signed during Modi's meeting with King Salman, said TS Tirumurthy, secretary (economic relations) in the external affairs ministry.

The council will serve as an institutional mechanism to monitor progress in the bilateral strategic partnership, which has expanded in recent years from energy security to wide-ranging cooperation in defence and security, including information-sharing for counterterrorism.

# Envoys of 84 nations make history, pay obeisance at Golden Temple

**AMRITSAR (TIP):** A total of 85 foreign envoys and high-level functionaries on Tuesday paid an obeisance at the Golden Temple, the holiest of Sikh shrine, as they attended celebrations to mark the upcoming 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh master.

They were accompanied by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations' (ICCR) President Vinay Sahasrabudde.

After paying obeisance, the delegation partook 'langar' in the shrine complex.

The diplomats include Ambassadors of Australia, Mongolia, Morocco, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The Deputy Chief of the US Mission is also part of the delegation.

The visit is organised by the ICCR in collaboration with the Punjab government and the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee. "During my visit with the Resident Foreign Heads of Missions to Guru Di Nagri, I was



delighted to meet some of my old friends & prominent citizens of the holy city," Puri tweeted. Shriomani Gurdwara

Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Gobind Singh Longowal received them and presented them 'siropa' (robe of honour).



## Three dead after flooding in France

**PARIS (TIP):** Three persons have died after several days of heavy storms that sent rivers flooding over their banks across southern France, causing “significant damage,” the interior minister said October 24.

Rescue workers have carried out nearly 1,800 operations since Sunday, Christophe Castaner said in a statement, after eight departments were placed on high alert for flash floods.

He did not provide details on when or how the deaths occurred, but an interior ministry official said they were in the Herault, Gard and Pyrenees-Orientales departments. Around 700 homes remain without power in Herault and Gard. — AFP

## S Korea's top convenience store chain drops flavoured liquid e-cigarettes

**SEOUL (TIP) :** South Korea's top convenience store chain GS25 has stopped selling flavoured liquid e-cigarettes, the parent company GS Retail said on October 24.

The sales suspension came a day after the country's health minister warned the public to stop using liquid vaping products, citing a number of deaths attributed to e-cigarettes in the United States. GS25 halted sales of three flavoured vape products of US e-cigarette maker Juul Labs, including “tropical” — the equivalent of mango flavour offered in the United States — and one product of a local tobacco company KT&G, the parent company said in a statement. The convenience store firm plans to consider whether to expand its sales suspension to all liquid e-vaping products, after results of the South Korean government's investigation into the products are known. The South Korean office of Juul Labs and KT&G were not immediately available for comment. Reuters

## In Mexico, El Chapo's sons add brash new chapter to crime family

**CULIACAN (MEXICO) (TIP):** The mug shot-style photo of Ovidio Guzman that appeared as he was apprehended oozed defiance. Chin jutting out, eyes trained on the camera, the handsome youth bore a strong resemblance to his infamous father, jailed drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman. He had reason to be cocksure. In response to his capture in an upscale neighborhood, hundreds of heavily-armed Sinaloa Cartel henchmen, guns blazing, were pouring into Culiacan, briefly taking the modern city of about a million people near Mexico's Pacific coast hostage. Within hours they had pried him loose from authorities. It was like nothing Mexico had seen before, a military-style operation that outfoxed and outnumbered security forces, leaving the city shocked and smoldering. (Reuters)

# France reopens disputed ancient tomb in Jerusalem

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** An ancient tomb in Jerusalem prized for its archaeological and religious importance was reopened for visits on October 24 by France, which owns it, after a dispute over access scuttled an earlier attempt.

The site known as the Tomb of the Kings in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem can now be visited during set hours twice per week, but visitors must pre-register online and pay a 10-shekel fee (USD 3), the French consulate said.

Around 30 people—the most allowed at one time due to the sensitivity of the site—visited when the gates opened on Thursday morning, mainly ultra-Orthodox Jews who wanted to pray inside.

Around a dozen other ultra-Orthodox danced and prayed outside the gates while they waited for their turn to visit the 2,000-year-old tomb as police kept a close eye.

“This is a special event,” said Yehuda Twerski, a 20-year-old ultra-Orthodox Jew from New York studying religion in Jerusalem.

“We're going in there to pray. Perhaps with proper negotiations maybe it will be open more often to the public.”

Ultra-Orthodox Jews describe the tomb as a holy burial site of ancient ancestors.

France had attempted to open the site to visitors in June after having kept it closed since 2010, initially due to renovations but later because attempts to contest its ownership complicated its reopening. It however immediately re-closed the site after a group of more than



a dozen ultra-Orthodox tried to enter and pray despite not having signed up as requested, shoving toward the gate.

The site is a remarkable example of a Roman-era tomb, considered among the largest in the region.

Its unique status, Jewish veneration of the burial site and its location in the disputed east of the city added to complications in reopening it.

Archaeological sites in east Jerusalem are often freighted with religious significance and questions linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

There had been a challenge at Israel's rabbinical court—which rules on matters related to Jewish law and holy sites—over access to the tomb and

France's ownership.

Before reopening the site, France sought guarantees from Israel that it would not face legal challenges as well as commitments on how visits would be managed.

It is facing a separate court challenge to its ownership in Paris by a religious association linked to Israel's chief rabbinate, said the association's lawyer, Gilles-William Goldnadel.

The French court is expected to examine the complaint sometime next year, Goldnadel told AFP.

Visitors are not allowed to descend into the tomb itself and can only visit the exterior, which includes ritual baths and an ancient frieze above its entry. — AFP

# Hong Kong businessman pays USD 1 mn for parking space

**HONG KONG (TIP):** Hong Kong might be heading for recession after months of violent protests but that hasn't stopped one businessman from forking out almost USD 1 million for a parking spot.

The mind-boggling sum paid by Johnny Cheung Shun-ye highlights the gaping inequality that has helped fuel nearly five months of demonstrations in the financial hub, where one in five people live below the poverty line.

The HK\$7.6 million (USD 9,70,000) price tag is more than 30 times the average annual wage in Hong Kong and about the same as a one-bed apartment in London's plush Chelsea area.

It is situated in The Centre, the city's fifth-highest skyscraper, which hit the headlines in October 2017 when it became the world's most expensive office building after Hong Kong's richest man sold it for more than USD 5 billion.

The purchase comes even though there are growing concerns about the



**The mind-boggling sum paid by Johnny Cheung Shun-ye highlights the gaping inequality that has helped fuel nearly five months of demonstrations in the financial hub, where one in five people live below the poverty line.**

impact of the pro-democracy demonstrations on the city's real estate market with property firms' share prices plunging in recent months, as they are forced to offer discounts on new projects and cut office rents.

The economy has been tipped to grow just 0-1.0 per cent this year, the worst rate since 2009 during the global financial crisis.

“A lot of those owners in The Centre are in finance or in other high-growth businesses,” Stanley Poon, a managing director at Centaline Commercial, said.

“To these tycoons, it's not a significant purchase if you compare it to the value of the office floors they own.” Hong Kong's white-hot property market has become a political issue as costs continue to soar, forcing some small businesses to close owing to sky-high rents while many residents cannot afford to buy or lease decent homes.

Commercial and residential property prices have been fuelled by an influx of money from wealthy mainland Chinese investors and developers. — AFP





# 39 people found dead in truck near London were Chinese: Reports

**LONDON (TIP):** The 39 people found dead in a truck in Britain were Chinese nationals, British media outlets reported on Thursday, citing sources.

The victims were discovered in a container on the back of a truck in Grays, east of London, on Wednesday, shortly after arriving by ferry from Belgium.

The local Essex Police force, which is working with immigration officials, said their initial priority was to try to identify the victims, thought to be 38 adults and one teenager.

The truck was moved Wednesday to a more secure location at the nearby Tilbury docks so the bodies could be removed.

Essex Police and the Chinese embassy in London did not respond to requests for comment.

In 2000, the bodies of 58 clandestine Chinese immigrants were discovered in a Dutch truck at the south-eastern English port of Dover. Two people survived. — AFP



Police officers drive away a lorry in which was discovered 39 dead bodies, at Waterglade Industrial Park in Grays, east of London on October 23, 2019. — AFP

# Chinese ship heads away from Vietnam after disputed surveys in South China Sea

**HANOI (TIP):** A Chinese oil survey vessel that has been embroiled in a tense standoff with Vietnamese vessels in the South China Sea left Vietnamese-controlled waters on Thursday after more than three months, marine data showed.

The Chinese vessel, the Haiyang Dizhi 8, was speeding away from Vietnam's exclusive economic zone towards China on Thursday morning under the escort of at least two other Chinese ships, according to data from Marine Traffic, a website that tracks vessel movements.

China claims almost all the energy-rich waters of the South China Sea but neighbours Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

Tension between Hanoi and Beijing escalated when China sent the vessel to conduct seismic surveys in waters off Vietnam in early July.

The foreign ministry in Hanoi has repeatedly accused the vessel and its escorts of violating Vietnam's sovereignty and has demanded that China remove its ships from the area.

The ministry did not respond immediately to a Reuters email seeking comment on Thursday.

Police broke up a brief protest in August outside the Chinese embassy in Hanoi over the survey vessel.

"China doesn't want any non-ASEAN companies to drill for oil in the South China Sea," said Ha Hoang Hop, a member of the International Institute

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for Strategic Studies.

Hop also said China only withdrew the vessel shortly after the oilrig Hakuryu-5 completed its drilling at Vietnam's Block 06.1, which is operated by Russian state oil firm Rosneft.

Chinese coastguard ships have also been operating within the oil block since the standoff began, the Marine Traffic data showed.

Rosneft did not respond immediately to an email requesting comment.

"China is determined to pressure Vietnam to end joint oil exploration and production with foreign partners in the area," said Hop, who is also a visiting senior fellow at the Singapore-based ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

PetroVietnam told Spanish energy firm Repsol last year to halt an offshore oil project under pressure from China, and a unit of Rosneft expressed its concern that its recent drilling could upset China.

Vietnamese President and Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong called last week for restraint in the South China Sea, saying Vietnam should "never compromise" on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Chinese defence minister Wei Fenghe said on Monday the South China Sea is an inalienable part of China's territory. "We will not allow even an inch of territory that our ancestors have left to us to be taken away," Wei said.

The Chinese vessel had been thought to have stopped the surveys when it headed away from Vietnam's exclusive economic zone in early August to Fiery Cross Reef, a man-made island controlled by China that was built on a disputed South China Sea reef. Vietnam and the Philippines also have competing claims on the reef.

"It's very likely that China will send an oil rig to drill in the area where the Haiyang Dizhi 8 had conducted seismic surveys in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone," Hop said. — Reuters

## Johnson calls for election on December 12

**LONDON (TIP):** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday offered MPs more time to debate his Brexit Bill but only if they agree to a General Election on December 12.

His latest announcement came soon after an urgent Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street and ahead of a confirmation from the European Union (EU) on whether it is open to an extension to the October 31 Brexit deadline, which is expected on Friday.

"The way to get Brexit done is, I think, to be reasonable with Parliament and say if they genuinely want more time to study this excellent deal, they can have it, but they have to agree to a General Election on 12 December," said Johnson.

"It's time frankly that the Opposition summoned up the nerve to submit themselves to the judgement of our collective boss, which is the people of the UK," he said.

Johnson had struck a renewed withdrawal agreement with the EU last week, which ditched the controversial Irish backstop clause, and went on in theory to find the backing of MPs in a vote 329 to 299 earlier this week. — PTI

## ITALIAN COUPLE SAVED FROM LANDSLIDE BY THEIR CATS

**ROME (TIP):** An Italian couple survived a landslide that caused their house to collapse after being woken by their cats, giving them time to escape, media reported October 24.

"My wife got up because Simba and Mose, our cats, were making a noise and woke us up," Claudio Piana told the Secolo XIX newspaper, as violent storms lashed northern Italy, killing a taxi driver and forcing dozens of people from their homes.

"She realised they were playing with a piece of plaster which had just fallen off the ceiling. Then we saw cracks opening in the walls," he said.

Piana and his wife Sabrina Pellegrini had gone to bed at home in Campo Ligure on Monday night as fierce rains across the Liguria region saw rivers burst their banks, washed away a bridge and sparked landslides.

Unbeknown to them, one such landslide had damaged the house's foundations, the newspaper said.

The couple rushed out to the car, but found themselves trapped by a sea of mud. They were rescued by firefighters.

"My brother then called and said 'Claudio, your house has collapsed'," Piana said.

A video published on the daily's website showed the two-storey home reduced to pile of rubble.

"Now we have nothing. The firefighters said we can never go back into the house, it's too dangerous," he added.

"At least Simba and Mose survived." AFP



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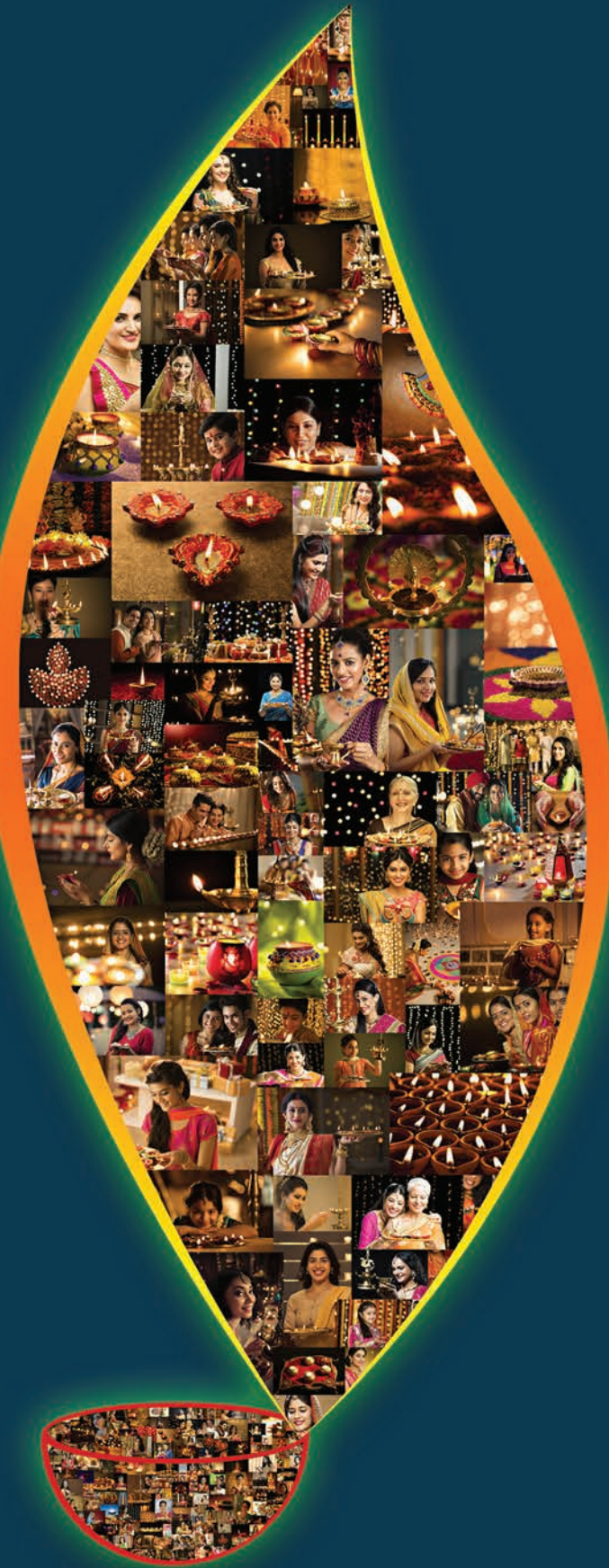




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Happy  
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# Roysten Abel's Sufi Seduction At LC's White Light Festival

By Mabel Pais

At New York's Lincoln Center, "The White Light Festival" celebrates its tenth anniversary, October 19 - November 24, with works that stimulate spirit and mind alike.

At The White Light Festival, one of the events is a rapturous theatrical concert unfolding. Sufi Musicians from Northwest India are attempting to seduce the audience.



Roysten Abel

From darkness to dazzling, show-stopping light: The White Light Festival welcomes back "The Manganiyar Seduction," a musical dance of delirium that had its U.S. premiere in the Festival's inaugural season of 2010 and returned in 2013 due to popular demand.

Conceived by Indian director Roysten Abel, about 43 Sufi musicians, led by Deu Khan, are arranged in four levels of red-curtained, brightly lit boxes. This seduction of the spirit begins quietly with a solitary desert fiddle and builds to an ecstatic eruption of sound, light, and color as the Manganiyar community takes audiences into and beyond their world.

## Program

The Manganiyar Seduction

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Rose Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

Roysten Abel, concept and director

Deu Khan, conductor

With Manganiyar musicians

Performance time: 75 minutes

Post-performance talk with Roysten Abel and John Schaefer on Friday, November 8

Watch this video, for a sneak peek into their performance

<https://youtu.be/SfNgAvxswdo>

To learn more about the White Light Festival, visit [lincolncenter.org/white-light-festival](http://lincolncenter.org/white-light-festival)

To learn more about The Manganiyar Seduction, visit [lincolncenter.org/white-light-festival/show/the-manganiyar-seduction](http://lincolncenter.org/white-light-festival/show/the-manganiyar-seduction)

For tickets, call 212 721 6500 or visit [White-Light-Festival.org](http://White-Light-Festival.org)

## The Manganiyar Musicians

The Manganiyars are a caste of Sufi Muslim Musicians from the Northwest desert regions of India who incorporate Hindu deities into their devotional songs. They traditionally performed for the kings of Rajasthan in India.

Over the years, their patrons have shifted from kings to other wealthy patrons. Their repertoire ranges from ballads about the kings to Sufi poems, set to music, written by various mystics. They also have songs for various occasions such as births, marriages, and feasts. Even though they are classified as folk musicians, their traditional music is classical and clearly indicates the roots of classical music in India. The rawness of the folk juxtaposed with the complexities of classical music is what makes their music so special.

## The Manganiyar Seduction

The Manganiyar seduction was first created in 2006 and opened the Osian Film Festival in Delhi, India. The success of the show got it on the road. This project allowed Roysten to collaborate with the Manganiyar



Deu Khan conducts the Manganiyar performers

**“These challenging times give ever greater meaning and resonance to the (White Light) Festival”**  
- Jane Moss, Creator-Artistic Director, White Light Festival, Lincoln Center

**“...with the Manganiyars, even after hearing them a thousand times, they still keep seducing me”**  
- Roysten Abel, Creator-Director, 'The Manganiyar Seduction'

**“The show received a standing ovation that lasted long after the musicians, finished with their performances, closed their curtains, turned off their lights and exited the stage”**  
- The Wall Street Journal

**“I found it impossible to sit still, so buoyant and compelling were the work's lively rhythmic currents.”**  
New York Times

musicians for the first time.

The concept creates a dazzling union between the Manganiyar's music and the visual seduction of a magic box. 43 musicians are seated in 36 red-curtained cubicles arranged in four horizontal rows one on top of the other; and the concert begins when a single cubicle lights up and the first singer begins his song. It's like ... asking for some kind of a blessing before they begin the piece. Soon another cubicle lights up and then another thus creating a dramatic and astounding build-up of musical instruments and voice as young men, women, children and the elderly of the Manganiyar community take you into a world which is even beyond yours or their own.

## Roysten Abel

Director Roysten Abel was born in Kerala, South India. He did his schooling at Good Shepherd International School, Ooty, and it was here that he started writing and directing plays. Little did he know that he would continue doing this for life. He went on to study commerce in college but dropped out twice after enrolling in two different colleges. Bored with commerce and business, which he had to do at his parents' insistence, some strange providence made him ask himself what he enjoyed most in his life, and the only thing he could think of were the plays he had done in school. He discarded the family business, joined drama school, and informed his parents after he had taken admission.

Abel graduated from the National School of Drama in 1994 and then went to apprentice with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the same year. He came back to India in 1995, founded the "Indian Shakespeare Company," and as the name suggests, his initial work was mostly Shakespeare. A major turning point in Abel's life was in 1999 when he devised and directed "Othello": a play in black and white, which was his first original work. It went on to win the Scotsman Fringe First Award and since then has toured extensively around the world. This work



The troupe of performers Photos / Courtesy, Roysten Abel

earned him national and international recognition and what followed was a spate of original works, which he conceived and directed. Some of these plays were produced in India and some in Europe.

He then started to work with out-of-work street performers (magicians, jugglers, impersonators, snake charmers, acrobats, musicians, puppeteers, etc.). This work was noticed in Italy and Abel was invited to conceive and direct a play on Fellini in Rimini, Fellini's hometown.

That same winter, he returned to India and created a play called the "Spirit of Anne Frank," which starred the biggest female stars in the country. Soon after this, he went on to do his first feature film "Othello," which was his first step into cinema.

He later started to work with musicians on theatrical music productions and his two productions "The Manganiyar Seduction" with fifty Manganiyar musicians and one-hundred snake charmers is currently on a world tour.

## Deu Khan

Deu Khan (Conductor) was born in a small village called Keraliya in Jaisalmer, India. At a very young age, his parents recognized his interest in music. He was then sent to another small village, Hamira, to live with his maternal uncle, Sakar Khan, who is a grand Master of Music within the Manganiyar community. Mr. Khan learned to play the kartal in this environment of musicians, and after a few years became a respectable musician within the community. He met Roysten Abel in 2003 when he took part in Jiyo, Abel's theater production. The pair continued to collaborate over the next two years, and Mr. Khan introduced Abel to the Manganiyar community. Abel then created The Manganiyar Seduction and trained Mr. Khan to conduct the production.

## The White Light Festival

The White Light Festival of Lincoln Center, New York, is a multidisciplinary fall festival focusing on music's capacity to illuminate the many dimensions of our interior lives. Initiated in 2010, the Festival explores music's spiritual power as revealed in different cultural traditions.

"The resonance of the White Light Festival has only deepened during its first decade, as we have moved into far more challenging times here and around the world," said Jane Moss, Ehrenkranz Artistic Director of Lincoln Center. "The Festival's central theme, namely the singular capacity of artistic expression to illuminate what is inside ourselves and connect us to others, is more relevant than ever. This 10th anniversary edition spanning disparate countries, cultures, disciplines and genres emphasizes that the elevation of the spirit the arts inspires uniquely unites us and expands who we are."

(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))



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# DOC NYC 2019: 10TH ANNIVERSARY

## NOVEMBER 6 - 15, 2019

**Festival's Biggest Slate Ever Includes 28 World Premieres, 27 US Premieres Among More Than 300 Films and Events**  
**"Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and The Band" Opens Festival,**  
**"The Capote Tapes" Closes Event,**  
**"Bikram: Yoga, Guru, Predator" Screens as Centerpiece**  
**Films of South Asian connection to note include: "Bikram: Yoga, Guru, Predator" (Centerpiece film) by Eva Orner, "About Love" by Archana Phadke, and "Hungry To Learn" by Geeta Gandbhir.**

DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, celebrates its tenth edition November 6-15, 2019 at the IFC Center in Greenwich Village and Chelsea's SVA Theatre and Cinépolis Chelsea.

The 2019 Festival showcases 136 feature documentaries (including 28 world premieres, 27 US premieres and 59 NYC premieres) among over 300 films and events. Additional highlights include DOC NYC PRO—a series of in-depth panels and master classes—and the Visionaries Tribute awards ceremony honoring major figures in the field of nonfiction film. More than 500 doc makers and special guests are expected in person to present their films or participate on panels.

This year's expanded 10-day festival is dedicated to documentary legend D.A. Pennebaker (1925-2019) who was a constant presence at DOC NYC since its first year until his death this past summer. In 2014, at the festival's inaugural Visionaries Tribute, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award along with his partner Chris Hegedus. This year's festival poster features a photograph of Pennebaker taken by Don MacSorley in 1967 during the filming of the classic documentary "Monterey Pop."

Special Events include Opening Night film, "Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and The Band," by Daniel Roher, about the legendary musicians, with Robbie Robertson in attendance; Closing Night film, "The Capote Tapes," by Ebs Burnough, a fresh portrait of Truman Capote with André Leon Talley participating in a post-show Q&A with the director; and the festival's Centerpiece presentation, Bikram: Yoga, Guru, Predator, by Eva Orner, on the disgraced head of the yoga empire that bears his name.

"Our tenth anniversary lineup reflects a more international scope than in previous years, drawing compelling stories from all over the world, in addition to a rich selection of American nonfiction," said Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos. "Where better to experience this diversity of documentary storytelling than NYC?" Tsiokos leads the programming team in collaboration with Artistic Director Thom Powers.

**DOC NYC is curated in 21 sections, including new strands:**

- Masters, offering a spotlight on today's nonfiction auteurs, Barbara Kopple's, "Desert One,"; Alan Berliner's "Letter to the Editor," and a special presentation of Chris Hegedus and D.A. Pennebaker's "Town Bloody Hall" (1979),
- Investigations, thought-provoking investigative nonfiction, includes the world premiere of "The Queen's Man," the international premiere of "Coastal Road Killer," and the US premiere of "The Pickup Game."
- Green Screens, environmentally focused films, includes the NYC premieres of "The Great Green Wall" and "The Story of Plastic."
- Food for Thought, culinary stories has the world premiere of Laura Naylor's "Vas-y Coupe!."

In the festival's two feature competition sections, seven films appear under the Viewfinders strand for distinct directorial visions. US premieres of Weijun Chen's "City



*Bikram Yoga with students in a class (Centerpiece Film).*



*A scene from "Once Were Brothers," Opening Film.*



*A scene from "Capote Tapes," Closing Film.  
Photos / Courtesy DOC NYC 2019*

Dream," Thomas Balme's "Sing Me a Song," and the NYC premiere of Eva Mulvad's "Love Child."

In the Metropolis competition section, seven films are dedicated to stories set in New York City. They include the world premieres of "The Grand Unified Theory of Howard Bloom," "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me," "Lydia Lunch: The War Is Never Over," and "Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back."

Other returning sections include high-profile Special Events; national and global takes in American Perspectives and International Perspectives; and thematic sections Portraits (profiling singular individuals), Modern Family (on unconventional families), New World Order (on today's most urgent issues), In the System (inside looks at institutions), Fight the Power (on activism), Art and Design (on art, photography and design), Behind the Scenes (on filmmaking), and Sonic Cinema (on music). Short-form content (114 films in total, not including the Short List: Shorts strand) is represented by the festival's Shorts Competition and DOC NYC U (showcasing student work), selected by Programmer Opal H. Bennett.

These sections join the previously announced Short List: Features titles, highlighting 15 of the year's award contender documentary features; Short List: Shorts, a group of 12 of the year's leading nonfiction shorts; and Winner's Circle, a new section highlighting seven features that have won awards at major festivals, including Oscar-qualifying international events; as well

**"Our tenth anniversary lineup reflects a more international scope than in previous years, drawing compelling stories from all over the world, in addition to a rich selection of American nonfiction"**

**- Basil Tsiokos, Director of Programming**

as the eight-day DOC NYC PRO conference focusing on panels, case studies and one-on-one sessions with notable nonfiction creators.

DOC NYC will welcome over 500 filmmakers and special guests in attendance for Q&As after most screenings and for DOC NYC PRO panels. Among the notable guests expected to appear in person are Robbie Robertson ("Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and The Band"); Dr. Ruth Westheimer ("Ask Dr. Ruth"); Ben Taylor, Sally Taylor, Kori Withers and Chris Stills ("Born Into the Gig"); Lydia Lunch, Thurston Moore and Donita Sparks ("Lydia Lunch: The War Is Never Over"); Maurice Hines ("Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back"); Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn ("Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hop"); Soledad O'Brien ("Hungry to Learn"); Elliott Erwitt ("Elliott Erwitt," "Silence Sounds Good"); Audrey Flack ("Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack"); Buster Williams ("Buster Williams Bass to Infinity").

For this year's Short List section of awards season frontrunners, filmmakers presenting their work in person at the festival include Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert ("American Factory"), Roger Ross Williams ("The Apollo"), Todd Douglas Miller ("Apollo 11"), Ryan White ("Ask Dr. Ruth"), John Chester ("Biggest Little Farm"), Feras Fayyad ("The Cave"), Asif Kapadia ("Diego Maradona"), Petra Costa ("The Edge of Democracy"), Mark Deebles and Victoria Stone ("The Elephant Queen"), Waad al-Kateab and Edward Watts ("For Sama"), Karim Amer and Jehane Noujaim ("The Great Hack"), Ljubomir Stefanov and Tamara Kotevska ("Honeyland"), Lauren Greenfield ("The Kingmaker"), Rachel Lears ("Knock Down the House") and Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang ("One Child Nation"). Filmmakers will also take part in DOC NYC PRO through a series of panel discussions - Short List: Features on Friday, Nov. 8, and, new this year, Short List: Shorts on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Notable documentarians will also be honored at the previously announced Visionaries Tribute Awards event on Nov. 7: Martin Scorsese and Michael APTED will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards while Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert will receive the Robert and Anne Drew Award for observational filmmaking. Cynthia Lopez, executive director of New York Women in Film and Television, will receive the Leading Light Award for distinguished service to documentary in a role outside filmmaking.

Special screenings of the latest documentaries by Lifetime Achievement Award recipients Martin Scorsese ("Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese") and Michael APTED ("63 Up") will be presented at this year's festival.

For a complete lineup of the Festival films and more information, visit [docnyc.net](http://docnyc.net)

### TICKETS:

Advance tickets are available online at [docnyc.net](http://docnyc.net). In-person advance sales start October 24 at the IFC Center box office, 323 Sixth Ave. (at West 3rd St., open daily 10:30am-10:00pm).

During the festival, tickets for all screenings are available at any festival venue box office during operating hours.

A range of passes and tickets to special events, including Opening Night, Closing Night and Centerpiece and the ALL ACCESS Festival Pass are available.

*(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))*



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# THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Diwali is celebrated across India and the world by the Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists. Diwali symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance." Per Hindu epic Ramayana, it is believed that on this day, Lord Rama returned from 14-year exile period along with brother Lakshman and wife Sita after killing demon king Ravana in Lanka. The day when Ravana was killed is celebrated as Dussehra in India and 10 days later, the auspicious festival of Diwali is celebrated. As it is the day of Amavasya or new moon, homes are lit up in the dark night. On this day, Lakshmi Pujan is also performed to pay tribute to the ancestors. Devotees keep day-long fast and break it after Puja in the evening. Diwali is a public holiday. Day before Diwali is chhoti Diwali, which is celebrated a day after Dhanteras. It is also called Naraka Chaturdash.

## The Origin of Diwali

Historically, the origin of Diwali can be traced back to ancient India, when it was probably an important harvest festival. However, there are various legends pointing to the origin of Diwali or 'Deepawali.' Some believe it to be the celebration of the marriage of Lakshmi with Lord Vishnu. Whereas in Bengal the festival is dedicated to the worship of Mother Kali, the dark goddess of strength.

Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God, the symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom, is also worshiped in most Hindu homes on this day.

In Jainism, Deepawali has an added significance to the great event of Lord Mahavira attaining the eternal bliss of nirvana.

## The return of Lord Rama

Diwali also commemorates the return of Lord Rama along with Sita and Lakshman from his fourteen year long exile and vanquishing the demon-king Ravana. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the Capital of Rama, illuminated the kingdom with earthen diyas (oil lamps) and burst crackers. These Four Days Each day of Diwali has its own tale, legend and myth to tell. The first day of the festival Naraka Chaturdasi marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Satyabhama. Amavasya, the second day of Deepawali, marks the worship of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth in her most benevolent mood, fulfilling the wishes of her devotees.

## The story of Lord Vishnu

Amavasya also tells the story of Lord Vishnu, who in his dwarf incarnation vanquished the tyrant Bali, and banished him to hell. Bali was allowed to return to earth once a year, to light millions of lamps to dispel the darkness and ignorance, and spread the radiance of love and wisdom. It is on the third day of Deepawali - Kartika Shudda Padyami that Bali steps out of hell and rules the earth according to the boon given by Lord Vishnu. The fourth day is referred to as Yama Dvitiya (also called Bhai Dooj) and on this day sisters invite their brothers to their homes.



## Lights & Firecrackers

All the simple rituals of Diwali have a significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity.

According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state.

Still another possible reason has a more scientific basis: the fumes produced by the crackers kill a lot of insects and mosquitoes, found in plenty after the rains.

The tradition of gambling on Diwali also has a legend behind it. It is believed that on this day, Goddess Parvati played dice with her husband Lord Shiva, and she decreed that whosoever gambled on Diwali night would prosper throughout the ensuing

year. Diwali is associated with wealth and prosperity in many ways, and the festival of 'Dhanteras' ('dhan' = wealth; 'teras' = 13th) is celebrated two days before the festival of lights.

In each legend, myth and story of Deepawali lies the significance of the victory of good over evil; and it is with each Deepawali and the lights that illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope.

From darkness unto light - the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. During Diwali, lights illuminate every corner of India and the scent of incense sticks hangs in the air; mingled with the sounds of fire-crackers, joy, togetherness and hope. Diwali is celebrated around the globe. Outside India, it is more than a Hindu festival, it's a celebration of South-Asian identities.

If you are away from the sights and sounds of Diwali, light a diya, sit quietly, shut your eyes, withdraw the senses, concentrate on this supreme light and illuminate the soul.







# FIVE FESTIVE DAYS OF DIWALI

**D**iwali or Deepawali is a festival that goes beyond cultures and religions. Marking the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness, this festival of lights embraces and engulfs everyone in its jollity.

The houses are cleaned and decorated with colourful earthen lamps, candles and lanterns. Floors are decorated with beautiful and intricate rangoli designs. Gifts are bought for near and dear ones and people perform pujas for goddess Lakshmi and lord Ganesha with absolute devotion. But what makes Diwali truly special is the fact that this glittering festival is a part of a five-day long celebration that begins with Dhanteras and ends with Bhai Dooj.

## Dhanteras (Oct 25)

"Dhanteras", is one of the famous festivals of India. It is an important part of Diwali celebration. It is a first day of five day celebration of Diwali festival. This auspicious day is also observed as Dhantrayodashi or Dhanvantri Jayanti (the birth anniversary of God of Ayurveda. The word "Dhana" signifies money or wealth and "Teras" means thirteenth day as per the Hindu calendar. The festival of "Dhanteras" falls in the Hindu calendar month of "Kartik" (Oct-Nov) on the 13th lunar day of Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight). This auspicious day is celebrated two days before of the festival of lights "Diwali".

Dhanteras is associated with wealth and prosperity. On this auspicious day people buy precious metals gold and silver ornaments and utensils to enhance the household prosperity. It holds special significance for the business community. All the new purchases are dedicated to goddess Lakshmi and lord Kubera. Markets and malls becomes a hectic place of activity. Getting and gifting are also an important ritual during this day. Puja is performed in the evening. Lamps are lit and placed at the entrance to welcome goddess Lakshmi for providing prosperity and well beings and to drive away the shadow of evil spirits. In the many parts of south India, there is a tradition of cows and cattle are worshiped by the farmers.

## Chhoti Diwali

The day between Dhanteras and Diwali is celebrated as Chhoti Diwali. It is also known as Naraka Chaturdasi and Rook Chaturdashi. With the festival of lights being just a day away, the streets and homes are already seen twinkling with fairy lights in a display of grandeur. According to Hindu mythology, on this



day, Lord Krishna had defeated a demon king, Narakasur, who was the ruler of Pragjyotshpur and had imprisoned 16,000 daughters of gods. Lord Krishna destroyed the demon king, freed all the captive princesses and returned home victorious, and thus this day is commemorated to mark his triumph over the devil.

## Diwali/Deepawali

The third day is the day of the main festival, Diwali. Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha are worshipped in the evening during a subh muhurat (auspicious time), and proper aartis and bhajans are recited. It is believed that goddess Lakshmi enters homes and blesses devotees with good fortune and wealth on this day. People light diyas and candles and decorate their homes with fairy lights. After worshipping the gods, people visit their neighbours and relatives to exchange sweets and gifts.

## Govardhan Puja or Padva

The fourth day is widely celebrated as Govardhan Puja in the northern states of India. It is believed that Lord Krishna defeated Indra by lifting the Govardhan Mountain. On this day, people make a small mound, usually of cow dung, and worship it. In the western states of India, this day marks the New Year as per their calendar and is celebrated as Bestu Varas.



## Bhai Dooj

The fifth and last day of the festivities is the Rakhsabandhan-equivalent for sisters, and is known as Bhai Dooj. On this day, brothers visit their sisters and perform a 'tilak' ceremony. In this ceremony, a 'teeka' of rice and vermilion

is applied on the brother's forehead, which is followed by aarti. Sisters pray for their brother's long lives while they promise to protect their sisters.

Bhai Dooj marks the end of the celebration of pure joy, radiance and lights—a festival that is celebrated with huge pomp and show across India.





# DIWALI CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

**D**iwali is a pan India festival. It is celebrated by Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and every other religion existing in India, this is the most secular of all festivals, when people of every religion come together, forgetting their differences of culture, and bond to magnify the essence of unity in diversity. The celebration of Diwali across the communities in India is spectacular and Diwali indeed dispels the darkness of ignorance every year when people, irrespective of their caste, creed, economic background, and age, come to together and celebrate it with great fervor.

## UNIQUE CELEBRATIONS

- In West Bengal Diwali is celebrated to mark the killing of Shumbh and Nishumbh, the two evil demon kings by Ma Kali (A form of Goddess Shakti). There are also pujas conducted by Agambagish, the most revered Tantriks (Priests who apply cosmic sciences with a view to attaining spiritual ascendancy).
- In Tamil Nadu, it is believed that anyone who takes an oil bath on this day will earn the credit of taking a dip in the Holy Ganges; People greet each other with the words “Ganga Snamam Aacha”.
- In Sindh, Diwali is known as Diyari and the Sindhis wash gold and silver coins in milk and then tap it on the teeth chanting “Lakshmi Aayi, Danat Vaai”, meaning with the arrival of Lakshmi poverty has gone away.
- In North India, Bali Pratipada is observed on the third day of Diwali. It is believed that Lord Vishnu in his incarnation as Vamana had banished the demon king Bali (the grandson of Prahalad) to the nether world. However pleased with Bali's devotion towards Him, Lord Vishnu allowed Bali to visit the world once a year which is on the third day of Diwali.
- In Odisha Diwali is celebrated as Kauriya Kathi when the people burn jute sticks to help the ancestors, residing in heaven, descend to earth for a day on Diwali.
- For the Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the liberation of Mahaveera, the 24th and last Tirthankara of the present cosmic age as per Jainism.
- Diwali is a very important occasion for the Sikhs, for it is believed that it was during this time that Guru Hargobind Ji was released in 1619 AD from the Gwalior fort along with 52 other Kings. The Sikhs celebrate Diwali as the Bandhi Chor Diwas with great fervor.
- Muslims, Christians, Parsis and every other religion celebrate this festival along with the Hindus in India and abroad.

## DIWALI AROUND THE GLOBE

The growing ethnic and cultural diversity of the Hindu religion sees Diwali being celebrated across the globe



till places as remote as the South of America. Guyana, Fiji, Malaysia, Nepal, Mauritius, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Britain, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Africa, and Australia see Diwali being celebrated with great fanfare. Diwali abroad is more about family bonding, reflecting on the deeds in the past and envisioning a future devoid of ignorance and full of peace and harmony.

■ Diwali is known as Tihar in Nepal, and just like India, it is a 5-day festival full of lights and firecrackers. The unique feature of Diwali in Nepal is that on the first day the crows and ravens are worshipped because it is believed that the cawing of these birds brings in bad luck and feeding and worshipping them will avert the bad luck; on the second day dogs are

worshipped to cherish the relationship of love, trust, and loyalty that they share with human beings.

- The beautiful island of Triolet in Mauritius, with a predominant population of Hindus, celebrates Diwali just like in India with firecrackers, brightly lit homes, and visiting friends and family.
- Singapore's Little India looks spectacular with festive lights and colorful arches during Diwali. There are open-air concerts, and a special market full of goodies is held during the week of Diwali.
- The small South American country of Guyana has been celebrating Diwali since 1853 with the traditional exchange of sweets, visiting family and friends, illuminating the homes with colorful lights. The unique part of the celebrations in Guyana includes the celebratory motorcades in different cities where vehicles decked in lights are taken out in a procession. Thousands of people gather to watch the motorcades.
- Leicester, England, celebrates Diwali with the switching on of the festive lights on the main road. This stretch of the road is known as the Golden Mile. There are daytime festivities too with dancing, different kinds of workshops and the famous 110-foot “wheel of light” ride.
- Ontario in Canada celebrates Diwali from mid-October till November. Brampton, however, celebrates in the most spectacular manner. A three-day festival is held in Bramalea City Centre with gastronomic delights, dance competitions, and firework displays.
- Bali in Indonesia celebrates Diwali just like India. There are fireworks, illuminated homes and this time is used to bond with family and friends.
- Malaysia, where one sees a harmonious multi-ethnic mix of Malays, Hindus constitute 8% of the population. The Malaysians call Diwali Hari Diwali and celebrate with great fervor.
- Diwali is also celebrated by the Indians in South Africa and Trinidad & Tobago.
- USA: Asians rank amongst one of the largest immigrant groups in USA of which, Indians are a substantial number. Most cities have a sizeable Indian community and Diwali is a holiday celebrated with much enthusiasm. Be it in New Jersey, Illinois, Texas or California, temples across cities usually host a Diwali night that sees priests performing customary prayers followed by a vegetarian communal dinner. Bigger cities also hold a Diwali parade in some parts! Like elsewhere in the world, friends and family visit each other's homes and exchange gifts as part of the Diwali celebrations.



# BANDI CHHOR DIVAS

**B**andi Chhor Divas is an important celebration in the Sikh community. Bandi Chhor Divas literally translates to “prisoner” release day.” Sikhs commemorate this day as the day of liberation for their Sixth Guru Hargobind Sahib along with 52 Hindu political prisoners detained during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir.

It coincides with the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. There’s a public misconception that the two celebrations are just the same. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus and has its own significances while Bandi Chhor Divas is a Sikh holiday commemorating the Guru’s release. The only connection between the two holidays is when Guru Hargobind was released and traveled back home to Amritsar, he arrived during the celebration of Diwali.

Bandi Chhor Divas also honors the martyrdom of Bhai Mani Singh who was executed in 1734 because of his refusal to pay religious meeting taxes.

## STORY OF GURU HARGOBIND’S DETENTION AND RELEASE

Because of envy and unfounded accusations from the emperor’s court member Chandu Shah, Jahangir ordered the torture and execution of Hargobind’s father Guru Arjan Dev. Hargobind inherited what his father left and tried to bring greatness to his city. Guru Hargobind built the Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, “The Throne of Almighty” and had also managed to strengthen his army. This became a warning signal for Murtaja Khan, Nawab of Lahore, who lied in his report to the emperor saying Hargobind was planning revenge for the death of his father.

Upon hearing the report, Emperor Jahangir ordered the arrest of Hargobind through Wazir Khan and Guncha Beg. But Wazir Khan was secretly a follower of the guru so instead of arresting him, he asked Hargobind to go visit the emperor. During the first meeting of Guru Hargobind and Emperor Jahangir, Jahangir was captivated by the purity and charm of the young guru. The emperor asked the guru which religion was better, Hinduism or Islam. Jahangir was impressed with Hargobind’s answer, which was to recite lines from an Indian mystic and poet named Kabir, whose writing influenced Hinduism. In a hunting expedition, Guru Hargobind saved the life of Jahangir from a lion attack and this eventually started their friendship.

When Jahangir became very ill while staying at Agra, Chandu Shah who hated Arjan Dev and Hargobind, tricked the emperor by devising a plan to detain the young guru. Shah instructed the astrologers to tell the emperor he would only be healed if a holy man will go and stay at Gwalior Fort and continuously pray for him. Shah also suggested Hargobind was the only man fit for the task. The emperor asked Hargobind and complied with his request. Guru Hargobind discovered that Gwalior Fort was a prison, but still he complied with the emperor’s request and prayed for Jahangir’s health accompanied by the noble prisoners. It was unclear as to how long the guru was detained but he made significant improvements in the prison because the fort’s governor was also his follower. After some time, Guru Hargobind’s followers, headed by Baba Buddha, became concerned about his detainment and asked the now healed emperor for his release. It was Sufi saint Sai Mian Mir who brokered and



convinced Emperor Jahangir to eventually release the guru from detention. But Guru Hargobind had one condition, he shall be released together with the Rajput princes in detention. Jahangir who was reluctant at first, but eventually agreed with the condition that only those who can handle his cloak or chola on his way out can be released. Intelligently, Guru Hargobind devised the tailoring of a heavy and long cloak which had 52 tails for each prisoner to hold on to. The guru, together with the 52 princes, were eventually released. Guru Hargobind returned to Amritsar in 1619 and was greeted by the Diwali festival.





## HRITHIK, ANUSHKA TO STAR IN SATTE PE SATTA REMAKE

Actor Anushka Sharma has finally signed her first film after the flop of her last effort, Zero. She will pair up Hrithik Roshan for the first time, in a film titled Seven, which is said to be the remake of Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini's hit 1982 film, Satte Pe Satta.

Filmmakers Farah Khan and Rohit Shetty will collaborate on the much-anticipated project. Farah had recently hinted about the film in an interview to IANS. She had said, "Rohit is producing the film and I am directing it. Unless we come together and make a proper official announcement, everything is speculation. Hopefully, we will make the announcement by Diwali. I am waiting for Rohit, because he is quite occupied these days, finishing the last leg of the shooting of his film Sooryavanshi."

Satte Pe Satta was directed by Raj N Sippy and also starred Amjad Khan, Ranjeeta Kaur, Sachin, Shakti Kapoor, Paintal, Sudhir, Inderjeet, Sarika, Kanwaljit Singh, Prema Narayan, Mac Mohan and Kalpana Iyer. The film tells the story of seven orphan brothers who live amid chaos until one of them falls in love with a nurse.

# KRITI SANON TALKS ABOUT PREFERRING DOCUMENTARIES OVER SERIOUS FILMS

Kriti Sanon says the audience mainly go to theatres for entertainment and lighten up their moods, and that's what a good comedy should promise

Kriti Sanon has played characters in films such as Dilwale and Bareilly Ki Barfi which did have comic elements. Though they were more situational comedies, the actor is excited to showcase her timing in the upcoming comic caper Housefull 4. "It is a franchise which I have particularly enjoyed watching as an audience. It's got a huge audience base. I enjoy being part of comedies, because it is important and equally difficult to make people laugh, because there is so much stress in everyone's lives that a little bit of laughter is required," the actor says.

Kriti Sanon, in a recent interview with a leading newspaper, spoke about her upcoming film Housefull 4 and her outlook on slapstick comedies. In the interview, she mentioned that she enjoys "brainless, mad-crack comedies" as long as they are well done. She also spoke about not being a fan of preachy films. She said she is more inclined towards films that put the serious message forward in a light, fun manner; otherwise, she would rather watch a documentary. The actor also spoke about her favourite comedy film, which seems to be the Aamir Khan and Salman Khan-starrer, Andaz Apna Apna. According to her, the film is evergreen and can be watched countless times. When talking about working with experienced actors such as Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Chunky Panday, and Johnny Lever, the actor said that matching up to their level was impossible but she got to learn a lot. The actor seemed delighted about sharing the screen with the "pros".



## KONKONA SEN SHARMA: 'NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT THE INDUSTRY IS DOING'



As an artiste Konkona Sen Sharma says she does not adhere to set standards and is least interested in film industry trends.

The actor-director, whose unusual movie choices have earned her the status of one of the most versatile contemporary performers, says she is only focused on being part of gripping stories.

"I don't care. I am not at all interested in what the industry is doing, what the trends are, how it is changing. I have lost all interest. I am just doing my own work and make my life interesting. But I do hope it (industry) is doing well.

"I am very much in the moment. I do what is interesting to me. I never wanted to act and direct films so I never made plans. I have always gone with the flow," Konkona said in an interview here.

The actor has been credited with contributing to the change in the way women are portrayed on screen, courtesy her performance in movies like Mr. and Mrs. Iyer, Page 3, Omkara, Life in a... Metro, Wake Up Sid and Lipstick Under my Burkha.

Konkona, however, believes not everything made in the name of women-centric cinema is good.

"I believe every year there are few good films which are surreal or interesting or artistic or experimental.

"But the bulk of the films are not great. We have made some fantastic films in the 70s and stuff. The bulk of the money is going to a place where the films are not that great," she added.

## PRIYANKA, PARINEETI TO VOICE FOR ELSA AND ANNA IN HINDI VERSION OF FROZEN 2

Disney has roped in real-life sisters Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Parineeti Chopra to voice for Elsa and Anna in the Hindi-dubbed version of its much-awaited film Frozen 2.

The project marks Priyanka and Parineeti's first film collaboration. Priyanka said she deeply connects with the "strongly-opinionated" Elsa and voicing for Frozen 2 is a wonderful opportunity.

"Elsa is a fictional character who's known to be strongly-opinionated and level headed, traits that I deeply connect with. This not only made me want to be part of the film, but also gives me a wonderful opportunity to present one of the most-successful animated films to our local audiences.

"My happiness just goes up a notch knowing that Parineeti will be voicing Anna's character. The two of us have never worked together before and this seems like a perfect movie to come together and an experience that I am going to cherish forever," the actor said in a statement.





## CHARLIZE THERON ENJOYS SUSHI OUTING

Actress Charlize Theron, who is being showered with praise for the new film, *Bombshell*, took time off for a sushi outing in West Hollywood. The Oscar-winning actress, 44, wore an all-black ensemble while enjoying her night out. Her casual sighting comes after film critics predicted the actress could take home her first Oscar in 16 years for her 'uncanny' and 'remarkable' portrayal of Megyn Kelly in *Bombshell*. She stars alongside Nicole Kidman, who plays Gretchen Carlson, and Margot Robbie as a fictional channel producer character, Kayla Pospisil, in the film.

She plays Megyn Kelly in the film about the sexual misconduct allegations brought against Fox News CEO Roger Ailes. The three actresses recently discussed the movie while appearing on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

# JENNIFER LAWRENCE MARRIES COOKE MARONEY IN A STAR-STUDDED CEREMONY

Months after Academy Award-winner Jennifer Lawrence and Cooke Maroney engagement in February, the pair tied the knots in Newport, Rhode Island on Saturday.

The wedding was celebrated among some very special guests as the Oscar-winning actor was joined by her family and friends including celebrities like Emma Stone, Kris Jenner, and Sienna Miller.

Among the dazzling stars were also Lawrence's other friend and frequent collaborators, director David O. Russell, Adele, Ashley Olsen, Amy Schumer and Cameron Diaz, who not only graced the event couple's nuptials but also their reception that followed, reported *People* magazine.

Lawrence and Maroney opted for the Belcourt of Newport castle, which was built in 1894 by American architect Richard Morris Hunt for the big ceremony.

The couple's rehearsal dinner took place on Friday, during which the Lawrence and Maroney hosted a clambake under a white tent on Rose Island. They were joined by Richie, Joel Madden, Diaz, and Miller for the occasion.

One of Jennifer Lawrence's representative confirmed to *People* that the actor and Maroney exchanged the rings in February.

The 28-year-old star was then spotted with a ring on her finger while enjoying what appeared to be a celebratory dinner with 34-year-old Maroney, at Raoul's, a French restaurant in New York City.



## SELMA BLAIR OPENS UP ABOUT STRUGGLES WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Actor Selma Blair who is suffering from multiple sclerosis, is running "out of options" to relieve the intense pain and physical difficulties she has because of her condition.

"The disease modifiers did not work for me at the time, and I was really declining more rapidly than I found acceptable," the 47-year-old actor said.

During her treatment, she was encouraged to try a stem cell transplant and an "aggressive" course of chemotherapy to restart her immune system, but Blair was hesitant in doing that.

"I had no intention of doing it, I was like, I'm not ruining my body, what's left of it. Why would I put this horrible drug, chemotherapy, in me? I don't have cancer," she said. "But I was kind of out of options and I was looking."

Blair was given a small dose of chemotherapy just before her stem cell transplant, and "immediately felt some relief." That convinced her to go through with it, but it was a major risk.

"I was warned," she said. "You kind of make your plans for death, [and] I told my son I was doing this and he said he wanted me cremated. I had more chemo than they usually do for cancer patients because they almost kill you. And it's the stem cell that allows you to live with that amount of



chemo. The chemo is the MS cure if it does in fact happen."

The actor is still recovering from her disease and doesn't feel that she's made it to the other side just yet, "but overall, it went pretty smoothly."

"I haven't talked about it much yet because I wanted to show everyone that the proof is in the pudding, but my pudding is still kind of scrambled. I don't want to scare people away," she said.

A bald Blair is also waiting for her hair to grow again.



## ANGELINA JOLIE RETURNS AS THE FAIRY GOTH-MOTHER IN BORING GAME OF THRONES RECAP

The wedding party is assembled, excited to celebrate the union of two feuding houses, and the beginning of a peaceful new era. They take their seats in the decked-up hall and the from high above the altar, a song begins to play. The mood shifts, a nervousness falls over the room as the song gets grimmer with each note. The bridal party watches in horror as their hosts bolt the doors on them. A massacre is on the menu. The heartless musician plays along her horrid song as one by one, the guests are slaughtered in the wedding hall. The room is bathed in red. Generations to come will call this *The Red Wedding*, a dark, blood-stained chapter in the book of... Disney. Sorry, but were you expecting something else?

Because I am talking about the Mouse House's latest addition to a long list of unnecessary sequels, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*.

In case I reminded you of a certain little television show about dragons and dead people, chances are, so will *Mistress of Evil*. Disney has roped in a new director (Joachim Rønning), a new prince (Harris Dickinson) and an evil new queen (Michelle Pfeiffer) as it brings back the fairy goth-mother (Angelina Jolie) and her human plaything (Elle Fanning) to teach a lesson in race relations and the importance of tolerance. *Maleficent 2*, however, is a boring and chaotic Disney fairytale at worst and a *Game of Thrones* recap at best.



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It's Diwali, that time of the year when we all Indians get into the holiday mood, the mood to enjoy some fire-works, mood to enjoy family dinners, mood to enjoy an ecstatic Diwali party with our family and friends. And amidst this celebration, how can we forget Indian Women, their beauty and their urge to look prettiest on these occasions. Ready to get dressed up in their prettiest traditional clothes, women in India look forward to Diwali and enjoy it in their prettiest forms.

### Skin Care

Its festive season, and so, please don't experiment with your skin using new products. You may never know when you end up with allergic reactions or pimple breakouts. So, go the regular way and simply Cleanse, Tone and Moisturize your skin at least twice a day.

Additional tip: Drink plenty of water to free your body of toxins and this will give a beautiful glow on your skin, naturally.

### Foundation and Concealer

Use your regular foundation and concealer. Make sure your base is natural and not very cakey. Use very little to give your skin the natural look. Apply the concealer properly and spread it finely with your finger tips. Based on your skin type, use a face powder to set the base evenly all through your skin. (Loose face powder for oily skin and regular compact powder for normal to dry skin)

### Eyes

Indian women are known for their beautiful mesmerizing eyes. So, on festive occasions like Diwali, enhance your eyes with the right amount of makeup.

Go for golden eyes with a smokey look at the corners. OR simply choose the neutral eye makeup and add a little magic with a smokey look at the outer ends.

In case you want to look bold and play with colors, use colors like ivory and gold and use colored eyeliner to finish the look. Add a little shimmer in the edges for a more dramatic and festive look.

### Brows

Thick and finely shaped brows are in vogue. So, simply color your brows with a black or brown shadow using a fine brush. Avoid using pencils for their unnatural looks.

### Eye Lashes

Use long lasting, waterproof mascara on your lashes.

# MAKEUP TIPS FOR A PERFECT DIWALI LOOK



Make sure you use enough to give your eyes the most beautiful look ever. Mascaras open up your eyes, making them look bigger and prettier.

### Eye Liners

Choose the eyeliner you are most comfortable with. However, the winged eye liner shape looks classy these days.

### Blush

Use a blush that adds a more glowing effect to your skin. Choose the color that highlights your cheeks perfectly. (Not very light colored)

### Highlighter

Use a highlighter on the cheekbones and also the bridge of your nose.

### Lips

Lip color is absolutely your choice. You can keep it light or even bright colored, based on your choice.

In case you are opting for a nude look, add a lot of gloss on your lips to add a little sparkle on them.

And if you are opting for colors, go for Pinks, Reds and Corals. And Lastly, Don't forget to carry your makeup essentials where ever you go for a final touch up.

Source: womenpla.net

## CELEBRATE AN ECO-FRIENDLY DIWALI

As we celebrate Diwali as a symbol of all that is good and pure in the world, lets take a moment and dedicate it to nature this year by celebrating an eco-friendly Diwali.

Air pollution rises to dangerous levels during the days of Diwali celebration and energy and food wastage also increases. Apart from that the noise and ruckus created by crackers unsettles infants, elderly people, and pets.

Here are a few tips for celebrating an eco-friendly Diwali in your home and society.

### Avoid bursting crackers

Firecrackers leave the air hazy and the surroundings full of noise, and we wake up to the streets littered with waste the next morning. Although, some may argue that Diwali without crackers is not fun, but for a cleaner future we may give them up or use eco-friendly crackers.

### Use traditional lighting

Go for the good old oil diyas that are bio-degradable and cost effective. You can also use some innovative lighting alternatives by using wheat dough, orange peels,



and coconut shells as DIY diyas. This will reduce electricity consumption and wastage during the festive days.

### Give Thoughtful Gifts

Instead of opting for the regular clocks and picture frames, gift your friends and family with eco-friendly items such plants, jute products, khadi clothing, etc. Avoid shiny plastic wraps and stick to simple paper wraps to support the green cause even more.

### Use recycled decor

Recycled decor items are

becoming increasingly popular these days. These decorative items not only make use of the things which we throw away as waste but also inspire us to use things creatively even after expiry. By using such products for Diwali decor you help in saving the energy that would be wasted in disposing them off.

### Eco-friendly rangolis

Rangolis were traditionally a way to feed the birds and little animals during the festive days. You can embark on a journey to the past and use colourful food grains and natural colours for your Rangoli.

## FOOD CORNER

### MALPUA

#### INGREDIENTS

200 gm all purpose flour, 1 teaspoon fennel seeds, 1 teaspoon powdered green cardamom, 1 cup ghee, 250 ml water, 50 gm khoya, 100 gm semolina, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 500 ml milk, 250 gm sugar, 1 pinch saffron.

#### Method

For making the sugar syrup, place water in a pan over medium flame. Add sugar in it and stir until fully dissolved. Then add 2-3 tsp milk and stir again, after a few minutes remove the scum that rises to the top. Once the sugar syrup is thick, remove the pan from the flame and keep aside. Mix maida, rava, khoya, baking powder, fennel seeds, cardamom powder and milk. Ensure the mixture is of pouring consistency and not too thick. Once the batter is ready, keep it aside for few minutes so that the flavour of spices and herbs gets absorbed. Now heat ghee in a pan over low flame. Pour a ladleful of the mixture and spread evenly. Keep the flame low and cook till it is light brown on both sides. Remove the cooked malpua and drain the excess ghee. Drop the malpua in sugar syrup and allow it to soak for 10 minutes. Repeat the same with the remaining batter. Drain the malpuas from the syrup, garnish with pistachios.







# HOW OUR MEMORIES STABILISE DURING SLEEP DECODED

Researchers have shown that delta waves—a pattern of high amplitude electrical activity in the brain emitted during sleep—are not silent resting periods for the brain’s cortex, but play an essential role in long-term memory formation.

The study, published in the journal *Science*, noted that when humans sleep, the seahorse shaped brain region called hippocampus reactivated itself spontaneously to a state similar to its activity during wakefulness.

According to the researchers from Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in France, during sleep, the hippocampus sends information to the cortex, which reacts in turn.

The study noted that this exchange is often followed by a period of silence called a ‘delta wave,’ then by rhythmic activity called a ‘sleep spindle’.

This is when the cortical circuits reorganise to form stable memories, the researchers said.

However, they added that the role of delta waves in the formation of new memories is still a puzzle.

“Why does a period of silence interrupt the sequence of information exchanges between the hippocampus and the cortex,



and the functional reorganisation of the cortex,” the researchers asked.

When the researchers looked more closely at what happens during delta waves, they discovered that the cortex was not entirely silent, but that a few neurons remained active and formed small, coactive sets that coded information.

They suggested that the small number of neurons that remain active when all the others stay quiet can carry out important calculations while being protected from possible disturbances.

According to the study, spontaneous reactivation of the hippocampus determined which neurons in the cortex remained active during the delta waves, and revealed the transmission of information between the two brain regions.

The neuron sets activated during the delta waves are formed of cells that participated in learning a spatial memory task during the day, the researchers said.

Putting these observations together, the researchers suggested that these processes are involved in memory consolidation.



## Fat found in overweight people’s lungs for first time

Fat can accumulate in the lungs of people, particularly those who are overweight or obese, researchers have shown for the first time.

Scientists already know that people who are overweight or obese are more likely to suffer with wheezing and asthma, but the reasons for this have not been completely explained.

The new study, published in the *European Respiratory Journal*, suggests that this fatty tissue alters the structure of people’s airways and this could be one reason behind the increased risk of asthma.

“Looking at samples of lung, we spotted fatty tissue that had built up in the airway walls. We wanted to see if this accumulation was correlated with body weight,” said John Elliot, a senior research officer at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Australia.

The researchers examined post-mortem samples of lung that had been donated for research and stored in the Airway Tissue Biobank.

They studied samples from 52 people, including 15 who had no reported asthma, 21 who had asthma but died of other causes and 16 who died of asthma.

## Frequent drinking more harmful than binges: Study

Alcohol lovers, take a note. Drinking small amounts of alcohol frequently is linked with a higher likelihood of atrial fibrillation than binge drinking, says a new study.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common heart rhythm disorder and raises the risk of stroke by five-fold. Symptoms include palpitations, racing or irregular pulse, shortness of breath, tiredness, chest pain and dizziness.

“Our study suggests that drinking less often may also be important to protect against atrial fibrillation,” said study author Jong-Il Choi, from Korea University College in South Korea.

For the study, published in the journal *EP Europace*, researchers examined the relative importance of frequent drinking versus binge drinking for new-onset atrial fibrillation.

The analysis included 9,776,956 individuals without atrial fibrillation who underwent a national health check-up in 2009 which included a questionnaire about alcohol consumption.

# Exercising before breakfast burns twice more fat than after: Study

People can have better control over their blood sugar levels by changing the timing of when they eat and exercise, according to a study which may help plan lifestyle interventions to counter diabetes and reduce body weight.

The researchers, including those from the University of Bath in the UK, said that people who performed exercise before breakfast burned double the amount of fat than those who exercised after the morning meal.

The results of the study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, revealed that performing exercise in the overnight-fasted state could increase the health benefits of exercise for individuals, without changing the intensity, duration, or perception of their effort.

The researchers conducted a six-week study involving thirty male participants classified either as obese or overweight, and compared the results from two groups—those who ate breakfast before exercise, and those who ate after.

The study also involved a control group of participants who made no lifestyle changes, the



researchers said.

The increased fat use is due to lower insulin levels during exercise when people have fasted overnight, indicating that they can use more of the fat from their fat tissue and the fat within their muscles as a fuel, the researchers said.

While the six-week study did not lead to any significant weight loss in the participants, the researchers added that it did have “profound and positive” effects on their health

since their bodies were better able to respond to insulin, keeping blood sugar levels under control, and potentially lowering the risk of diabetes and heart disease.

“Our results suggest that changing the timing of when you eat in relation to when you exercise can bring about profound and positive changes to your overall health,” said co-author of the study Javier Gonzalez of the University of Bath.

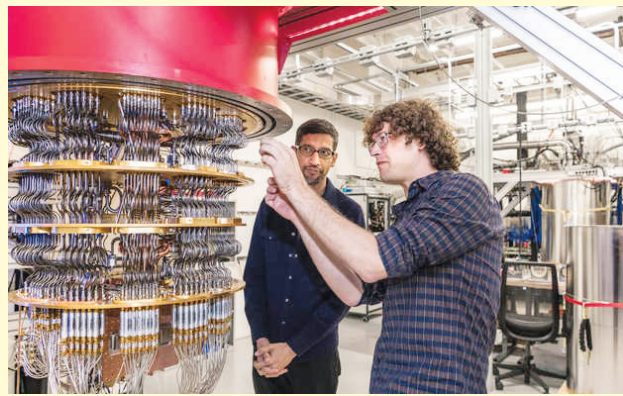
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A handout picture from October 2019 shows Sundar Pichai and Daniel Sank (R) with one of Google's Quantum Computers in the Santa Barbara lab, California.

## QUANTUM LEAP IN COMPUTING AS SCIENTISTS CLAIM 'SUPREMACY'

Scientists claimed on Wednesday to have achieved a near-mythical state of computing in which a new generation of machine vastly outperforms the world's fastest super-computer, known as "quantum supremacy".

A team of experts working on Google's Sycamore machine said their quantum system had executed a calculation in 200 seconds that would have taken a classic computer 10,000 years to complete.

A rival team at IBM has already expressed scepticism about their claim.

But if verified and harnessed, the Google device could make even the world's most powerful supercomputers—capable of performing a giddy 20,000 trillion calculations per second—look like an early 2000s flip-phone.

Regular computers, even the fastest, function in binary fashion: they carry out tasks using tiny fragments of data known as bits that are only ever either 1 or 0. Fragments of data on a quantum computer, however, can be both 1 and 0 at the same time, harnessing some of the most mind-boggling powers of quantum mechanics to process exponentially larger amounts of information.



## Novel 'artificial leaf' produces clean gas from sunlight

Scientists have developed an 'artificial leaf' device that uses sunlight to produce a widely-used gas currently made from fossil fuels, and could be used to create a sustainable liquid fuel alternative to petrol.

The carbon-neutral device can directly produce the gas—called syngas—in a sustainable and simple way from carbon dioxide and water, setting a new benchmark in the field of solar fuels.

Rather than running on fossil fuels, the artificial leaf developed by researchers at the University of Cambridge in the UK is powered by sunlight, although it still works efficiently on cloudy and overcast days.

Unlike the current industrial processes for producing syngas, the leaf does not release any additional carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, according to the research published in the journal Nature Materials.

Syngas is currently made from a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide, and is used to produce a range of commodities, such as fuels, pharmaceuticals, plastics and fertilisers.

# 2019 OZONE HOLE OVER ANTARCTICA IS THE SMALLEST ON RECORD: NASA

The ozone hole over Antarctica is the smallest observed since 1982, due to abnormally warm temperatures in the upper atmosphere that dramatically limited ozone depletion in September and October this year, according to NASA and NOAA satellite measurements.

However, the researchers at NASA and The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) cautioned that this is due to warmer stratospheric temperatures and not a sign that atmospheric ozone is suddenly on a fast track to recovery. The annual ozone hole reached its peak extent of 16.4 million square kilometres on September 8, and then shrank to less than 10 million square kilometres for the remainder of September and October, NASA said in a statement.

During years with normal weather conditions, the ozone hole typically grows to a maximum area of about eight million square miles in late September or early October, it said.

"It's great news for ozone in the Southern Hemisphere," said Paul Newman, chief scientist for Earth Sciences at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in the US.

"But it's important to recognise



that what we're seeing this year is due to warmer stratospheric temperatures. It's not a sign that atmospheric ozone is suddenly on a fast track to recovery," Newman said. Ozone is a highly reactive molecule comprised of three oxygen atoms that occurs naturally in small amounts.

Roughly seven to 25 miles above Earth's surface, in a layer of the atmosphere called the stratosphere, the ozone layer is a sunscreen, shielding the planet from potentially harmful ultraviolet radiation that can cause skin cancer and cataracts, suppress

immune systems and also damage plants.

The Antarctic ozone hole forms during the Southern Hemisphere's late winter as the returning Sun's rays start ozone-depleting reactions. These reactions involve chemically active forms of chlorine and bromine derived from man-made compounds.

The chemistry that leads to their formation involves chemical reactions that occur on the surfaces of cloud particles that form in cold stratospheric layers, leading ultimately to runaway reactions that destroy ozone molecules.

## RESEARCHERS DEVELOP METHOD FOR ENHANCED VITAMIN E PRODUCTION

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, have engineered sunflower plant cells to enhance their production of Vitamin E by ten times, an advance that may pave the way for effective and efficient commercial production of the vitamin with fewer unwanted side products.

The study, published in the Biochemical Engineering Journal, noted that in its most active form known as alpha-tocopherol, vitamin E helped prevent tissue damage from certain toxic chemicals produced in the body known as reactive oxygen species.

However, according to the researchers, the form of alpha-tocopherol synthesised chemically in labs was less active than its natural form found in plants.

The researchers said that an alternative to chemically synthesising the vitamin was to culture the plants under controlled conditions in the lab to create a uniform mass of cells that could sustainably produce alpha-tocopherol.

In the study, the researchers inserted genes involved in vitamin E production from sunflower into a plant called Arabidopsis that is commonly used as a model



organism in genetics research.

Using insights from computational simulations on the metabolic processes within the Arabidopsis cells, the researchers tinkered with the genetically engineered cells to make it produce high quantities of alpha-tocopherol.

The combined approach using computer modelling and cellular engineering—also called rational approach—helped the researchers estimate which key enzymes in the engineered Arabidopsis cells when produced in higher quantities, led

to the production of more alpha-tocopherol.

When the researchers experimentally increased the expression of one such enzyme in the tinkered cells, it led to a ten-fold higher alpha-tocopherol yield in one of the lab grown cell lines, compared to the normal non-engineered cells.

They noted that the amount of vitamin E produced was also almost 1.3 times greater than that from the seeds of the parent plant procured from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU).



# India moves up 14 spots to 63 on World Bank's ease of doing business ranking

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India has moved up 14 places in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking to occupy the 63rd spot. India was also among the top 10 performers on the list, which was released on Thursday, for the third time in a row.

World Bank president David Malpass will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday.

A government official, who didn't wish to be named, said that the corporate tax reforms announced the central government has not been included this time and India is likely to be in the top 50 next year. New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong topped the list this year.

Last month, the government slashed corporate tax rates for domestic manufacturers from 30% to 22%, while the rate was reduced from 25% to 15% for new manufacturing companies provided they do not claim any exemptions.

India was ranked 142nd among 190 nations when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014. Four years of reform pushed up India's rank to 100th in World Bank's 'Doing Business' 2018 report. It was 130th in 2017 when it was ranked lower than Iran and Uganda. Last year, the country jumped 23 places to the 77th position on the back of reforms related to insolvency, taxation and other areas. In its report, the World Bank



commended the reform efforts undertaken "given the size of India's economy". Prime Minister Modi's 'Make in India' campaign focused on attracting foreign investment, boosting the private sector — manufacturing in particular — and enhancing the country's overall competitiveness, the World Bank report said.

The government turned to the Doing Business indicators to show investors India's commitment to reform and to demonstrate tangible progress. In 2015, the government's goal was to join the 50 top economies on the ease of doing business ranking by 2020.

The ease of doing business rankings come at a time when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and various rating agencies have slashed India's growth forecast. The Indian economy is witnessing a slowdown. The gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 5% in the quarter ended June, the slowest pace of growth since March 2013.

The other countries on this year's 'top 10 performers' list are Saudi Arabia (62), Jordan (75), Togo (97), Bahrain (43), Tajikistan (106), Pakistan (108), Kuwait (83), China (31) and Nigeria (131).

## 'Tallest, widest, longest cabin': Gulfstream to build world's biggest private jet G700

Gulfstream is angling to reclaim bragging rights as builder of the world's biggest private jet.

The planemaker unveiled plans to make a roomier version of its flagship G650, which was unseated last year as the largest luxury jet by Bombardier Inc.'s Global 7500. Gulfstream's new G700, with an expected debut in 2022, will be capable of flying 7,500 nautical miles and cruising at just under the speed of sound.

The G700 has "the tallest, widest, longest cabin in our industry," Gulfstream President Mark Burns said at a private-jet conference late Monday in Las Vegas.

Gulfstream, a unit of General Dynamics Corp., is betting that the \$76 million G700 will entice the world's wealthiest flyers with the bigger cabin and a longer range. The launch customer is Qatar Airways, which has ordered 10 aircraft for its charter service Qatar Executive. "We've actually had several other orders that we've taken already," Burns said in an interview Tuesday. "My phone's



been blowing up overnight with people asking about what available positions we have."

The initial reaction suggests robust demand for the G700, but Gulfstream will still have to contend with mounting unease among buyers in the luxury-jet market. A slowdown in orders could cause deliveries to begin flagging in 2021, according to a study by Honeywell International Inc. While an array of new aircraft models is expected to boost

shipments this year and next, longer-term threats are emerging from the U.S.-China trade war, the U.K.'s looming break from the European Union, and a shaky global economy.

Bombardier began deliveries of the Global 7500 in December, spurring speculation that Gulfstream would strike back with a larger plane. Bombardier's jet, which came to market two years later than planned, was based on a new design.



## RS 68,751-CRORE REVIVAL PACKAGE FOR LOSS-MAKING BSNL, MTNL

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Putting to rest all speculations about the fate of loss-making BSNL and MTNL, the government today announced a revival package worth Rs 68,751 crore, including 4G spectrum allocation and voluntary retirement scheme for employees.

The Union Cabinet also approved merger of the state-owned telecom firms and till the completion of the process, MTNL will operate as a subsidiary of BSNL, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said here while sharing details of the revival package.

"In case of BSNL and MTNL, the government's view is clear. These are strategic assets of India. The entire army network is maintained by BSNL.

BSNL has around 1.68 lakh employees and MTNL around 22,000.

"The VRS is voluntary; nobody can be forced to opt for it," Prasad said. The total debt on both the companies stood at Rs 40,000 crore, of which half of the liability is on MTNL alone which operates in Delhi and Mumbai. Both the companies have been demanding spectrum to start 4G services to remain competitive in the market. Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said the spectrum will be allocated to both the companies administratively within a month.

## China to monitor US entities list, further open to foreign investment

China will closely monitor the US "entity list", which has led to sanctions on a few Chinese tech firms, and take measures to safeguard its rights and interests, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said.

Firms on the US "entity list" are barred from buying US parts and components without US government approval. Huang Libin, a spokesman for the MIIT, said on Tuesday that China will not close its doors and blindly rely on Chinese-made technology, and it will further open up the telecommunications, internet and auto sectors to foreign investment.

"We will look at the trade friction between China and the United States with an open mind and a big heart," he told reporters during a briefing.

"We will not blindly emphasize 'self-reliance', and not decouple from the development of international industries."

## Oil extends decline as concerns over global economy persist

Oil fell again after a weekly loss amid ongoing concern that a fragile economic outlook will continue to weigh on fuel demand.

Futures fell 1% in New York after dropping 1.7% last week. Policy makers in China, the world's second-biggest oil consumer, are preparing for two key meetings with fresh evidence that economic growth will slip further from its lowest in almost three decades. Speculators have almost tripled short positions in US crude futures since mid-September as Washington and Beijing struggle to finalize a trade deal, according to data released on Friday.

Oil has declined 19% since an April peak even though markets were last month hit by the biggest-ever supply incident with the missile strike on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq plant, and continue to face crises from Iran to Venezuela and Iraq.



## INDIAN AMERICANS AMONG 35 CHARGED IN \$2.1 BILLION MEDICARE SCAM

**NEW YORK (TIP):** A federal law enforcement action involving fraudulent genetic cancer testing has resulted in charges in five federal districts against 35 defendants including three Indian Americans, associated with dozens of telemedicine companies and cancer genetic testing laboratories (CGx) for their alleged participation in one of the largest health care fraud schemes ever charged. According to the charges, these defendants fraudulently billed Medicare more than \$2.1 billion for these CGx tests.

Two Indian origin doctors Sekhar Rao, M.D., 48 of Austin, Texas, and Vinay Parameswara, M.D., 46, of Austin, Texas, were charged for their role in alleged referrals of TRICARE beneficiaries for medically unnecessary "cancer screening" genetic tests and toxicology tests. Rao and Parameswara did not examine or speak with the beneficiaries they signed testing orders for and there was no physician-patient relationship between the physicians and these beneficiaries. Tests were repeated many times and beneficiaries often did not receive the results of their tests. From in or about May 2014 and until in or about June 2016, Rao, Parameswara and others caused the submission of over \$36 million in false and fraudulent claims to TRICARE.

Minal Patel, 40, of Atlanta, Georgia was charged based on his role in an alleged scheme to solicit medically unnecessary CGx tests from Medicare beneficiaries through telemarketing and "health fairs." The tests were then approved by telemedicine doctors who allegedly did not engage in treatment of the beneficiaries, and often did not even speak with the beneficiaries for whom they ordered tests. Patel, the owner of LabSolutions in Georgia and Pennsylvania, then paid the telemarketers illegal kickbacks and bribes in exchange for the doctor's orders and medically unnecessary tests. LabSolutions billed Medicare for more than \$494 million. In addition, the government seized approximately \$30 million in bank accounts from Patel, as well as luxury vehicles, including a Ferrari and a Range Rover.

# Thousands Attend Grand Navratri Celebration in South Brunswick

**SOUTH BRUNSWICK (TIP):** Indo-American Cultural Foundation of Central Jersey - IACFNJ once again organized their 15th Grand Navratri Garba celebration in South Brunswick on October 4, 5, 11 and 12, 2019 in South Brunswick, New Jersey. The Navratri celebration marked the festival of nine nights during which Hindus worship Goddess of Shakti Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

IACFNJ held this year's Garba in a state-of-the-art gymnasium at Crossroads South Middle School and South Brunswick High School in a highly secured environment where people from all over central jersey and surrounding areas enjoyed the colorful festivities to mark Hindu's cultural and religious significance. The center stage was decorated with Goddess Amba Maa's statue in a temple setting where the atmosphere felt like divine and traditional Navratri celebration like back home in India.

The community response was very overwhelming, but the organizers did an outstanding job to process everyone as quickly as possible, so everyone can enjoy more than five hours of garba, raas and sanedo.

Once again, famous group of Mahesh Mehta and his talented artists from Bollywood and local singers and musicians of Entertainment Unlimited rocked the stage with famous old and new live singing of traditional garbas, dandiya, famous sanedo and bhangaras with live entertainment for more than five hours. Sunita Kapur, a famous Bollywood singer was part of the singers this year.

The participants from all age groups from all generations and all cultural backgrounds enjoyed the evening in their colorful traditional costumes. The cultural diversity of Central Jersey was



The center stage was decorated with Goddess Amba Maa's statue in a temple setting



The cultural diversity of Central Jersey was witnessed at the event

witnessed at the event where the other neighboring countries became part attendees from all regions of India and of the celebrations.

## Sikh Leadership Summit to be Held in NYC on November 8

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The 2019 Sikh Leadership Summit will be held in New York City on November 8 at FRANK A. BENNACK, JR. THEATER at the PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA (25 W 52nd St, New York, NY). It will be hosted by The Sikh Art & Film Foundation - a non-profit cultural organization dedicated to creating awareness of and pride in the diversity, culture and history of the Sikhs, as well as the contributions of Sikhs in American society.

The Leadership Summit is intended to inspire and develop the next generation of leaders for success by facilitating interactions with prominent industry leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals across various sectors such as business, government, academe, media, health, nonprofit, culture and the arts.

- Driven by Millennials, social impact is a way of life and a way of being in the world. It has undeniably changed the way corporations do business.
- What does it take to cultivate a



The Leadership Summit is intended to inspire and develop the next generation of leaders for success

2019 SIKH  
LEADERSHIP  
SUMMIT

- community of Change Leaders?
- As a member of society, how can we as individuals be purpose-driven to scale "Doing Well by Doing Good" to drive sustainable social impact
- Gain insights into our distinguished panelist's journey to leadership positions and core values and competencies essential in pursuit of excellence



# Asamai Hindu Temple Hicksville Organized 15th Annual Diwali Mela



**HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP):** Asamai Hindu Temple, Hicksville organized the 15th annual Diwali Mela on October 13 from 12noon till 7pm with more than 6,000 in attendance.

The festivities included 60 booths, 20+ tables, and 12+ food vendors DJ Kucha was the MC and provided entertainment from the beginning to the end. There were Bollywood dances and

cultural programs by renowned dance schools.


Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino, NY Senator Kavin Thomas, Rose Marie Walker, District Office representative Mark Kennedy, and others were present.

The honorees included Sunil Modi, past president of AIA, Shiva Haran, president of Saibaba temple, Flushing, SenaKhanna and Vinod Khanija, Asamai Hindu temple trustees.

The Mela was full of life and had all kind of vendors, including Banks, insurance Companies, Clothing shops, and religious goods. Food vendors included South Indian, North Indian, coffee, tea, sweets, and all other varieties.

A 60 page journal published to mark the event was distributed at the Mela and in the Mandir.





## Celebrating Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Birthday


### India's First Prime Minister

**14 November, Thursday**  
Time: 6.30PM Eastern


*Please join us to celebrate the vision of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru that established a democratic and secular India with equal justice for all its citizens.*

*Featured Speaker*  
**Sunita Viswanath**  
*(Co-founder 'SADHANA')*

*Chief Guest & Honoree*




**Paul Vallone,**  
*(New York City Councilman)*



**Venue**

Sohna Punjab Restaurant,  
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Bellerose, NY 11426  
(Tel. 718 470 9400)

RSVP: George Abraham,  
917-544-4137



For more information:

George Abraham - 917-544-4137, Mohinder Singh Gilzian - 646-732-5119, Harbachan Singh - 917-749-8769, Malini Shah - 646-286-8284, Bipin Sangankar - 917-400-6520, George Joseph - 917-324-4907, Ranjit Singh - 718-359-3660, Koshy Oommen - 347-867-1200, John Joseph - 631-943-3387, Dr. J. S. Chandan - 917-972-6000, Mohammed Imran - 973-9104, Inderjit Saluja - 646-247-9458



# CHI Gala - 'Children on the Move' Raises Over \$1 Million

## Sandeep Mathrani Honored with the Lotus Award for Corporate Excellence Ramakrishna Raju of Vision-Aid Receives the Making a Difference Award

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** It was a sold-out event, one of Children's Hope India's (CHI) most successful fundraising galas with over 500 guests from the tri-state area.

The theme of the evening was Children on the Move and it celebrated the upward progress of children through education and enhanced opportunities through CHI programs. CHI shared their story through a powerful video which showed that they are always on the move, as children of migrants, slum-dwellers, wage workers and refugees.

The master of ceremonies Reena Ninan, CBS anchorperson and television personality, radiant in an Anita Dongre ensemble, introduced the highlights of the evening at the packed waterfront venue.



Lavina Melwani, Dina Pahlajani, Ramakrishna Raju, Poonam and Sunny Khubani

Dr. Dina Pahlajani, president of Children's Hope India, pointed out the strides the 27-year-old organization had made, with a new India office and a new chapter in New Jersey, besides nurturing CH2 and CH3, groups of young people dedicated to supporting the cause of education.

"We are now beginning to build partnerships in communities where we work so that together as a team, we uplift a community," she said. "Our newly opened learning center in Anganwa, Jodhpur is an example where a non-profit from New Jersey has partnered with us and is teaching vocational skills to women in this struggling community so they can be wage-earners as well. Our consultative ECOSOC status at the UN will allow us to build on such partnerships globally."

Pahlajani also pointed out that CHI continues to be volunteer-driven with low overheads, with 90 percent of the funds raised going to helping children.

The evening marked the presentation of the Lotus Award to Sandeep Mathrani, CEO of Brookfield Properties Retail Group and Vice Chairman of Brookfield Properties. Mathrani noted, "Every child deserves the chance to achieve their goals and dreams just like I had the chance, and all of us here tonight have the chance. Building a community, and a world, on the privilege of equality means that none of us is, or can be, on our own."

Ramakrishna M. Raju, Founder of Vision-Aid, a 15-year-old non-profit based in Boston which has done great work to empower the visually impaired, received the Making a Difference Award. He observed that just as CHI's motto is every child counts, Vision-Aid's is that every visually impaired person counts because they have their own challenges to live with



Sunil Sani, Sandeep Mathrani, Dina Pahlajani and Reena Ninan at CHI Gala



CHI Gala - Board members



CHI Gala - 2019 - Aatma Performing Arts

dignity and independence.

He said, "We look up to CHI as a role model and a great NGO to follow. Here's to the cause of children everywhere, and to the cause of the visually impaired everywhere. Let's work together to create a more inclusive world."

The spirit of Diwali and of hope was highlighted with an entire wall of sparkling diyas, small lamps which light up villages in India. The theme was further enhanced by a lively performance by Amit Shah's Aatma Performing Arts in which the dancers fully captured the earthy vibrancy of rural communities on the move.

The cocktail hour was set up as a delightful carnival of ethnic street foods by Chef Gaurav Anand and appreciative crowds enjoyed the gol guppas, bhel puri as well as eats from different parts of India. This was further enhanced by Nihal Singh's live tabla beats which embrace East and West in its rhythms.

Guests then sat down to a plated dinner of modern Indian cuisine which was served with fine

Podernuovo wines from Sienna. This was followed by a dessert wonderland that included 50 varieties of petit fours, and live stations of halwa, gulab jamun and malpua pancakes with rabri.

The live auction by Lucas Hunt Auctioneers raised six figures for CHI projects, especially for the new learning center for the children of refugees in Jodhpur who are currently in thatched huts with no electricity.

Live auctions of an amazing 4-day stay in the Bulgari personal family residence and a visit to the vineyards received several bids as did a private gourmet dining experience for 30 people created by Chef Anand with a live tabla concert by Nihal Singh.

The flawless evening was enriched with decor by Elegant Affairs, coordinated by Jharna Jaisinghani



CHI Gala - Street Foods

of Artistic Affairs and the music was provided by DJ Sharad of DJUSA.

The On the Move Gala raised over \$1 million for Children's Hope India's health and education programs, helping our children to move onward and upwards in life.

### About Children's Hope India:

More than two decades ago, Children's Hope India started as a small group of women professionals hoping to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children. Now in 2019, Children's Hope India has over 22 projects across several cities in India and the New York Metropolitan Area and has impacted over 300,000 children by looking after their health, education and vocational training.

The focus of Children's Hope India is the 'whole' child and providing all the tools a child needs to progress from poverty to prosperity with a cradle to career approach. Since 2015 alone, CHI has allocated \$3 million to programs in several cities in India and additional ones in the New York metro area. We are committed to quality education to enrich and empower children for life in the 21st century.

[www.childrenshopeindia.org](http://www.childrenshopeindia.org)

[www.facebook.com/childrenshopeindia](https://www.facebook.com/childrenshopeindia)

[www.twitter.com/childrenshopein](https://www.twitter.com/childrenshopein)

(Press Release issued by J Nami Kaur)



# WHY ARE LAKSHMI AND GANESHA WORSHIPED TOGETHER ON DIWALI?

On the day of Diwali, it is a custom to worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha together. It is well-known that Goddess Lakshmi is the Goddess of wealth, fortune, luxury and prosperity (both material and spiritual) while Lord Ganesha is revered as the remover of obstacles, the patron of arts and sciences and the 'Deva' of intellect and wisdom. People worship these two deities together to welcome wealth along with intelligence. Since no celebration is deemed complete without invoking Lord Ganesha, Diwali is no exception either. Ganesha is considered as the remover of all obstacles. Hence, He is worshipped first to get rid of all the obstacles that hinder our growth. Along with that, worshipping the forms of Goddess Mahalakshmi is the most crucial part of Diwali. It is said that on the night of Diwali, Goddess Lakshmi visits each house and blesses everyone with great wealth. But the question remains as to why Lakshmi and Ganesha are worshipped together and there is an interesting story behind the worship of Lakshmi and Ganesha on Diwali.

According to the scriptures, once Goddess Lakshmi grew very arrogant about Her wealth and powers. While having a conversation with Her husband, Lord Vishnu, She kept praising Herself, claiming that She is the only one worthy of worship. She is the one who bestows everyone with money and wealth. On hearing the non-stop self praise, Lord Vishnu decided to get rid of Her arrogance. Very calmly, Lord Vishnu said that in spite of having all the qualities, a woman remains incomplete if she does not bear children. Motherhood is the ultimate joy that a woman can experience and since Lakshmi did not have children, She could not be deemed complete. On hearing this Goddess Lakshmi was extremely disappointed. With a heavy heart, Goddess Lakshmi went to Goddess Parvati to seek help. Since Parvati had two sons, She requested the Goddess to let Her adopt one of Her sons to experience the joy of motherhood. Parvati was reluctant to let Lakshmi adopt Her son because it was known that Lakshmi does not stay in one place for long. So, she would not be able to take care of Her son. But Lakshmi assured Her that She would take care of Her son in every possible way and bestow Him with all the happiness. Understanding Lakshmi's pain, Goddess Parvati let Her adopt Ganesha as Her son. Goddess Lakshmi became extremely elated and said that She will bestow Ganesha with all Her accomplishments and prosperity. Those worshipping Lakshmi for wealth would first have to worship Ganesha to seek Her blessings. Those who will worship Lakshmi without Ganesha will not be blessed by the Goddess. Hence, Lakshmi is always worshipped along with Ganesha on Diwali. Gaining wealth without intellect will only result in misusing the wealth. So, one must first acquire the intelligence to spend the wealth in the right manner. Therefore, Lakshmi and Ganesha are worshipped



together.

## Mythological Story

Once upon a time Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi were having conversation in heaven and Goddess Lakshmi was praising herself and telling Lord Vishnu that she is the most worship worthy in the world and by her grace, a person can get all the pleasures of this world and becomes happiest person. By hearing the self praising by Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Vishnu said to her for reducing her ego, "You are having all the qualities, still you did not feel the joy of motherhood till now and for a lady, the motherhood joy is the most important thing in this universe."

The comment from Lord Vishnu made Goddess Lakshmi become disheartened and in this pain she went to her friend Goddess Parvati. After listing the problem of Goddess Lakshmi, Parvati asked her, "How can I help you?" Goddess Lakshmi said, "You are having two sons and if you could give me your one son you will still have one son and I could get the grace of motherhood. So, in this situation you can help me out."

By listing her Goddess Parvati said to her, "I'm having two sons Kartikeya and Ganesha. Kartikeya is having six mouths (Faces) and because of this he needs to eat all the time. My second son Ganesha is very naughty, if I missed to keep eye on him for a bit, he ruined everything. And you cannot stay at one place for a long, so tell me how can you

take care of my sons?"

By hearing this Goddess Lakshmi said to her, "I'll keep your sons close to my heart and will shower my all love on them either Kartikeya or Ganesha. I can take care both of them. All the servants of heaven will serve them day and night so please give me one of them as my adopted child."

Maa Parvati knew her both the sons very well so she gave Lord Ganesha to Goddess Lakshmi as her adopted son. Goddess Lakshmi became very happy and said to Goddess Parvati, "From today onwards I'm giving my all accomplishments, luxury and prosperity to my son Ganesha. Also,

Riddhi and Siddhi Lord Brahma's daughters are alike my daughters will be married soon for which I give my word to you.

I will fulfill all the desires of Ganesha. In all the three loks which person shall not worship Lord Ganesha and do back biting, I will be miles away from him. Whenever my worship will be performed, Lord Ganesha's worship will be a must. Who will not worship Shri Ganesha along with me, he cannot get Shree or myself. By listening this Maa Parvati become too much happy and handed over her son Ganesha to Lakshmi Ji. As such at Deepawali Poojan or Luxmi Poojan, Ganesha Poojan is a must.

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**"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"**

**"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"**

**"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."**



### Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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

## Weekly Horoscope - October 28 - November 3, 2019

**ARIES:** Ganesha says go with the flow of events and there will be new beginnings which will be quite happy and fortunate for you. Keep your chin up, do not go under or get discouraged and frustrated. There may also be some issues at work that need resolution. You will have to work around people and circumstances and find a way around roadblocks. Ganesha will help you.

**TAURUS:** You can be extremely emotional and sensitive about many issues. Your desire for relationships is in strong conflict with your need to feel like a distinct, separate and definite individual. You also want your space; you are in dilemma. There could also be some bitterness at home with family members. You will find it difficult to relate to people and may even feel very lonely with family members and loved ones.

**GEMINI:** You are hard-working and talented but you need some discipline where your emotions are concerned. Ask Ganesha for guidance. This is a period of good times and expenses and many meetings. There could be love too depending on your personal chart. It will be a good idea to re-examine your relationships and determine with finality your rights, duties and obligations.

**CANCER:** There may be heavy demands on you and you are in a quandary: do you break free or still hang on to the relationship. You can't live without the person and can't live with the person either. You will have to take the call on this. You will also spend time with social work and animal welfare. This will be a much-needed diversion too. There could be a marriage in the family or an addition to it. Ganesha blesses you.

**LEO:** You have a great need for people and bonds. The stress is on relationships at all levels. This makes you happy. You are keen to strengthen existing bonds and forge new ones. There is also the need to put your finances on track. A lot of your time will be spent on house, home and property matters. You will carry on with your strong, definite focus on the 3 F's - funds, family and finances.

**VIRGO:** The desire to have genuine material security will dominate you. There will be acquisitions, budgeting of household expenses and finances, add-ons, extensions, renovations, new purchases. You will have to be more adaptable and flexible in your dealings as you look at achieving more and more. There will be support from extended family and kin and your colleagues. The immediate family too will pitch in.

**LIBRA:** There is familial support now for all your ventures and this makes you really happy as you want deep bonds with loved ones and are unhappy when that doesn't happen. You look for more funds. Speculation, gambling and betting will also interest and excite you as you look at all money-making possibilities seriously. Ganesha rewards you with satisfaction and joy from things that matter to you like pets, creative pursuits, hobbies.

**SCORPIO:** You look at all new avenues of income and that includes new areas of work too. One has to change with the times and flow like water and find one's level. You need to step out of your comfort zone and look at the world with new eyes. Ganesha is with you. Events are outpacing you and you will be in a great hurry to get things done at breakneck speed this period.

**SAGITTARIUS:** There will be some restlessness too as you are impatient to get cracking at what you want to do. Delays and impediments will be a nuisance and you will be chancing your luck as you look at new avenues and take risks. It would be a good idea to take precautions, do your homework, read the finer points of contracts and documents and comb the details.

**CAPRICORN:** There could also be a shift in your residence or office as you move ahead quickly and efficiently. Along with greater earnings are also many expenses. Ganesha watches over you. This is an intense phase and you push yourself very hard. You are burning the candle at both ends as you also entertain with flair and enjoy time-out at social gatherings. You look at long-term benefits and plan with caution.

**AQUARIUS:** You are motivated and happy. You look for fun, love, romance, happy times and the simple pleasures of life. You will have a good rapport with all comers both at domestic functions and official gatherings. You fuse work and pleasure and there is no letting up. There could be a new romantic interest but nothing certain can be said of it now. Ganesha asks you to wait and watch.

**PISCES:** You are in a thoughtful mood and I dare say morbid and dissolute. There is no use getting unnecessarily sentimental and emotional about things from the past that you cannot change nor do anything about. Learn from whatever has happened and move on. Also, one swallow doesn't make a summer and so don't generalize. You will be interacting with people at all levels.

### Birthday Horoscope October 28 - November 3, 2019

**Oct 28:** Ganesha says an abundant opportunity or gift, perhaps related to the family / money paperwork, bears fruit. Expect options close by to warm up. The media?

**Oct 29:** Relations, especially involving money or credit, shows signs of jealousy, envy, or resentment. Talk things out and you can restore resource harmony.

**Oct 30:** Tasks together can lead to an evening out or lovely dinner with friends. Watch for someone's defences, however, when the bill arrives.

**Oct 31:** The emotional flow comes from your partnership zone, a pheromone that overcomes your usual logic-only approach.

**Nov 1:** A money talk with a partner goes well around lunchtime - or someone treats for brunch! but late - afternoon doubts can bring someone down.

**Nov 2:** You're fully empowered to take disciplined action and make it super-effective and you the victor. Whether involving loved ones or ambitions, potent fortitude and influential supporters power you on.

**Nov 3:** Even reserved you make want to take a chance on something today, feeling the urge to roll the dice. Change is likely, but it's hard to say if the dice will roll lucky or snake eyes.





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# Indian American South Bay Doctor Sentenced to Two Years in Prison



**Aachi, 52, of Saratoga, pleaded guilty to the charges on March 25, 2019. According to the plea agreement, Aachi was a licensed physician who operated a pain clinic in San Jose and maintained a DEA registration number authorizing him to prescribe controlled substances**

**SAN JOSE (TIP):** A South Bay doctor of Indian origin, Venkat Aachi, was sentenced, Oct 21, to 24 months in prison for health care fraud and for distributing hydrocodone outside the scope of his professional practice and without a legitimate medical need, announced United States Attorney David L. Anderson, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent in Charge Chris Nielsen, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge John F. Bennett, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (HHS-OIG) Special Agent in Charge Steven J. Ryan, and the California Department of Justice Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (BMFEA). The sentence was handed down by the Honorable Edward J. Davila, U.S. District Judge.

Aachi, 52, of Saratoga, pleaded guilty to the charges on March 25, 2019. According to the plea agreement, Aachi was a licensed physician who operated a pain clinic in San Jose and maintained a

DEA registration number authorizing him to prescribe controlled substances. Aachi admitted that from September 18, 2017, through July 2, 2018, he wrote hydrocodone-acetaminophen prescriptions that were outside the scope of his professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose.

"Dr. Venkat Aachi went from doctor to drug dealer when he prescribed highly addictive painkillers without a physical examination or legitimate medical need," stated DEA Special Agent in Charge Chris Nielsen. "Regardless of title or degree, no one is above the law. DEA will hold medical practitioners accountable if they operate outside the scope of their professional practice, putting patients and lives others at risk."

"Physicians who unlawfully prescribe opioids are directly contributing to the opioid crisis," said FBI Special Agent in Charge John F. Bennett. "Venkat Aachi violated his oath and the trust of our community by illicitly pushing controlled substances to persons without

need. The FBI, along with our local, state and federal partners, will continue to investigate and pursue medical professionals who violate the public's trust and defraud our healthcare system." "Aachi abused his medical license to prescribe controlled substances and, as a result, will be serving time behind bars," said Steven J. Ryan, Special Agent in Charge for the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "This sentence is a warning to criminals who knowingly commit fraud and perpetuate the nation's opioid epidemic." "The message we are sending today is clear: if you prescribe dangerous drugs in an irresponsible manner, we are coming after you," said Attorney General Becerra. "Medical professionals should be safeguarding the welfare of their patients, not risking their lives. My office will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to fight against all forms of healthcare fraud in California."

contd from page 1

## Assembly Elections, By Elections to Lok Sabha: Congress shows signs of Recovery

NCP notched up an additional 21 seats compared to the 2014 numbers.

The BJP won 103 seats out of the 150 it contested, while alliance partner Sena secured a clear mandate on 56 seats out of 124. The saffron alliance's final tally stood at 159. The BJP's 14 allies contested on the lotus symbol.

The opposition tally stood at 100 with the Congress winning 46 out of 147 seats it contested and NCP bagging 54 of the 121 seats it contested. Other opposition allies won six seats.

Haryana ended up with a hung Assembly with the ruling BJP emerging as the largest party with 40 seats, but still six short of the halfway mark needed to form the next government. The Congress won 31 seats, the Jannayak Janta Party 10, the Indian National Lok Dal and Haryana Lokhit Party one each. The Aam Aadmi Party, which contested 46 seats, was decimated.

Senior Congress leader and two-time Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda registered the highest victory margin in the Assembly elections.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar says the BJP will soon form government in the State again. With the motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, the work towards making Haryana strong and prosperous will be carried forward", he said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "I thank the people of Haryana for blessing us. We will continue to work with the same zeal and dedication for the State's progress. I laud the efforts of hardworking Haryana BJP Karyakartas who toiled extensively and went among the people to elaborate on our development

agenda."

BJP president Amit Shah has indicated that his party will stake claim to form the next government in Haryana after the Assembly election results threw a hung verdict.

"The (Manohar Lal) Khattar government in Haryana has made every effort for people's welfare under the central leadership of (Narendra) Modi. I thank people for making the BJP the single-largest party and giving it another opportunity to serve them," Shah tweeted.

## 'Will play constructive role in govt formation': Jagmeet Singh, NDP leader

expressed confidence that common ground could be found with the Opposition parties on affordability issues and climate change action, leading to a "stable and working" minority Parliament.

Singh, who was himself a prime ministerial contender, said his party is open to all possibilities: a formal deal to prop up the Liberals, a power-sharing coalition, or to simply pressure them on their policy wish list on a vote-to-vote basis, the Toronto Star newspaper reported. "This minority government gives us the chance to be able to fight for the things that we have laid out all along this campaign," Singh told reporters in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Singh, the first non-white leader of a federal political party in Canada has congratulated Trudeau, 47, on his win and said he spoke to him earlier in the day. Singh's NDP has won 24 seats this time.

Being able to hold leverage in the minority Parliament is a silver lining for Singh, who surpassed expectations in this campaign but still saw his party lose 13 seats, the report said. "The results show a broken electoral system and it's certainly clear we need to fix it," he said. (Source: PTI)

## Canadians Give Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party Narrow Victory

New Democratic Party (NDP) with 24, the Greens with three, and one independent member.

Not only was Trudeau's Liberal Party forced by voters to accept a demotion to a minority government -- grabbing just 157 of 338 seats in the House of Commons -- but about two-thirds of the country voted against him. His party's share of the popular vote clocked in at just 33.1% -- less than the 34.4% earned by the rival the Conservative Party of Canada and its leader Andrew Scheer. (Despite receiving a greater percentage of the vote, the Conservative Party picked up 36 fewer seats than the Liberals.) In order to have won a second majority, the Liberals would have had to hit or exceed the magic number of 170 seats.

Foreign Policy commented: "Even if his support at home has weakened, a few leaders in Europe will be celebrating his reelection. Losing Trudeau would have been a blow to his allies in the G-7, notably French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Trudeau's reelection is a small win for the increasingly isolated club of liberal, internationalist leaders."

U.S. President Donald Trump was quick out of the gate to congratulate Trudeau. Any evidence of their rocky relationship appeared to be a distant memory, as Trump wrote: "I look forward to working with you toward the betterment of both of our countries!"

In his address after the results were known, Trudeau said: "Tonight Canadians rejected division and negativity. They rejected cuts and austerity. They elected a progressive agenda and strong action on climate change". "To those who did not vote for us, know that we will work every single day for you, we will govern for everyone," Trudeau said. But Trudeau's was hardly a resounding victory. (Source: Agencies)

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# Heartiest Diwali Greetings



For decades Shiv Dass has been a voice for the South Asian business community in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. He is a business leader, a community organizer, and member of the local community board and has worked tirelessly to establish a positive and open relationship between the community and the elected officials, and in turn, he is often sought out by politicians seeking to get their message out.



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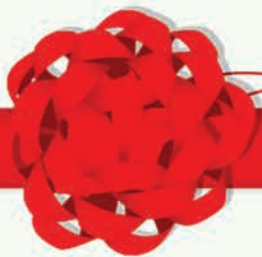
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## ICC TEST RANKINGS

# Rohit storms into top 10, Rahane joins Virat Kohli

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Opener Rohit Sharma has been rewarded for his scintillating form in the recently-concluded series against South Africa as he entered the top-10 in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Test rankings on Wednesday. Rohit jumped 12 places to take the 10th spot in the latest list. In total, Rohit amassed 529 runs in his debut series as opener with a maiden double hundred in the final Test against South Africa apart from twin hundreds in Visakhapatnam. The run-filled performances also earned him the man of the series award.

Ajinkya Rahane's knock of 116 in Ranchi has helped him equal his career-high rank of fifth place, achieved earlier in November 2016. He remains the third-best Indian batsman in terms of Test rankings after Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara. With Mayank Agarwal in 18th position, India have finished the series with five batsmen in the top 20.

Fast bowlers Mohammad Shami and Umesh Yadav have ended the series with their highest-ever rating points tally. Shami is on 751 points and only one place below his career-best ranking of 14th achieved in March 2018, while Yadav is on 624 points, three below his best of 21st in July 2016.

For South Africa, George Linde has started in 104th position among batsmen after scores of 37 and 27 and 99th among bowlers after finishing with four wickets.

Earlier, India registered their maiden series clean sweep against South Africa as they defeated the Proteas by an innings and 203 runs in Ranchi. With the win, India continue their perfect record, winning five matches in five games so far.



The Kohli-led side is the only team to cross the 200-run mark in the table with the emphatic victory. With three matches in the series, every game was worth 40 points, and India's total tally goes to 240

points in five games. New Zealand and Sri Lanka are tied on points, at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively, with 60 points each. It means India have a lead of 180 points over the 2nd best team in the table, as of now.



Indian captain Virat Kohli and team players pose with the trophy after winning the Test series against South Africa at JSCA Stadium, in Ranchi on October 22, 2019.

## INDIA BLOW AWAY SOUTH AFRICA IN RANCHI FOR 3-0 CLEAN SWEEP

**RANCHI (TIP):** A formidable Indian team ticked all boxes with ease as they deservingly completed a 3-0 rout of an out-of-sorts South Africa with a comprehensive innings and 202 runs victory in the third and final Test here on Tuesday.

With another 120 points, India now sit pretty on top of the points table with 240 points as the formalities were completed within the first two overs of the day.

The score line was not only an indicator of India's absolute dominance but also the decline in standard of South African cricket as they couldn't handle the might of India's batting and the fiery India pace attack led by Mohammed Shami (13 wickets in the series). Debutant Shahbaz Nadeem (2/18 in 6 overs) wrapped it up in the second over of the day as South Africa were all out for 133 in their second innings, 30 runs short of their dismal first innings score of 162.

This is India's sixth clean sweep at home in a three-Test series and India didn't put a foot wrong during the three-match series winning the first Test by 203 runs and the second by an innings and 137 runs.

If Rohit Sharma's coming of age in his new role as an opener with 529 runs turned out to be a masterstroke in home conditions, Mayank Agarwal also consolidated his place in the side with a double century and a ton, easing India's long-time opening woes. "I was very happy to make my debut in Australia and make little contributions to the team," Agarwal said after the match.

## India vs Bangladesh: Rohit Sharma named T20I captain as Virat Kohli rested

**MUMBAI (TIP):** Virat Kohli has been handed a much-needed break from international cricket and rested for the three-match Twenty20 series against Bangladesh, in November. Opening batsman Rohit Sharma will lead the team in his place. Kohli, however, will be back for the two-match Test series. Wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal made a return to the T20 squad and keeper-batsman Sanju Samson was rewarded for his impressive showings in domestic cricket, including the Indian Premier League, with a long-awaited call up. He played his first and only T20I back in 2015. Mumbai all-rounder Shivam Dube got his maiden international call-up to fill in for the injured Hardik Pandya, who is recovering from back surgery, while Mumbai and Chennai Super Kings pacer Shardul Thakur is also part of the squad.

Kohli, who captains India in all three formats and is the top performer with the bat for the side, and a burnout is always a possibility for him. Right after the World Cup in England, there was talk that Kohli would skip the Twenty20 matches against West Indies, but he went ahead and played those matches. This time the team management and selectors, on the advice of the support staff monitoring the workload of the players, decided to give him a break.

In another major decision, experienced all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was not picked to make space for Krunal Pandya, who offers a similar set of skills. In the build-up to the 2020 T20 World Cup, India has been looking for depth in their lower-order; hence they have preferred bowlers who can also contribute with the bat, which has seen Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav not being played together.

## SOURAV GANGULY TAKES OVER AS BCCI PRESIDENT

**MUMBAI (TIP):** Sourav Ganguly, former India captain, took over as the president of Board of Control For Cricket In India (BCCI) on Wednesday. Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, began his tenure as the new secretary while Arun Dhumal takes office as treasurer. Dhumal is the younger brother of Minister of State for Finance and former BCCI president Anurag Thakur. There were no elections held for appointments of the posts since all candidates emerged unopposed after weeks of lobbying and hectic parleys.

Ganguly is the first India cricketer after the Maharaja of Vizianagaram to become the president of Board of Control For Cricket in India (BCCI).

"I'm confident that as BCCI President he will take cricket to greater heights. I am hopeful that Jay Shah and Sourav Ganguly and their team will deliver. This is start of a new era for Indian cricket," said Delhi and Districts Cricket Association chief Rajat Sharma.

Former IPL Chairman Rajiv Shukla echoed the sentiment. "Sourav will be an asset because he has been the most successful captain, and he has been most successful CAB President as well" he said.

After becoming the president of BCCI, Sourav Ganguly took to Twitter to share a picture of himself as the former India captain took charge of Indian cricket board.



Ganguly, however, will be able to serve as BCCI president only up to September 2020, as he is currently the president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and will have to go into a compulsory cooling off period.



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