

The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the **550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji**, the First Master of the Sikhs, on November 8. Articles and advertisements for this special commemorative edition are invited.

Please email articles by November 1 to salujaindra@gmail.com.

Advertisers are requested to book space by October 30 and email creatives by November 3 to salujaindra@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.theindianpanorama.news
Email to: salujaindra@gmail.com.
Call 646-247-9458.

Israeli spyware on WhatsApp used to target Indian journalists; GOI seeks report



NEW DELHI (TIP): WhatsApp on Thursday, October 31 said Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using an Israeli spyware Pegasus, leading to a furor over breach of citizens' privacy.

Following the disclosure by WhatsApp, the Indian government has asked the messaging platform to explain the matter and list out the measures that have been taken by it to safeguard privacy of millions of Indians. "Government of India is concerned at the breach of privacy of citizens of India on the messaging platform WhatsApp. We have asked WhatsApp to explain the kind of breach and what it is doing to safeguard the privacy of millions of Indian citizens," IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said in a tweet.

contd on Page 30

State of Jammu and Kashmir is now Two Union Territories

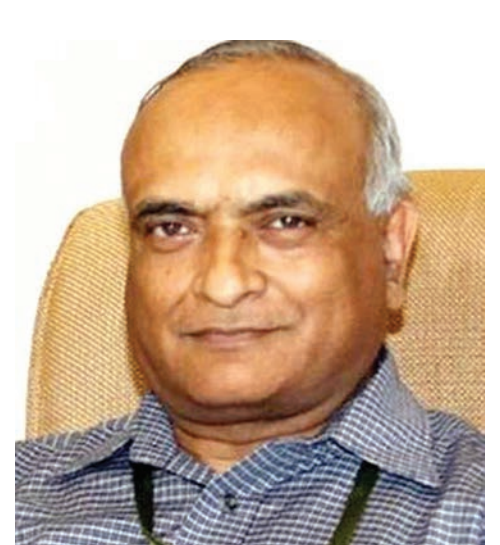
SRINAGAR (TIP): The State of Jammu and Kashmir has become a thing of the past on October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. It is now two Union Territories- the Union Territory of J & K, and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, October 31 on the Iron Man of India's 144th birth anniversary said he had fulfilled the dream of Patel by abrogating the special status granted to the State of J & K under Article 370, and fully integrating the State of Jammu & Kashmir in to India. As the clock struck 12 midnight on October 30 and a new day beckoned, Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, October 31 transitioned from a

contd on Page 30



Girish Chandra Murmu and Radha Krishna Mathur took oath of office as Lt. Governor of the Union Territories of J & K and Ladakh respectively



Indian Journalist counters false reporting on Kashmir at Washington's National Press Club



Hindu American Foundation hosted Aarti Tikoo Singh, Senior Assistant Editor, Times of India (New Delhi), for a press conference.

Photo / Courtesy HAF

Indian Constitution. Members of the press were invited to hear her eyewitness account, learn about the history of the region, particularly the ethnic cleansing of over 300,000 Kashmiri Hindus (aka Kashmiri Pandits) in 1989-90, as well as her

contd on Page 30

WASHINGTON (TIP): On Thursday, October 24th, the Hindu American Foundation hosted Aarti Tikoo Singh, Senior Assistant Editor, Times of India (New Delhi), for a press conference entitled "Locked Down or Liberated? The Story of Kashmir" at the historic National Press Club in downtown Washington, DC.

Award-winning veteran journalist Aarti Tikoo Singh has reported on and from the region for nearly two decades, most recently from inside the Kashmir Valley since August 5th, when the government repealed the discriminatory

Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution. Members of the press were invited to hear her eyewitness account, learn about the history of the region, particularly the ethnic cleansing of over 300,000 Kashmiri Hindus (aka Kashmiri Pandits) in 1989-90, as well as her

US House Passes Resolution to Formalize Trump Impeachment Process

WASHINGTON

(TIP): US Congress formally opened a new, public phase of its corruption investigation into Donald Trump on Thursday, October 31 as US lawmakers voted for the first time to advance the impeachment process targeting the US president.

"Today the House takes the next step forward as we establish the procedures for open hearings... so that the public can see the facts for themselves," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "What is at stake in all of this is nothing less than our democracy." The top Democrat and Trump's chief nemesis in Congress addressed fellow lawmakers shortly before her chamber took a Halloween morning vote along party lines (232 to 196) to pass a resolution that lays out rules for the next stages of the impeachment process.

contd on Page 30



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

Documentary on Guru Nanak to be screened at NYC Sikh International Film Festival

story on Page 2



Andy Singh

516-441-7000

16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh

718-441-7000

118-18 101 Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers



Anu Jain

NYS Licensed Realtor

A Trusted and Successful Name

FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!
BECAUSE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND
YOU DESERVE THE BEST

CALL NOW

(516) 728-4186

anujainrealtor@gmail.com

WWW.SEARCHHOMELONGISLAND.COM

RealtyConnectUSA
175 Crossways Park Dr. W, Woodbury NY 11797. (516) 744- 9076

Indian American Balpreet Grewal Virk Selected to Represent New Jersey on Gateway Development Commission



Balpreet Grewal Virk, PhD, is Director of Community Engagement in the Department of Population Health at Hackensack Meridian Health

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Last month New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the individuals they have selected to represent New York and New Jersey on the Gateway Development Commission, which will oversee construction of the new Hudson Tunnel Project.

Governor Murphy will nominate Indian American Balpreet Grewal Virk along with Janine G. Bauer and who upon confirmation from the New Jersey Senate will collectively serve as New Jersey's representatives

Balpreet Grewal Virk, PhD, is Director of Community Engagement in the Department of Population Health at Hackensack Meridian Health. Ms. Grewal Virk provides leadership and oversight to system-wide community health initiatives in her role at Hackensack University Hospital. She was born and raised in a diverse community in Bergen County. Both of her parents migrated from Punjab, India.

Ms. Grewal Virk graduated from Seton Hall University, majoring in criminal justice, and went on to earn her Master's in corporate and organizational culture, an MBA with a focus on marketing, and a PhD in health and medical sciences. She is also active on the political circuit and has been involved in multiple campaigns including those for Senator Cory Booker, Senator Robert Menendez, and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton. Grewal-Virk and her husband, Yoginder, have two young children.

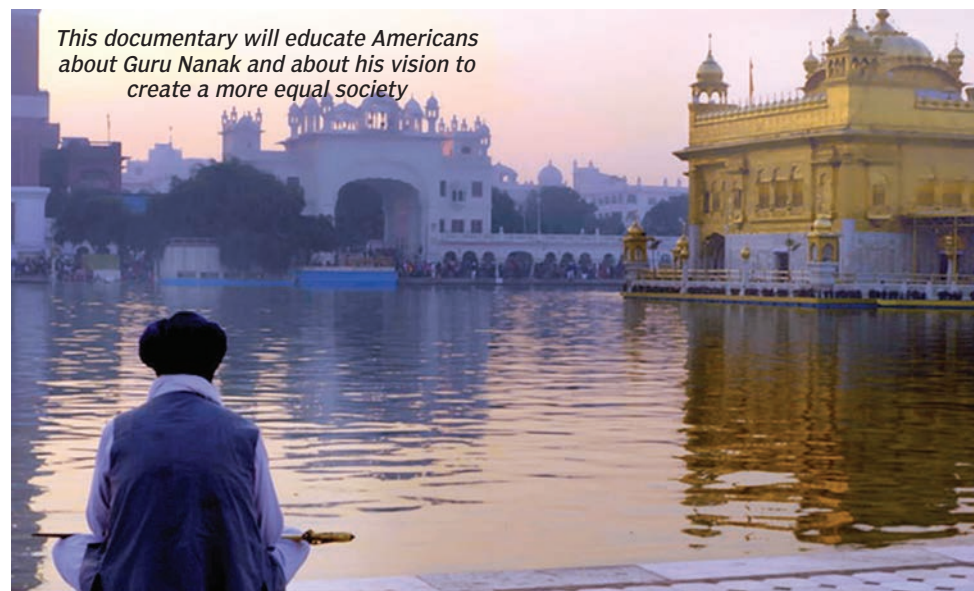
Documentary on Guru Nanak to be screened at NYC Sikh International Film Festival

NEW YORK (TIP): Guru Nanak: The Founder of Sikhism - Life & Legacy - a documentary directed by Gerald Krell & Adam Krell will be screened at The Sikh International Film Festival SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 at the Paley Center for Media in New York City

The Sikh International Film Festival celebrates the rich Heritage, Traditions & Culture of Sikhs and the immigrant experience through a diverse mix of Documentaries, Short & Feature Films.

This year marks the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. As a visionary, feminist, and innovator, Guru Nanak was a revolutionary leader who stood up for the rights of people on the fringes of society. Despite his vision and the relevance of his teachings, virtually no Americans have heard of Guru Nanak.

This documentary will educate Americans about Guru Nanak and about his vision to create a more equal society. In addition, it shows examples of Sikhs making a difference in the lives of many people here in America and other parts of the world by following the teachings of Guru Nanak! The documentary will air



on PBS in early 2020.

The film includes narration by reputable religious figures such as Bishop Chane, a Christian leader and former head of the Washington National Cathedral; Rabbi David Rosen, a Jewish authority and well respected interfaith leader; Bob Thurman, a Buddhist

scholar and one of Time magazine's 50 most influential people; and Dr. Saran, a Hindu scholar from Georgetown University. Also featured are well-respected authors including Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Roopinder Singh, Nikky Guninder Kaur, and Kamla Kapur.

Indian American Professor to Share Stories behind Breast Cancer

NEW YORK (TIP): The stories behind breast cancer-patient, survivor, caregiver, medical practitioner and advocate-are the center of the documentary theater production "TitBits: Breast Cancer Stories," which will debut Nov 9 at the Newhouse School, Syracuse University.

Tula Goenka, professor of television, radio and film in the Newhouse School, is the producer and director of TitBits, an original documentary theater piece that will have a cold reading in the Joyce Hergenhahn Auditorium of Newhouse 3 on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Goenka, herself a breast cancer survivor, has dedicated the last decade to sharing her story and the stories of other breast cancer survivors to break down barriers between public perception and their personal experiences. "TitBits" is part of the Look Now Project and presented as part of the Syracuse University Humanities Center's 2019-20 Syracuse Symposium: Silence. It features the stories of Colleen Anderson, Deirdre Bordies, Anthony Deboni, Barbara Genton, AnnMarie Giannino-Otis, Samuel Gruber, Sheila Lemke and Anju Varshney.

She teaches courses in multimedia storytelling, film production and Indian cinema, and started her filmmaking career as an editor for Spike Lee, James Ivory and Mira Nair, among others. She now produces and edits her own documentaries, including the award-winning PBS film "Dancing On Mother



Goenka, herself a breast cancer survivor, has dedicated the last decade to sharing her story and the stories of other breast cancer survivors to break down barriers between public perception and their personal experiences

Earth," about singer/songwriter Joanne Shenandoah, "El Charango," about the musical instrument from Bolivia, and "Likhiya: Writing Stories With Mithila Art" a series of short films on artists from Madhubani, Bihar in India.

Goenka is the author of "Not Just Bollywood: Indian Directors Speak" and she is the founder and co-director of the annual Syracuse University Human Rights Film Festival and Digital Witness Symposium. In 2008, Goenka created the SUBollywood program offered through SU Abroad, and has taken more than 50 Newhouse students

to Mumbai for the month-long immersion. She also co-created the annual SU Rising event, a candlelight vigil to stop sexual assault on the Syracuse University campus and serves on the Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence. She is the Newhouse Endowed Chair of Public Communications for 2016-19.

Goenka was born and raised in India and continues to be very involved in the South Asian community in America. She served as co-director of the federally funded South Asia Center, part of the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at SU's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs from 2012-14. She is affiliated with Women's and Gender Studies as well as South Asian Studies at Syracuse University.

She is a co-founder of Sakhi for South Asian Women, a New York City-based organization working to end violence against women. She also served on the board of directors of Breakthrough, an international human rights organization for 11 years.

In 2009, Goenka received the Chancellor's Award of Excellence for Engaging the World, and the Chancellor's Awards for Public Engagement and Scholarship, 2014 Inspiration Award, partly because of her social justice work.

Goenka is working on "Look Now: Facing Breast Cancer," a multimedia project and iDoc about breast cancer survivors. She is a breast cancer survivor, and lives in Syracuse with her two children.

Diwali Stamp: A Saga of Relentless Journey

By Bidisha Roy

October 5th, 2016 became very special for millions of Indians living in the USA. It was a moment of great pride for every single Indian American to stand and be counted at the Indian consulate in New York City at the first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony of the 'Diwali stamp.'

The commemorative stamp release was actually a 7-year "saga" of relentless journey of Diwali Stamp Project ChairRanju Batra who had, despite all odds, persevered and won for 1.3 billion Indians a US Diwali commemorative stamp. In her journey Ranju got overwhelming support from the community and everyone was ecstatic to be part of the history making. The 'fight' for a Diwali stamp became part of her daily life. Wherever she went, whomsoever she met - be it President Obama or Prime Minister Modi - she persuaded for the stamp as she felt though Diwali holds a great significance for many Americans and well over a billion people across the globe, the United States Postal Service has not recognized this beautiful festival of lights with a commemorative stamp, although it has done so for other major religious and cultural holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Eid.

How was the journey? "As many of you know, I was determined to succeed in my goal to get the USPS to issue a Diwali Stamp, knowing all others had tried and given up. I spent nearly 7 years chasing it - peacefully, and using only inclusive and respectful means. Along the way, I got a lot of help from a lot of people, regular and powerful. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney accepted my invitation to partner with me - so that there would be a stamp not only for Hanukkah, Christmas, Eid, and Kwanza, but also for Diwali. I even sought support from PM Modi and President Obama", recalls Ranju.

Ranju's strongest supporter was her husband Ravi Batra, Chair of the National Advisory Council of South Asian Affairs. But Initially Ravi was skeptical about the success of the hard task.

"From Day 1, when Ranju told me she wanted to work to get United States Postal Service to issue a Diwali Stamp, I discouraged her, as it was an insurmountable task, with no clear path for success", says Ravi. But Ranju was unstoppable. "if Ranju wants to do something, nothing is going to stop her. She told me in no uncertain terms, she was going to work for it, and not stop until she succeeded - with or without me. So, after some time, I got in line to be supportive, and when she wanted my involvement. Luckily, she did most of the heavy lifting - all be her lonesome self. Many of our dear friends helped. Key supporters among the notables were: then-Amb. Hardeep



Diwali Stamp is inaugurated at the Indian Consulate in New York, October 5, 2016. Seen the picture, among others are-Hardip Singh Puri then India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and now Union in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet (left foreground), Consul General of India Riva Ganguly Das (first left), Congresswoman Carolyn B Maloney (second left), Congresswoman Grace Meng (third right), Ranju Batra, (second right), Ravi Batra (right foreground)

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



Diwali Stamp made its way to the United Nations. Ranju Batra is seen addressing the gathering of diplomats and community leaders at the UN, December 11, 2017.

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

Singh Puri, Amb. Lakshmi Puri, C.G. Dnyaneshwar Mulay wrote the Official Poem for the Diwali Stamp Project, and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney accepted Ranju's invitation to partner with her to provide national political leadership."

Ranju even asked PM Modi to help and wrote to then-President Barack Obama. She designed numerous paper petitions and got all her friends to sign. She got strangers to sign. She even got diplomats of numerous countries and the families to sign. She carried Petitions with her wherever she went, by incorporating it into her daily life. She would get them signed, and then mail them to USPS. In fact, USPS acknowledged in writing that

her singular campaign of constantly mailing these paper petitions finally tipped the balance - not all the other stuff that was said and done.

In her journey Ranju had another 'partner' in Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) who also relentlessly fought for this cause as she felt that 'a relatively small action would hold great meaning for millions of people.' On January 14, 2015 Congresswoman Maloney introduced H. Res. 32, urging the USPS to issue a commemorative holiday stamp for Diwali. For several years, Congresswoman Maloney has headed efforts in Congress to push the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to consider issuing a commemorative Diwali stamp. In 2013,

Congresswoman Maloney introduced H.Res. 47, expressing the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that the CSAC should issue a Diwali stamp. The bill had 46 cosponsors. Maloney wrote letters to the CSAC in 2010 and 2012 requesting the same action.

"Until the stamp was issued, Diwali was the only major holiday for which there was no stamp. There are stamps issued for Christmas, Hannukah, Eid and Kwanzaa, but for some incomprehensible reason, Diwali was never honored. I knew that needed to change. Over the years that we worked for the stamp, we held countless meetings and public events to raise awareness about effort. I introduced three Congressional resolutions in support of a Diwali stamp. We had letter writing campaigns and meetings with postal officials including Postmaster General Brennan. Finally, with the help of the PMG we were successful", Maloney told The Indian Panorama.

And finally, the day came. United States Postal Service released the Diwali Forever stamp at the Indian consulate on Oct 5, 2016. The Consulate probably has never seen before such huge crowd, as on this very special and historic day. The rooms were packed to capacity, with many people standing to watch the proceedings. There were endless lines of people eager to buy Diwali Stamps. USPS ran short of the stamps. Some of those who had already paid also were disappointed, as they could not get the stamps.

contd on page 7

Seven Indian American Students Named Recipients of Siebel Scholars award



Meena Jagadeesan, Raghuvarsh Saxena, Sumegha Garg, Aniket Murhekar, Pranjali Beri, Vishwajith Ramesh, Abhishek Ravi

NEW YORK (TIP): Seven Indian American graduate students are among this year's recipients of the Siebel Scholars award. The scholarship is awarded annually by the Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation in Redwood City.

Now in its 19th year, the award this year recognizes 93 exceptional graduate students at leading schools of business, computer science, bioengineering and energy science. Deans at each school select the scholars based on outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership.

Siebel Scholars receive \$35,000 for their final year of graduate study. Through the program, scholars are expected to influence the future through technology, policy, and economic and social decision-making.

"Every year, the Siebel Scholars continue to impress me with their commitment to academics and influencing future society. This year's class is exceptional, and once again represents the best

and brightest minds from around the globe who are advancing innovations in healthcare, artificial intelligence, the environment and more," said Thomas M. Siebel, Chairman of the Siebel Scholars Foundation. "It is my distinct pleasure to welcome these students into this ever-growing, lifelong community, and I personally look forward to seeing their impact and contributions unfold."

Founded in 2000 by the Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation, the Siebel Scholars program awards grants to 16 universities in the United States, China, France, Italy and Japan. Following a competitive review process by the deans of their respective schools on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership, the top graduate students from 27 partner programs are selected each year as Siebel Scholars and receive a \$35,000 award for their final year of studies. On average, Siebel Scholars rank in the top five percent of their class, many within the top one percent.

The 2020 cohort joins more than 1,400 previous Siebel Scholars. This year's recipients of Indian origin are:

Graduate Schools of Computer Science

Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences: Meena Jagadeesan

Princeton University, School of Engineering and Applied Science: Raghuvarsh Saxena, Sumegha Garg

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Engineering: Aniket Murhekar

Graduate Schools of Bioengineering

University of California, San Diego, Institute of Engineering in Medicine and Jacobs School of Engineering:

Pranjali Beri, Vishwajith Ramesh

Graduate Schools of Business

Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management:

Abhishek Ravi

Indian American Professor at SBU Krishna Veeramah and colleagues receive \$10 million from ERC



Krishna Veeramah, PhD, uses DNA analysis to look into the medieval past of European migration

Photo / Courtesy SBU

NEW YORK (TIP): Krishna R. Veeramah, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University and a team of international scientists have received a \$10 million Synergy Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) to fund a multidisciplinary study of more than 100 ancient medieval cemeteries across Central Europe that seeks to uncover the history of ancient migration and mobility in the Carpathian Basin. The project, HistoGenes, will combine research on archeological finds with DNA analyses of ~6,000 ancient European individuals.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Journalist Meera Subramanian Taking Princeton students into core of climate debate



Meera Subramanian is an award-winning journalist and the Currie C. and Thomas A. Barron Visiting Professor in the Environmental Humanities. Photo / Courtesy Princeton Office of Communications

PRINCETON (TIP): Princeton undergraduates are taking a deep dive into the climate debate in the fall seminar "Crossing the Climate Change Divide" taught by Meera Subramanian, an award-winning journalist and the Currie C. and Thomas A. Barron Visiting Professor in the Environmental Humanities. On Oct. 16, the students discussed the book "Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right" by Arlie Russell Hochschild.

Subramanian wants students to examine what people think about climate change - whether they accept the current climate science, reject it or are simply

confused by it - and why they think the way they do. She was in a panel titled "Breaking the Logjam" at the Princeton Environmental Forum on Oct. 25. Subramanian earned her graduate degree in journalism from New York University and has been a Knight Science Journalism fellow at MIT and a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research fellow in India. Her search for stories about the environment and the natural world has carried her all over the globe. Her writing has been published in Nature, Orion Magazine, The New York Times and NewYorker.com. Her book, "A River Runs Again: India's Natural World in Crisis from the Barren Cliffs of Rajasthan to the Farmlands of Karnataka," was published in 2015. To research the climate debate in the United States, Subramanian spent 2017 into 2018 speaking to residents of rural areas who have been hit hardest by climate change. The series, which was a finalist for the Scripps Howard Awards, focuses on voices from people generally assumed to occupy the right wing of the political spectrum, such as Christian evangelicals and working-class populations in rural West Virginia. Her work for this series forms the basis of her seminar at Princeton.

Indian American Appointed to 2019-2020 Class of White House Fellows



Indian American interventional gastroenterologist, Amit Sachdev is among an elite group of 15 people appointed to the prestigious 2019-2020 Class of White House Fellows

Photo / Courtesy Facebook

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American interventional gastroenterologist, Amit Sachdev is among an elite group of 15 people appointed to the prestigious 2019-2020 Class of White House Fellows. The President's Commission on White House Fellows on Oct 28 announced the appointment of the 2019-2020 class of White House Fellows. The highly regarded White House Fellowship provides professionals from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to engage in public service for one year by serving in various roles in the Federal Government. Amit Sachdev from New York is placed at the Department of Health and Human Services. Amit is an interventional gastroenterologist and board-certified internist who completed his training at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)



516-827-7600
www.NewAgeNY.com

Serving Buyers and Sellers for over 20 years!

Our associates are ready to
help you find your dream home!



20 Sarah Court
Deer Park, NY 11729



16 Murray Road
Hicksville, NY 11801



81-11 45th Avenue, #9J
Elmhurst, NY 11373



Balbir Singh
516-513-9535



Daulat Radhu Bathija
917-861-9008



Paramjit K. Singh
516-996-4447



Veronica Lobo
718-314-1774



Jay Walia
917-238-5335



Joshy Abraham
516-662-4908



Pranay Patel
516-643-8249



H. S. Toor
516-448-8722



Niti Shah
516-931-3290



Govind Tiwari
917-732-3980



Isfund Akram
516-830-5518



Ripujit Kaur
516-817-0296

*Simplicity, Honesty
& Great Service
is what we are all about!*



K. M. Singh (Kenny)
516-359-3649

254 South Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

Indian Origin Shekhar Mehta nominated to be the President of Rotary International.



Shekhar Mehta with wife Rashi

NEW YORK (TIP): Shekhar Mehta is the 4th Indian to be nominated to be the President of Rotary International.

Born in 1959, Shekhar Mehta graduated from St. Xavier's College, Calcutta. He did Masters in Commerce from Calcutta University and then did Chartered Accountancy, Cost Accountancy and Company Secretary.

He heads the Skyline Group engaged in Real Estate Development in different parts of India. Member of many professional, social, cultural and charitable organizations, he is a Trustee of Operation Eyesight Universal (India), a Canada based organization.

Mr. Mehta joined Rotary in 1985. He is member of Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar and was District Governor in 1999-2000.

He was the Director on the Board of Rotary International for the years 2011-13.

He has held many positions at International level which include Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee of Rotary International; Chair of the Joint Committee on Partnerships of Rotary International/TRF; Chairman of Rotary India Literacy Mission; Chairman of Rotary Foundation India; Chairman of Rotary India Centennial Celebrations.

Mr. Mehta has helped Rotary and 2 countries to its fold - Bhutan & Maldives.

Keenly dedicated to service, Shekhar has led some major service initiatives in India. Some of them are constructing 500 homes for Tsunami survivors at Andaman & Nicobar Islands; starting the Shelter Kit program which has served about 20 disasters in India distributing more than 10,000 Shelter Kits helping about 50,000 disaster victims.

Under the program Healing Little Hearts he has got done more than 1500 heart surgeries for children all over India.

He has conceived, designed and scaled up the Rotary India Literacy Mission by starting initiatives like conceiving and starting the T-E-A-C-H program. The program today has spawned the entire country of India. More than 3000 Rotary Clubs participate in this program making it one of the largest programs of Literacy and Education by Rotary in the world. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

India Books Corner Debuts at Bronx Community College



Amb Sandeep Chakravorty with other dignitaries at the ribbon cutting ceremony

NEW YORK (TIP): An event to commemorate the establishment of India Corner, book collection gifted by the Consulate General of India to Bronx Community College was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. India's Consul General in New York Amb Sandeep Chakravorty, Bronx Community College President Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe and BCC faculty and staff inaugurated the "India Books Corner" in North Hall and Library.

The addition of 51 books on Indian history, politics, culture and related topics will expand the Library's collection and reflect the more global perspective the College hopes to encourage. The gift will benefit students in courses and degree programs that touch on the topic of India and its place in the world.

"This is a seed for developing an interest in India for BCC students," said Amb Sandeep Chakravorty shortly after the ribbon cutting for the India Books Corner on the Library's third floor. "We have developed this wonderful

relationship with BCC. We have done a study abroad program with BCC and other CUNY students in India, and are trying to start a faculty exchange. We are also inviting your college to more events at the Consulate. Everyone can benefit from learning about India, which is an ancient country but a modern nation becoming important for the world economy, with many opportunities for Americans."

Addressing the attendees in the Thurgood Marshall Law Library Collection, BCC President Thomas A. Isekenegbe noted "We are starting to form a relationship with India, but India has been a part of this community for a long time. We have a lot of faculty with an Indian background - in the Chemistry department, approximately 25% of the faculty were born in India."

Interim Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs Luis Montenegro, himself an avid read of all things Indian, expressed great excitement over the collection. "India is a deep well of knowledge, a deep well of spirituality,"



The addition of 51 books on Indian history, politics, culture and related topics will expand the Library's collection

he observed. "It's a gift to the world."

The College has been partnering with the Consul General's office since it hosted a Gandhi Global Solar Yatra Workshop in April 2019 focusing on solar energy and non-violence to celebrate the 150th birthyear of Mahatma Gandhi. President Isekenegbe also collaborated with the Consul General's Office to send 15 Bronx Community College and other CUNY students on the sustainability-focused study abroad program to the Govardhan Ecovillage in Maharashtra, India in August 2019. Under the guidance of Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology Chairperson Neal Phillip, Professor Paramita Sen and Professor Dereck Skeete of Medgar Evers College, the students installed a solar-powered weather station and monitored climate and pollution on a micro-scale in Maharashtra and in New Delhi, and also engaged in cross cultural diplomacy and charitable activities. Several of the students who participated in the program attended the launching of the India Books Corner.

(Source - Bronx Community College)

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer hosts Diwali celebration

NEW YORK (TIP): New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer hosts Diwali celebration hosted a Diwali celebration on October 28. He extended Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas, the Sikh Diwali to the gathering.

Speaking on the occasion, Scott said: "We've come together to celebrate the inevitable triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, hope over fear. Tonight's festival of lights is a reminder that light always prevails over darkness, that our shared humanity is more powerful than any one of us can be alone. The story of Diwali is the story of New York City. Our diversity - our collective humanity - makes us strong. And it's that diversity that gives us so much to celebrate in New York City - including right here, right now. Today, we are all family. We all have the power to build a community that is full of hope and light...unity and compassion...for our fellow neighbors."

Simran Jeet Singh, Tamang Samaj America and Abha B. Roy were honored.

A classical dance performance was given by Urvashie Kissoon.



Comptroller Scott Stringer with the honorees Simran Jeet Singh, Tamang Samaj America and Abha B. Roy.

Diwali Stamp: A Saga of Relentless Journey

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

The stamp design is a photograph featuring a traditional diya oil lamp beautifully lit, sitting on a sparkling gold background. Diya lamps are usually made from clay with cotton wicks dipped in a clarified butter known as "ghee" or in vegetable oils.

Sally Andersen-Bruce of New Milford, CT, photographed the diya. Greg Breeding of Charlottesville, VA, designed the stamp and William J. Gicker of Washington, DC, served as the project's art director. The Diwali stamp was issued as a Forever stamp. This Forever stamp is always equal to the value of the current First Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Ranju did another miracle. "In 10 days between being informed that the Diwali Stamp would issue and its dedication, she was granted an exclusive status to pre-sell the Stamp on USPS behalf. And in 10 short days, she personally sold over 170,000 Diwali Stamps! She beat USPS' top seller - Batman stamp, to make our Diwali Stamp the #1 best seller in USPS history of over 200 years!", says proud Ravi.

On December 5, 2016, Ranju was honored and the Diwali Stamp was recognized by 24 nations led by Belarus' now-Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Dapkiunas, along with Georgia and India as Co-Organizers, and with Co-Sponsors - Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Cyprus, France, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malta, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Permanent Observer State of Palestine, and International Atomic Energy Agency-NY.

Now Diwali stamp completes three years. How do they feel about it?

For Ranju, Diwali Stamp's celebration is not of a religion, not of a nation, but it is of the spirit of harmonious inclusiveness and cultural understanding that all religions deserve. "While my journey took 7 years, Diwali Stamp is here FOREVER, and it will be a matter of pride for generations to come, not only because it is a Forever Stamp, but because we did it together - with the support of every faith - because all of us are entitled to a better and peaceful tomorrow, no matter where we were born, and no matter how we pray. In this digital age a small piece of paper called - Diwali Stamp - celebrates the living heritage of over 1 billion people - actually, has brought together all 7 billion of us as one human family! "

Ravi salutes Ranju's unbeatable quest to get an American Holiday for generations yet unborn. "As many have noted, and I wholeheartedly agree: generations yet unborn will celebrate



Ambassadors, including India's Ambassador to the United Nations, Syed Akbaruddin, lighted the lamp at the United Nations, December 11, 2017
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



A celebration at City Hall, New York.
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

Diwali as an American Holiday, thanks to Ranju's unbeatable quest to get it. Not bad for a gentle soul that Ranju is. This Stamp makes every Diwali-celebrant "at home" in America; we belong - more than just due to our passport - as we embroider America to be even more beautiful and help Good beat Evil. If I may, I am proud of Ranju, as she has not only enhanced our family, but has enhanced each one of us. That 24 nations came together, led by Belarus' now-DFM Andrei Dapkiunas - as an outgrowth from a

dinner hosted by Georgia's PR Kaha Imnadze. in 2016 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the United Nations to honor Ranju's amazing quest - using the highest ideals of the UN - was an honor I will never forget. Both Belarus and Georgia exhibited the finest principle - of respect of a good person and a different faith - and they did it selflessly and with warmest affection. Humanity, as its best."
For Maloney, this effort was about far more than just the issuance of a postage stamp though. "It is a

celebration of the triumph of good over evil, lightness of over dark, and knowledge over ignorance. These virtues are more relevant than ever, and we can all become better people by embracing these values with one another. I could not be more proud to have played a role in this achievement and am grateful that the Hindu and Sikh communities have finally received the recognition and honor they deserve."
The Diwali stamp will be a matter of pride for generations to come!!



AS I SEE IT



By Krishna Kumar

Deciphering Greta's climate message

There is more to the Swedish teenager-activist's point of view than mere emotion and passionate commitment

She is being looked at as an emotionally charged icon of environmental struggles, but there is more to Greta Thunberg's point of view than mere emotion and passionate commitment. If we decipher all the issues raised in her brief presentation at the UN General Assembly, we can notice how it expands the familiar contours of the discussion over climate change. Some of the issues she raised were a regular feature in many debates over natural resources, but there were other, new issues as well.

One well-recognized issue is the direct connection between economic growth and the state of the environment. Devotees of speedy and high economic growth have been indifferent to the limits that nature imposes on the theoretical scope of growth. Nearly half a century has passed since the idea of 'limits to growth' was recognized and proposed as a ground for change in development policies. Apparently, political leaders and the civil servants who serve them do not feel constrained by that idea. The younger ones may not be acquainted with the 1972 report wherein the paradox of economic development was examined.

Victims of indifference

"All you can talk about is money and fairy tales of economic growth," Ms. Thunberg told her audience at the UN headquarters in New York. She accused world leaders of ignoring or deliberately looking away from the responsibility they have towards the young today and in the future. Her argument would have pleased Mahatma Gandhi. He too thought that economics concerned solely with wealth undermines ethical responsibilities. It ignores justice as a primary human yearning and, in today's terminology, a right.

This was also the underlying theme of Ms. Thunberg's presentation to the leaders and representatives of different countries. She presented herself as a victim of their indifference to climate change. "You have stolen my childhood with your empty words," she said. As an activist-teenager, she had reasons to feel that way. Her campaign on climate change had cost her more than just school attendance.

Being young implies being part of a future. Ms. Thunberg was referring to the collective future of those who are young

today and also to future generations. These futures are bleak - not in the context in which economic slowdown affect prospects of prosperity and comfort. Ms. Thunberg's focus was on climate change, a composite idea that imparts bleakness to everybody's future. She suggested that higher income or status would not help to avoid the consequences of climate change. That is an important point, and not everyone today is convinced about its correctness. Not only the richer nations, but also the richer people in every nation continue to believe that they can buy relief and escape from the consequences of climate change for their progeny.

It is in adult-child relations that Ms. Thunberg struck a new, unfamiliar note. It is hardly surprising that this aspect of her presentation has elicited no commentary. One reason is its novelty; another is the unsettling nature of her point. Human beings are used to deriving hope from their progeny. Children give us a sense of continuity, a symbolic conquest over death. They also give us the prospect of our unfinished tasks being pursued after us. As parents, we not only want to do the best for our children, but we also want their lives to go beyond ours in terms of worldly gains and fulfilment.

Childhoods stymied

Parents invest huge amounts of money in their children's education to make sure that they lead better lives. So do nations. Their leaders talk eloquently about the younger generation taking the nation forward. Societies expect their long-pending problems to be solved by members of the young generation, with their creative and intellectual strength. It was this sentiment that Ms. Thunberg was referring to when she said: "You all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!"

Ms. Thunberg reminded her audience that carbon emissions are crippling the capacities of the young in the early years. This is a familiar note to us in India. In cities like Delhi, doctors have been warning us that children suffering from asthma cannot be expected to have a normal adolescence and youth. The limits that air and water pollution place upon a young person's health and capacities are all too palpable to citizens in many parts of India. What Ms. Thunberg did was to place

these limits in a newer, more public context.

It is easy to miss her message or misconstrue it because her presentation was strident. While she was so visibly emotional during her brief speech, her message was that we must stop being emotional about our children. Although she was addressing an audience of political leaders, she wanted all of us to recognize and accept the bitter truth that we - and those who represent us - have compromised the future of our children. It is not the distant generations that will face the consequences of climate change. No, the crisis is already upon us. It will unfold in the lives of those who are growing up today. The steps currently under consideration for containing the consequences of climate change are far too inadequate to cope with the crisis. And even these modest steps are being taken with great reluctance, which proves Ms. Thunberg's point was that we are not mentally ready to accept the challenge.

It is perhaps obvious that Ms. Thunberg was not speaking on behalf of the children and youth in any particular country. She was representing the voice of the young in a generic sense. This is a paradox worth dwelling on. Among millions of teenagers like her, not all are as apprehensive about the impending future. Nor is everybody as dissatisfied or disgusted with the hypocrisy of politicians and the policies they have framed, nationally or globally. Indeed, the contrary may be true and youngsters like her may be an exception. The growth-centric model of progress and the promise of greater production of consumer goods probably appeals to the vast population of the young in many countries today. They might also feel quite confident that their leaders will find the way forward against climate change. Nationalist sentiments do inspire a vast section of the young to have positive feelings when it comes to the future.

Ms. Thunberg does not represent this vast crowd. But she does represent the young in a deeper, generic sense as she is someone who has overcome the illusions that childhood and adolescence usually create, often in the garb of idealism. Her Swedish education has made her critically aware of what is going on, imparting to her a sense of urgency and impatience to act.



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg speaking to a crowd of protesters during the global climate strike in Montreal, Canada, in September.

This is not exactly an exceptional case. Nor is Ms. Thunberg alone anymore. In many countries, countless children have begun to identify with her. Thanks to the new curricular initiatives taken in all national systems of education, school-going children know a lot more about the meaning of climate change than their parents have the leisure to learn.

It is the adults and older people today who might feel rattled by Ms. Thunberg's speech. When she spoke in the UN General Assembly, many in the audience could be heard laughing. They saw her more as a spectacle than as a real person. They were accustomed to routine expressions of concern about climate change.

Many such leaders are quite pleased with the efforts by the UN and its various bodies to pursue the policies related to sustainable development. They find long, comfortable targets for reduction of carbon emissions quite sufficient and satisfactory. We can hardly imagine that Ms. Thunberg woke them up. If that were possible, we wouldn't be where we are in our encounter with nature's fury for which we have coined the euphemism of 'climate change'.

(The author is a former director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and a former professor of education at Delhi University)

GUEST COMMENT

UT status, but status quo

Bloodbath on day of EU MPs' visit shows grim reality

As Jammu and Kashmir gets formally split into two UTs today, Tuesday's gruesome killing in Kulgam of laborers from West Bengal is a grim reminder of the task at hand for the security grid - already out in full force to guard against incendiary protests and attacks after the state lost

its special status. The terror handlers' strategic switch to targeted killing of non-local truckers and laborers, as part of a campaign to deter them from working in Kashmir even if most of the victims have been Muslims, presents a new challenge. New Delhi has stated that UT status would ensure better integration with the Union, but it is now staring at an ever-widening chasm.

The bloodbath took place on the day of the controversy-ridden first visit by any international delegation after August 5. The government has chosen to side-step questions on the purpose and motive

behind allowing European Union parliamentarians, many among them from extreme right or right-wing parties, to visit the Valley when Opposition MPs have been denied access all along. A few weeks ago, a US senator was refused permission. Shiv Sena raked up the issue of 'internationalizing' the issue, reminding ally BJP how it continuously targets Pt Nehru for taking the Kashmir issue to the UN.

The credibility of the EU delegation got dented when a member claimed he was dropped from the trip because he asked for unfettered access for a fair

assessment and was 'not prepared for a PR stunt and pretend all is well'. So, all is well, then? The EU parliamentarians have said nothing to the contrary. Terming Article 370 an internal issue of India, they vowed to stand by the country in its fight against terrorism. While one claimed the international media coverage seemed biased, another said the visit was an 'eye-opener'. There was one positive note though for the Opposition to lap up: 'You should also let in politicians from India. There is some kind of disbalance, the government should somehow address it.'

Settling the Ayodhya case once and for all



By K. Kannan

Going by media reports, it appears that some of the significant parties in the case, but not all, are parties to the settlement. It is believed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the form of the Ram Janambhumi Nyas and its supporter T.N. Pandey as the current friend of deity on the extreme side, and the Jamiat Ulema Hind on the other extreme side are opposed to the settlement. If that be so, it means there is a broad spectrum in between, of the Sankaracharyas backed Punaruddhar Samiti, the Nirvani and Nirmohi Akhara bodies and the Hindu Mahasabha which are pro-settlement.

The Ayodhya issue is tantalizingly poised and there are only guesses about how the case could pan out - the Supreme Court of India had allowed arguments before the court and mediation talks to proceed simultaneously. It has been an unusual step. The dichotomy of this approach could perhaps be explained by the fact that the Court had marked August 15 as the deadline for turning in the settlement. Then, in July the pace of mediation was stepped up and the court wanted a report by August 1. Since there was no settlement by then, it commenced hearing. Down the line some parties made requests for a resumption of talks. It looked as if the court was unwilling to stop the hearing but also reluctant to let go of the possibility of a compromise.

Parties to appeals, settlement

The appeals pending before the court - as many as 14 - arose out of five original suits filed in Allahabad. Out of the said five suits, four were filed between

There must be an understanding that in the outcome, there is neither victor nor vanquished

January 1950 and 1962. The first two were filed by individuals in their capacity as worshippers. The second suit was allowed to be withdrawn on September 18, 1990. The third suit was filed by the Nirmohi Akhara of the Ramanandi Sect through its Mahant in 1959. The fourth was filed in 1961 by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and eight Muslim residents of Ayodhya and the general secretary (by name) of the Jamiat Ulema Hind, U.P. branch. In this suit many Hindu parties were arrayed as defendants. Representative status was given by the court to the plaintiffs and defendants in this suit to represent their two communities respectively. The fifth suit was filed in 1989 by Bhagwan Sri Rama Virajman (the deity is regarded by law as a perpetual minor requiring representation through human agency) and Asthan Sri Rama Janma Bhumi Ayodhya (the place of birth) through Sri Deoki Nandan Agrawal, who incidentally was a former High Court judge and resident of Allahabad and sought to be treated as the friend of the deity.

Going by media reports, it appears that some of the significant parties in the case, but not all, are parties to the settlement. It is believed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the form of the Ram Janambhumi Nyas and its supporter T.N. Pandey as the current friend of deity on the extreme side, and the Jamiat Ulema Hind on the other extreme side are opposed to the settlement. If that be so, it means there is a broad spectrum in between, of the Sankaracharyas backed Punaruddhar Samiti, the Nirvani and Nirmohi Akhara bodies and the Hindu Mahasabha which are pro-settlement.

And most important of all, the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, the statutory custodian of the disputed site under the Waqf Act, is reported to be a signatory. If these reports are anything to go by, the board is willing to acquiesce in the acquisition of the disputed site and give up its claim to it if other places of worship are protected and the Muslim community gets a fair number of additional mosques, in Ayodhya and elsewhere, where prayers can be held. So, what does a court do under these circumstances where a number of parties come forth with a settlement which they can subscribe to and which could cease the conflict, but which other parties oppose?

The Code of Civil Procedure allows one or more of community of persons, with the permission of the court, to sue or be sued, or may defend such suit, on behalf of or for the benefit of all persons



so interested. The court shall, in every case where permission or direction is given, at the plaintiff's expense, give notice of the institution of the suit to all persons so interested, either by personal service, or, where, by reason of the number of persons or any other cause, such service is not reasonably practicable, by public advertisement, as the court in each case may direct.

Independent of the power to represent the general body, any person on whose behalf, or for whose benefit a suit is instituted or defended may apply to the court to be made a party to such suit. The only restriction for a settlement so brought about to bind all persons is that no suit could be withdrawn, or compromise made, without the leave of court. The Sunni Waqf Board having been given representative character and which claimed ownership to the site and the mosque literally excludes any scope for any other person among the Muslim community to lay claim to the property contrary to the concessions and agreement which it is prepared to enter into. The Hindu parties that have not come on board will have to tell the court why they are resisting a settlement in which they are getting the land for which they have been fighting for so long and raised such large funds, when the site is being effectively given up by the Muslim parties, and where the Ram temple can now be a reality. A lack of bona fides may result in some strict action from the court. Where it is alleged by one party and denied by the other that an adjustment or satisfaction has been arrived at, as per the diktat in the Code of Civil Procedure, the court shall decide the question; but no adjournment shall be granted for the purpose of deciding the question, unless the court, for reasons to be recorded, thinks fit to grant such adjournment.

Width of court jurisdiction

There is another larger aspect here and that is the overarching power given only to the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution, the power to do complete justice in cases before it. This rare and almost awesome power permits the court to work through legalistic objections and climb above procedural difficulties to bring about the best possible result for the parties - and in this case, the country. In the words of the Supreme Court itself in *State of Punjab v Rafiq Masih* (2014), "Article 142 of the

Constitution of India is supplementary in nature and cannot supplant the substantive provisions, though they are not limited by the substantive provisions in the statute.

It is a power that gives preference to equity over law. It is a justice-oriented approach as against the strict rigors of the law. The directions issued by the Court can normally be categorized into one, in the nature of molding of relief and the other, as the declaration of law." Given the fact that "justice" itself is susceptible to a plurality of meanings, the court could mesh the wisdom of parties' efforts in putting together an agreed formulation, aided by suave handling by the mediators and the counsel's lucubration that played out in court for 40 days of marathon hearings. It can come out with a humble offering on a platter of how the collective wisdom of all parties yielded to a denouement that douses mutual bickering among the communities and cement a lasting peace that will do India proud.

Need for a strong message

The majority community owes to its Muslim brethren an assurance that the ugly incidents of December 6, 1992 shall never be repeated in any other place, neither in Kashi nor in Mathura. And that in the outcome, there is neither victor nor vanquished. Restoration of dented prestige, enhancement of social standing and durability are the motivations for the nature of final outcome.

On August 15, 1947, Gandhi marked the day with a 24-hour fast, prayer and spinning yarn. When C. Rajagopalachari visited and congratulated Gandhi for restoring peace in the city of Calcutta, Gandhi said he will not be satisfied "until Hindus and Muslims felt safe in one another's company and returned to their own homes to life as before". His hope remained but a dream. On the day when the judgment of the Supreme Court is given, let the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh appear along with other parties to the litigation to hear the judgment of the Supreme Court as it is read in open court. This act will instill confidence that even if they had failed in the past, they shall begin yet again an era of goodwill and trust among all sections of the community.

(The author is a former judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, and an accredited mediator)

Three minors killed in explosion in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (TIP): Three minors of a family were killed when a bomb exploded in northwest Pakistan on Wednesday, police said.

The incident happened in the vicinity of University police station, Daraban Khwar in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

"The bomb explosion killed three minors, including two brothers and their sister, on the spot. The children aged from 5 to 9 years," police said. — PTI

Nepalese climbs 14 peaks in 7 months

KATHMANDU (TIP): A Nepali mountaineer, Nirmal Purja, on Tuesday smashed the "record" for summiting the world's 14 highest peaks, racing up all "8000 m in just seven months", according to a post on his social media accounts. The previous record was almost eight years. "MISSION ACHIEVED! says @nimsdai from the summit of #Shishapangma," read the post on Purja's Facebook page, referring to the final peak in China. AFP

Need to do more to be off FATF list: Pak bank

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan needs to put in more efforts to come out of the Grey List in the next meeting of the international terror financing watchdog FATF, the chief of country's central bank has said.

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

The FATF retained Pakistan on the Grey List and warned it of action for its failure in combating money laundering and terror financing. The decision was taken after a five-day plenary of the FATF held in Paris early this month.

It expressed dissatisfaction at the progress made by Pakistan and gave it a six-month deadline to complete the task.

"There was a major rethink of the approach being taken by the authorities in the early to mid-2019. Consequently, a number of steps were taken to significantly strengthen our approach to make progress on these issues," said Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Reza Baqir on Monday.

However, Pakistan needs to put in more effort to progress on the remaining areas to ensure that it comes out of the Grey List at the next meeting of the FATF, he said.

Baqir claimed that progress was made between May and September to meet the action plan set by the FATF in different areas to demonstrate effectiveness of anti-money laundering (AML) safety regime of Pakistan. — PTI

73 dead in Pakistan train fire

LAHORE (TIP): A massive fire broke out on a moving train in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Thursday after two gas cylinders exploded while some passengers were cooking breakfast, killing at least 73 people, mostly Islamic preachers travelling to attend a religious congregation.

The train, Tezgam Express, was on its way to Lahore from Karachi when the fire broke out early morning, gutting three bogies which had over 200 passengers, including women and children, at Liaquatpur near Rahim Yar Khan, some 400 km from Lahore, authorities said.

District Emergency Officer RYK Baqir Hussain has confirmed that 73 passengers lost their lives in the fire.

Most deaths occurred from people jumping off the train, the authorities said, adding that the toll could rise further as more than 40 passengers have suffered severe burn injuries.

Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said that most of the victims belonged to the Tableeghi Jamaat (Islamic preachers) who were going to Lahore to attend a major annual congregation at Raiwind.

The Railways Minister said two gas stoves carried by some passengers blew up when they were preparing breakfast on the speeding train in violation of rules.

"Some of the passengers started



making breakfast on small gas cylinders they brought with them when they exploded and the fire engulfed the three coaches of the train," he said.

'Azadi March' postponed

A protest rally led by an influential Pakistani cleric against Prime Minister Imran Khan was postponed for a day on Thursday in the wake of the tragic Lahore train inferno that killed at least 74 people. Right-wing Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman launched the march along with

leaders of other opposition parties on October 27. PTI

Three bogies gutted

Tezgam Express, which had many Islamic preachers travelling to attend a religious congregation, was on its way to Lahore from Karachi when the fire broke out early morning, gutting three bogies which had over 200 passengers, including women and children, at Liaquatpur near Rahim Yar Khan, some 400 kms from Lahore, authorities said. PTI

Sharif fighting for life: Doctor

LAHORE (TIP): Nawaz Sharif is "fighting for life" after a drastic drop in his blood platelet count, a media report quoted his personal doctor as saying on Tuesday, days after Pakistan's former Prime Minister was rushed from prison to a hospital.

Sharif (69), was admitted to the Services Hospital on Monday night from the anti-graft body's custody after his platelets dropped to a critical low level of 2,000. Sharif's personal physician Dr Adnan Khan said in a series of tweets that "Former PM #NawazSharif, critically unwell, is fighting the battle for his health & life. Thrombocytopenia (Low Platelet Count) & NSTEMI (Heart Attack) is further complicated by deteriorating Kidney functions. Poor Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure control is taking its toll," Geo News reported.

The three-time Prime Minister on Saturday also suffered angina attack while undergoing treatment. Angina is a type of chest pain caused by reduced blood flow to the heart. Khan said that the poor blood sugar and blood pressure had also taken a toll on the former premier's health, the report said.

The doctor further said, "Pending Scans/Biopsies, diagnostic dilemma still ensues from multiple complex pathologies & co-morbidities." The chief executive of Sharif Medical City said that the doctors were also facing difficulty in establishing a definitive diagnosis and subsequent management poses a considerable risk to Sharif's health.

According to the new test report on Sunday, the blood platelet count of Sharif has fallen from 45,000 to 25,000 within a day. — PTI



Sri Lanka SC stays death penalty till Nov 10

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Tuesday extended the stay order till November 10 against a move by President Maithripala Sirisena to reinstate capital punishment in the country for the first time since 1976 before he leaves office next month.

Sri Lanka has maintained a 43-year moratorium on capital punishment. However, Sirisena in June this year announced that he has signed the death warrants of four drug convicts and that the executions will take place soon. Later, the move was stayed till October 29 by the Supreme Court after it took into consideration a number of petitions filed against the President's order that termed the order as a violation of the fundamental rights of the convicts.

Sri Lanka has been grappling with drug-related crimes for many years and officials say it is being used by dealers as a transit centre.

MA Sumanthiran, a lawyer, filed a case claiming that Sirisena's decision impinges on the rights of one of the drug convicts. "The case argument was that hanging would be a cruel and degrading treatment," Sumanthiran said. — PTI

R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373
Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258
Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com





Before



After

- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, relines night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- **EMERGENCY** new dentures **SAME DAY** service



We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.
We GUARANTEE full satisfaction

SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

Specializing in:

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)
 MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



MASTER MOHINDER SINGH
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator
Cell: 646-523-5092

CALL TODAY
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM

113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879
Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801
38 West 32nd Street New York, NY 10001
(516) 932-3400
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
 - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
 - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
- Short Sale Specialists, Foreclosures, HUD/REO
- Insurance Services (Home, Life)
- Mortgages*: New Purchase, Refinance, Hard Money Loan, Business/SBA Loan
 *(provided by affiliate lenders)

Levittown 5BR, 2 Baths 2,800 sq ft, Renovated \$599,000 Hicksville 2BR, 1 Bath Short Sale \$389,000 South Ozone Park 2 family detached 20 x 100 lot size \$499,900 Westbury (Salisbury) 5BR, 2 Baths Mother/Daughter \$479,000	Valley Stream 5BR, 2 Baths Fully Renovated, Possible Mother/Daughter \$699,000 Hempstead 3BR, 2 Baths Short Sale \$175,000 Elmont 4 BR, 2 Baths Newly Renovated \$579,900 Bronx 51 Unit Apartment Building CAP = 6% \$9.5 million
--	---

FEATURED LISTING:
38 Acres Vacant Land in Budd Lake, NJ
Prime Location with heavy traffic right off of I-80
Ideal opportunity for Hotel/Motel, Gas Station, Retail Stores
\$895,000



Pal Singh Dhillon
 Licensed Real Estate Broker
 QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified
 Notary Public

Jeet Dhillon
 Licensed Real Estate Broker
 HP Realty Advisors

CALL NOW (516) 304-2630 or (516) 830-0352
Email: hprealty1@gmail.com



Indian American Sparshil Patel Seeks Entry to Edison School Board



Sparshil is actively involved in many community projects to include basic health care and fund-raising efforts for needy people here in the USA and India

EDISON (TIP): Sparshil Patel, a young and dynamic Indian American business owner seeks entry to Edison Township Board of Education. The Edison Township School Board election will be held on November 5, 2019.

Sparshil Patel is employed in the healthcare business and earned his bachelor's degree from New York Institute of Technology, a master's degree in public health from St. George's University, a medical degree from Xavier University School of Medicine, and is a certified assisted living administrator by Long Tree and Associates. Besides his full-time business, Sparshil is actively involved in many community projects to include basic health care and fund-raising efforts for needy people here in the USA and India. He successfully organized free flu vaccine fairs, health screening & disease prevention and awareness fairs for uninsured individuals in our communities for the past many years. He also provides his time in volunteering and sponsoring the annual Santa's Little Helper Toy Drive with Unity SME.

Sparshil is actively involved in sponsoring local trips to help seniors in Edison/Piscataway townships with various social wellness projects. He is actively involved in education project for a non-profit with the Santram Kanyashala, school for Girls in Santram Mandir, Nadiad, India. In November 2019, Sparshil will be hosting and organizing a fundraising gala to benefit eye hospital in rural India to treat debilitating diseases that can lead to blindness for underprivileged, less fortunate and needy people.

A fundraiser to help underprivileged population in India

FORDS, NJ (TIP): A fund-raising for SGML eye hospital in rural area of Madhya Pradesh in India to benefit underserved and underprivileged population is being organized on November 10, 2019, at Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ. A musical evening of Ohmkara's Bollywood Music Concert "Sunheri Yaadein" - six decades of Bollywood songs with live musicians and singers and Gala Dinner to raise funds for needy will be organized. The evening will be dedicated to raise funds for Shiv Gnan Moti Lal (SGML) Hospital, near Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, India. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Trump Celebrates Diwali at White House, Advocates for 'Religious Liberty'

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump celebrated Diwali at the Oval office of White House on Oct 25 for the third time. Describing the Festival of Lights as 'a blessed and happy celebration' Trump said in a special message that Diwali reminds him the Nation's one of the core tenets-religious liberty and he will continue to defend the rights.

"For many Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists in the United States and around the globe, this sacred period is an opportunity to commemorate the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Throughout this holy time, members of these faiths engage in prayer, light diyas and lanterns, and partake in traditional feasts and other festivities with friends and family", Trump said in a statement released by the White House.

"The observance of Diwali throughout America is an important reminder of the significance of one of our Nation's core tenets-religious liberty. My



President Donald Trump celebrated Diwali in the White House Oct 25. EROS International North America President and CEO Prem Parameswaran (second from right) was among the guests

Official White House Photo

Administration will continue to defend the rights enshrined in our Constitution that enable people of all faiths to worship according to their beliefs and conscience", the US President assured.

New York based Prem Parameswaran,

President and CEO of EROS International North America who was among the guests told The Indian Panorama that President Trump was very enthusiastic about celebrating the festival of Diwali at the White House.

BAPS Hindu Temple, Melville Organized Festival of Diwali

MELVILLE, NY (TIP): On October 28, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York celebrated the Diwali Festival. Over 4,000 Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens county residents attended throughout the day.

Diwali, traditionally a five-day celebration of various rituals and Hindu practices associated with each day, brings in the New Year for Hindus and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. This year's celebrations included the Annakut Thaal, which is a unique and awe-inspiring sight of devotion wherein numerous vegetarian food dishes are prepared by devotees and offered to the Mandir's sacred images. The events for children and families provided an opportunity for community members to engage with spiritual and cultural themes, thereby bringing positive energy into the New Year, learning about scriptural narratives related to Diwali, and participating in rangolis and other traditional decorations.

Special guests that attended the Diwali Festival were Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, Suffolk County Police Commissioner Geraldine Hart, Suffolk County Sheriff Errol D. Toulon, New York State Assemblyman Steve Stern, NY State Assemblyman Andrew Raia, NY State Senator James Gaughran, Commanding Officer of the Second Precinct Inspector William Scrima, Receiver of Taxes of the Town of Huntington Jillian Guthman, Suffolk County Legislator and presiding officer DuWayne Gregory, Suffolk County Legislator Susan Berland, Highway Superintendent Kevin S. Orelli, and many other community leaders.



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and other officials at the celebration



Annakut

Federation of Indian Associations, Chicago, IL Declares FIA 2020 Team

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The Annual Board Meeting of Federation of Indian Associations Chicago, (FIA Chicago) was held here on 10/27/19.

This year FIA Chicago unanimously nominated the new President Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan and the new board. The event was presided over by Founder President Sunil Shah, Founder & Past President Onkar Sangha, Current President Ninad Daftari, Founding Members Mukesh Shah & Neil Khot.

President Elect Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan will spearhead the team for the year 2020 with the help of Executive Vice Presidents Hitesh Gandhi & Dr Kamal Patel along with the entire board which include Vice Presidents Shital Daftari, Altaf Bukhari, Chetan Patel, Jatinder Bedi and Vinita Gulabani. Secretary: Abir Maru, Treasurer: Vaishal Talati, Cultural Secretary: Hema Shastri, Joint Treasurer: Ila Patel Chaudhari, Joint Secretary: Ashwani Mahajan. Directors: Vibha Rajput New Directors: Pratibha Jairath, Anu Malhotra, Richa Chand, Sonia Luther, Varsha Visal, Mukesh Shah, Hitesh Patel, Vikram Seth & Tanvi Dhillon. Founder President Sunil Shah, Ninad Daftari, Onkar Sangha, Neil Khot, Hitesh Gandhi applauded the entire team for a very successful year.

Sunil Shah requested the participation of all the members for the next event of FIA: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN that's undertaken for a very noble cause during Thanksgiving Holidays on 11/24/19 from 3 pm to 5 pm at Renaissance Convention Center.



FIA team 2020 and Advisory Board Member

He also announced Celebration of India's 71st Republic Day on 01/25 with Health Fair and Scholarship Drive, Indian Heritage Night with Windy City Bulls on 02/23 at Sears Center & Festival of Colors (Holi) in March.

The incoming President Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan assured that with his ability and hard work he plans to take the organization to new heights with events planned for 2020 with the support of the Advisory Board Members Syed Hussaini (WinTrust Bank), Manish Gandhi (Power Plant Services), Brij Sharma (Power Volt), Asha Oroskar (Orochem), Smita Shah (Direct Floors), Pradeep Shukla (CPA), Neal Patel (MedStar), Jasbir Suga (Suga Builders & Construction) & Keerthi Reeves.

Sunil Shah introduced and welcomed new Advisory Board Member: Keerthi Kumar Reeves. Founding member's

Sunny Kular, Rita Singh & Dhritu Bhagwakar could not attend the meeting.

FIA Chicago plans to take on projects like Job Fair, Entrepreneurship camps and Youth Leadership Development Skill Camps.

Cultural Secretary Hema Shastri Birthday was celebrated with delicious cake and Diwali sweets.

FIA Chicago was founded to bring Cultural awareness to the Chicago land area and has now grown leaps and bounds. FIA, Chicago is serving the community by hosting several events throughout the year for the well-being and betterment of the community and thereby helping the community to grow and become one. We wish the new team all the best for the year 2020.

(Photograph and Press release / Asian Media USA)

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi Receives Award from House of Restoration



Raja Krishnamoorthi

SCHAUMBURG, IL (TIP): Last week, Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08) received an award from House of Restoration, a nonprofit dedicated to serving those who are homeless in the city of Elgin and surrounding areas.

"House of Restoration is a remarkable organization that has worked long and hard to fight homelessness, poverty, and hunger in our community," said Congressman Krishnamoorthi. "Their work to help the homeless population in Elgin during the 'polar vortex' earlier this year was truly life-saving, and I am humbled and honored by their kind recognition. America is a land of great abundance and no one in this country should ever be without a safe place to call home. With organizations working on the front lines like House of Restoration we as a country come ever closer to building a future free from homelessness."

On any typical night, over 550,000 Americans will experience homelessness. Another 1.4 million will spend some time in a shelter in a given year. Founded by pastors Lucy and Pedro Gomez, House of Restoration provides a safe warm space for the homeless in Elgin when the temperature outside drops below 15 degrees. Congressman Krishnamoorthi is a co-lead of the Fostering Success in Higher Education Act (HR 2966) with Rep. Danny Davis of Illinois, legislation that establishes a grant program to help youth who are homeless or living in foster homes apply to college.

India Symposium at UPenn Wraps up with Talk on Future of U.S./India Relations

PHILADELPHIA (TIP): The third annual Penn India Research Symposium wrapped up with a keynote conversation on Oct 25 between Penn's Jim McGann and Richard Verma, the former US ambassador to India.

Each year, Penn Global hosts an interdisciplinary symposium to highlight Penn faculty work in India and foster interdisciplinary dialogue among stakeholders across campus to inform Penn's ongoing engagement in India. The main feature of the Symposium was the presentation and discussion of India-related research at Penn. Sixteen teams presented ongoing research in and on India. The subject matter ranged from economics and technology to public health initiatives and social sciences, with topics like "Reversing the Digital Divide: Digital Banking in Rural India" and "Packaging Hinduism for Global Consumption."

"I think often there is a sense of what the U.S. can bring to India. I'm a big proponent that we must meet as partners, and we have as much to learn from our partners in the countries that



A day-long symposium highlighting Penn research in India wrapped up with a keynote conversation between the Lauder Institute's Jim McGann and former U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma

we work with as they have to learn from us," McGann said ahead of the keynote conversation at Perry World House. "It's an exchange of peers and partners, not one country dictating to another."

McGann is director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program and organizes an annual India Think Tank

Forum in Delhi, in partnership with some of the leading think tanks in India. He is also a senior lecturer of international studies at Penn's Lauder Institute and a Fels senior fellow.

*(Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news)*



A *nagar kirtan* carrying a gold palanquin from Delhi to Nankana Sahib to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak entered Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah border on Thursday, October 31. Before entering Pakistan, an 'ardas' (prayer) was performed at the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs. Around 1,400 Sikhs are part of the *nagar kirtan*. Fifty two kilos of flowers were laid on the road up to zero line over which Guru Granth Sahib and gold palanquin were carried across the border. The members of the procession will also be the part of the historic opening of the Kartarpur corridor on November 9 in Pakistan, Evacuee Trust Property Board spokesperson Amir Hashmi said. The *nagar kirtan* was received at Wagah by Pakistan Punjab governor Chaudhry Sarwar, ETPB chairman Aamer Ahmed and Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee president Satwant Singh.

SIDHU ACCEPTS IMRAN'S INVITATION TO KARTARPUR CORRIDOR INAUGURATION

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Former Indian cricketer and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has accepted Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's invitation to attend the opening ceremony of the Kartarpur Corridor on November 9.

According to a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) press release, Sidhu thanked the Pak Prime Minister for inviting him to the inauguration.

"I'm grateful to the prime minister for inviting me to the historic inauguration of Kartarpur Corridor," he was quoted as saying. On the directives of Imran Khan, PTI Senator Faisal Javed had contacted Sidhu and extended the invitation. Sidhu said the Sikh community all over the world looks forward to visit the holy shrine associated with their spiritual leader Baba Guru Nanak. "The Kartarpur Corridor agreement sends a positive message to millions of Sikhs around the world," he is quoted as having said by the Pakistani media.

SIDHU WILL HAVE TO SEEK POLITICAL CLEARANCE TO VISIT KARTARPUR: GOVT

NEW DELHI (TIP): Referring to the Congress leader and former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu's acceptance of the Pakistani invite to the inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday, November 1, that the invitees will need a political clearance to visit the country.

On being asked if Navjot Singh Sidhu is in the list of pilgrims to go to the inaugural "jatha" to Kartarpur Gurdwara, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the political personalities and the Pakistan invitees will need political clearance for the visits. "I think the political personalities or invitees who think they need to get a political clearance and those not included in the list will know about it. There won't be surprises. My understanding is that the normal rules for seeking political clearance for such visits will apply," Raveesh Kumar said while addressing a press conference.



Kartarpur pilgrims won't need passports, 2-day waiver of \$20 fee, says Pakistan PM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday, November 1, announced several concessions for Indian pilgrims going to Darbar Sahib gurdwara at Kartarpur in Pakistan's Punjab where Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, spent the last years of his life.

"For Sikhs coming for pilgrimage to Kartarpur from India, I've waived off 2 requirements: they won't need a passport-just a valid ID; ii) they no longer have to register 10 days in advance. Also, no fee to be charged on day of inauguration & on Guruji's 550th birthday," Khan tweeted.

India has been seeking a complete waiver of pilgrims' fee but Khan announced just two-day relief -- on

the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor on November 9 and on Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary on November 12.-- in the \$20 charge that has been a sticking point in the talks on operationalising the Kartarpur corridor. The border corridor connects Darbar Sahib with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab.

This year marks the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak and on this occasion India and Pakistan have signed an agreement to construct the Kartarpur corridor. It is meant to facilitate visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will only have to obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which was

established in 1522 by the founder of the Sikh faith. Both countries have agreed that Pakistan would allow 5,000 Sikh visitors per day into the country through the corridor, which will also be the first visa-free corridor between the two neighbours since their independence in 1947. Pakistan is building the corridor from the Indian border to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Guru Nanak, while the other part from Dera Baba Nanak up to the border will be constructed by India.

India is constructing a bridge at the zero point and has urged Pakistan to build a similar bridge on its side that will provide safe and secure movement of pilgrims.

Sardar Patel inspiration behind abrogation of Article 370: Modi

KEVADIYA (TIP): Paying glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on National Unity Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday defended the scrapping of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the special status provision only bred terrorism in the erstwhile state.

He also hailed India's unity in diversity, calling it the biggest challenge for the country's enemies.

Attending a function at the Statue of Unity here on Patel's 144th birth anniversary, Modi led the gathering in taking the 'national unity pledge' on National Unity Day.

"The new system in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is not meant to draw a line on the land (to draw a boundary) but to build a strong link of trust," the prime minister said in the wake of the bifurcation of the state into Union Territories which came into existence from October 31.

Inspired by Patel, his government is working for "emotional, economic and constitutional integration" of the country, without which it would be difficult to imagine a powerful India in the 21st century, he said.

In a swipe at Pakistan, he said those "who cannot win wars" against India are trying to destroy its unity.

"The country took the decision to scrap Article 370 (which provided special status to J&K), which had only given separatism and terrorism to that state," Modi said. "Over 40,000 people lost their lives in three decades of terrorism," he said, adding it was Patel's inspiration which made him take the decision to revoke Article 370.

The PM said he dedicates the Centre's August 5 decision to scrap the controversial provision of the Constitution "at the feet of" independent India's first home minister.

The prime minister termed Article 370 as a "wall" that separated people.

"That wall was promoting separatism and terrorism. I am here today to humbly tell Sardar Patel that the wall has been demolished," Modi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat on Thursday, October 31.

"Patel had once said that had he handled the Kashmir issue, it would not have taken so long to resolve it," Modi said in a veiled swipe at Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister whom the ruling BJP often blames for the decades-old Kashmir issue.

"North-East is now moving from separatism to attachment as decades-old problems are nearing resolution," Modi said, referring to his government's initiatives to bring peace to the insurgency-affected region.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel seen with Union minister Jitendra Singh at Palam Technical Airport, in New Delhi.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL ON 3-DAY VISIT TO INDIA

NEW DELHI (TIP): German Chancellor Angela Merkel, accompanied by a dozen ministers and a business delegation, today arrived on a three-day visit to India starting today to strengthen bilateral strategic ties.

"She will hold talks with PM Narendra Modi, President Ram Nath Kovind and other senior officials on trade and investment and high-tech," said Raveesh Kumar, MEA Spokesperson. A day earlier, the German Parliament had passed a resolution that called for upgrading of ties between Germany and India with Foreign Minister Heiko Maas describing India as a "pillar of stability" in South Asia. "It would be dangerous to constrict Asia policy too much to China, especially as we have a partner in India that is much closer to our values of democracy," he had said.

Army wants homosexuality, adultery to remain punishable offences: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Army wants homosexuality and adultery to remain as punishable offences to ensure discipline and has made a representation to the Defence Ministry, a year after the Supreme Court decriminalised these acts, sources said on Thursday. The sources also said the Army Act had a provision under which its personnel can be charged for homosexuality and adultery, but now it will be under another provision of the same Act. The apex court last year decriminalised homosexuality and adultery.

The sources said the Army has approached the Ministry of Defence raising concern over the decriminalisation of the acts in question.

India, Saudi Arabia ready to start new defence chapter

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a turn of events that could add to India's diplomatic heft in West Asia and the 'Arab world', India and Saudi Arabia will do their first-ever joint naval exercise next year in March. The two countries are working to have a white shipping information-sharing agreement and New Delhi is looking to sell military grade vehicles and equipment to Saudi Arabia.

The two sides have had discussions on how the growing Indian defence industry can be roped in to provide the needs of Saudi Arabia, so far dependent on supplies from the US-led NATO Bloc.

A delegation of the Indian industry that included Bharat Forge, Ashok Leyland and L&T among others has been hosted in the Kingdom in the recent past. The General Authority of Military Industry has visited India. "Initial talks have been conducted to see what all cooperation is possible," sources on the Indian side said.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest importer of weapons and equipment. Data released in March 2019, by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, titled "Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2018" says: "Saudi Arabia imported 12 per cent of all global arms sales during the five year period 2014-2018".

BJP, Shiv Sena showdown continues in Maharashtra

MUMBAI (TIP): The compounding differences over a 50-50 formula and distribution of key portfolios among the BJP and Shiv Sena is delaying the formation of the next government in Maharashtra.

It appears that the showdown between the two saffron allies will spill over to the weekend.

It is now a week since the results of the Maharashtra polls were declared but the two ruling MahaYuti allies are yet to reach a consensus.

On Thursday, after the Shiv Sena elected Eknath Shinde as the legislature party leader, party chief Uddhav Thackeray hardened his stance.

The Sena went a step ahead by appointing Sunil Prabhu as the Chief Whip.

The development, in fact, coincided with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's five years' completion in office. Immediately after the legislature party meeting at 12 noon, the Shiv Sena sought an appointment with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari - which came as a jolt to the BJP.

Initially, the meeting was fixed at 3.30 pm but was later rescheduled to 6.30 pm. The Sena delegation,



Shiv Sena MLA and Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray after handing over a document to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

comprising Shinde and Prabhu, Yuva Sena President Aaditya Thackeray and senior Uddhav among others, met the Governor and discussed the loss to farmers because of unseasonal rains.

On Wednesday evening, after Fadnavis was re-elected as the leader of the BJP's legislature party and was set to take over as CM again, he showered praises on Uddhav. He had

even indicated giving the post of Deputy CM to Sena, after which the latter seemed to soften its stance.

"These are all rumours. There is no question of softening stand," Sena Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut said, adding that what was decided in the February meeting between Thackeray and BJP President Amit Shah was spelled out by Fadnavis.

Uddhav ji's words final: Aditya

Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray' son Aaditya said that his father's decision would be the final word on the issue of government formation. "I will not talk about government formation. Whatever has to be said Uddhav ji will say...his words would be final," he said emerging out of Raj Bhavan.

Uddhav expresses displeasure

Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray has expressed serious displeasure and unhappiness over the BJP and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis going back on February's 50-50 formula.

However, he clearly stressed on the fact that the Shiv Sena would get a better deal in 2019. "In 2014, we got a raw deal," Shiv Sena leaders said.



NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI RECEIVES THE GOLDEN DRAGON AWARD

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has been honoured with the prestigious Golden Dragon Award at the Cardiff International Film Festival for excellence in cinema in the global arena. The Gangs of Wasseypur actor was presented the award by counsel general of Wales, UK, Mick Antoniwi, on Sunday at an event in Cardiff.

"Thank You Mr. Mick Antoniwi, the Counsel General of Wales, UK & "Cardiff International Film Festival" for bestowing me with the prestigious Golden Dragon Award," Nawaz tweeted. The actor has made a mark internationally with Netflix's Sacred Games, Ritesh Batra's Photograph and BBC UK's McMafia.

Cardiff Festival which commenced on Thursday, October 24, and ended on Sunday, October 27, also honoured veteran Hollywood actor Judi Dench with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He also congratulated Dench writing, "Congratulations #DameJudiDench on receiving the Lifetime Achievement award."

SUNNY LEONE CALLED OUT FOR COPYING ARTWORK, ACTOR RESPONDS

Actress Sunny Leone has been blasted on social media for copying for charity an artwork originally painted by French illustrator Malika Favre. The anonymous Instagram account Dietsabya called out the similarity on Monday, sharing snapshots of similar photographs of Favre and Sunny's painting.

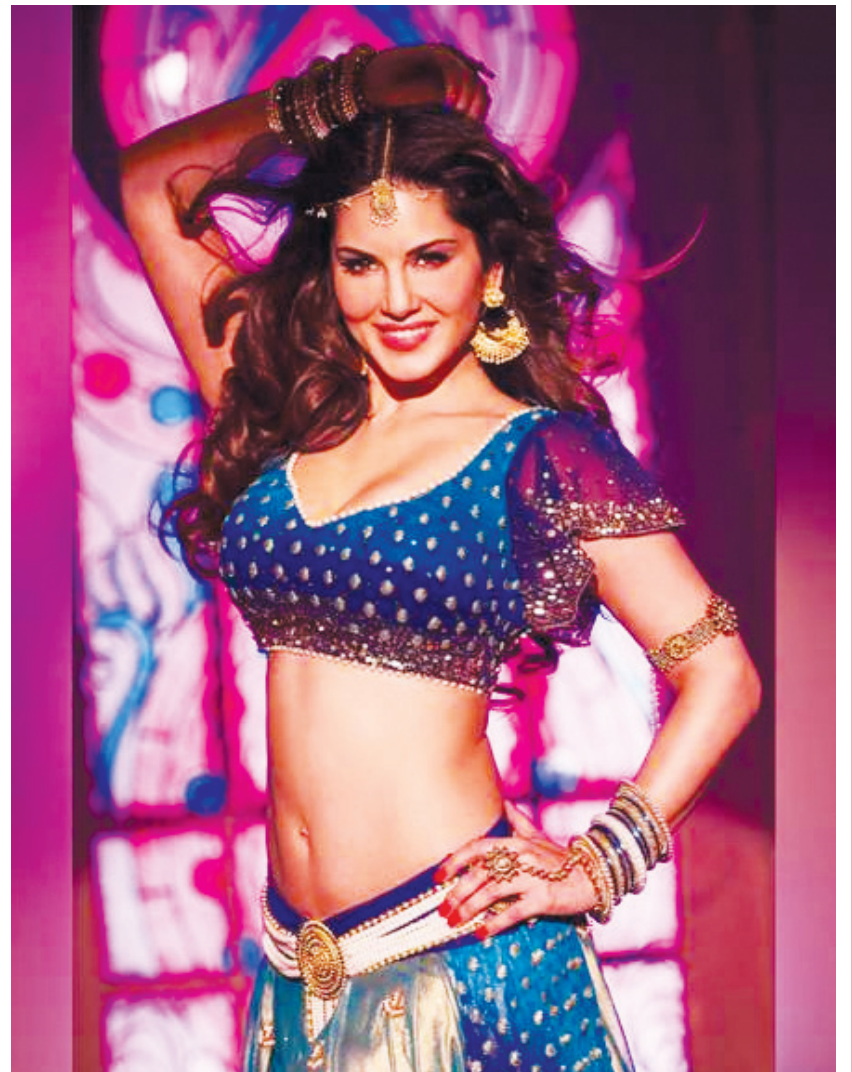
"We are all for charity, but stealing an artist's original work - without credit - and auctioning it off for charity (as your own) is just dirty. Left: original by @malikafavre; right: w* by @sunnyleone," the snapshot was captioned. This forced the Instagram account to call the actor out on social media.

The actor soon replied that she had not copied the original artwork but was given a photograph from which she drew her painting. She wrote: "Hello. Just to give you the correct information, I was given a photograph of this piece of art. I then decided to paint it! At no time did I claim to come up with the idea. I simply painted a piece of art that I saw and loved. It should be taken as a compliment as it was being donated to cancer patients for charity."

"Nothing more and nothing less. Sorry you don't like the version that I choose to create while helping children in Need. The painting was not about you or I. It was about trying to help! Best of luck! Keep creating."

Dietsabya then shared Favre's response to Sunny's painting on their Instagram stories.

"Sunny Leone a credit would have been the minimum... Intellectual property is a thing you know? What if I didn't want a copy of my work to be copied by you and auctioned? The cause is commendable, the attitude not so much."



PREITY ZINTA, VIR DAS TO STAR IN SPIN-OFF SHOW OF HIT US SERIES FRESH OFF THE BOAT

Preity Zinta and Vir Das are set to guest star in an episode of ABC's Fresh Off The Boat that is expected to serve as basis for a spin-off show. The network has long been planning to develop a spin-off of the show, which follows the lives of a Taiwanese-American family in Florida in 1990s.

It revolves around the Huangs, a Taiwanese-American family comprising parents Louis and Jessica, their children Eddie, Emery, and Evan, and Louis's mother, Jenny.

According to Deadline, the upcoming episode, which will be shot next month, will centre around an Indian family whose daughter attends school with Eddie. Zinta will portray the girl's mother Meena, while Das will essay the role of her father DC.

The introduction of the new characters is expected to lead up to the spin-off show, tentatively titled Magic Motor Inn. Rachna Fruchbom, who has frequently penned episodes of Fresh Off The Boat, is attached to write. 20th Century Fox Television will produce the spin-off. Fruchbom will also serve as the executive producer on



Magic Motor Inn, along with Jake Kasdan and Melvin Mar.

Fresh Off The Boat, currently in its sixth season, airs on ABC in the US. Zinta is best known in Bollywood for films such as Dil Chahta Hai, Veer Zaara, Kal Ho Naa



Ho and Koi... Mil Gaya, among others. Her last release back home was 2018's Bhaiaji Superhit.

Das most recently featured in ABC's Whiskey Cavalier and his Amazon Prime show Jestination Unknown.



KRITI SANON STARTS SHOOTING FOR 'MIMI' IN RAJASTHAN

Actress Kriti Sanon has kick-started the first schedule of shooting in Rajasthan for her upcoming film 'Mimi'.

"I am glad to be a part of my first women-centric film as it touches upon a really important subject," said Kriti.

"Mimi" is considered as a turning point for Kriti as this is her strongest role till date with a central plot completely revolving around the actress.

"I am excited and nervous at the same time as there is so much to learn and look forward to," she added.

With 'Mimi', Kriti will be re-uniting with her "Luka Chuppi" director Laxman Utekar and co-star Pankaj Tripathi.

Kriti was recently seen in 'Housefull 4', which has collected over Rs 50 crore in three days since its release.



Rachel Weisz to play Elizabeth Taylor in biopic

Rachel Weisz is set to star as Elizabeth Taylor in "A Special Relationship", exploring Taylors journey from actress to activist.

The story will be told through the lens of Taylor's friendship with her assistant Roger Wall.

Based on the screenplay written by Academy Award-winner Simon Beaufoy, the upcoming production will be helmed by the female directing duo Bert&Bertie, reports.

Taylor won Oscars for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Butterfield 8" and was nominated a total of five times. Though famous for her glamorous lifestyle and multiple marriages, she also took a crusading role in the fight against AIDS, which stemmed from her hiring of Walls, a gay man who grew up in poverty in the homophobic Deep South in the mid-1980s.

SPICE GIRL MEL B CONFIRMS ROMANCE WITH HAIRDRESSER

Singer Mel B has finally confirmed she is dating hairdresser Rory McPhee, who is 13 years her junior.

The Spice Girl, 44, and Rory McPhee, 31, have been seeing each other on and off for the past two years. But they went public five weeks ago when they attended a pal's wedding as a couple, reports.

They met through Mel's cousin, actor Christian Cooke and Mel's friends are thrilled.

One said of Mel: "She hasn't stopped smiling recently.

A source said: "Mel and Rory have been friends for years. Sparks flew between them two years ago, but they have upped the ante by going public. At the wedding they looked so happy together.

"Mel isn't looking for a serious relationship, and Rory is very easygoing, so they are keeping things very casual and chilled for now. As far as they are both concerned, they are happy and that's all that matters. Mel can't stop smiling when she's around him.

Leeds-born Rory, who runs hairdresser Rory James, grew closer to mother-of-three Mel after her split from Stephen Belafonte in 2017.

Last month Mel told popular TV host she was single.

But the source went on: "Mel didn't want to open up about them dating on TV, and Rory accepted that. He knows her main focus is her kids. He doesn't try to push her into anything, so she can relax. She has met his family and they think she's great."



KEIRA KNIGHTLEY PICKS OWN BODY DOUBLE FOR NUDE SCENE



Actress Keira Knightley used a body double for her film 'The Aftermath' because she refuses to perform nude scenes.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star explains her contract allows her to have a body double to take her place if nudity is involved, and that she is also permitted to approve any scenes where her stand-in is naked.

"I don't do any nudity,"

"I had a body double in my last movie ('The Aftermath'), but I got to pick the body double and then I got the final approval over the sex scenes - that's how it works in my clause."

"I was outside having a cup of tea and a scone, while those scenes were shot because I didn't have to be naked," she added.



JULIE ANDREWS: HOLLYWOOD ISN'T ALL ABOUT GLAMOUR, RED CARPETS

Cinema legend Dame Julie Andrews said that Hollywood isn't all about "red carpets and the beautiful gowns".

"It's about learning my craft, and being in the Hollywood film industry and what it's like to make a movie and what it was like to adopt my kids, and so many other things. "I think people feel that um ... anything to do with Hollywood is all the glamour and the red carpets and the beautiful gowns and those are the very

pleasant icing on the cake," Andrews said. "But the hard work (is) behind the scenes, the number of craftsmen and technicians, people who work so hard to make a film come together," she added.

Andres recently credited therapy with "saving" her life after her broken marriage. The 'Sound Of Music' star had sought help after she split from first husband Tony Walton in the late 1960s. She said it is one of the best things she has ever done.

SHEEN'S JFF RETURNS FOR 7TH SEASON

INTERVIEW WITH ANDY PETERSON

Andy Peterson, Creator and Director of The Justice Film Festival, spoke to Mabel Pais from his location.

Why this Festival?

I've been working in film since 2005 and in that time I've been meeting all of these incredible filmmakers creating films on issues of social justice. Around 2012, we realized there were few outlets for these important films, so we took a chance and created the "Justice Film Festival." These films typically do not get a lot of exposure, and there was a hungry audience who wanted to lean into these important ideas and conversations so we just took it from there. It's been a great privilege to create a space for these films and allow these talented creators to share their work with a wider audience.

You have said, "We live in a complex world that is increasingly difficult to navigate." Explain.

So, I think politically what's happening in the world, not just in the United States but in a number of different places..... there's just seems to be a lot of tension and frankly hostility between people and groups that used to get along. And on some of these issues we're facing, whether it's poverty, homelessness, sex trafficking or whatever there doesn't seem to be one clear path forward. Sometimes these are complicated conversations, and these films we get to present, allow people to lean into the issues and explore what it looks like for us to work together and solve a problem. I truly believe the films that we've selected have answers for these issues, or will at least cause us to pause and maybe have conversations about the ideas being presented.

Why hold the Justice Festival at the Sheen Center?

Our Mission coincides with that of The Sheen Center's, to present performances and art that reflect "the true, the good, and the beautiful." It is a wonderful venue, in a wonderful part of New York City. And, honestly I think NY is kind of ground zero for a lot of these things - with so many people on the front lines of these issues of justice, doing amazing work around the world. So much of that is in NY so it's a great place for us to share the work from these great filmmakers.

To learn more about Andy Peterson and The Justice Film Festival, visit justicefilmfest.com

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

By Mabel Pais

".....each year the (film) slate gets better, not just in showcasing artistically outstanding, life-affirming works that celebrate the best of humanity, but in demonstrating the power of cinema to help inspire hope, healing, moral courage and community"

- David DiCerto, Executive Director, Sheen Center

'First Reformed' feels like a fresh discovery (of Mr. Schrader). More than that: an epiphany."

A.O. Scott, New York Times

FOUR DAYS. FIVE FEATURES. FIFTEEN SHORTS.

Stories of Courage. Redemption. Hope.

The seventh annual Justice Film Festival (JFF 2019) returns to the Sheen Center for Thought & Culture, Loreto Theater, November 13 - 16, 2019.

The Justice Film Festival inspires justice seekers by showcasing films of exceptional courage and stories of redemption that are as diverse in the issues they explore as they are in geography. As always, this year's event will include feature documentaries and shorts from both well-known and emerging filmmakers, all of whom are using the medium of film to shine a light on culturally relevant social justice issues.

Many of the screenings will be followed by talkbacks with the filmmakers, offering a deeper dive on the wide-ranging topics explored onscreen.

TICKETS: The Festival Pass or tickets to individual screenings can be purchased at SheenCenter.org/Justice, or in-person at The Sheen Center box office Monday to Friday Noon to 5PM or by phone at 212-925-2812.

Among the more than 20 features and shorts selected for the 2019 festival, organizers have announced a special presentation of "First Reformed" followed by a discussion with the film's Oscar-nominated writer/director, Paul Schrader. Among his many credits, Paul Schrader wrote the scripts for "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull" and wrote and directed "Affliction," "Light Sleeper," and "American Gigolo."

This year's Justice Film Festival closes with the world premiere of "Free Burma Rangers," an inspiring documentary about Dave and Karen Eubank, exploring their extraordinary journey as they venture into war zones, with their three young children, fighting as a family to bring hope to the hopeless.

"We live in a complex world that is increasingly difficult to navigate," says Andy Peterson, creator and Director of the Justice Film Festival. "Films like "First Reformed," which ask us to consider our impact on the earth, and "Free Burma Rangers," that brings witness to heroic advocates for social justice in midst of war, help us gain a deeper level of understanding and empathy when it comes to these issues."

"As a Catholic arts center committed to promoting the sacred dignity of every human person, we are delighted to be once again hosting the Justice Film Festival this year," says David DiCerto, interim Executive Director of The Sheen Center. "This is our fourth year hosting the festival, and each year the slate gets

better, not just in showcasing artistically outstanding, life-affirming works that celebrate the best of humanity, but in demonstrating the power of cinema to help inspire hope, healing, moral courage and community."

This year's Festival schedule:**

OPENING NIGHT

Wednesday, November 13, 7:00PM

Visit sheencenter.org for the updated announcement of the JFF 2019 Opening Night feature!

FIRST REFORMED, followed by a conversation with Paul Schrader

Thursday, November 14, 7:00PM, Loreto Theater

"First Reformed feels like a fresh discovery (of Mr. Schrader). More than that: an epiphany."

A.O. Scott, New York Times

A conversation with Oscar-nominated writer-director Paul Schrader (Taxi Driver; American Gigolo; Affliction) follows the screening. Watch the trailer <https://youtu.be/hCF5Y8dQpR4>

THE PURSUIT : Friday, November 15, 1:00PM, Studio Theater : In "The Pursuit," professional musician turned intrepid economist, Arthur Brooks travels around the globe in search of an answer to the question: How can we lift up the world, starting with those at the margins of society? Watch the trailer <https://youtu.be/Hjbug3ygzi0>

SKID ROW MARATHON : Friday, November 15, 2:00PM, Loreto Theater : A criminal court judge starts a running club, on L.A.'s notorious Skid Row. Its members comprised of homeless drug addicts, a recovering single mom, and a paroled murderer consider themselves among those least likely to succeed. Their story is one of hope, friendship, and dignity. A conversation with director Mark Hayes and producer Gabi Hayes will follow the screening. Watch the trailer https://vimeo.com/356091790?utm_source=Sheen+Center+Email+List&utm_campaign=36e1bbc00c-Membership_Drive_%233_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ba3a983d2d-36e1bbc00c-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&ct=t%28MEMBERSHIP_DRIVE_%233_10_3_2019_COPY_01%29

HESBURGH : Friday, November 15, 7:00PM, Loreto Theater : Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., longtime president of the University of Notre Dame, was a formidable Catholic leader at a tumultuous time in American history. The documentary, offering a glimpse at more than 50 years of American history, explores his role - a timeless example of bipartisan leadership. Conversation with filmmaker Patrick Creadon follows. Watch the trailer <https://youtu.be/PFSqf0GUwtg>

JUSTICE SHORTS : Saturday, November 16, 1:00PM, Loreto Theater : An afternoon of thought provoking and inspiring short films from a wide variety of emerging voices, including the New York premieres of "This Is My Home" and "Ashes to Ashes." A conversation with some of the filmmakers will follow the screenings.

FREE BURMA RANGERS: World Premiere : Saturday, November 16, 7:00PM, Loreto Theater : Free Burma Rangers" is a documentary exploring the extraordinary, inspiring 20-year journey of missionaries Dave and Karen Eubank and their family to realize their journey to free the oppressed in war zones. A conversation with directors Chris



Andy Peterson.
Photo / Andy Peterson - JFF



Poster of "First Reformed."
Photo / Sheen Center-JFF.



Poster of "Free Burma Rangers."
Photo / Sheen Center-JFF

Sinclair and Brent Gudget will follow. Watch the trailer <https://youtu.be/r851W3bStZY>

** Screening times and films subject to change.

The Sheen Center for Thought & Culture (sheencenter.org) is a New York City arts center located in NoHo that presents a vibrant mix of theater, film, music, art and talk events. The arts center of the Archdiocese of New York, The Sheen Center serves all New Yorkers by presenting performances and artists that reflect the true, the good, and the beautiful.

For more information, visit sheencenter.org

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

Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

Restoring your ear power

CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE

***Hearing Aid Evaluation * Hearing Aid Repair
*Tympanometry * Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.
TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413

LOCATIONS

Nassau University Medical Center 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	30 Roosevelt Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	680 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	---

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME

EAST WEST OPTICIANS

***Eye Exam
*Contact Lens
*Eye Glass
*Sunglass**

Authorized Dealer of
Rayban, Prada, G.A.,
Versace, Flexon
& Much More.....

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

DAVIS VISION EYECARE REFRAMED MetroPlus Emblem-Health FIDELIS CARE eye Med UFT
WellCare Aetna Affinity Health Plan 1199 SEIU VSO BlueCross BlueShield
New York State Nurses Association healthfirst UnitedHealthcare spectera

263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004
Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664
Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text:718-514-0025

Order Online: www.eastwestopticians.com
Email: anilguptaus@yahoo.com
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

Get to the Point

#1
Indian American Weekly Since 2006

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business
The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012
www.theindianpanorama.news

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

**OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.30 PM**

**For construction Debris,
Demolition & Cleanouts**

Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK

Roll Off Container Service

10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

718-345-6451

19 killed as truck plummets down Philippine ravine

MANILA (TIP): Nineteen farmers were killed in the mountainous northern Philippines when a truck carrying them and sacks of rice seeds plunged backwards down a deep ravine, police said on Friday.

The victims were on their way home from collecting government-subsidised seeds on Thursday in the town of Conner when the driver lost control of the vehicle, in the latest tragedy on the country's perilous roads.

Either the engine or brakes failed as the truck made its way up an incline. The vehicle, with some 40 people in its bed, then plunged back down the hill into a 20-metre (65-foot) ravine.

"The truck fell on its rear first and the passengers were crushed," local police official Manuel Canipas told AFP.

He said 20 more people on the truck were injured, but would survive.

Canipas said the weight of the seeds might have made the crash worse, potentially crushing some of the victims.

Deadly road accidents are common in the Philippines, where inadequately maintained buses and poorly trained drivers form the backbone of land transport options.

Twenty people, including children, were killed in September in the southern Philippine town of T'boli when a truck carrying a group home from a party at the beach crashed. AFP

British election campaign kicks off on no-Brexit day

LONDON (TIP): On the day Britain was supposed to have left the European Union, voters instead faced the start of an election campaign, with opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn pledging to overthrow a "rigged system" he said was run by billionaires and tax-dodgers.

After failing to deliver Brexit by the October 31 deadline, PM Boris Johnson called the December 12 election to break what he cast as a political paralysis that had thwarted Britain's departure. — Reuters

N Korea fires 2 projectiles

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea fired two short-range projectiles on Thursday, the South's military said, with nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington at a deadlock. The weapons were launched from South Pyongan province in an easterly direction over the sea, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. — AFP

IAAC Literary Festival Celebrates Diversity in Literature

NEW YORK (TIP): At the 5th Annual IAAC Literary Festival held in New York City, the Indo-American Arts Council celebrated literary works representing South Asian heritage. On October 19 and 20, authors and poets, all of them multiple award-winning and acclaimed in their own right, participated in talks and readings, making it an unforgettable experience for adults and children alike.

This year, IAAC also celebrated the 1st Annual Wonderland@IAAC Children's Literary Festival. The Indo-American Arts Council and The Culture Tree partnered together to program a festival that helped ignite young minds in a way only words and thoughts can.

Festival Director Nili Lakhani said that in addition to the Adult Lit festival, "The need of the hour is diversity in youth literature and pioneering initiatives such as the children's lit festival help push forward important conversations and lead to a real change in children's literature publishing. Our vision is to create a place where Indian-American children see themselves reflected within the literature they read".

The awards for the Expressions literary contest for children were given out by Consul General of India in New York Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, who provided his support to the festival and encouraged IAAC to take the literary festival to other cities. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion and gave away the awards were actor Anupam Kher, Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Ayaan Ali Bangash and Amaan Ali Bangash. Director of the South Asian Languages Program at NYU Gabriela Nik Ileva provided extensive support to all aspects of planning and execution of the festival as IAAC forged a new partnership with the Hagop Kevorkian Center at New York University.

At the adult festival Kanchan Koya presented The Spice Baby Cookbook, a



Actor Anupam Kher signing his new book *Lessons Life Taught me, Unknowingly: An Autobiography*; Also seen in the picture Sarod Maestro Ustaad Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Ayaan Ali Bangash and Amaan Ali Bangash

first-of-its-kind cookbook detailing the science of spices. Renowned scholar and curator at the MET Museum, John Guy, shared his extensive knowledge of South Asian art with a visually stunning presentation.

Anjali Sachdeva talked about growing up between two cultures, how her debut short story collection, *All the Names They Used for God*, Best book of 2018 by NPR, written over 12 years, came to be, the common thread between the stories, how it was written and more.

Jennifer Acker, author of the debut novel *The Limits of the World*, was in conversation with Megha Majumdar, the associate editor at Catapult, spoke about how the book is framed by family that has moved to a new continent almost every generation, to India, East Africa and then to the US. Author of the bestseller *The Last Queen of Kashmir*, Rakesh Kaul was in conversation with Gabriela Nik Ileva, Director of the South Asian Languages program at NYU. Susham Bedi, who currently teaches Modern Indian

Literature at City University of New York and previously taught at Columbia University, held a very engaging talk with Gabriela and spoke of her journey and her work in Hindi Literature which has been widely translated.

Maya Lang, novelist and author of the forthcoming memoir *What We Carry*, presented an intimate and personal account of her relationship with her mother in conversation with IAAC Chairman Dr. Mattoo. Actor Anupam Kher held the audience in rapt attention during his chat about his new book *Lessons Life Taught me, Unknowingly: An Autobiography*. The crowd was entertained and inspired with the stories and snippets he shared from his life. On the occasion, he said: "Thank you, Indo-American Arts Council for launching my book with so much of warmth. Thank you, Dr. Mattoo for being such a generous moderator. And having Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan in the audience was my ultimate high and honor."

Powerful earthquake strikes south Philippines

MANILA (TIP): A powerful earthquake struck the southern Philippines on Thursday, crushing a man under falling debris and sparking searches of seriously damaged buildings that had already been rattled by two previous deadly tremors.

The 6.5 magnitude quake hit the island of Mindanao, the US Geological Survey said, causing locals to run to safety in the same area where a strong tremor killed eight people on Tuesday.

The powerful shaking caused serious damage to a condominium building in the major southern city of Davao, which was about 45 kilometres from the epicentre.

At least eight people were hurt at the building, and rescuers had launched a search to determine if residents might be trapped inside, police told AFP.

A collapsed structure in another town

The 6.5 magnitude quake hit the island of Mindanao, the US Geological Survey said, causing locals to run to safety in the same area where a strong tremor killed eight people on Tuesday.

crushed and killed a local official who was inside to help with an improvised medical treatment centre set up after the previous quakes.

A hotel partially collapsed in another area, but a disaster official told AFP the building had already been evacuated.

Locals have been left terrified by a string of powerful quakes, and hundreds of aftershocks since the first powerful tremor struck on October 16.

"Everyone rushed outside," said Reuel Limbungan, mayor of the Tulunan town,

which was once again near the epicentre. "It was as strong as the previous one." Hundreds of families on Mindanao island, which makes up the southern third of the Philippines, have been living in shelters because they are afraid to go home. USGS initially said the quake had a magnitude of 6.8, and added there was no threat of a tsunami.

The Philippines suffers regular tremors as part of the Pacific 'Ring of Fire', an arc of intense seismic activity that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.

In the 6.6 magnitude quake on Tuesday, a teenage boy was crushed by a falling wall as he tried to escape his school in Magsaysay, the town spokesman told AFP. Though other students were injured in a "stampede" to escape the building, they survived. AFP

Hong Kong Halloween protest rally aims to test mask ban

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong authorities are bracing as pro-democracy protesters urged people on Thursday to celebrate Halloween by wearing masks on a march in defiance of a government ban on face coverings.

Organisers are calling on supporters of the protest movement to take part in a “masquerade” that will put to the test a recent government ban on masks at public gatherings aimed at quelling the increasingly violent protests now in their fifth month.

Digital fliers circulated online called on people to wear masks depicting Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam and Chinese President Xi Jinping and other senior officials.

They also said people could wear a mask and dress in red for the march, which was set to begin at a large park and proceed to the Lan Kwai Fong bar and nightclub district.

Face masks have become a hallmark of protesters in Hong Kong, even at peaceful marches, amid fears their identities will be uncovered and spread online, resulting in retribution.

Lam introduced a measure to ban masks and face coverings at the start of October, but protesters have largely ignored it and police have not been enforcing it on a large scale.

Police said they didn’t rule out the possibility of violent incidents on Halloween.

The police force said in an online video that anyone refusing to comply with a request to remove their mask can be fined and jailed for six months,



though they also said wearing Halloween masks is allowed as long as there is no violence.

In a separate event, police fired tear gas at protesters gathered at a subway station across the harbour.

The demonstrators were marking two months since riot police stormed a subway car and beat passengers with batons and pepper spray in scenes that inflamed tensions.

In Beijing, the ruling Communist Party said it planned to strengthen laws regarding Hong Kong in the name of national security.

The party reaffirms the “one country, two systems” framework under which Hong Kong was handed over from

British to Chinese control in 1997, it said in a statement issued at the end of a major meeting of the 202 members of the party’s Central Committee led by Xi, who is also the party chief.

However, it added that in an effort to maintain the territory’s “prosperity and stability,” it would embark on a project to “establish and strengthen a legal system and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security” in Hong Kong.

The document gave no further details and it wasn’t clear whether that indicated an intention to pass new laws in mainland China or in Hong Kong, which has a separate legal system under its own constitution. — AP

Islamic State confirms death of Baghdadi, names new leader

CAIRO (TIP): The Islamic State militant group confirmed on Thursday its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been killed, the group’s news agency Amaq said in an audio tape following a US weekend raid.

Baghdadi, an Iraqi jihadist who rose from obscurity to declare himself “caliph” of all Muslims as the leader of Islamic State, was killed by US special forces in northwestern Syria, President Donald Trump said on Sunday.

The group had been silent until now. As successor it appointed someone Amaq only identified as Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Quraishi.

Aymenn al-Tamimi, a researcher at Swansea University focused on Islamic State, said the name was unknown but could be a top figure called Hajj Abdullah whom the US State Department had identified as a possible successor to Baghdadi. “It could be someone we know, who perhaps has just assumed this new name,” said Tamimi.

The group, which controlled swathes of Iraq and Syria between 2014 and 2017 and carried out atrocities that horrified most Muslims, also confirmed the death of its spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir.

Baghdadi was killed in Idlib in northwestern Syria.

US special forces carried out the Syrian operation in which Baghdadi killed himself and three of his children by detonating a suicide vest when he was cornered in a tunnel, according to US officials. — Reuters

Chinese cafe dyes pups black and white to look like pandas

CHENGDU (TIP): It takes just 1,500 yuan (\$212.28) at a pet café in southwest China that dyes pups in black and white streaks to resemble the animal that is considered a national treasure. The cafe, which opened last month in the city of Chengdu, has gone viral on social media after owner Lu Yunning dyed his six chow-chow puppies to look like pandas. “There are many dog cafes, cat cafes, raccoon cafes, alpaca cafes and duck cafes. We wanted something novel,” said Lu, 21-year-old who estimates his cafe draws 70 to 80 customers a day. Reuters

Hunt for man missing after livestreaming Mt Fuji climb

TOKYO (TIP): Rescuers in Japan are searching for a man who appears to have fallen down part of Mount Fuji as he was live-streaming his climb up the country’s highest peak, police said Wednesday. The man, whose name has not been made public, was live broadcasting from the snow-covered upper reaches of Mount Fuji on Monday afternoon when he appeared to slip and begin falling. AFP

Putin was ‘conscientious and disciplined’ spy: KGB documents

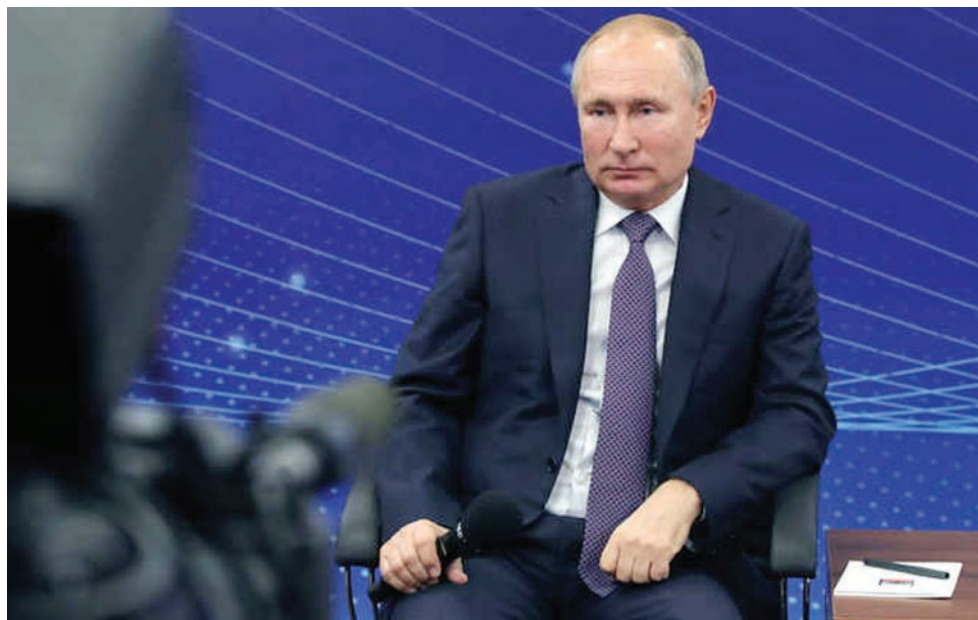
SAINT PETERSBURG (TIP): Declassified KGB documents on display in Russia describe future President Vladimir Putin as a “conscientious and disciplined” spy at the start of his career.

“Comrade Putin... is constantly raising his ideological, political and professional level,” said the one-page document released to Russian media, written while the intelligence agent-turned-politician was in his 20s.

Now 67, Putin worked for the secret service from the mid-1970s and was posted in Dresden, then East Germany, from 1985 to 1990, as Soviet power was crumbling.

In the Kremlin he has surrounded himself with many former employees of the secret service and the FSB, the successor to the KGB, remains a powerful agency.

The KGB profile is part of an exhibition at the Central Archive of Historical and Political Documents in Russia’s second city of Saint Petersburg,



featuring other declassified files.

The young Putin also received “congratulations from his seniors” in the organisation “for his well organised work and results,” the document said.

In 2016, Putin—who has been in power as president or prime minister for two decades—revealed he had kept his USSR Communist Party membership card for sentimental reasons. — AFP

Dry brushing—aka sloughing the dead skin off your body with a firm-bristled brush—doesn't sound all that appealing. However, the list of purported benefits reads like a checklist of everything I want out of a treatment. It gives you softer and glowier skin, improves circulation, casts out toxins, and makes cellulite do a disappearing act.

EXFOLIATES

Gentle dry brushing exfoliates your skin by whisking away dead skin cells. In turn, It helps any treatments you use on your body work better. The results? Smoother, softer skin.

Exfoliating is helpful because when we age, the way we slough off skin cells is slower. Exfoliating leads to skin that looks less dull and feels less rough.

But don't overdo it as it can create tears that let bacteria and other nasty things into your body.

INCREASES CIRCULATION

"In general, anything that stimulates the top of the skin will increase circulation. So, in theory, dry brushing can help improve your circulation.

GETS RID OF CELLULITE

Unfortunately, there's no real way to treat cellulite. Cellulite happens because of fibrous tethers in your subcutaneous fat that create dimples. Thus, a simple pass with a dry brush isn't going to fix them permanently. But before you abandon all hope, if fluid retention and bloating are making your cellulite appear worse, manually massaging out any fluid could temporarily make cellulite look better.

HELPS WITH LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE

There's a technique involving deep massage to help people with lymphedema (swelling caused by a blockage in the lymphatic system, typically caused by the removal or damage of lymph nodes during cancer treatment). Any sort of intense massage can theoretically help with lymphatic drainage. But—and this is a big but—unless you have lymphedema, your body is doing just fine at circulating lymph. Also, you shouldn't be dry brushing hard enough for it to be intense.

WHAT YOU NEED

A firm-bristled dry brush. (The bristles should be natural, not synthetic.) Choose one with a long handle to get hard-to-reach places like your back. A soothing body moisturizer.

DRY BRUSHING: SECRET TO GLOWING SKIN



HOW TO DRY BRUSH

- Start at your ankles and begin brushing your body using gentle, upward, circular motions. Always brush toward your heart.
- Continue up your body with the brush. When you reach your stomach, brush counterclockwise. When you reach your arms and back, remember to keep brushing toward your heart.
- Hop in the shower to rinse off.

- Follow up with a gentle body moisturizer.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU DRY BRUSH?

It depends on your skin type, so be sure to listen to your body. Your skin is an organ meant to seal you against the outside world. If it's abrasive, it's counterproductive. Be especially careful with delicate areas like your chest and inner thighs.

Also, dry brushing is likely too harsh for people with eczema or psoriasis.

GET LONG HAIR IN NO TIME WITH THESE 5 TIPS

Long hair can never go out of fashion, but waiting for it to grow is a pain, here is what you'll need other than patience to help your hair grow a little bit faster.

Long hair can never go out of fashion, but waiting for it to grow beautifully into long, luscious locks can often feel like a painfully slow process.

So, if you have no option left but are forced to bear the pain, here is what you'll need other than patience to help your hair grow a little bit faster.

Massage

Oiling is the best way to increase blood circulation and also provide the much-required moisture. If you have oily hair, then apply oil once a week and if you have dry hair, you should apply hair oil at least twice a week.

Go natural

Opting organic and natural products with no silicones, sulphites, parabens, and colourant will do wonders for your hair. Eliminating chemicals will help by balancing hair's optimal moisture levels, leaving it healthier-looking



and full of life.

Condition the tresses

Stay away from artificial products and treat your hair with a lot of smoothness of ingredients like coconut oil, Babassu oil, and honey. Using a natural product will make your hair frizz-free.

Avoid heat

Hairdryer and straightener's

extreme heat can be an obstacle in the growth of hair as using them for styling or just drying can make the hair roots weaker, resulting in breakage.

Secure natural oil

Try not to wash your hair too much as it will remove natural oils that nourish the scalp and promote hair growth. Just wash each day of the week for the best results.

FOOD CORNER

RICE KHEER

INGREDIENTS

3 cup rice, 6 blanched almonds, 1/4 cup sugar, 6 cup milk, 2 green cardamom.

Method

- To begin with, slice the blanched almonds on a clean chopping board and keep them aside until needed again.
- Keep a pressure cooker on medium flame and add milk in it. Allow the milk to come to a boil, then add rice in it followed by cardamom and sugar. Using a spatula, mix all the ingredients properly.
- Cover the pressure cooker with a lid and allow the mixture to be cooked on medium flame for 10 to 12 minutes. Once done, do not immediately open the cooker rather allow the steam to first escape from the cooker. After that, open up the lid and reheat the milk mixture in the pressure cooker on high flame. Cook until a thick and creamy consistency is obtained.



COFFEE DRINKERS HAVE HEALTHIER GUT MICROBIOTAS

More and more research is unpacking the health benefits of drinking coffee. Drinking just one cup may fight off unhealthy fat, ease inflammation associated with obesity, or even protect the brain into old age.

Furthermore, drinking at least three cups of coffee every day may keep arteries healthy and supple by preventing a calcium buildup and staving off the risk of clogging.

Coffee could also help fight off diabetes by improving blood sugar control and can keep the liver healthy and "happy."

But how exactly coffee yields all of these wonderful health benefits has remained somewhat of a mystery.

New research shines some light on the mechanisms behind coffee's effects by looking at the links between coffee and the health of the gut microbiota.

Dr. Li Jiao, from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, is the senior and corresponding author of the study.

Dr. Shawn Gurwara, also from Baylor College, who is the first author of the paper, presented the findings at the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting, which took place in San Antonio, TX.

The effects of coffee on the gut

The analyses revealed that high caffeine consumers had high levels



of the bacterial genera *Faecalibacterium* and *Roseburia*, but low levels of *Erysipelatoclostridium* — a "potentially harmful" bacterial genus.

The research team found these associations regardless of the participants' age or the quality of their diets.

Although part of a normal healthy gut, excessive levels of *Erysipelatoclostridium ramosum* (*E. ramosum*) may be harmful.

Previous studies in humans have

linked *E. ramosum* with metabolic syndrome, and animal studies found links with "upregulation of small intestinal glucose and fat transporters," which enhanced diet-induced obesity.

Furthermore, the researchers of this present study found higher levels of other bacteria "commonly detected in gut microbiomes" in high coffee consumers. These bacteria included *Odoribacter*, *Dialister*, *Fusicatenibacter*, *Alistipes*, *Blautia*, and various strains of *Lachnospiraceae*.



POOR EVIDENCE CANNABIS IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH

People with psychiatric disorders may want to pass on the joint—at least until further research is done, a new Australian study suggests.

The paper, published Monday in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, looked at 83 previous studies conducted over almost four decades on medical cannabinoids, including products from the cannabis plant, such as leaves, buds and oils.

The authors found little evidence that the products were safe and effective in treating six common disorders: depression, anxiety, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, Tourette syndrome, post-traumatic stress disorder and psychosis.

Cannabis and cannabinoids are increasingly being made available for medicinal use in North America, Britain and Australia without undergoing standard testing, lead author Louisa Degenhardt told AFP.

"One of the most striking things about the spread of legislation in multiple countries permitting cannabis/cannabinoids for medicinal purposes is that this is in many instances happening outside of the regulatory frameworks that medicine development typically occurs within," said Degenhardt, from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

Women's hygiene practices linked to potential cancer agents in blood: Study

Researchers have found that some women's feminine hygiene practices like vaginal douching—the practice of washing or flushing the vagina with cosmetic fluids or water—and the use of feminine powder—may be associated with higher levels of potentially cancer causing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in their blood.

The study, published in the *Journal of Women's Health*, used special biological markers that linked the use of some feminine hygiene products such as tampons, sanitary napkins, sprays, and wipes to VOC exposure.

According to the study, certain VOCs have been associated with acute toxic effects like neurological disorders, and respiratory symptoms, with long-term exposure known to cause cancers and adverse effects on reproductive systems.

The researchers from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. in the US used data on 2432 women from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) during the period of 2001–2004, and self-reported questionnaire data.

Soft drinks consumption common factor between obesity, tooth wear

The consumption of sugar-sweetened acidic drinks—such as soft drinks—is the common factor connecting obesity and tooth wear among adults, according to a study which suggests that dentists should be concerned about the calories their patients get from carbonated beverages.

The researchers, including those from King's College London, found that being overweight, or obese, was strongly associated with having worn-out teeth.

The findings of the study, published in the journal *Clinical Oral Investigation*, suggests that the increased consumption of sugary soft drinks by obese patients may be the leading cause of the erosion of the tooth enamel, and dentine—the hard bony structure forming the bulk of a tooth.

The researchers analysed a sample of survey participants of 3,541 patients in the United States based on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2003–2004.

For the study, the researchers took into account patient BMI, their intake of sugar sweetened acidic drinks, and their levels of tooth wear.

"It is the acidic nature of some drinks such as carbonated drinks and acidic fruit juices that leads to tooth wear," said lead author Saoirse O'Toole from King's College London.

According to the researchers, tooth wear ranked as the third most important dental condition—after cavities and gum disease—and its leading cause is the



consumption of acidic foods and drinks.

"This is an important message for obese patients who are consuming calories through acidic sugar sweetened drinks. These drinks may be doing damage to their body and their teeth," O'Toole said.

The researchers said that changing consumption habits can help patients prevent tooth wear, or at least stop it before it gets worse.

"There is also an important message for dentists. We should be asking our patients who are obese and have tooth wear what calories they are drinking as this may be having an effect on their full bodies - not just their teeth," O'Toole said.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

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



Google tweaks Search to throw more relevant results

Google has announced a major update in its Search algorithms to better understand people's queries and throw more relevant results.

By applying new neural networking techniques, Google said it can offer more relevant results for about one in 10 searches in the US in English and support for other languages and countries will come later.

The technology behind the new neural network is called "Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers" (BERT) which Google first introduced last year.

"By applying BERT models to both ranking and featured snippets in Search, we're able to do a much better job helping you find useful information," Pandu Nayak, Google Fellow and Vice President, Search, said in a blog post on Friday.

Google sees billions of searches every day, and 15 percent of those queries are ones it has not seen before.

"When people like you or I come to Search, we aren't always quite sure about the best way to formulate a query. We might not know the right words to use, or how to spell something, because often times, we come to Search looking to learn—we don't necessarily have the knowledge to begin with," Nayak explained.



WhatsApp's: Login from multiple devices at the same time

WhatsApp features are possibly one of the most awaited compared to other popular apps. The company is now working on a feature through which users will be able to use the same WhatsApp account on more than one device.

At present, WhatsApp accounts can be used only one device at a time. While WhatsApp offers seamless transition of accounts and phone numbers, it restricts usage to only one device. WABetaInfo now confirms that "WhatsApp is developing a feature what will allow to use your WhatsApp account on more devices at the same time. Chats will be still end-to-end encrypted because WhatsApp was developing a new method to assign keys to specific devices".

This means that users will be able to use WhatsApp on an iPhone and an iPad at the same time. The only multi-platform usability available now is with WhatsApp Web and your smartphone. This still has restrictions as WhatsApp requires your phone to have a stable internet connection and it should also be nearby the desktop.

As with every WhatsApp feature, there is no word on when it will be rolled out to users or if it will even release at all but it is in development. Also, screenshots of how this feature will work will be shared by WABetaInfo in the next weeks.

NEW TECHNOLOGY REMOVES CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE AIR AT ANY CONCENTRATION LEVEL

Researchers have developed a new technology to capture carbon dioxide from a stream of air—virtually at any concentration level—an advance that may pave the way for new strategies to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas levels.

The researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US said that while most methods of removing carbon dioxide from a stream of gas required higher concentrations—such as those found in the flue emissions from fossil fuel-based power plants—the new method could suck out the gas even when it was present in very low concentrations.

They added that the method required significantly energy, and could even suck out the greenhouse gas at the roughly 400 parts per million currently found in the atmosphere.

In a study, published in the journal Energy and Environmental Science, the researchers described the device as a large, specialized battery with a stack of electrodes that absorbs carbon dioxide from the air passing over its surface as it was being charged up, and then released the gas as it was being discharged.



The researchers said that the device alternated between charging and discharging cycles.

During the charging cycle, they said that fresh air was fed into the system, and concentrated carbon dioxide was blown out during the discharging.

The study noted that a chemical reaction takes place at the surface of each of a stack of electrodes as the battery charges.

The researchers said that the electrodes are coated with a

compound called polyanthraquinone compounded with carbon nanotubes.

The study noted that the electrodes have a natural affinity for carbon dioxide and readily reacted with its molecules in the airstream or feed gas.

When the battery is discharged, the researchers said that the process ejects a stream of pure carbon dioxide, and also provides part of the power needed for the whole system.

CHECK OUT GOOGLE'S SIX NEW DIGITAL WELLBEING APPS

Google introduced 'Digital Wellbeing' last year with Android 9 Pie. The search giant started a move to help users take a digital break from their smartphones. It recently launched six new Digital Wellbeing apps which are part of 'Experiments with Google'.

The new experimental apps from Google include Paper Phone, Desert Island, Unlock Clock, Morph, Post Box and We Flip. All these apps are available to download on Google Play Store.

Paper Phone

The most popular and truly experimental of the list would be the 'Paper Phone' which is indeed a paper phone. This app essentially lets you print out a paper phone with only the necessarily details you require. Once all the details are selected you can print it out, fold it and use it as a paper phone.

Desert Island

Desert Island lets users choose only the essential apps. Once you select the most used apps, Desert Island will show how many times you used these apps compared to others. Desert Island wants users to "find focus by going a day with only your essential apps".



Unlock Clock

Unlock Clock is an interesting experiment to find out how often you unlock your phone. Unlock Clock wallpaper will count and display the number of times you unlock your phone in a day. Once you download Unlock Clock app you will find this wallpaper from your Live Wallpaper library.

Morph

Morph app helps users divide their day by arranging apps according to their use. Work apps go under the work folder and similarly

travel apps go under the travel folder. Doing so will make your phone automatically adapt and give you the apps based on the time or place. You can download Morph here.

Post Box

Post Box wants to schedule notifications for you so that your distractions are minimized. On Post Box you can schedule when you wish to receive notifications. Once the 'delivery time' arrives, you'll find all your unread notifications neatly categorized. *Source: HT*

US regulator to bar China's Huawei and ZTE from government subsidy program

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US telecommunications regulator plans to vote in November to designate China's Huawei and ZTE as national security risks, barring their US rural carrier customers from tapping an \$8.5 billion government fund to purchase equipment or services.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also plans to propose requiring those carriers to remove and replace equipment from such designated companies, FCC officials said on Monday.

At a meeting set for Nov. 19, the FCC said it plans to vote to ask carriers how much it would cost to remove and replace Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL] and ZTE Corp <000063.SZ> from existing networks and to establish a reimbursement program to offset the costs of removing the equipment.

"When it comes to 5G and America's security, we can't afford to take a risk and hope for the best," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement.

"As the United States upgrades its networks to the next generation of wireless technologies - 5G - we cannot ignore the risk that the Chinese government will seek to exploit network vulnerabilities in order to engage in espionage, insert malware and viruses, and otherwise compromise our critical communications networks."

This is the latest in a series of actions by the US government aimed at barring US companies from purchasing Huawei and ZTE



equipment. Huawei and ZTE would have 30 days to contest the FCC's national security risk designation and a final order compelling removal of equipment is not expected until next year at the earliest.

"In 30 years of business, Huawei has never had a major security-related incident in the 170 countries where we operate," said a Huawei spokesman in Shenzhen, China.

"Today's proposal, released by the FCC Chairman, only impacts the broadband providers in the most unserved or underserved rural areas of the United States," the spokesman said. "Such action will further widen the digital divide; slowing the pace of economic development without further securing the Nation's telecommunications networks."

ZTE did not immediately respond

to a Reuters' request for comment.

Pai first proposed in March 2018 to bar companies that posed a national security risk from receiving funds from the FCC's Universal Service Fund, but did not name Huawei or ZTE. The fund provides subsidies to provide service in rural or hard-to-reach areas, and to libraries and schools.

FCC Democratic Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel noted the move comes after 18 months of review and the FCC should take additional action.

"We need to be mindful that in a global economy, our networks will still connect to insecure equipment abroad. So we should start researching how we can build networks that can withstand connection to equipment vulnerabilities around the world," Rosenworcel said.



IndiGo places order for 300 A320neo-family aircraft

MUMBAI/DELHI (TIP): Budget carrier IndiGo today announced it has placed a firm order for 300 A320neo family aircraft, comprising A320neos, A321neos and A321XLRs. With this, IndiGo's total number of A320neo family aircraft order now stands at 730, the airline said in a statement.

"This order is an important milestone. India is expected to continue with its strong aviation growth and we are well on our way to serve more customers and deliver on our promise of providing low fares, among others," said Ronjoy Dutta, chief executive officer, IndiGo.

This marks one of Airbus largest aircraft orders ever with a single airline operator, the airline said. IndiGo had earlier in three tranches placed orders for 530 Airbus planes between 2005 and 2015.

"We are delighted that IndiGo, one of our early launch customers for the A320neo, continues to build its future with Airbus, making IndiGo the world's biggest customer for the A320neo family," said Guillaume Faury, chief executive officer, Airbus.

The deal caps a contest between Airbus and Boeing, which seeks a new endorsement for its grounded 737 MAX after British Airways owner IAG tentatively agreed in June to drop Airbus as its medium-haul supplier and commit to 200 MAX.



Twitter to ban political ads in apparent swipe at Facebook

NEW YORK (TIP): Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) will ban political advertising on its platform next month, the company's chief executive said on Wednesday, a move that won praise from Democrats and scorn from Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

"We've made the decision to stop all political advertising on Twitter globally," said Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey in a statement here "We believe political message reach should be earned, not bought."

Analysts do not expect the ban, which takes effect on Nov. 22, to significantly reduce Twitter's business. Its shares fell 1.9% in after-hours trading.

Social media companies, including Twitter rival Facebook Inc (FB.O) face growing pressure to stop carrying ads that spread false information that could steer elections.

Facebook has pledged efforts to deal with misinformation after Russian propaganda on the platform was seen to affect the outcome of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, which was won by Trump, a Republican.

But Facebook made a decision to not fact-check ads run by politicians, drawing ire from Democratic candidates running in the 2020 presidential election such as former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Fiat Chrysler, Peugeot confirm talks over potential \$50 billion tie-up

MILAN/PARIS (TIP) The boards of French automaker Peugeot SA (PEUP.PA) and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV (FCAU.N) (FCHA.MI) on Wednesday agreed to pursue a \$50 billion merger, sources familiar with the matter said, a deal that could transform the global auto industry.

The two companies have yet to announce a formal agreement, and a deal could collapse as executives dig into the details of a merger. But as of late Wednesday, the companies were progressing quickly toward an announcement as early as Thursday morning, the people said.

Among the potential selling points to investors: Projected annual cost savings of 4 billion euros, people familiar with the discussions said.

The directors of Exor NV (EXOR.MI), the holding company of Italy's Agnelli family which effectively controls Fiat Chrysler, also approved moving forward with talks, the people with knowledge of the situation said. Spokesmen for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) and PSA declined to comment on a timeline.

A combination of Peugeot and Fiat Chrysler would create the world's fourth largest auto manufacturing group from two mid-sized players threatened by technological and regulatory challenges.



Peugeot Chief Executive Carlos Tavares would run the company, while Fiat Chrysler chairman John Elkann would become chairman of the new company's board, people familiar with the discussions said.

Under the proposed deal, they said the companies would combine through a 50-50 share swap, creating a new company formally based in the Netherlands.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone

011-91-8141234275
www.bejandaruwalla.com

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

Weekly Horoscope - November 4 - November 10, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says you reach out to people and places and your relationships will grow and prosper enriching you no end. People will matter to you and you will keep your interactions with them vibrant and meaningful. There is travel and a grand reaching out to new experiences. There will be new studies, trips to nearby places, even developing social ties with neighbours.

TAURUS: There is a lot of movement in your life both literally and metaphorically. Your relationships are harmonious and smooth and you focus more on work. Be positive always and remember that it is contagious as no one wants or likes a winner. You may consider several new areas of work or specialty; metaphysics, computer and space technology, social reform, electronic media etc.

GEMINI: You are over-extending yourself both physically and financially and will have to prioritize. This may not be the right time to make vital decisions. So, hold on a while. The health of elders will be a problem area although children will be a source of joy. You could also be planning a family holiday this season and meet up with far-flung friends and relatives. Ganesha is beside you.

CANCER: You roll up your sleeves and get serious about work. This will be a period of very slow movement, sometimes even none at all. You may feel that you are just marking time, waiting to move into action. There could be feelings of insecurity and a lack of self-belief. There may also be a touch of frustration in your dealings with others.

LEO: Avoid rash moves and speculation. Try to smoothen the path with colleagues at work. Away from it all will be romance, attachments, love affairs, maybe even an engagement or a wedding. Many things will happen to add to the flavour of the period. Ganesha is with you always. You are in for a great phase now. You will make rapid progress in all your endeavours.

VIRGO: Ganesha advises you to strike while the iron is hot and it is steaming hot now. The period favours travels / meetings / conferences / interviews / trips / more brain power / contacts / communication / correspondence / contracts. The period has a special connection with the circuits of the brain. This is a golden period and exactly what you have been waiting for.

LIBRA: This is the time you have to take bold steps, leave the past behind and look ahead. Ganesha will give you whatever you want now. Just ask! These are sensitive times and the family will play centre stage. You will also reach out to friends and most surprisingly, foes too become friends. With your restored and enhanced confidence, there will be greater ability to balance both work and commitments better.

SCORPIO: You handle life more positively and look at a suitable job / vocation to express your creativity. All this will add quality to your life and depth to your personal interactions. It will also enhance and sharpen your work skills. You now become the true achiever you always wanted to be. There is success in all your endeavours and a good chance for a major wish - fulfilment. The trends favour you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS: The tempo of life increases and you meet many people. It can be both personal and work-related. You continue the great run and will truly appreciate reaching out to both people and places in this emotion-packed period. Your heart will rule and you will partake in the splendour of human relationships. You display a more caring and open attitude to people, to life, to the world, and it comes back to you in shovelfuls.

CAPRICORN: Your confidence grows in leaps and bounds and enhances your interactions with people. There is powerful bonding and fruitful partnerships. You may also find yourself attending a wedding celebration or being part of one yourself if you are single and eligible. There are as many possibilities as there are ideas. Ganesha blesses you. Just ensure that you make the most of all the possibilities thrown your way.

AQUARIUS: This is a great period and is most certainly a period of confidence and charisma. This feel-good phase finds you enjoying the fruits of your past endeavours and making new inroads. There are awards and rewards, plaudits and kudos, and you rise in value and prestige. You are appreciated by one and all and success is not only well earned but also very sweet.

PISCES: There will be promotions, more perks, career advancement and several gains. You deserve all the applause, says Ganesha. You have worked hard for it. These are just dessert for someone who truly deserves it. You make serious gains in all your endeavours and are sensible enough to make the right investments too. There is love and passion and several moments of deep, powerful intimacy.

Birthday Horoscope November 4 - November 10, 2019

NOV 4: Ganesha says relationships take a dive into the deep end of the swimming pool, providing profound intimacy, trust, and deepening feelings. If it's a business union, success and fortune are empowered.

Nov 5: The Moon stresses the resources in your life, bringing urgency of pressure to some matter. But Venus offers so much attraction and passion that it overrides other matters.

Nov 6: Attractions thrive, but there may be a convoluted or confusing money issue aside or underlining them. Keep an eye out for what seems not quite believable.

Nov 7: There may be a sense of confusion about something that arises suddenly. If you want others' help with it or attend a social occasion, it might take attentive consideration to make relations go well.

Nov 8: What seemed ideal recently falls under rebuke or regret now. You may feel rejected or give someone else the cold

shoulder. Look later for areas of value agreement; about money, too.

Nov 9: What didn't go well yesterday turns severe today. Suspicious, secrets, accusations, and power play befall relationships, fiscal affairs, and professional connections. Don't provoke.

Nov 10: You or a family member is in a fighting mood this morning, disrupting the whole day. Frustrations, an obstacle or harsh authority figure, your own doubts lead to tumbling alliances and breaks.

Tulsi Vivaah is the mythical marriage of Sri Krishna, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu with the tulsi plant (holy basil). In the Hindu mythology, tulsi is considered to be an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi, and therefore union of Gods and Goddesses is observed with great pomp and show all over the country. Tulsi Vivaah is celebrated on the Dwadashi (12th day) of the Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) during the month of Kartik, as per the Hindu calendar. Even though this ceremony can be observed any time between the Prabodhini Ekadashi (11th day) to Kartik Poornima. In some places it is celebrated for a period of five days, ending on the full moon day of the Kartik month. Tulsi Vivaah marks the end of the monsoon season and the start of the Hindu wedding season. The actual day of Tulsi Vivaah differs from one region to another.

The Tulsi Vivaah puja is observed by married women all over India for the well-being of their husband and family members. The tulsi plant is considered by the Hindus and Tulsi herself is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Mahalakshmi, who was earlier born as 'Vrinda'. Young women pray to Goddess Lakshmi with full devotion to seek marital bliss. Tulsi Vivaah rituals are also observed by young, unmarried women to get good husbands.

Tulasi Vivah 2019 is on November 09 Saturday

Rituals of Tulsi Vivaah

The marriage ceremony of the Lord Krishna with Tulsi resembles much like any traditional Hindu wedding. The rituals are observed in various temples; however one can easily perform the Tulsi Vivaah at their home.

The observer of the Tulsi Vivaah must keep the fast till the evening, when the actual ceremonies begins.

An attractive mandap is made around the tulsi plant using the sugarcane stalks and is decorated with colourful rangoli. The tulsi plant is then beautifully adorned with bright sari, earrings and other ornaments just like an Indian bride. Vermillion powder and turmeric is also applied on the tulsi plant. A face drawn on a paper is put on the Tulsi plant to which, nose-ring and a bindi is also attached.

The groom is depicted either as a brass idol or picture of Lord Vishnu. Sometimes even the 'Shaligram Stone', symbolic of Lord Vishnu is used for the puja. The image of Lord Krishna/Vishnu is then covered in a dhoti.

A special vegetarian lunch is prepared for this grandeur occasion. In most of the household's puris, rice and dal, red pumpkin vegetable and a delicious sweet potato kheer is prepared. The prepared food is then kept aside for 'bhog' after the completion of marriage rituals.

The actual ceremony starts in the evening. As a part of the vivaah ceremony, both Lord Vishnu and Tulsi are given a bath and adorned with flowers, before the wedding. A yellow thread is used to link the couple together for the ceremony.

The tulsi Vivaah ceremony can either be performed by a priest or women in the house collectively perform the puja. The ritual can be performed by women of all age groups, but only widows are not allowed to participate in the tulsi Vivaah ceremony. The mantras are enchanted all throughout the wedding ceremony. At the completion of the marriage rites, the devotees shower rice mixed with vermillion on the newlyweds.

After the puja, a tulsi aarti is sung.

TULSI VIVAH



Once the aarti is finished, the cooked food is offered as 'bhog' together with fruits. The prasad is then eaten together with family members and other guests.

A person who observes the Tulsi Vivaah should also eat a Tulsi leaf that is symbolic of Goddess Tulsi entering the devotee's body. Prasad in the form of sweets are then distributed among all.

Normally the expenses of the Tulsi Vivaah are borne by couples without daughters. They act as parents of tulsi and perform the 'kanyadaan', a ceremony of giving away their daughter tulsi to Lord Vishnu. In the Tulsi Vivaah ceremony all the bridal offerings are then given away to a Brahmin priest. Just like any Hindu marriage ceremony, Tulsi Vivaah is also commemorated with full enthusiasm and fervour. By performing this auspicious marriage ceremony, women desire to bring happiness, prosperity and wealth in their life. Tulsi Vivaah celebrations are held in various temples all over India with great grandeur. The celebrations are much more elaborate in the two Lord Rama temples in Saurashtra. A suitable wedding invitation is sent from the bride's temple to the groom's temple. A grand barat accompanied by dancing and singing devotees is received by the bride's side. It is a popular belief that childless couples, who perform Tulsi's kanyadaan, will soon be blessed with kids. Bhajans are sung all throughout the day and night and the ceremonies come to an end when Lord Vishnu along with his bride Tulsi comes back home. The Tulsi Vivaah is an ideal example of an Indian marriage.

Method of celebration: All around the courtyard of the house, cow dung water is sprinkled. If the tulsi plant is in a pot then the pot should be painted white. White colour attracts the Divine frequencies coming from God. Draw a sattvik rangoli around the tulsi plant and then do its ritualistic worship (puja) with spiritual emotion (bhavpurna). While worshipping, one should sit facing westward.

Prayer to be made: 'Hey Shrikrushna, Hey tulsi Devi, the energy that I imbibe from you today, let it be used for the protection of Dharma and nation. Let my warrior attitude (kshatravrutti) be activated all the time. Let me not be depressed during bad times and let my faith and devotion unto God be



consistent.'

Chanting: On this day Shrikrushna's principle is activated on Earth to a greater extent. The principle is also more active around the tulsi plant. On this day one should chant Shrikrushna's name. After the puja (ritualistic worship), the surrounding becomes very sattvik (spiritually pure). One should also do

Shrikrushna's chant at that time.

Uses of tulsi: Tulsi being more spiritually pure (sattvik) God's energy is attracted to it to a greater extent. Putting tulsi leaves in drinking water makes it spiritually pure (sattvik) and Energy (Shakti) is released into it. Through this water God's Energy becomes active in every part of the jiva (embodied soul).

PAGE SPONSORED BY

ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906

arish.sahani@gmail.com



"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."

AJMER AND PUSHKAR: THE LAND OF LAKES, SHRINES



Hills on all sides, sunrise and sunset behind a valley and a scenic view of the lake in the middle of the city — I call this picturesque town my home. Ajmer, one of Rajasthan's tourist hotspots, is surrounded by the Aravalli mountains and is famous for the dargah of Moinuddin Chishti. Here are some places, famous as well as offbeat, that you could explore in and around Ajmer.

Pushkar

This has always been my go-to place for a short getaway. From ghats to cafes, one can never get bored here. Pushkar is 11km from Ajmer, and is separated from it by Nag Pahar (Snake Mountain). It is one of India's oldest cities. Although the date of its origin is not known, legend associates Brahma (the Hindu god of creation) with its establishment.

Pushkar, on the edge of the Thar desert, is said to have more than 500 temples with the Brahma temple being the most popular one. Although the present structure dates back to the 14th century, locals believe the temple is 2,000 years old. Visit the temple not just because of the legends but because of its old-world charm, beauty and architecture. The Savitri temple located on a hilltop is another place that you can visit for the scenic views of the valley. Opt for the strenuous uphill climb of over an hour if you are feeling adventurous or take the ropeway costing around Rs 90 per person to reach the place in less than 6 minutes.

Pushkar Lake is, however, the first place I run to as soon as I enter the town. It is surrounded by 52 ghats and a dip in this lake on Kartika Purnima is thought to earn you salvation. Sunset Cafe, located near this lake, offers amazing views and the ambience is perfect to unwind. Watch the sunset and listen to music played by local villagers on ravanahatha (an ancient bowed, stringed instrument) while sipping tea or coffee for a perfect day.

Budha (old) Pushkar, around 5 km from the Pushkar lake, is a great place for a picnic. It once had enormous sand dunes around but concrete structures have taken their place now. Camels, village folk and a few dunes can still be seen though, giving you a taste of the desert

experience.

Being a holy city for Hindus, Pushkar has only vegetarian food on offer and no alcohol. Check out the Pink Floyd Café, Doctor Alone Café and La Pizzeria for delicious food and ambience.

Ajmer Sharif Dargah

This is India's most important Islamic pilgrimage centre as it is the shrine of Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti, who founded India's prime Sufi order. The dargah consists of several white marble buildings, a massive gate donated by the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the Akbari Mosque built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. Apart from the religious point of view, this place is a must-visit if you want to experience heritage and architecture.

However, don't carry valuables as the place is bustling with people all year round. Small shops outside the tomb offer to keep your valuables safe with them but it is best to avoid them. Try and take public transport when visiting the dargah as parking can be a problem. Ladies, take a scarf to cover your head when inside the shrine.

Anasagar Lake

It is right at the centre of town and a great place for an evening stroll. Go boating, eat the local chaat (snacks) or just click pictures and watch the sunset. By the lake is Daulat Bagh, a garden laid out by Emperor Jahangir, which is another area worth exploring.

Taragarh Fort

The fort which overlooks the whole city was the seat of the Chauhan rulers. Built in 1345, it is one of the oldest hill forts in the world. It's a steep climb of around two hours which is exciting for those who want to walk in the morning sun. The place is usually deserted with not many people around, so preferably do not go alone. If you want to experience the city as a traveller instead of being a tourist, visit Lake Foy Sagar, Mayo College, Adhai Din Ka Jhonpda, Soniji Ki Nasiyan and Nareli Jain Temple to soak up the experience.

Around town

Some other places around Ajmer that



need be on your bucket list are Kishangarh (for Kishangarh style of painting and marbles), Barefoot College, Tilonia and Merta city (birth place of Meera bai, the famous devotee of Lord Krishna).

Grab a bite: In Ajmer, check out Mango Masala or Ambrosia restaurant. Head to Purani Mandi for breakfast — spicy kachoris with curry, jalebis and lassi (a

yogurt-based drink). Don't forget to try the mouthwatering Maalpua (an Indian pancake served as a dessert) in Pushkar.

Spend your money on: Paintings and marble statues from Kishangarh, handmade clothes and accessories from Tilonia, handicrafts, kurtis, sundresses, jewellery and bags from Pushkar, camel trinkets, bangles and antiques from Ajmer.

Source: HT

A.A. BEDDING

The Mattress People
Wholesale & Retail

143-02 94th Ave.
Jamaica NY 11435

Tel. 718-291-8101
Ask for Julio Caraballo
Salesman



Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL
Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com
Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

GROCERY

NEW YORK

J & P GUYANA W.I. GROCERY INC.

We carry a wide range of West Indian
Grocery at low prices

113-17 Liberty Avenue Richmond Hill, NY 11419

President: David Ramsawmy (Elvis)
PH# 718-925-0100

for advertisement in
The Indian Panorama
Please call at 646-247-9458
Visit website for more news,
views and reviews
www.theindianpanorama.news

LADOO MATRIMONIAL

ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services



Jetander Sapra
212-470-7175, 516-309-0236
ladooatrimonial@gmail.com
jetandersapra@gmail.com
261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004
www.ladooatrimonial.com

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
IS HIRING

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?
COME CHECK IT OUT!

CALL MR.ROHAN HANDA **718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120**

Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

Conveniently located at:
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



INDO US EXPRESS, INC.

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750
ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041
OR EMAIL US: INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM
www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!
CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES
TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE




CONTD FROM PAGE 1

State of Jammu and Kashmir...

state into two union territories with a wary Valley shutting down as it has for 88 days and Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the "new system" is aimed at "building a strong link of trust".

President Ram Nath Kovind revoked President's rule imposed in the restive state, long the center of global attention, and took over control of the administration of the two new union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. This is the first time that a state is being downsized into union territories, the two new entities taking the total number of UTs to nine and bringing down the number of states in India to 28.

This was in accordance with the government's August 5 announcement withdrawing the state's special status under Article 370 and bifurcating it into union territories. Girish Chandra Murmu in Jammu and Kashmir and Radha Krishna Mathur in Ladakh stepped into history as the first lieutenant governors of the new union territories. Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office to the new appointees, first in Leh and then later in the day in Srinagar.

As the changes came into effect, the Prime Minister was at the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya in Gujarat where he paid glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 144th birth anniversary and led the "national unity pledge". Defending the abrogation of Article 370, he said the special status provisions only generated terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The new system in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is not meant to draw a line on the land (to draw a boundary) but to build a strong link of trust," the Prime Minister said. In a swipe at Pakistan, he said those "who cannot win wars" against India are trying to destroy its unity.

"The country took the decision of abrogation of Article 370, which had given only separatism and terrorism to that state," Modi said. "Patel had once said that had he handled the Kashmir issue, it would not have taken so long to resolve it," Modi said, in a veiled swipe at Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister whom the ruling BJP often blames for the Kashmir issue. Addressing a gathering in the national capital, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Articles 370 and 35A were the gateway of terrorism into Jammu and Kashmir. Modi closed the gateway by repealing them, he said. With this move, the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and the Ranbir Penal Code have ceased to exist.

In the Kashmir Valley, however, it was another day of shutdowns and tension with markets shut, deserted roads and children staying away from school. "This is a decision against our interests. They have robbed us of our special status and our identity," Muzammil Mohamad, a resident of Srinagar's Civil Lines area, said. Another local, Umer Zargar, said, "Kashmir was a disputed territory and India's decision was illegal, immoral and unconstitutional." "India cannot abrogate Article 370. This issue is in the United Nations. There are resolutions on it. This decision is illegal, immoral and unconstitutional," he said. For the third consecutive day, no vendors set up stalls on the TRC Chowk-Lal Chowk road, the officials said.

The roadside vendors, who had regularly set up their stalls over the past two months, have not been turning up for business since Tuesday when a delegation of EU parliamentarians landed for a two-day visit to assess the situation. Landline and post-paid mobile phone services have been restored across the Valley, but all internet services continued to remain suspended since

the night of August 4. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Israeli spyware on WhatsApp...

WhatsApp had said it was suing NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance firm that is reportedly behind the technology that helped unnamed entities' spies hack into phones of roughly 1,400 users spanning across four continents, including diplomats, political dissidents, journalists and senior government officials.

However, it did not say on whose behest the phones of journalists and activists across the world were targeted. Refusing to divulge identities or the exact number of those targeted in India, WhatsApp said it had in May stopped a highly sophisticated cyber attack that exploited its video calling system to send malware to its users. The mobile messaging giant said it had sent a special WhatsApp message to approximately 1,400 users that it has "reason to believe were impacted by this attack to directly inform them about what happened".

While the messaging giant did not disclose the details or the number of people affected in India, a WhatsApp spokesperson said: "Indian users were among those contacted by us this week." WhatsApp has over 1.5 billion users globally, of which India alone accounts for about 400 million. In the past too, WhatsApp has drawn flak from the Indian government on the platform being misused for spreading misinformation that led to incidents of mob lynching. The government has categorically told WhatsApp that it wants the platform to bring in a mechanism to enable tracing of originator of messages, a demand that WhatsApp has resisted citing privacy issues. The government is also working on tightening rules of social media companies in India that will increase the accountability of such platforms.

Reports claimed that human rights lawyer Nihal SinghRathod, Chhattisgarh-based activist Shalini Gera and former BBC journalist Shubhranshu Choudhary were among those who had admitted to being targeted by the spyware on WhatsApp. However, this could not be independently verified.

Denying allegations by WhatsApp, NSO had said it provides "technology to licensed government intelligence and law enforcement agencies to help them fight terrorism and serious crime" and is not "designed or licensed for use against human rights activists and journalists." Meanwhile, the Indian IT Ministry on Thursday wrote to WhatsApp, seeking a detailed response by November 4.

A senior government official told PTI that WhatsApp has been asked to give a detailed response to the entire allegations. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian Journalist counters false...

recommendations for the government of India and US policy in the region, and what the future should hold in store for the people of the now-Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Besides Kashmir, she has reported from other conflict zones of India - Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam, which was also discussed.

"The Hindu American Foundation is delighted to host an accomplished journalist like Aarti Tikoo Singh here in the United States," stated Suhag Shukla, Esq. HAF Executive Director. "Today, she offered a powerful voice for the truth to the Western media narrative on Kashmir that has, unfortunately, gotten so many things wrong. We are pleased to give her and members of the press an opportunity to hear about her encounters with everyday Kashmiris in the days and weeks after the historic decision on August 5th," Shukla said.

In addition to her presentation at the National Press Club, earlier in the week Ms. Singh testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing on 'Human Rights in South Asia' which was mostly Kashmir focused despite its stated objective. During her testimony, Ms. Singh presented the facts of her on-the-ground reporting as the only witness on the panel that was inside the Kashmir Valley.

"Who is the victim in Kashmir? The victim is 65-year-old Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir of Parimpora, Srinagar" who "just weeks ago, on August 29th, was shot dead. By whom? By Pakistan sponsored terrorists. Why? Because he had dared to open his shop, defying the orders of Jaish-e-Mohammad--the same terror group responsible for the kidnapping and beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002," Singh said in her testimony to Congress.

Aarti Tikoo Singh is in the United States for a three-week long whirlwind tour. In addition to her presentations before Congress and the National Press Club, Tikoo will appear at Princeton, Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Brown universities.

Prior to joining the Times of India, Ms. Singh worked with other major national publications in India and has written opinion pieces in various national and international publications. She holds two Master's degrees in Political Science and English from the University of Jammu, and is an alumnus of Columbia University where she earned a Masters in International Affairs. During her time in New York, she worked briefly at Columbia University, the United Nations and the BBC.

US House Passes Resolution to...

"The Greatest Witch Hunt In American History!" he boomed on Twitter.

He called on Republicans to rally behind him even as he faced the embarrassing likelihood of becoming the third president in history to be impeached and placed on trial for removal in the Senate, over an alleged extortion scheme to obtain Ukraine's help to get him reelected in 2020.

The embattled president retweeted a rallying cry from Fox News host Laura Ingraham that called on Republicans to "stand together and defend the leader of their party against these smears."

"This farce should never be allowed to roll into a winter show trial," read the tweet-suggesting Trump would want the Republican leadership in the Senate to shut the process down.

Trump is accused of withholding military aid to compel Ukraine to mount an embarrassing corruption probe against his Democratic election rival Joe Biden-effectively using US foreign policy in an illegal shakedown for his personal political benefit.

Trump and loyal Republicans dismiss the case as a "sham," but congressional investigators have heard a steady flow of corroborating evidence from government officials testifying behind closed doors on Capitol Hill. The landmark resolution did not have unanimous Democratic approval. Two Democrats joined all Republicans in opposing the measure, although former Republican Justin Amash, now an independent, supported it. The inquiry now moves into the public eye-giving Americans the chance to hear on live television the evidence against Trump.

The House Intelligence Committee, which has led the inquiry so far, will host open hearings, presenting witnesses and documentary evidence and allowing Republicans to challenge the case against Trump. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

THE INDIAN PANORAMA

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja
VICE PRESIDENT: Chitagam Saluja
CHIEF EDITOR: Prof Indrajit S. Saluja
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bidisha Roy
GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Om Parkash Malik
DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION: Gauri Beri
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Baldev Singh / BJ Videos
Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction
Jay Mandal,
Mohammad Jaffer/ SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad, Zia Khan
Nisha Rani
Vaaho Photographers
Vijay Shah -Photo Journalist.
DISTRIBUTOR : Sukhwinder Singh

CORRESPONDENTS :
SACRAMENTO: Parminder S. Aujla
NEW YORK : Chitagam
FRESNO: Tarlochan Singh
DALLAS: Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon
OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

DELHI BUREAU CHIEF: Ashishpal Singh
CHANDIGARH: Manjit Sidhu
LUDHIANA: A.S. Arora, R.P.Sharma

The Indian Panorama
P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419,
Tel: 646-247-9458
Email: editor@theindianpanorama.com
DALLAS EDITION
P.O. BOX 121695, ARLINGTON, TX 76012
Lovlien Kaurr, VP & Bureau Chief

Bureau Chief Phone: 972-330-3139
E-mail tipdallas01@gmail.com; Phone: 646-247-9458
www.theindianpanorama.news
Published by Prof. Indrajit Saluja

DISCLAIMER

The Indian Panorama assumes no responsibility for the claims made in advertisements. We only sell space. Views published in the newspaper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. All rights are reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission in writing from The Indian Panorama is prohibited.

AUSTRALIA VS SRI LANKA

David Warner, bowlers power hosts to series-clinching win

BRISBANE (TIP): David Warner and Steve Smith each smashed half-centuries as Australia hammered Sri Lanka by nine wickets to win the second Twenty20 in Brisbane on Wednesday and wrap up the series. It was another massive wake-up call for the Sri Lankans, who arrived in Australia on the back of a 3-0 series win against Pakistan but have now been outplayed twice, after being crushed by 134 runs in Adelaide on Sunday.

They must now regroup for the third and final match in Melbourne on Friday.

Warner and Smith came together after Aaron Finch was caught down the leg side off Lasith Malinga for a golden duck, and the pair produced a batting masterclass. Warner was unbeaten on 60 and Smith not out 53. Chasing 118 to win after Sri Lanka were restricted to 117 all out off 19 overs, they reached their target with 42 balls to spare.

"The bowlers did a terrific job, we bowled in the right areas and created chances and restricted them to 117, which wasn't enough on this wicket," said Smith.

"It's nice and easy batting at the other end from Davy," he added. "He's doing a terrific job. Played beautifully the other day and backed it up tonight as well."

Warner scored his first-ever T20 century when Australia crushed Sri Lanka on Sunday, and he brought that scintillating form into Brisbane.

In his first knock in the short format at international level since 2016, Smith was also firing -- producing some glorious drives and clever singles as he and Warner raced each other to see who could make 50 first.

The explosive Warner won the



battle, with his 14th T20 half-century coming off 30 balls, with seven fours. Smith soon followed, grabbing his third 50, off 32 balls, with six boundaries.

There was nothing the Sri Lankan bowlers could do against such quality batsmen, who were never troubled.

More responsible

"It's a tough side and I think with this kind of batting line-up our score wasn't enough," said Sri Lanka skipper Malinga.

"We didn't get the score we expected and the batsmen will have to be more responsible. Shot selection is not that great and we didn't get any partnerships in the middle overs."

Two wickets from the towering Billy Stanlake, in for Mitchell Starc who was attending his brother's wedding, and a brace each for Ashton Agar, Adam Zampa and Pat Cummins kept Sri Lanka in check after they won the toss and batted.

Australia got an early breakthrough in the second over

when Kusal Mendis was run out after a mix-up with Danushka Gunathilaka, who called for a run after hitting the ball then didn't move.

He attempted to make amends by opening his bat, clubbing a huge six off Stanlake, before his luck ran out and he was clean-bowled by the lanky paceman for 21.

Spinner Agar then enticed rising star Avishka Fernando into a big hit when on 17 and he skied it straight to Cummins, who took a difficult catch.

When Niroshan Dickwella fell to Cummins for five, Sri Lanka began to crumble.

Kusal Perera chopped onto his stumps on 27 and Dasun Shanaka went for just one, feathering a catch to wicketkeeper Alex Carey off Stanlake.

It left them in deep trouble at 75 for six after 11.2 overs and the wickets kept tumbling as Australia tightened the screws.

After Sri Lanka in Melbourne, Australia face Pakistan in three T20s in Sydney, Canberra and Perth.



Indian women beat SL, clinch Emerging Asia Cup title

COLOMBO (TIP): India claimed the Women's Emerging Asia Cup 2019 after beating hosts Sri Lanka by 14 runs under the Duckworth/Lewis method here.

Devika Vaidya and Tanuja Kanwar bagged four wickets apiece in the final on Tuesday after Tanusree Sarkar's 47 and Simran Bahadur's 34 helped India A post 175 for nine in 50 overs.

Chasing a revised target, the Indian bowlers produced a disciplined show and bowled their opposition for 135 in 34.3 overs to win the tournament at R Premadasa Stadium.

For the home team, Kaveesha Dilhari picked up three wickets for 27 runs in her 10-over spell, while Harshitha Samarawickrama made 39 off 64 balls.



Glenn Maxwell announces indefinite break from cricket

In a surprising move Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell decided to go on an indefinite break from cricket in the middle of the T20I series against Sri Lanka. Maxwell is believed to have taken the decision to deal with his mental health issues.

Cricket Australia (CA) on Thursday announced that Maxwell will go on a break and will not be a part of the final T20I at Melbourne against Sri Lanka as well as the upcoming series against Pakistan. There was no clarity on Maxwell's comeback date. He has been replaced by D'Arcy Short in the Australian squad for the ongoing T20I series against Sri Lanka, which the hosts have already captured by virtue of winning the first two games comprehensively.

"Glenn Maxwell has been experiencing some difficulties with regards to his mental health. As a result, he will spend a short time away from the game. Glenn was proactive in identifying these issues and engaging with support staff," CA's Support Team psychologist Dr Michael Lloyd said in an official statement.

Maxwell recently played a knock of 62 runs against Sri Lanka in the first T20I against Sri Lanka and this knock enabled Australia to post 233 runs in the match.

In the second T20I, the all-rounder did not get a chance to come out to bat, as David Warner and Steve Smith chased down Sri Lanka's total of 117.

The well-being of our players and staff is paramount. Glenn has our full support.

India vs Bangladesh: BCCI orders 72 pink balls from SG for Day-Night Test

NEW DELHI (TIP): The BCCI has asked manufacturer SG to deliver 72 pink balls by next week for India's first-ever day night Test, to be held at the Eden Gardens from November 22.

The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has already confirmed that SG pink balls will be used for the landmark game, leaving the manufacturer with very little room for error.

Producing a ball fit for a Test match under lights is a big challenge for SG as its pink ball is yet to be tested in a competitive game. The Duleep Trophy was played with Kookaburra pink balls for three seasons and not SG before the BCCI switched back to red ball this year.

"The BCCI has ordered six dozen



pink balls and we will deliver them by middle of next week. As you have seen in the South Africa series, we made significant improvements with our red 'SG Test' and we have the same level of research and

development for pink ball," company's sales and marketing director, Paras Anand said.

G had faced strong criticism from some Indian players in the previous home season with India skipper Virat Kohli saying that the red ball got scuffed up way too early in comparison to the Dukes used in England and Kookaburra in Australia. Kohli acknowledged the improvements made on the ball this season but wants it last to at least 60 overs.

Considering the bowlers have faced issues with the red 'SG Test', it remains to be seen how the company steps up to the pink ball challenge. Anand is confident that top quality balls will be delivered for the Kolkata Test between India and Bangladesh.

Get
to the
Point



The **INDIAN**  **PANORAMA**

EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458

Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news