


The INDIAN PANORAMA



Readers may please note that the weekly mailer is being discontinued. Instead, there will be daily updates of the newspaper which they may read at

www.theindianpanorama.news

Terrorism results in \$1-trillion loss to world economy: PM Modi

BRASILIA (TIP): Terrorism has caused USD 1 trillion loss to the world economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Thursday, November 14, as he addressed the 11th BRICS Summit, terming the scourge as the "biggest threat" to development, peace and prosperity.

Addressing the BRICS Plenary Session at the iconic Itamaraty Palace in the presence of the Presidents of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa, Prime Minister Modi said terrorism has emerged as the biggest threat to the development, peace and prosperity.

"According to some estimates, the economic growth of developing nations has decreased by 1.5 per cent due to terrorism," he said, adding that the

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BRICS LEADERS- Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa pose for a group photo at the BRICS emerging economies summit in Brasilia on Thursday, November 14, 2019. Photo / Courtesy PTI

5 wounded in shooting at California high school

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK (TIP): At least five people were wounded after a shooter opened fire at a high school in Santa Clarita, California, a city north of Los Angeles, officials said. A suspect described as a male Asian in black clothing was still at large, the Santa Clarita Valley sheriff said on Twitter. "This is still a very active situation.

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Prince Charles hails contribution of Sikhs in United Kingdom



Prince Charles visited Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, in New Delhi, on Wednesday, November 13. Photo / Courtesy Tribune - Manas Ranjan Bhui

NEW DELHI (TIP): Britain's Prince Charles, who arrived on Wednesday, November 13 on a two-day official visit to India,

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Assembly elections in J&K soon, says L-G Girish Chandra Murmu



"There will be elections in this Union Territory (UT) soon, as it is a UT with legislature", J&K Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu said November 14. File Photo / Courtesy ANI

JAMMU (TIP): Lieutenant Governor of the newly formed Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Girish Chandra Murmu, announced on Thursday, November 14 that the legislative polls in the UT will be held at the earliest. The Centre does not intend to govern J&K without an elected legislature, he said, adding that the electorate would soon be voting to elect their representatives. "There will be elections in this Union Territory (UT) soon, as it is a UT with legislature," Murmu said, falling short of specifying when the polls will be scheduled. The electoral process, however, is expected to take time to initiate as new constituencies are likely to be drawn.

Lt. Governor was speaking at the passing-out parade of the 14th BRTC batch of constables at the Subsidiary Training Centre, Talwara, Reasi district. The legislative assembly of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir (which included Kargil and Ladakh) was suspended by the Governor in August, citing attempts of horse-trading being made by the regional parties to come to power. The last elected government was headed by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti

contd on page 30

Guru Nanak's principles more relevant today, say US lawmakers

The event was also marked by an exhibition on the life and teachings of the founder of Sikhism along with two panel discussions.

WASHINGTON (TIP):

The philosophy and teachings of Guru Nanak echoed the corridors of the US Capitol, November 12, as powerful American lawmakers and eminent Indian Americans celebrated the



L to R: Senator Todd Young, Ambassador Harsh Shringla and Representative Judy Chu

550th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism and underscored that his principles were more relevant today than ever before. Republican Senator from Indiana Todd Young, who has introduced a resolution in the Senate on the occasion, said the Sikh-Americans had succeeded in making a profound impact across the US because they followed the teachings of the first Sikh guru. "While radical for his day some 500 years ago, the teachings of the first Sikh guru who we celebrate today were consistent with our nation's founding principles and teaching that everyone,

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In Celebration Of 550th Birth Anniversary Of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji The World Over

Over 550 Native Trees and Shrubs for Coventry, UK in honor of Guru Nanak

LONDON (TIP): More than 550 native trees and shrubs have been planted across Coventry to commemorate the 550th anniversary of Sikh founder Guru Nanak. A tree planting ceremony took place on November 4 at Longford Park, Foleshill, to mark the completion of the Guru Nanak Dev Ji Woodland.

Five native trees and shrubs have been planted throughout Coventry's parks and green spaces including Northern Red Oak, Acer, Hazel, Common Hawthorn and Crab Apple. Lord Mayor of Coventry, Linda Bigham and Jon Davis, Dynamic City Senior Producer Coventry City of Culture 2021 were on hand, along with Lady Godiva, Pru Porretta and Sarah Pearson from the Woodland Trust to plant commemorative statement trees donated by the local community. Jon Davis and Palvinder Singh Chana, Chairman, Sikh Union, unveiled a special tree plaque dedicated to Coventry being chosen as the third UK City of Culture 2021.

Chenine Bhatena, Creative Director of Coventry City of Culture Trust says: "Working with Coventry's active citizens and communities is a core part of our plans for our year as UK City of Culture in 2021, and the impact that this project continues to have highlights the power of collaborative action across this city. "Coventry City of Culture Trust is delighted to have a tree planted in our honor. We're committed to creating projects in 2021 that celebrate and improve the city's biodiversity and offer residents opportunities to get outside and reconnect with our beautiful green spaces and wildlife. "We plan to be the most sustainable year of culture and offset our carbon footprint wherever possible. We look forward to continuing to work with the Sikh community in the run up to, during, and after 2021."

John Tucker, Director of Woodland Outreach at the Woodland Trust, says: "The Woodland Trust is delighted to be working with the Sikh community in Coventry to get so many trees in the ground. "Trees play a vital role in our lives. They provide shelter and shade, protect our soils, filtrate our water, provide a home for wildlife, add



A tree planting ceremony took place on November 4 at Longford Park, Foleshill

value to our streets and give us a place to relax and unwind. "They play a pivotal role in the fight against climate change, cleaning our air, storing carbon and producing oxygen, and that's why we need them like never before. "We hope as many people as possible will follow the example of the local community, plant trees and dig in for all our futures."

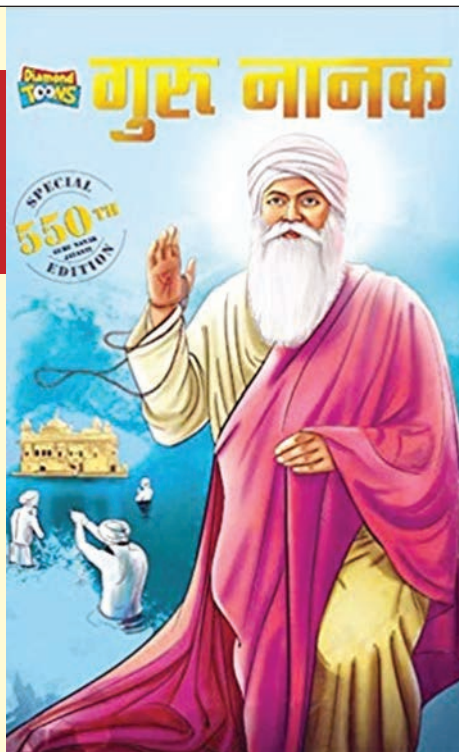
Palvinder Singh Chana, Chairman, Sikh Union Coventry says: "Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first embodiment of Divine Light in the Sikh religion, laid the foundation for our sacred vision for the environment stated: 'Air is our Guru, water is our father, the earth is our mother. They give us life, we sleep in their laps night and day, in which the entire world plays.' (Guru Granth Sahib p.8)* "We honor this wisdom by believing that all humans have an intrinsic sensitivity to the natural world, and that a sustainable, more just society is possible, where water, air, land, forests, and biodiversity remain vibrant, living systems for our generation and future generations."

Jen Goode, Deputy Head, Longford Park Primary

School says: "We passionately believe in fostering positive relationships with the local community, with an emphasis on children to demonstrate respect, understanding and acceptance to all. "Collaborating and working alongside the Sikh Union is a wonderful opportunity for the children to engage with the wider community, whilst understanding the significance of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birth-anniversary. "Our school backs onto Longford Park and the project continues to be a unique opportunity to educate the children about their local surroundings, whilst developing a new woodland area. "We hope that the morning will provide the children with an opportunity to discover, explore and conserve the wild space and we hope that this will encourage them to care for the spaces around them in the future."

Linda Bigham, Lord Mayor of Coventry says: "The growing of a woodland in Longford Park, began when our family noticed a faded plaque within some trees, with the words, "Recognize all the human race as one" Guru Gobind Singh Ji. "We went on to discover that three hundred trees had been planted in 1999 by Sikh staff at Marconi as a contribution to the Millennium Forest "From these humble beginnings, a unique partnership has developed between the Friends of Longford Park, the Sikh Union, local school children, and they City Council's Park Wardens. "The last few years has seen the planting of a community orchard and 1500 new trees with under planting. This will now be added to by another 550 trees this year to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji."

Inspirational prayers-initiated proceedings, along with dignitaries from local churches, Mandhirs (Hindu Temples) and Gurudwaras. Hundreds of pupils from Longford Park, Grange Hurst and Joseph Cash Primary Schools also helped to plant the saplings. The event was planned in conjunction with Coventry council and the Park Service Rangers, the Sikh Union, along with The Friends of Longford Park, and a team of dedicated volunteers.



The comic will be published in Hindi, English and Punjabi language.

Diamond Toons Brings Comics on Life of Guru Nanak

NEW YORK (TIP): On the eve of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Diamond Toons brings an interactive 'talking comics' to educate children about his legacy, divinity and teachings. The comic aims at making kids aware of the teachings of Sikh culture and its rich heritage. The comic will be published in Hindi, English and Punjabi language.

The comic book has been made in the guidance of experts and is a part of the talking comic book series Celebrating India that will extensively cover the rich cultural heritage of India including our festivals, religions and spiritual gurus.

Talking comics - a concept created by Diamond Toons is a unique way to interact with kids and adults as it

effectively communicates the message through pictures. This comic format effectively talks to active minds, quick learners and is an intelligent quick connect to consumers. It is specially designed for adults and children in 14 different languages to make the process of learning easy, interesting and creative.

On the launch of the comic, Diamond Toons director Manish Verma said, "India showcases incredible glimpses of intriguing and colorful shades of its rich cultural heritage. It boasts the title of 'land of festivals' along with innumerable saints and sages who have walked their journey of life here. Sikhism is the youngest religion but has a lot of faiths and beliefs which we are

unaware of. Diamond Toons attempts to pass this rich legacy and teachings of the religion to our younger generation. We will be coming out with more such illustrative books through series called Celebrating India that will chronicle the lives/memoirs and teachings of the enlightened spiritual gurus of India.

Talking comics has been proven as the most successful and trusted medium to spread knowledge and infuse behavioral change among kids and adults. Diamond Toons has already done similar successful projects with Google, Swachh Bharat, Ministry of Tourism Telangana for Bathukamma festival, Ministry of Uttar Pradesh for Kumbh, Washington Apples and others.

NY/NJ/CT Celebrate Guru Nanak's 550th Birth Anniversary with Fervor



Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations paying tribute to Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Permanent Mission of India, November 12
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



Syed Akbaruddin serving langar at the PMI
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



A view of the gathering at the PMI
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

NEW YORK (TIP): The tri-states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut celebrated 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji with great respect and enthusiasm.

The Permanent Mission of India in New York celebrated 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak on 12th Nov 2019. Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin delivered the message of peace on the auspicious occasion of 550th Gurburab. Later he served Langer.

The Consulate General of India, New York also hosted an event on Tuesday, November 12 to commemorate 550th birth Anniversary of Shri

Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General, inaugurated a Photo-exhibition on Life & Philosophy of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Consul General spoke about relevance of the message and philosophy of Guru Nanak Devji and significant of Sangat and Pangat tradition which were started by Guru Nanak Devji.

A large number of members of Indian diaspora and friends of India attended the event. Consulate also organized a Panel Discussion on "Contribution of Sikhs in America".

Mandeep Singh, Managing Director, Geocom Capital; Ravi Batra, Attorney; Karambir Kang, TajHotels; Akashdeep Singh Sarpal, Country Head

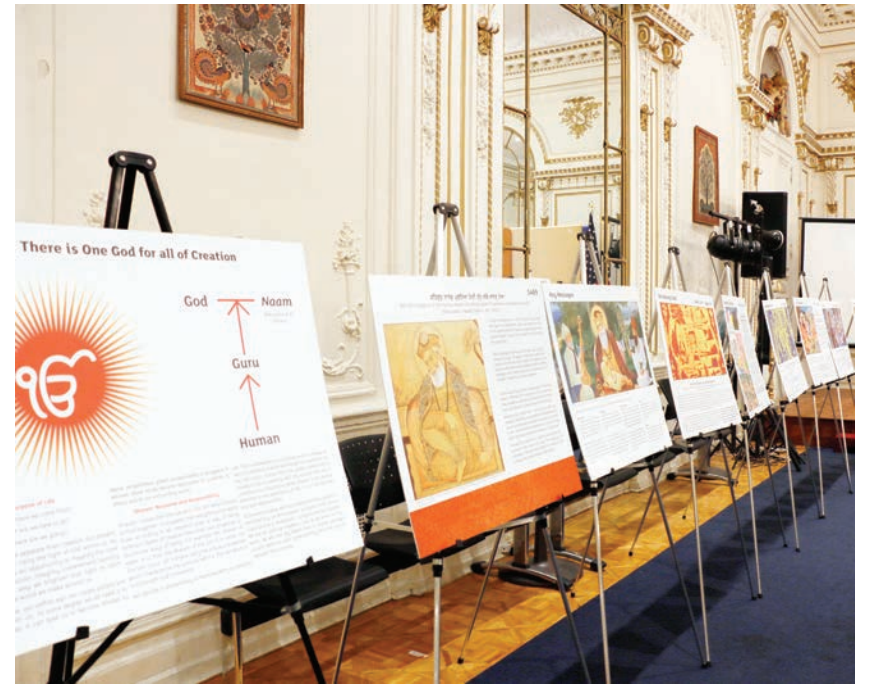
ICICI bank; Tajinder Singh, Publisher of Maha Punjab Newspaper and Atma Singh, Member of Indian Community participated in the round table discussion and shared their views on the practical aspects of the teachings of Guru Nanak Devji.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy participated in a 550th birth anniversary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Nov 12 at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar in Port Reading.

"550 years ago, Guru Nanak inspired a new faith based on promoting unity, serving our communities, and ensuring social justice. Honored to celebrate this anniversary today at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar in Port Reading with members of our diverse NJ Sikh community", he tweeted.



Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty (extreme right), Mandeep Singh (second from right) and eminent attorney Ravi Batra (second from left) at the celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birth anniversary at the Indian Consulate November 12



A view of the photo exhibition on Guru Nanak Dev Ji at the Indian Consulate November 12.



"Happy #Gurburab to Sikh communities in NJ & around the world celebrating the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak - a leading light not just for Sikhs, but for people of all religions. May his life & his message continue to guide us all down the path of peace & equality", the Governor tweeted earlier.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy with Sikh community leaders at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar in Port Reading, November 12



Indian American Durga Agrawal Appointed to University of Houston System Board of Regents



Durga D. Agrawal is the founding president of the IACCGH and India House, Inc.

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): Texas Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed Durga Agrawal, Ph.D. to the University of Houston (UH) System Board of Regents for terms set to expire August 31, 2025.

Durga Agrawal of Houston is the president and CEO of Piping Technology and Products. He currently serves as the chair of the UH System Board of Regents Endowment Committee. He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, Texas Society of Professional Engineers, and the Expansion Joint Manufacturers Association Management Committee and a former member of the Industry Trade Advisory Committee and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Additionally, he is member of the UH Engineering Leadership Board, UH Advisory Board, and India House, Inc. He also serves as an advisor and past president of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston, director for the Agrawal Association of America, and as a volunteer for the M.D. Anderson Board of Visitors.

Durga D. Agrawal is the founding president of the IACCGH and India House, Inc. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Friedman Industries.

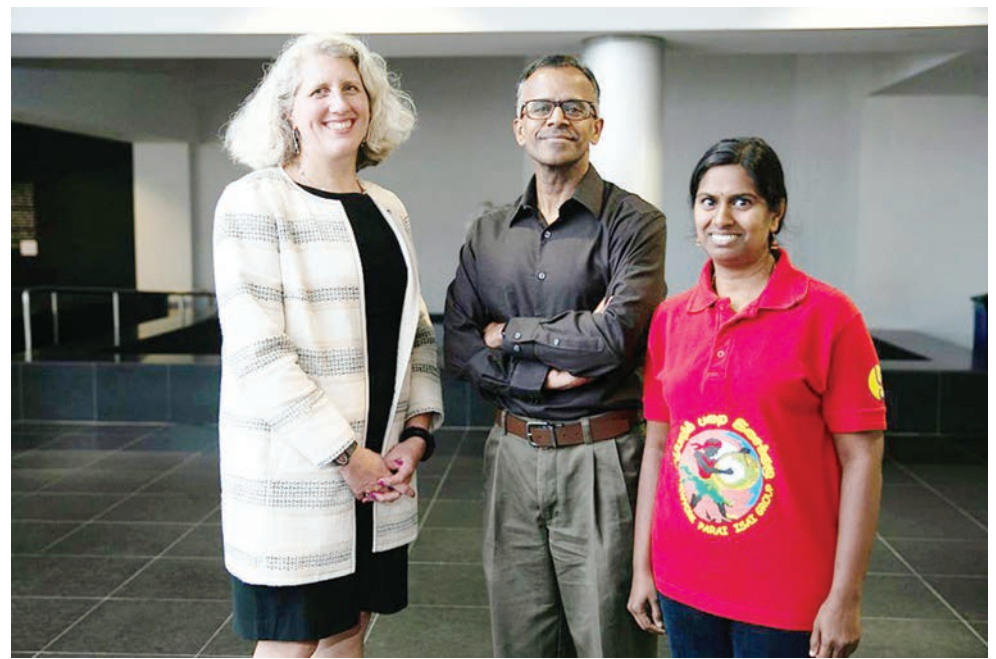
Dr. Agrawal was selected as the 2001 U.S. Small Businessperson of the Year for the State of Texas by the U.S. Small Business Administration; chosen as the Entrepreneur of the Year by the Asian Chamber of Commerce of Houston in 2006; and awarded the Texas Industrial Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. He is a member of the University of Houston's Industrial Engineering Advisory Board and Cullen College of Engineering Leadership Board. Dr. Agrawal was also appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by Governor Rick Perry in August of 2009.

Dr. Agrawal received a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Delhi, India, and Master's and Doctorate degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston.

Indian Americans' Contribution for Promotion of Tamil at Stony Brook

NEW YORK(TIP): "The Future of Tamil Studies" was the topic of a two-day symposium recently held by the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University that culminated with the launch of a search for an endowed professor in Tamil. Featuring scholars and experts in practice, language, history and culture from around the world, the interdisciplinary symposium offered an in-depth discussion of how studying the ancient yet still relevant Tamil language and its art and literature offers scholars insights into humankind's earliest worldview, providing context for our life today and our collective, global future.

Made possible through The Anandavalli and Dr. G. Swaminathan Endowed Research Professorship in Tamil Fund - generously established by Dr. Bala and Prabha Swaminathan in honor of Bala's mother and father - the symposium opened with a local group of Tamil drummers, followed by a preview film screening of Sakthi Vibrations, an ethnomusicological documentary produced and directed by Zoe Sherinian, University of Oklahoma. The participatory ethnomusicological documentary, which will debut at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2020, reveals and analyzes Sakthi's outstanding model for Dalit women's development that integrates folk arts



CAS Interim Dean Nicole Sampson with Bala and Prabha Swaminathan

performance with social analysis, micro-economic sustainability, self-esteem and community development.

Creating the Anandavalli and Dr. G. Swaminathan Endowed Research Professorship in Tamil at SBU was a natural step in the Swaminthians' quest to help sustain the Tamil language and culture; they purposefully established the professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences to leverage interdisciplinary, scholarly research

collaborations. The professorship aligns with the forthcoming Globalization Studies and International Relations BA launching in Fall 2020, designed to educate leaders in globalization issues, international service, diplomacy and activism. The program will also prepare students to pursue graduate study in a wide variety of fields, from diplomacy and consulting to research journalism and social entrepreneurship.

Indian Nita Ambani Becomes First Indian Elected to Board of MET Museum



Nita Ambani, Daniel Brodsky, Chairman of the Board, Daniel Weiss, President & CEO, and Max Hollein, Director, on the occasion of Ambani's election to the Board of Trustees

NEW YORK (TIP): Educationist, philanthropist, and businesswoman Nita Ambani has been named an Honorary Trustee of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, as was announced Nov 12 by Daniel Brodsky, the Museum's Chairman. Mrs. Ambani's election took place at the November 12 meeting of the Board.

Mr. Brodsky commented: "Mrs. Ambani's commitment to The Met and to preserving and promoting India's art and culture is truly exceptional. Her support has an enormous impact on the Museum's ability to study and display art from every corner of the world. It is a pleasure to welcome Nita Ambani to the Board." Nita Ambani is the Founder and Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, an Indian philanthropic organization that has supported The Met

since 2016, beginning with the exhibition Nasreen Mohamedi. That presentation was the first museum retrospective of the artist's work in the United States and was also one of The Met Breuer's inaugural exhibitions. In 2017, the Reliance Foundation committed to support exhibitions that explore and celebrate the arts of India. The first exhibition to benefit from this gift was Modernism on the Ganges: Raghubir Singh Photographs (October 11, 2017-January 2, 2018), followed by Phenomenal Nature: Mrinalini Mukherjee (June 4-September 29, 2019), which marked the first comprehensive display of Mukherjee's work in the United States.

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

Indian American MIT Economist's Endeavor for More Efficient Kidney-Donation System



Agarwal joined the MIT faculty in 2014 and began publishing papers on a range of topics

BOSTON (TIP): For Optimizing kidney donation, MIT economist Nikhil Agarwal analyzes the efficiency of markets that match suppliers and consumers but don't use prices. In the last year, a new method he and some colleagues formulated for a more efficient kidney-donation system has been approved for implementation by the Alliance for Paired Donation, the second-largest platform for such transplants in the U.S. Currently there are about 800 kidney exchange transplants in the U.S. annually; by Agarwal's estimation, a more efficient exchange market could increase that number by 30 to 60 percent. In a series of papers examining the inefficiencies of kidney transplant systems in the U.S., Agarwal and a variety of co-authors looked at the numbers and came back with solutions.

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



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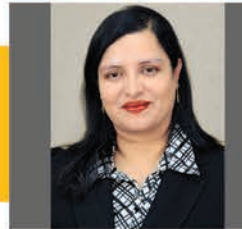
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In Celebration Of 550th Birth Anniversary Of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji The World Over

Guru Nanak Chair to be hosted at University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM (TIP): The University of Birmingham will host a prestigious academic Chair to promote research into the life and philosophy of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the revered first Sikh Guru.

Union Minister of India, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri announced this project during the University of Birmingham India Institute's Annual Guest Lecture, when he spoke on 'The contemporary relevance of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of inter-faith harmony'.

The search now begins to find an academic expert to hold the Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chair and work closely with relevant parts of the University, including the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion, and the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.

Working with the University's India Office, in New Delhi, the Chair will engage with partners and communities in India to create fellowships in peacebuilding, inter-faith understanding and community cohesion - reflecting the three core values of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

They will also seek major funding opportunities to advance research into the Guru's life and teaching. Minister Hardeep Singh Puri commented: "The University of Birmingham is most suitable for the Chair given the strength of its academic offering, its close connections to the vibrant Sikh community, the larger British Indian community of the UK, and its history and continuing commitment to India.

"Equally, the City of Birmingham, in the heart of the United Kingdom, with its rich and diverse religious heritage, and its diverse population, is an ideal place for the Chair to be located."



Picture caption - Union Minister of India, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Consul General of India in Birmingham, Dr. Aman Puri with a portrait of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The University's relationship with India is a long one, beginning in 1909 with the first cohort of Indian students arriving in Birmingham to study for degrees in Mining and Commerce. Since then, the University has provided education to around 2,000 outstanding Indian students.

Birmingham was the first UK university to establish a lectureship in Sikh Studies and is the only Russell Group university to have a programme (MSc in Sikh Studies) in this field. Given its rich history and connections to India, the University launched its India Institute in 2018.

High Commissioner of India to UK, Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam, congratulated the British-Indian community for its partnership on various projects to celebrate the auspicious occasion of 550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, whose life and teachings inspire Indians belonging to all faiths across the globe.

"This is a great opportunity for that eternal message of the revered first Sikh Guru to be shared with the British community, and the larger world community," she said.

Consul General of India in Birmingham, Dr. Aman Puri commented: "I am delighted that the University of Birmingham has partnered on this prestigious academic Chair, as its India Institute is playing such an important role in improving collaboration between India and the UK.

"Future research by this Chair will help further understand the contemporary relevance of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings."

The University of Birmingham is among the global Top 100 universities, and founder member of the elite Russell Group of research-intensive universities. Its Department of Theology was ranked second in the UK in the last Research

Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, in 2014.

University of Birmingham Chancellor Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea commented: "The Indian Government's decision that the University of Birmingham should host this high-profile Chair is testament to our long-standing and ever-deepening relationship with India and its people.

"We are proud of our education and research links with India, particularly in those fields that resonate with the teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. We believe this Chair will help further deepen and strengthen links between our academic community and the Indian diaspora."

The University of Birmingham specializes particularly in the field of interreligious relations, religion and development, religion and politics, and religion and peacebuilding, and has hosted a UNESCO Chair in Interfaith Studies and a Chair in Interreligious Relations.

Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) at the University of Birmingham, said: "We're delighted to welcome Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to the University of Birmingham and honored that the University of Birmingham has been chosen to host this prestigious Chair. I would like to extend my gratitude to the British-Indian community, who is supporting this project and helping the University in its civic mission.

"As a civic university with a global outlook, we will use this honor wisely to strengthen and deepen international understanding of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of inter-faith harmony - teachings which remain relevant to today's complex and fragmented world."

Exhibition of miniature paintings on Guru Nanak Dev underway in Delhi

NEW DELHI (TIP): An exhibition of miniature paintings titled "Guru Nanak Dev Ji ki Janamsakhi" got underway in New Delhi November 7.

It is a series of 100 paintings depicting various stages of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life. The exhibition is a private collection of a family based in Jammu.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts has funded the framing of paintings whose painter remains unknown.

In the Footsteps of Guru Nanak in the Land of Nanak: A Pilgrimage and Journey of Self-Discovery by a Pakistani

NEW YORK (TIP): 'In the Footsteps of Guru Nanak in the Land of Nanak' a Documentary film directed By Pakistani filmmaker Nilofer Afridi Qazi was screened at The Sikh International Film Festival SATURDAY, November 9th at the Paley Center for Media in New York City.

Guru Nanak was born in a small village, in Rai Bhoi Di Talwandi, in Punjab, in 1469 and left his worldly remains in 1539 in Kartarpur. Born in a middle-class family he was sensitive to the injustices around him the caste/caste-dividing people. His life experiences soon led to a spiritual path a journey which took him all over what we call Pakistan, and the world afar, spreading his message of humanity and gently questioning the norms and rituals of the powerful (especially the priests...both Muslim and Hindu). He expressed his powerful simple egalitarian beliefs through poetry and music, similar to the sages and saints of the past.

"Remembering Guru Nanak is important for many reasons, but for Pakistanis, in



particular, we remember and honor a Saint who was born and bred from our soil. Born and bred from the land of the five rivers, Guru Nanak embodies the values of tolerance peace

& love. Guru Mukhi the holy scripture of the GuruGranth Sahib is the only Panjabi script. The land of the five rivers-Punjab is the holiest land-sacred to the followers of Guru Nanak. To understand the largest part of Pakistan means we must understand and embrace Nanak" Nilofer, a resident of Islamabad, Pakistan wrote on her Facebook page.

"I explore in his footsteps, traveling through Punjab from where he took his first breath weaving through the Hamlets towns and now cities until his last abode on earth; what he said, demonstrated, share food recipes and culinary culture reflecting the ethos of Guru jee. I traveled through 10 cities across Punjab and many more spaces where Guru Nanak visited. Today there are over 27 million Sikhs in the world, above the labels of an organized religion, Guru Nanak rejected labels, castes, class or distinctions of any kind..... he was pure humanity", she further wrote.

For Nilofer Afridi Qazi this is a pilgrimage and journey of self-discovery as a Pakistani.



Ekal Vidyalaya Makes History - Reaches 100,000-Schools Milestone



Vivek Oberoi- Keynote Speaker

PRAKASH WAGHMARE, "EVF"

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): November 9, 2019 will remain as the historic day in the annals of "Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF)". On this day, in star-studded, glamour filled "Future of India" Gala in New York City, Ekal reached 100,000 school milestones within minutes of its beginning. Going into the 'Gala', Ekal had 99,200 schools and so the evening was full of anticipated excitement to ring the bell for magical 100,000-school landmark. As soon as 'Mohan Wanchoo', took the reins of the evening as the chairperson of the gala, he took everyone by surprise with his trailblazing announcement. He pledged \$1 Million over the period of 5 years patching, with immediate effect, shortfall amount for 800-schools to reach the magical figure of 100,000-schools. These additional schools will be established shortly and will benefit 25,000 children bringing annual literacy total to 2.7 Million children. Mohan Wanchoo's pronouncement was not only celebrated with thunderous applause and sparkling 'fireworks', but it also set in motion exuberant outpour of generosity, for the rest of the evening. By the end of the evening \$3.1 Million were raised. This was in addition to Los Angeles Gala where \$2 Million were raised.

This year, NYC magnificent Gala was hosted at lavishly decorated majestic 'Gotham Hall' and was attended by the elite of the society and Ekal's dedicated supporters. Although rooted in literacy, Ekal has blossomed into empowerment of rural-tribal folks across India. The evening's keynote speaker and star-attraction was Bollywood celebrity and philanthropist 'Vivek Oberoi'. In addition, distinguished speakers included 'Raju Reddy', a successful entrepreneur whose company was acquired by Hitachi, and 'Ragy Thomas', leading social-media management & marketing enterprise. 'Ranjani Saigal', the Executive Director of Ekal, traced 32-year history of the Ekal, including its



Gandhi Peace Prize received by Ekal from PM Modi and President Ram Kovind is displayed

transition into anation building movement. Vivek Oberoi completely stole the show with his pledge to put all his entrepreneur might behind rural issues and spearhead small-scale solar power solutions for energy requirements of villages. He said, "I have already received a commitment of over half a million dollars for such initiative". At the conclusion of his captivating speech, he applauded Ekal getting Iconic "Gandhi Peace Prize" from the government of India for its social work in rural-tribal areas with gender equality. This award, which is given to only one organization each year was recently bestowed on 'Ekal Abhiyan' by Hon PM Modi and President Ram Kovind. For the benefit of people assembled, the 'Peace Prize' itself was ushered on the stage by a select group of people and presented to the gathering by Prakash Waghmare, a member of PR national committee and Suresh Iyer, President of Ekal-USA. There was a brief panel discussion also moderated by 'Amrita Saigal', a young entrepreneur to highlight various aspects of Ekal that appeal to the Donors. Ragy Thomas pledged strong support to education and pledged \$100,000 to accelerate its pace. Raju Reddy, partnering with Ekal expressed desire to bring transformation to rural Telangana. 'Sarva Mangal Family Trust' and 'Keshap Group' confirmed to match technological intervention in education in 'digital-tablets' format. A momentous turn occurred when 13-yr 'Riya' donated \$1000 from a fund-raiser she had at her home. Vivek Oberoi was so touched by this that he appealed to the gathering to match her cute gesture and the gathering responded by additional \$30,000. Several dignitaries were honored, including India Consul General of New York, Sandeep Chakravorty and New York Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.

Ekal also recognized several supporters for their distinctive projects. Among them were Dr Kavita Navani of 'Sankalp' for aiding 625 Ekal schools; Himanshu Shah of 'Shah Capital' for supporting



Mohan Wanchoo who chaired the event and was the biggest donor of the evening is addressing the gathering, with wife and daughter in attendance



At the event, from L to R: Rakesh Shreedhar, Suresh Iyer, Raju Reddy, Pradeep Goyal, Vivek Oberoi, Sandeep Chakravorty, Ragy Thomas, Ranjani Saigal

'Gramothan Resource Ctr'; Adish & Asha Jain and Vandana & Vivek Sharma for corroborating in integral village development; Subra & Anu Dravida for promoting digital literacy through 'Ekal-on-Wheel' project. 'Perfection of Man Foundation' made significant announcement at the end of the evening to support planting of 1 Million trees in Ekal villages. Pradeep Goyal, Chairman of 'Ekal Abhiyan Trust' and S.K. Jindal, a Trustee had specially flown from India to grace this occasion and to boost the morale of everyone to make gala a grand success. No gala is complete without the musical treat and this was no exception. To preserve the upbeat nature of the Gala's success, Bollywood singer Shibani Kashyap kept the crowd sizzling with her singing and enticed them to dance to her tunes. Unlike most of such events, the remarkable thing about this event was the participation of young professional in large number. This is an indication that Ekal's future is on rock-solid foundation.

Indian American Con Artist Sentenced to Prison for Defrauding Brokers



Rajendra Patel, 62, who previously resided in Jersey City, N.J., was sentenced seven years in state prison

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): A New Jersey man of Indian origin was sentenced to prison last month for orchestrating an elaborate shipping scam by which he defrauded five freight brokers out of \$2.6 million. The defendant fled the country and was a fugitive for eight years after being indicted in 2011, but he returned in July 2019 and surrendered to the Division of Criminal Justice.

Rajendra Patel, 62, who previously resided in Jersey City, N.J., was sentenced seven years in state prison by Superior Court Judge Mitzy Galis-Menendez in Hudson County. Patel pleaded guilty on Aug. 9, 2019 to second-degree theft by deception. He must pay full restitution to the victims.

Deputy Attorney General Thomas Huynh prosecuted the case and handled the sentencing for the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Cyber Crimes Bureau.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Fund-Raising Event Held in NJ to Benefit Rural Areas of India

FORDS, NJ (TIP): A fund-raising for Trinetra Medical Institute USA, Inc. and SGML eye hospital in rural area of Madhya Pradesh, India to benefit underserved population was successfully organized on November 10, 2019, at Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ; A musical evening of Ohmkara's "Sunheri Yaadein" with Gala Dinner was applauded and supported by local community. The vision of SGML is to create excellent and equitable eye care systems that are easily adaptable and within reach of the needy and underserved and underprivileged individuals. Trinetra Medical Institute of USA, Inc. is a non-profit organization who is helping to build this hospital to reduce disparity of eye care between rich and poor.



The SGML Team

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)



AS I SEE IT



By Bhupesh Baghel

Nehruvian consensus under siege

Jawaharlal Nehru's stature and moral authority, now under attack, were the guarantors for modern India's social contract

The mention of Jawaharlal Nehru evokes strange reactions these days, but for Congressmen such as me it is a matter of faith and symbolic of all that we hold dear to our hearts. He was the closest we could imagine of reaching our leader Gandhiji and, therefore, was the manifestation of the unmanifested. As his heir Nehru taught us, the post-Independence generation, both the ideas and their praxis, of the values of the national movement. Summable as the constitutional values, we know of them as Nehruvian values, which he called Indian or Gandhian philosophy.

A frame under strain

We have grown up under a huge pantheon (both religious and historical) which has inculcated in us a tolerance and receptivity of/for a multitude of perspectives, and an anticipation of newer ones. Today as we live through an intolerant regime and discourse, I realize what its absence leads to. The frantic attempt to appropriate some and deride others from ours is resultant of their inner emptiness.

Today the values of our national movement, duly canonized as the Constitution, are being threatened not only by a spiteful government but also through a majoritarian discourse and its progeny; a mob emboldened to declare itself the nation and law. Our institutions are under severe stress mainly because there is an apprehension that the Constitution may not be able to protect them from this onslaught. Yet we need to look back and see how in far more difficult times our leadership had held on to their values; yes, we miss them today.

Continuing the fight

I recall how Panditji and Sardar Patel missed Gandhiji in those difficult times. In a letter in 1950 to K.G. Mashruwala talking of the problems emanating from East Pakistan and West Bengal, Panditji says that "merely to preach goodwill irritates people when they are excited. Babu might have done it, but we are too small for this kind of thing." But his faith in the people of this country and their values helped him tide over such tragedies. He proudly declared that the revered 'Bharat Mata' was none other than the teeming millions populating this land. It was the same belief that Gandhiji had in the poor and illiterate masses in this country, who held on to their civilizational values of truth, non-violence and tolerance. This is what led Gandhiji to pronounce him his inheritor, and at a session where he had passed a resolution questioning 'doctrinaire nonviolence'; Gandhiji declared,



Gandhi, the man who brought freedom, and Nehru, the architect of free India.

"When I am gone, he will do what I am doing now."

Yes, Gandhiji died fighting the communal mania and Panditji continued the fight constitutionally when on April 13, 1948, the Constituent Assembly adopted a resolution that "for the proper functioning of democracy, and the growth of national unity and solidarity.. no communal organization should be permitted to engage in any of the activities other than those essential for the bonafide religious, cultural, social and educational needs of the community."

Seen together with the conditions Sardar Patel had before lifting the ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, we can say that he was just implementing the mandate of the Constituent Assembly and that what we are witnessing today is a betrayal of the Constitution. He had said in 1933 that the communalism of the majority resembles nationalism. But the test of its true nature is its relation to the national struggle, and also that laying stress on communal problems instead of national ones is obviously anti-national. These are the two litmus tests we need to always remember and they remove any iota of doubt about the nature of nationalism being put forth by the current regime.

This came from a person deeply rooted and secure in the knowledge and practice of his culture and traditions. His writings, especially *The Discovery of India*, is a reflection of his efforts at forging a relation of both transcendence and immanence with his nation and culture. His conviction in the enlightened middle path of the Buddha was reflected in both Non-alignment and the Panchsheel, as well as his faith in a mixed economy. Not to forget were his reaffirmation of the Buddha's and Gandhiji's non-

violence.

In his last will (June 1954), Nehru invokes the Ganga, calling her the 'river of India'. He further writes, "Smiling and dancing in the morning sunlight, and dark and gloomy and full of mystery as evening shadows fall; a narrow, slow and graceful stream in winter; and a vast roaring thing during monsoon, broad-bosomed almost as the sea, and with something of the sea's power to destroy, the Ganga has been to me a symbol and a memory of the past of India, running into the present, and flowing on to the great ocean of the future."

The power of science

The firmly secure culturalist was also a radical progressive and the greatest champion of science and scientific temper. Ever since setting up the National Planning Committee in 1938 along with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, he had developed a deep longing for science and its use to solve national problems. He started attending almost all the annual sessions of the Indian Science Congress. He believed that inculcating a scientific temper was the greatest challenge faced by man, individually and collectively. We still see Prime Ministers addressing the sessions of the Indian Science Congress, but talking of plastic surgery of lord Ganesha. Not surprisingly Nehru is still the most vilified leader in the country because his name is synonymous with what is called the 'Idea of India', for his stature and moral authority were the guarantors for modern India's social contract. It has since been rightly called the 'Nehruvian Consensus'. Till this legitimizing presence of Nehru's legacy pervades, the reactionary and revisionist discourse can never gain any foothold in the country. Therefore, the worst of the propaganda machinery is deployed on a leader who has been dead for 55 years.

The internationalist 'Messenger of Peace', who was often the last hope of the world when all machinations had failed and peace looked fragile, was both a recognition of India as well as the heir of Gandhi. This was evident in U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's letter to Panditji (April 30, 1958) telling him not to retire as the world needed him. He knew that great fame awaited him but was ready for its travails. In 1937, he reminded himself through his article "We want no Caesars". But how prophetic his words prove today when he said, "He might still use the language and slogans of democracy and socialism, but we all know how fascism has fattened on this language and then cast it away as useless lumber."

(The author is the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh)

GUEST COMMENT

With the CJI under the RTI Act, there will be greater transparency by public authorities

The adage, "sunlight is the best disinfectant" is often used to delineate the need for disclosure of matters related to public interest through the Right to Information mechanism. The declaration of assets by ministers and legislators, besides electoral candidates, has gone a long way in shedding light on public authorities and provided the citizenry more relevant information about their representatives. Yet, judges of the Supreme Court had hitherto refused to share information on their personal assets, citing the express lack of public interest. The welcome ruling by a five-member Constitution

Open, all the same: On CJI office and RTI Act

Bench of the Supreme Court that the office of the Chief Justice of India is a "public authority" under the RTI Act, as much as the apex court itself, now enables the disclosure of information such as the judges' personal assets. The judgment's majority opinion, written by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, emphasized the need for transparency and accountability and that "disclosure is a facet of public interest". In concurring opinions, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud asserted that judicial independence was not secured by secrecy while Justice N.V. Ramana argued for the need of a proper calibration of transparency in light of the importance of judicial independence. The Bench unanimously argued that the right to know under the

RTI Act was not absolute and this had to be balanced with the right of privacy of judges. But the key takeaway from the judgment is that disclosure of details of serving judges' personal assets was not a violation of their right to privacy.

The main opinion also argued that information related to issues such as judicial appointments will also be subject to the test of public interest and procedures mandated in the RTI Act that specify that views of third parties (in this case, judges) must be sought. While laying out the importance of the assessment of public interest in any RTI query besides bringing the office of the CJI under the purview of the Act, the decision has gone on to uphold the Delhi High Court verdict in 2010. The RTI Act

is a strong weapon that enhances accountability, citizen activism and, consequently, participative democracy, even if its implementation has come under strain in recent years due mainly to the Central government's apathy and disregard for the nuts and bolts of the Act. Yet, despite this, the Supreme Court judgment paves the way for greater transparency and could now impinge upon issues such as disclosure, under the RTI Act, by other institutions such as registered political parties. This is vital as political party financing is a murky area today, marked by opacity and exacerbated by the issue of electoral bonds, precluding citizens from being fully informed on sources of party incomes.

(The Hindu)

THE WAY AROUND CHINA



By G Parthasarathy

“

We have ignored the spiritual strength of shared beliefs in Buddhism, to welcome Buddhist pilgrims and visitors from our eastern neighborhood. There are 460 million Buddhists across and beyond our eastern land and maritime frontiers. The Buddhist population of China alone is estimated at around 244 million. Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and others also have millions of Buddhists. Nepal should be given special place in this effort by including Lord Buddha's birthplace Lumbini as an important destination.

”

India is moving ahead more successfully to balance power but must focus on economy



PM Modi with ASEAN leaders

The ASEAN Summit in Bangkok posed new economic and strategic challenges for India. The challenges posed by China, from the days India sought ASEAN membership, continue. Chinese opposition to India's admission, and then to ensure that India remained marginalized in ASEAN, failed. India soon secured membership as a full-dialogue partner of the then fast-growing economies of ASEAN. Virtually all members have found Indian participation constructive. Within a few years, an assertive China resorted to coercion to enforce its untenable maritime border claims. Beijing often militarily seized, or threatened to seize, small islands within the maritime frontiers of neighboring countries, including ASEAN members.

China has resorted to such aggressive behavior with South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. It has ignored the provisions of international law by disregarding the adverse verdict of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, after it seized an island belonging to the Philippines. It is presently deploying warships on the southern shores of Vietnam. China has successfully coerced, or brought around, virtually all ASEAN members with whom it shares maritime borders, except Vietnam and Indonesia. Even Malaysia's PM, Mahathir, who loudly echoes Pakistan's views on J&K, acknowledges that China is too powerful to be challenged by his country.

India rightly backs the collective views of ASEAN on regional issues. But given their fears of China, many members remain silent on its aggression. India is, however, quite clear about its views on international maritime issues, stating categorically that the UN Convention on Law of the Seas determines boundaries. As an example, India cites the case of its maritime borders with Bangladesh, where it respected the ruling of an international tribunal to hand over a

disputed island to Bangladesh. Japan and India are on the same page on the issue.

These differences between a hegemonic China and India are bound to continue. China has become unusually aggressive with India on a number of issues after the scrapping of Article 370. China had taken the position that the J&K issue has to be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan, ever since the visit of then Chinese President Jiang Zemin to Pakistan and India in 1996. The Chinese position changed drastically when Beijing went out of its way to back Pakistan's stand in international forums. India has retaliated by publicly referring to the disputed border area of Aksai Chin as a part of the UT of Ladakh. Interestingly, this claim, which was supported by the Buddhist majority of Ladakh, caused consternation there.

There are sound economic reasons for India's reservations to join the proposed Regional Asian Free Trade Agreement during the Bangkok summit without credible safeguards. India's trade deficit with China is around \$59 billion. The deficit with South Korea grew from \$5 billion to \$12 billion last year. Likewise, over the past decade, India's trade deficit with ASEAN has increased from virtually nil to \$14 billion. We are justified in finding fault with China's mercantilist practices. We cannot, however, deny the reality that the growth of our exports has been dismal, and we are losing our competitive edge all across our eastern neighborhood. Our textile industry is unable to compete with textile exports of Bangladesh and Vietnam. The government has still to enunciate any clear export promotion strategy to deal with this malady.

We are now moving ahead more successfully to balance Chinese power across our Indo-Pacific neighborhood. Maritime cooperation is being increased with the US, Japan, Australia, France and a number of ASEAN countries, notably Vietnam and Indonesia. During the Bangkok summit, a number of

ASEAN members were keen on finding ways to ensure that India remained actively involved in the region diplomatically, economically and militarily. New Delhi will now have to more actively take measures to ensure that the country becomes more competitive economically in the region and globally too.

India has used conventional measures like trade, investment and cultural exchanges for promoting friendship in its Act East policies. It has, however, ignored using the most significant asset it has, to promote its ties not just with ASEAN, but with others like Japan and South Korea. We have overlooked our immense tourism potential. India is not perceived as 'tourism friendly'. We have ignored the spiritual strength of shared beliefs in Buddhism, to welcome Buddhist pilgrims and visitors from our eastern neighborhood. There are 460 million Buddhists across and beyond our eastern land and maritime frontiers. The Buddhist population of China alone is estimated at around 244 million. Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and others also have millions of Buddhists. Nepal should be given special place in this effort by including Lord Buddha's birthplace Lumbini as an important destination.

We need to formulate a master plan on how to improve connectivity to a vast Buddhist tourism circuit across states like Bihar, UP, MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Ladakh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. This effort can best be taken forward if we give China, Japan and Thailand, apart from immediate neighbors like Myanmar and Sri Lanka, a role in promoting the effort. Japan, China and Thailand could be invited to invest in and develop this project. Spiritual ties and tourism should become an integral and important part of our Act East policies.

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



Imran's ex-wife Reham Khan wins defamation case against Pakistani news channel

LONDON / LAHORE (TIP):

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's former wife, Reham Khan, has won "substantial" damages and received an apology from a Pakistani news channel over defamatory allegations by a government minister during a show last year. At a hearing in the High Court in London on Monday, Justice Matthew Nicklin was informed about the apology and undisclosed damages agreed between the parties.

Reham, a British national of Pakistani-origin, launched the legal proceedings over a broadcast entitled 'On the Front with Kamran Shahid' on Dunya TV in June 2018, during which she said Sheikh Rasheed, the current Federal Minister of Railways in Pakistan, made very serious and entirely false allegations against her.

"The most serious allegation that he made was to claim that our client had colluded with her ex-husband's political rivals, the Pakistan Muslim League, and accepted a substantial payment from or on behalf of its leader, Mr Shehbaz Sharif, in return for writing her autobiography," said Alex Cochrane from Hamlins LLP, who represented Reham in the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

"Dunya TV has now made a full and unequivocal public apology to our client and it has accepted that she never received any payments from Mr Shehbaz Sharif or anyone in the Pakistan Muslim League for her book. Dunya TV has also given an undertaking not to repeat these false allegations about our client and they have paid her substantial damages and all her legal costs," he said. The court heard that during the telecast last year, Reham, a journalist and broadcaster, was also likened to a historical Pakistani female figure known as "Budhan Bai", who was a well-known courtesan, as part of a series of "slurs" upon her reputation.

Dunya TV, a 24-hour Urdu language news and current affairs television channel, which has a licence to broadcast in the UK, said that it accepts that the allegations made by the guest commentator, Sheikh Rasheed, were "wholly untrue". "The Defendant (Dunya News Limited) accepts that there was and is no truth in the allegations advanced during the broadcast and is happy to set the record straight and apologise to the Claimant (Reham)," notes the court order. PTI

Sharif rejects Pak govt's demand to submit bonds worth Rs 700 cr for abroad travel

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on November 13 refused to meet Imran Khan government's demand to submit indemnity bonds worth Rs 700 crores for travel to the UK for medical treatment, saying it was "illegal" and denounced attempts to politicise his health.

On Tuesday, Pakistan Cabinet decided to allow 69-year-old Sharif to go to the UK for medical treatment if the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo agrees to sign surety bonds making a commitment that he would return after the treatment and face corruption cases against him.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Khan, approved removal of Sharif's name from the no-fly list (Exit Control List-ECL).

"We have categorically told the government that Sharif would not submit any indemnity bonds worth Rs 7 billion (Rs 700 crores) to the government for removing his name from the no-fly list enabling his departure for London for his treatment," a PML-N leader quoted Sharif as saying.

"Nawaz Sharif said the government demand is illegal and can't be met in the presence of the court guarantees."

Nawaz also showed his annoyance over the government's 'tactics' to politicise the issue of his health.

"The government cannot hold another court of its own on the earlier decision of the Islamabad High Court that granted Sharif eight weeks bail on medical grounds," the PML-N leader told PTI, adding the Sharif family may move the court for removal of his name from the ECL if the government did not decide in his favour on Wednesday.



"If something happens to Sharif, Imran Khan and company will be responsible as he is critical and government is using the opportunity for their dirty politics," he said.

According to his party an air ambulance is arriving in Lahore on Wednesday to shift him to London if the government removes his name from the ECL.

Sharif is under treatment at his Lahore's Jati Umra House. His platelet count is said to unstable and is critically low.

Sharif is suffering from multiple health complications, including erratic platelet count, and is currently being taken care at his residence near Lahore where an ICU has been set up.

Sharif agreed on Friday to go to the UK for treatment, heeding doctors' advice and accepting his family's

request. He was scheduled to leave for London on a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight on Sunday morning. However, he could not leave as his name figured in the no fly-list.

The former prime minister was lodged in the Kot Lakhpat jail but last month he was sent to the custody of the NAB which is probing the Sharif family in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills corruption case.

On December 24, 2018, an accountability court had sentenced Sharif to seven years in prison in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case and acquitted him in the Flagship case.

On October 29, the Islamabad High Court suspended Sharif's sentence in the Al-Azizia corruption case for eight weeks on medical grounds.

The Sharif family has denied all corruption charges and termed them as politically motivated. —PTI

7 killed, 7 injured in Kabul car bomb blast

KABUL (TIP): At least seven people were killed and seven wounded when a car bomb detonated during Kabul's busy morning rush hour on Wednesday, an interior ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman, Nasrat Rahimi, said the bomb had gone off in a neighbourhood which is near the interior ministry and north of Kabul airport.

He said the dead were all civilians. "This is the initial information, more details later," he added.

A source at the interior ministry said the blast was detonated by a suicide bomber in the car, and that it had targeted a convoy of government vehicles on a main road.

The blast came one day after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced that Kabul would release three high-ranking Taliban prisoners in an apparent prisoner swap with Western hostages who were kidnapped by the insurgents in 2016.

The three Taliban prisoners include Anas Haqqani, who was held in 2014 and whose older brother is the deputy Taliban leader and head of the Haqqani network, a notorious Taliban affiliate.

Ghani did not specify the fate of the Western hostages -- an Australian and an American, both professors at the American University in Kabul -- and it was not clear when or where they would be freed.

Ghani said on Tuesday that he hoped the decision would help "pave the way" for the start of unofficial direct talks between his government and the Taliban, who had long refused to negotiate with the administration in Kabul. AFP

Train crash leaves 16 dead in Bangladesh

DHAKA (TIP): At least 16 people were killed and 60 others injured in a head-on collision between two trains in Brahmanbaria district in central Bangladesh on Nov 12, railway officials said. A railway spokesman said the pre-dawn accident appeared to have occurred when Chittagong-bound Udayan Express was changing tracks at Mondobhag railway station and the Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita coming from the opposite direction collided with it. Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Hayat-ud-Dowla Khan was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune that the accident occurred because loco masters did not obey the signals. According to the police, 12 passengers died on the spot, while the rest succumbed to injuries as the rescue campaign was underway or after they were rushed to nearby hospitals. Local police station chief Shayamal Kanti Das feared that the toll could rise as several passengers were still trapped under the damaged coaches, especially of the Udayan Express. — PTI

Kabul to swap Taliban ultras for hostages

KABUL (TIP): Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced Tuesday that three high-ranking Taliban prisoners would be released, in an apparent exchange for two Western hostages who were kidnapped by the insurgents in 2016. The three Taliban prisoners include Anas Haqqani, who was held in 2014 and whose older brother is the deputy Taliban leader. AFP



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IRS updates guidance for deductible business, charitable, medical and moving expenses

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service on November 14 issued guidance for taxpayers with certain deductible expenses to reflect changes resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Revenue Procedure 2019-46, posted today on IRS.gov, updates the rules for using the optional standard mileage rates in computing the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving expense purposes. The guidance also provides rules to substantiate the amount of an employee's ordinary and necessary travel expenses reimbursed by an employer using the optional standard mileage rates. Taxpayers are not required to use a method described in this revenue procedure and may instead substantiate actual allowable expenses provided they maintain adequate records. The TCJA suspended the miscellaneous itemized deduction for most employees with unreimbursed business expenses, including the costs of operating an automobile for business purposes. However, self-employed individuals and certain employees, such as Armed Forces reservists, qualifying state or local government officials, educators and performing artists, may continue to deduct unreimbursed business expenses during the suspension.

US Senators Introduce Resolution Recognizing Sikh Americans

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and Ben Cardin (D-MD) on Nov 8 introduced a resolution recognizing the historical, cultural, and religious significance of Sikh Americans and their contributions to the United States. The resolution is being introduced ahead of the 550th birthday of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, which is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar. The day recognizes the teachings of Guru Nanak on equality and service, serving as an inspiration for people of all faiths.

"Sikh Americans have added to the social, cultural, and economic diversity of the United States, including by serving as members of our Armed Forces and have contributed to fields as diverse as agriculture, information technology, hospitality, trucking, and medicine," Durbin said. "I'm honored to introduce this resolution with Senators Menendez and Cardin recognizing the many contributions and accomplishments of Sikh Americans and the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak."

"The Sikh community has made countless contributions to civic life in New Jersey and the United States across so many endeavors in the public and private sectors," said Menendez. "As this resolution describes, America is a better country thanks to Sikhs from all walks of life. Last month I was honored to visit



the Golden Temple in Amritsar and I gained an even deeper appreciation for the values embodied in the Sikh religion. This November, I join with my many constituents of the Sikh faith to honor and commemorate the birth and wisdom of Guru Nanak, a man who has provided inspiration for centuries to so many around the world."

"Sikh Americans have been a proud part of the American story for generations and they continue to enrich our nation and the communities in which they live," said Cardin. "I thank

the Sikh community for their ongoing social, cultural and economic contributions, and for their courage to stand up against racial and religious discrimination against their community and others."

The resolution has been endorsed by the Sikh Coalition and Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

In 2001, after the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., Durbin introduced a resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Sikh Americans.

US Senator Todd Young Joins Resolution Recognizing Program Critical to US-Indo-Pacific Partnership

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) joined Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Edward J. Markey (D-Md.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), and Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) October 31 to announce a bipartisan resolution reaffirming the importance of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) to advancing the policy of the United States in the Indo-Pacific Region.

The Senators made the announcement as the 35th annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit begins today in Bangkok, Thailand.

"It is said that an 'ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' that is why we need to ensure the Indo-Pacific region's next generation knows they have a trustworthy friend in the United States," said Young. "America is strongest when we work with our partners, and when reassured of our commitment, those in the region will be less inclined to look towards the Communists in Beijing who do not share their values or interests."

"When the United States participates in youth training programs like YSEALI, we strengthen our partnerships and help promote

cooperation and stability around the world," said Merkley. "America's strength has always been rooted in our values, and YSEALI's contributions serve as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when the United States invests in the diplomatic and development-focused levers of American foreign policy."

"There are few efforts more important than strengthening people-to-people ties, and that is exactly what the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative does," said Markey. "Exchange programs to build the capacity of democracy, human rights, and good governance activists in the Indo-Pacific are indispensable, as we noted in the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act that we passed into law. I am proud to join my colleagues in this important legislation."

"Youth leadership programs like YSEALI build personal relationships and trust necessary to advance U.S. national security interests at minimal costs to the American taxpayer. It's critical that we build strong partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region, and people-to-people exchanges are the foundation for demonstrating U.S. leadership and advancing our values," said Gardner.

"The bipartisan Asia Reassurance Initiative Act, signed into law in December 2018, authorized robust funding to support initiatives like YSEALI, and I urge the Administration to fully follow through on implementation."

"Programs like YSEALI are an important part of breaking down barriers between the United States and nations in Southeast Asia," said Duckworth. "I've been honored to meet many YSEALI participants over the years and am inspired by their hard work to create meaningful change in their communities and their countries, which is one reason why I'm proud to be introducing this bipartisan resolution with my colleagues."

"The United States remains a beacon of hope for young people around the world yearning to build a better future for themselves and their countries, and programs like YSEALI are crucial for building partnerships with these emerging leaders," said Hirono. "I saw YSEALI's transformational impact firsthand when I met with a group of inspiring young professionals during a visit to Vietnam this spring. America is strongest when we connect with people

around the world who share our values, and I am proud to support this resolution to continue this important work."

Since the founding of YSEALI in 2013, the program has provided civic leadership and entrepreneurship training, as well as academic and professional exchanges in the United States for over 145,000 youth from ASEAN members, which include Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. YSEALI alumni have gone on to distinguish themselves as influential government officials, entrepreneurs, human rights activists, journalists, social entrepreneurs, and educators. Their wide-ranging accomplishments and efforts include relief efforts during the ISIS siege of Marawi, campaigns to combat the accumulation of plastics and save corals in oceans and organizing the first Pride Parade in northern Mindanao.

YSEALI's network includes valuable partners to embassies and agencies of the United States overseas, as the program raises the profile of the United States among ASEAN members and counters China's influence in the region.



Guru Nanak's principles more relevant today, say US lawmakers



Ambassador Shringla (third from left) felicitated Panelists on the first discussion Dr Paul Taylor, Head of the Asian Cultural History Program at the Smithsonian, Sonia Dhami, Executive Director, The Sikh Foundation International, Palo Alto, California and Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, Chair of the Department & Crawford Family Professor Religious Studies, Colby College, Maine

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regardless of gender, regardless of class, regardless of creed, everyone has been created equal," Young said.

In his address to a Capitol Hill event organized by the Indian embassy to celebrate the anniversary, Senator Young said his neighborhood is full of Sikh-American families.

"I'm also glad that your commitment to equality and inclusion has led to the historic agreement which allowed the border corridor between India and Pakistan to be thrown open for Sikhs to visit Guru Nanak's shrine just in time for the 550th birthday," Young said.

Congresswoman Judy Chu, founding member of the Congressional Sikh

Caucus and chair of Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, said the life of Guru Nanak "was a true example to all of us and one whose lessons we would do well to heed today".

Noting that Guru Nanak was a true humanitarian champion in the face of entrenched discrimination, she said he preached against prejudices based on race, cast and status.

He called for the equality of all individuals no matter what religion they practiced or caste they belonged to.

"He promoted the equality of all women during a time when women had low status and little respect in society. There is so much as a country that we should take away from the teachings of



A view of the gathering

Guru Nanak. His legacy is a legacy of peace and equality," Chu said.

Republican Congressman Greg Pence from Indiana referred to his speech on the House floor earlier in the day.

"Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special day for the Hoosier Sikh community and the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism," he said. This occasion is being celebrated by more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide on November 12, 2019, he said.

Indiana is proud to be home of over 10,000 Sikhs that enrich our communities, embody the meaning of Hoosier values. Hoosier Sikhs are one of the fastest growing business communities in Indiana and there are contributions to our economy and cultural value," he said.

"On this day, I am proud to stand with our friends in the Sikh community by offering legislation to celebrate this momentous occasion and honor their contributions to Indiana and to our great nation," Pence said.

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Singh Grewal said there was a need to

raise awareness about the Sikh faith more today than ever before and highlight the Sikhs' contributions to society.

"We also need to address how our teachings remain relevant in the modern era," said the first-ever Sikh Attorney General of any US State.

Indian Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the opening of the Kartarpur corridor between India and Pakistan was a historic day.

The Indian government had taken several actions to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, he said.

"We are very happy, of course, that on this particular day we have at the Capitol Hill such an important event that involves not only discourse on Sikh religion and history, but also the contribution of Sikh-American community to your country of citizenship," he said.

The event was also marked by an exhibition on the life and teachings of the founder of Sikhism along with two panel discussions. (Source: PTI)

USCIS to Deter Fraudulent Asylum Seekers from Obtaining Work Authorizations

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Nov 13 announced a proposed rule to deter aliens from illegally entering the United States and from filing frivolous, fraudulent or otherwise non-meritorious asylum applications in order to obtain employment authorization.

The proposed rule will better allow USCIS to extend protections to those with bona fide asylum claims. USCIS also seeks to prevent certain criminal aliens from obtaining work authorization before the merits of their asylum application are adjudicated.

The proposed rule stems from the April 29, 2019, Presidential Memorandum on Additional Measures to Enhance Border Security and Restore Integrity to Our Immigration System, which emphasizes that it is the policy of the United States to manage humanitarian immigration programs in a safe, orderly manner and to promptly

deny benefits to those who do not qualify. Nothing in this rule changes eligibility requirements for asylum. Instead, this rule strengthens the standards that allow an alien to work on the basis of a pending asylum application.

"Our immigration system is in crisis. Illegal aliens are gaming our asylum system for economic opportunity, which undermines the integrity of our immigration system and delays relief for legitimate asylum seekers in need of humanitarian protection," said Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli. "USCIS must take steps to address pull factors encouraging aliens to illegally enter the United States and exploit our asylum



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

framework. These proposed reforms are designed to restore integrity to the asylum system and lessen the incentive to file an asylum application for the primary purpose of obtaining work authorization."

As directed by the presidential memorandum, USCIS proposes to:

- Prevent aliens who entered the United States illegally from obtaining work authorization based on a pending asylum application, with limited exceptions; and
- Automatically terminate employment authorization when an applicant's asylum denial is administratively final.

Additionally, USCIS proposes to:

- Clarify that an asylum applicant's failure to appear for a required appointment may lead to dismissal of their asylum application and/or

denial of their application for employment authorization;

- Prevent aliens who fail to file their asylum application within one year of their latest entry as required by law from obtaining work authorization; and

- Render any alien who has been convicted in the United States of any federal or state felony or convicted of certain public safety offenses involving child abuse, domestic violence, or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, ineligible for employment authorization.

Unresolved arrests or pending charges may result in the denial of the application for employment authorization as a matter of discretion.

For more information, read the notice of proposed rulemaking that publishes in the Federal Register on Nov. 14. The comment period ends on Jan. 13, 2020.

10 MINISTERS INDUCTED INTO HARYANA CABINET

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Eighteen days after the BJP-led government was formed in Haryana, CM Manohar Lal Khattar expanded his ministry today, inducting six Cabinet Ministers and four Ministers of State. BJP's post-poll ally JJP was allotted a berth and so was an Independent. Kamlesh Dhanda was the sole woman MLA to be taken in the Cabinet, which still has two vacancies.

Governor Satyadev Narain Arya administered the oath amid cheering. Six-time MLA Anil Vij, former Speaker and three-time MLA KP Gurjar, Mool Chand Sharma, Ranjit Singh Chautala, Jai Parkash Dalal and Dr Banwari Lal took oath as Cabinet Ministers while Om Prakash Yadav, Kamlesh Dhanda, Anoop Dhanak and former Indian hockey captain Sandeep Singh took oath as Minister of State (independent charge). The Haryana Cabinet, that can have a total of 14 ministers, including the CM and Deputy CM, comprises four Jats, two Punjabis, two SCs and a Brahmin, Ahir, Gujjar and Sikh.

Ranjit Chautala, the younger brother of former CM Om Prakash Chautala, came to wish his nephew and Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala. The latter touched his feet. Ranjit was also a minister in the Devi Lal Cabinet. Gurjar said for proper coordination between the JJP and BJP, a committee had been set up to chalk out a common minimum programme.



ED arrests Fortis Healthcare ex-promoter Malvinder Singh

NEW DELHI (TIP): The ED on Thursday arrested former Fortis Healthcare promoter Malvinder Singh and former CMD of Religare Enterprises Ltd Sunil Godhwani in a money-laundering case related to alleged misappropriation of funds of Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL). The Enforcement Directorate (ED) took both the accused in its custody inside the Tihar central jail here, where they are currently lodged in a case filed by the Delhi Police in relation to the alleged scam, a lawyer associated with the case said.

Both Singh and Godhwani will be produced before a metropolitan magistrate in the prison, when the ED is likely to seek their custodial interrogation.

Singh and Godhwani are accused of laundering money, punishable under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the central agency said.

Chandrayaan-3: 2nd bid to land on Moon by next Nov

BENGALURU (TIP): After an unsuccessful bid two months ago, India may attempt another soft landing on the Moon by next year-end, probably in November, sources in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Thursday.

The organisation had constituted a high-level committee, headed by S Somanath, Director of Thiruvananthapuram-based Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, the lead centre responsible for all launch vehicle programmes of ISRO, to prepare a report on the proposed Chandrayaan-3.

"The report is awaited. The committee has been given guidelines to prepare the mission before the end of next year," said a senior ISRO official. "There is a good launch window in November," he said.

SC dismisses Rafale review plea

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a morale booster for the Narendra Modi government, the Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the review petitions against its December verdict in the Rafale deal for lack of merit and also refused to direct registration of a FIR into the Rs. 58,000-crore deal.

Reiterating its stand, the SC said it "did not consider it appropriate to embark on a roving and fishing enquiry". "We decline to, once again, embark on an elaborate exercise of analysing each clause, perusing what may be the different opinions, then taking a call whether a final decision should or should not have been taken in such technical matters," it said.

The Supreme Court bench comprised of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices Sanjay Kishen Kaul and KM Joseph.

"We cannot lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with a contract for aircraft, which was pending before different governments for quite some time and the necessity for those aircrafts has never been in dispute," the apex court said, while rejecting the pleas, including one filed by former Union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, and activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan, for re-examination of the apex court's December 14 verdict. The court had earlier ruled that there was no occasion to doubt the decision-making process of the government in the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets from French firm Dassault Aviation.

However, Justice Joseph, who wrote a separate but concurring judgment, said that the December order would not prevent the CBI from taking action on the complaint in accordance with law and subject to the investigating authority obtaining previous approval under



Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The Modi government had signed an agreement with France in 2016 for the purchase of Rafale fighter jets. Under the deal, French firm, Dassault Aviation was to supply 36 Rafale fighter jets to India in flyaway condition.

On the aspect of pricing, Justice Kaul, writing the judgment for the Bench, said that "the court satisfied itself with the material made available. It is not the function of this court to determine the prices nor for that matter can such aspects be dealt with on mere suspicion of persons who decide to approach the court. The internal mechanism of such pricing would take care of the situation. On the perusal of documents we had found that one cannot compare apples and oranges. Thus, the pricing of the basic aircraft had to be compared which was competitively marginally lower. As to what should be loaded on the aircraft or not and what further pricing should be added has to be left to the best judgment of the competent authorities."

While stating that the court has no jurisdiction to determine each aspect of the contract, the top court said that all aspects were considered by the competent authority and the different views

expressed considered and dealt with.

On the choice of induction of Anil Ambani's Reliance Aerostructure as an offset partner, the judges said that "the decision of whom to engage as the offset partner was a matter left to the suppliers (Dassault) and we do not think that much can be made out of it".

On petitioners' contention that there was contradictory material in the decision-making process, the Bench said: "...We, however, found that there were undoubtedly opinions expressed in the course of the decision-making process, which may be different from the decision taken, but then any decision making process envisages debates and expert opinion and the final call is with the competent authority, which so exercised it."

In the review pleas, the petitioners had cited leaked documents that stated that the defence ministry had in 2015 objected to "parallel negotiations" conducted by the Prime Minister's Office with France. It had also quoted from a dissent note written by three senior defence ministry officials who were the domain experts on the seven-member Indian negotiating team.

US officials to visit India next week to further trade talks: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP): A delegation of officials from the United States will travel to India next week to give final touches to the India-US trade deal.

Sources told ANI that the trade talks have been very constructive and covered a wide range of issues that were pending on the table.

The list of important items that have been on the table have been resolved and a package is being worked upon, ANI has learnt.

Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goel visited Washington on a three-day trip from November 12 to hold talks with his American counterpart Robert Lighthizer the next day, on November 13, to seek a breakthrough on some key knotty trade issues.

From D.C., the minister further headed to New York. The minister and Mr Lighthizer also had a telephonic conversation as a follow-up of the meeting.

Good discussions have been made in this visit and the rapport between the minister and his counterpart have resulted in a mutual understanding on equitable access for both sides, sources added.

Tensions on the trade front between the two countries had emerged in June after US President Donald Trump revoked preferential trade privileges, in response to which India imposed tariffs on 28 US products, including almonds and apples.

India was the biggest beneficiary of the Generalised



Trade tensions between India and US emerged in June after Donald Trump revoked preferential trade privileges, in response to which India imposed tariffs on 28 US products.

System of Preferences (GSP), a programme designed to help developing countries sell to US consumers.

On its part, India had also imposed retaliatory tariffs on 25 American goods, after the Donald Trump administration announced an end to the preferential trade treatment for India over the trade barriers.

Putin: Russia to deliver S-400 missiles to India as planned

Brasilia (TIP): Russia plans to deliver S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to India on schedule, President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

India agreed to buy the S-400 system from Russia last year despite US warnings the purchase could trigger sanctions against it. India said it needed the weapons to bolster its defences against China.

As far as the S-400 deliveries are concerned, everything is going according to plan. Our Indian colleagues have not asked to speed anything up, it's all going fine, Putin told reporters at a summit of BRICS countries in Brazil.

The timeframe for the supply of S-400 missile defence systems by Russia to India remains on track with the latter having made the first payment of \$850 million for the big-ticket defence deal worth more than \$5 billion.

The payment, amounting to about 15% of the total deal, was made in September though a special mechanism worked out by the two sides to avert attracting sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of the US, the people cited above added.

The people declined to go into details of the mechanism, given the sensitivity of the issues involved.

Over the past few months, India and Russia focused on alternative payment mechanisms to overcome the impact of potential US sanctions, including trade through a rupee-rouble mechanism (in which payments are made in rupees and roubles) or payments in euros for military hardware.

"There had been some concerns



about the delivery schedule for all the five systems being delayed to 2025. But with the payment having been made, the first system is expected to be delivered in 16 to 18 months," said one of the people cited in the first instance.

India and Russia had signed a deal worth an estimated \$5.4-billion for five S-400 systems during the annual summit of leaders of the two countries in October last year. Russian officials said then that the first system was expected to be delivered by 2020 and that all deliveries would be completed in a five-year period.

Washington has repeatedly pressured New Delhi not to go ahead with the S-400 deal or other purchases of military hardware from Russia, which continues to account for about 60% of India's military hardware. US officials have also expressed concern the S-400 could capture electronic signatures of American-origin military equipment and aerial platforms used by India and compromise them.

However, following a meeting with US secretary of state Mike Pompeo in October, external affairs minister S Jaishankar defended India's "sovereign right" to buy weapons and said the country won't be told by any state to not buy military hardware from Russia. Indian officials have also said the country meets the criteria for a waiver from US sanctions on the S-400 deal and that New Delhi can't "wish away" its long-standing defence ties with Moscow.

The US has also pressured Turkey to scrap a deal for S-400 systems, with President Donald Trump saying after a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday that the acquisition of such sophisticated weapons "creates some very serious challenges for us". The S-400 issue prompted the US to eject Turkey from the F-35 joint strike fighter programme.

In a recent letter to Erdogan, Trump warned he would have to impose sanctions on Turkey over the purchase of the S-400 systems.

Court stays bailable warrant against Shashi Tharoor for scorpion remark on PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Delhi court on Thursday stayed the bailable warrant issued against Congress lawmaker Shashi Tharoor in connection with a defamation case pertaining to his alleged "scorpion sitting on Shivling" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Naveen Kumar Kashyap had, on Monday, issued a bailable warrant against him after he failed to appear before it. The lawmaker had not moved an exemption application for the same.

The court had also directed the complainant, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajiv Babbar, to pay a sum of Rs 500 for not appearing before the court. In October 2018, Tharoor had stoked a controversy by invoking a news article where an unnamed RSS leader had compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a "scorpion sitting on a Shivling".

"There is an extraordinarily striking metaphor expressed by an unnamed RSS source to a journalist, who expressed their frustration to curb Modi -- 'Modi is like a scorpion sitting on a shivling. You can't remove him with your hand and you cannot hit it with a 'chappal' (slipper) either,' he had said. Tharoor had added, 'If you try to touch the scorpion, you will be stung, but if you hit a shivling with the chappal, it undermines all the sacred tenets of the faith. That may well be an interesting clue to the rather complex dynamics that exist between the Hindutva movement and the Moditva expression on it."



Verdict on women's right to enter Sabarimala final: Judge

NEW DELHI (TIP): Justices Rohinton Nariman and D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday lashed out at the "organised" violation of the Supreme Court's judgment in September 2018 that allowed women between the age of 10 and 50 to worship at the Sabarimala temple.

Justice Nariman, in a dissenting opinion on Thursday, said a judgment of the Constitution Bench was "openly flouted" when the nation had to witness the "sad spectacle of unarmed women between the ages of 10 and 50 being thwarted in the exercise of their fundamental right of worship".

"When the (legal) process is complete and a decision is pronounced, it is the decision of the Supreme Court and binds everyone. Compliance is not a matter of option," the judge said.

The judge's remarks were in reference to large-scale protests and violence which rocked Kerala in the aftermath of the September 2018 judgment.

Justice Nariman directed the Kerala government to give wide publicity to the dissenting opinion through the medium of television and newspapers and take steps to secure the confidence of the people.

The majority opinion led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and two other judges on the Bench, referring certain issues to a seven-judge Bench, however, superseded the opinion of Justices Nariman and Chandrachud.

NCP: Next Maharashtra CM from Sena, decision on Cong joining govt soon

MUMBAI (TIP): A tie-up between Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress to form the government in Maharashtra seemed likely as the three parties on Thursday said a common minimum programme (CMP) was being finalised.

Significantly, NCP said the next chief minister will be from Sena. "The next chief minister will be from Sena as it is our responsibility to ensure the self-respect of the party [Shiv Sena] that has left its old alliance. Whether Congress will be part of the government or will extend outside support will be decided soon," said Nawab Malik, NCP's Mumbai president.

Activities to form the government are expected to gain momentum after Sunday when NCP chief Sharad Pawar is expected to meet Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi.

According to leaders who are

privy to the developments, Gandhi and Pawar are likely to meet Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray soon after the scheduled meeting between first two leaders. It is likely to be a crucial meeting that can put the final stamp of agreement on the power-sharing formula.

Meanwhile, former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis told newly-elected Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) MLAs that no party can form the government in the state without BJP.

Maharashtra on Tuesday came under President's rule after no party could show numbers to form a government, 19 days after the Assembly polls.

For the first time since they began working on the formation of the government, leaders of the three parties sat together and discussed the details of their coalition. Following the meeting, they announced that they had prepared

the draft of a CMP for governance, which would now be sent to the heads of all three parties for their consent, following which it would be finalised.

"We have prepared the draft of the CMP. We will now send this to heads of three parties. They will finalise it," said Eknath Shinde, Sena's legislative unit head. Top state leaders from all three parties participated in the day-long deliberations.

Insiders said the three parties are expected to finalise the government-formation plan in the next few days.

There are different proposals being discussed between the three parties, according to the leaders who are involved in the process. That include sharing of chief ministership by Sena and NCP for a half tenure each or the chief minister's post to Sena for the entire tenure, with two deputy chief ministers from NCP and Congress.



RANI WINS MOST INFLUENTIAL CINEMA PERSONALITY AWARD

Actor Rani Mukerji on Friday received the Most Influential Cinema Personality Award in South-East Asia for her phenomenal work in 2018 flick *Hichki*. Time and again, she has proved her mettle as an actor having delivered some of the biggest blockbusters as well as the most loved movies of our generation.

Hichki had grossed over Rs 250 crores worldwide. "It is truly humbling for me to be called the Most Influential Cinema Personality. As an actor, I have been fortunate enough to have got films that inspired me and everyone who saw them on screen. Some of them sparked a conversation and also affected social change. I have a special liking towards films that leave an impact on the hearts and minds of people and make us ponder about the world that we live in," Rani, who is in Singapore, said.

She added: "I feel it is my responsibility to give voice to what's happening around me. *Hichki* was one such film and its message resonated worldwide with audiences, students, teachers and most importantly with people fighting the Tourette Syndrome."

EVELYN PLANS DESTINATION WEDDING NEXT YEAR

For actor Evelyn Sharma, it was nothing short of a romantic moment straight out of a fairytale when her boyfriend, Tushaan Bhindi knelt down to propose to her against the beautiful backdrop of Harbour Bridge in Sydney. Surprised by his move, Evelyn, who is head over heels in love with him, instantly said 'yes' and the two got engaged on October 8. The couple is all set to walk down the aisle and are busy planning their "big fat wedding".

When asked about the nuptial plans, Evelyn says, "We might have both Hindu-style wedding with pheras and a chapel wedding as well. There are so many beautiful places to select from for our destination wedding and honeymoon. The dates are yet to be finalised but the wedding is definitely happening next year."

The couple first met on a blind date last year, which was set up by a common friend. But what sparked the love between them was the mutual understanding and each other's quest to find ways to make the other happy. "That's the only secret of our love. Tushaan is a wonderful person and he amazes me every day with his compassion. He strives to become the best version of himself and we both share a passion for philanthropic causes."

On the work front, Evelyn, who was seen in this year's *Saaho*, she asserts that post marriage her career is not taking a back seat. "My career has been wonderful so far. I've always been very picky with the projects that I take up and I'll continue to do the same. I believe there are different seasons in life that require different approaches. There's more to life than money and fame. For now, it's time to settle down," says Evelyn, who would shuttle between India and Australia for work after marriage.



SALMAN KHAN DANCES WITH KATRINA KAIF AS THEY KICK OFF DA-BANGG TOUR

Actors Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif kicked off their Da-bangg tour in Dubai on Friday. The two performed to their hit song *Dil Diyan Gallan* from *Tiger Zinda Hai* on stage and got a lot of applause from the audience.

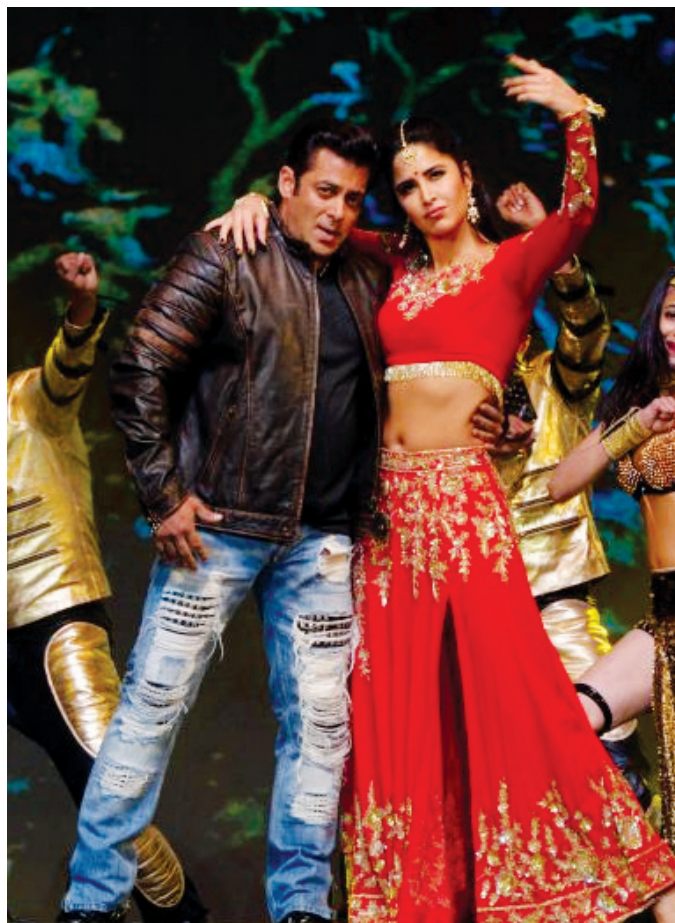
Dressed in a silver lehenga, Katrina performed with Salman to the song with a big smile. Salman was seen in a pair of black shirt and pants throughout the night and mouthed the song's lyrics as he swung Katrina around.

Katrina also performed to her *Thugs of Hindostan* song *Surraiya* in a red shimmery lehenga. She arrived on stage on a floating platform. Watch her videos here:

Salman also performed with other stars of the troupe, including Jacqueline Fernandez, Daisy Shah and Sonakshi Sinha. Jacqueline's performance to *Heeriye* got a lot of cheers from the crowd.

Salman is now looking forward to the release of *Dabangg 3*, in which he stars with Sonakshi Sinha and debutante Saiee Manjrekar. The movie is slated to release on December 20. At the trailer launch of the film, Salman said the film was made for critics. "I have worked on script of this film so, I want all the critics to criticise it. This film is for the critics (laughs). If we get bashing for this film then it will be not only in Mumbai but Chennai and Bangalore and the entire country. But if people will appreciate the film then, it will also resonate in the entire country," said Salman.

Co-star Sonakshi Sinha, who was also present at the event, chimed in agreement: "Films which gets bashing from critics becomes super duper hit at box office."



KRITI KHARBANDA: FOR NOW, PULKIT AND I ARE BEST FRIENDS

The past few years have not been easy for Pulkit Samrat. While he earned the reputation of being a brash actor, he hit choppy waters on the personal front. However, he now claims to be a changed person. "I realised ki mein yeh karne toh nahi aaya tha yahan pe (in Bollywood). Whatever sh*t happened, it changed things for me. I am really thankful to my family and friends, who helped me realise my mistakes and got me out of the pit," he says.

These days, he is being linked to his *Pagalpanti* co-star, Kriti Kharbanda. As we talk to the duo, ahead of the release of the Anees Bazmee-directorial, Pulkit also thanks Kriti for bringing about the change in him. "She has been the biggest force in helping me get my act together," he shares. Kriti proudly agrees, saying, "When the world was afraid to show him the mirror, I took up the responsibility."



Caitriona Balfe: Matt Damon is complete people's person

Actress Caitriona Balfe had fun working with Matt Damon in 'Ford v Ferrari', and said he is everybody's best friend.

"Matt is the solid kind of guy who is everybody's best friend, a complete people's person. I think everyone just wants to go and have a beer with Matt," Balfe said. "Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon's character) was the same. He had this integrity, was grounded, and you see all of this in Matt as well. So, yeah, they (Matt Damon and Christian Bale) really were the perfect casting," she added.

Damon along with Bale will be seen bringing alive a great track rivalry on the screen in 'Ford v Ferrari'.

MILEY TO TAKE A BREAK FROM MUSIC AS SHE RECOVERS FROM VOCAL CORD SURGERY

Miley Cyrus has been in the news this year more for her personal life shenanigans than her music. The singer/actress, who parted ways with long-time partner Liam Hemsworth earlier this year, also dated Kaitlynn Carter before the two went their separate ways. Miley is now in a relationship with Cody Simpson while Hemsworth has reportedly moved on with actress Maddison Brown. Recently, reports emerged that Miley, who was hospitalised for tonsillitis last month, has discovered a separate issue with her vocal cords. Doctors say she unknowingly had the condition for years and the same came to light only when she underwent surgery for tonsillitis. She had to undergo a vocal chord surgery and is now recuperating at home. Doctors have advised her rest for some time, which means that she needs to rest her voice for several weeks.

This automatically puts her music plans on hold. Miley was said to be working on new music, but will have to keep all recording and performing plans on hold till she recovers completely. Sources say the singer has taken things in her stride and is doing what the doctors say in order to recover completely and work on her music next year.

It is being said that her boyfriend, Cody Simpson is looking after her and giving her company as she recovers from the surgery.



JENNIFER ANISTON TREATS FANS WITH NEW THROWBACK PICTURE



Jennifer Aniston has a new treat for her 19 million Instagram fans and followers.

The actor gave a little sneak peek into her glam session by sharing a throwback snap from the popular television show's sets on Saturday.

Her adorable post, including an old-grainy snapshot and much newer one, came with a sweet birthday message to her long-time friend and hairstylist, Chris McMillan.

"Happy Birthday, Chrissy," she captioned her post, "We've come a long way, baby."

In the first picture, Aniston can be seen undergoing a hair styling session along with bold and bright makeup.

Whereas, in the second snap, the two

capture an adorable selfie. But, the 50-year-old star wasn't done showering love upon the celebrity hairstylist.

She uploaded a final and a third picture taking to her Instagram story. "One more pic, just because I [love] you," she wrote.

During an interview Jennifer gave some useful advice to a social media newbie, Mathew McConaughey saying, "Just try to have fun with it... Just don't overthink it."

Breaking the Guinness' world record, the actor garnered around 18.9 million followers since she signed up on Instagram on October 15. Her very first post on the platform earned more than 15 million likes. The post was a selfie with all her costars.



PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE OPENS UP ABOUT JAMES BOND WRITING ROLE

Fleabag writer-actor Phoebe Waller-Bridge said as one of the writers on 'No Time to Die', she will add a few of her own ideas and tweaks but she is not onboard to reinvent James Bond.

It was initially speculated that Waller-Bridge, whose feminist dark comedy 'Fleabag' has emerged one of the hottest shows of the year, said producers of the long-running spy drama are already changing the culture of the franchise. The 007 series is often criticised for its macho world and its skewed gender politics. "They were just looking for tweaks across a few of the characters and a few of the storylines," Waller-Bridge told.

"When I came on board I was just facilitating as (many) of their ideas and their instincts as possible," she added.

Waller-Bridge said she was adding 'little spices' to the script, including "a couple of bits and pieces of my own, and hope that they survive the process."

Asked if the producers had wanted her to help change the macho culture of Bond and the franchise, she said, "They were already doing that themselves. They're having that conversation with themselves the whole time."

'No Time to Die', the 25th film in Bond series and played by Daniel Craig for the fifth time, will meet with the fiction spy after he has left active service but is called back into action by an old friend.



Maurice Hines, Legend: On Film and Live

By Mabel Pais

"Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back" (The Film)

DOC NYC 2019 Grand Jury Prize Winner

"This documentary offers insight and new opportunities for compassion at a time when our world truly needs it. Maurice's story is beautifully complex and relevant"

- John Carluccio, Director/Editor/Co-Producer

Grand Jury Prize Winner: "Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back," directed by John Carluccio, looks at charismatic song-and-dance man Maurice Hines, who reflects on his life on stage from Broadway to Hollywood, as well as his tumultuous relationship with superstar brother Gregory Hines.

This film competing in the Metropolis Competition of DOC NYC 2019, November 6-15, 2019 in New York City was selected from among seven films in this section, which is dedicated to stories set in New York City.

Jurors' statement: "'Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back' beautifully captures one of the many fabulous stories NY has to offer, but transcends easy assumptions to become an emotional meditation on the universal theme of love, loss, family, art, aging and more."

"Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back" is a portrait of the charismatic song-and-dance man from his tap-dancing childhood to today. Maurice and friends-Chita Rivera, Mercedes Ellington and Debbie Allen tell tales from his seven-decade career, including Broadway shows, Hollywood films like Francis Ford Coppola's "The Cotton Club" and about his loving yet difficult relationship with superstar brother Gregory Hines. Ever battling the challenges of being a gay, black man in showbiz, Maurice shares his story with humor and grace. The documentary magically inter-cuts archival flashbacks with present-day Maurice. Captured are explosive bursts of tap, comedic moments, and a palpable loneliness as the 75-year-old navigates growing older without his younger brother by

his side. What still gives the vibrant elder showman hope, however, is his supportive community of friends and family.

On Twitter: MauriceHinesMov

On Facebook: MauriceHinesMovie

On Instagram: mauricehinesmovie

Director: John Carluccio

Producers: John Carluccio, Tracy E. Hopkins

Executive Producers: Debbie Allen, Charles Randolph-Wright

Editor: John Carluccio Writer: Tracy E. Hopkins

Cinematographer: John Carluccio Run Time: 97 minutes

CAST : Maurice Hines with Debbie Allen, Cheryl Davis, Silas Davis, Mercedes Ellington, Daria Hines, Zachary Hines, Mel Johnson Jr., Leo Manzari, John Manzari, Elise Neal, Richard Nurse, Chita Rivera, Jason Samuels Smith, Molly Smith, Jeffery V. Thompson, Charles Randolph-Wright And the Spirit of Gregory Hines.

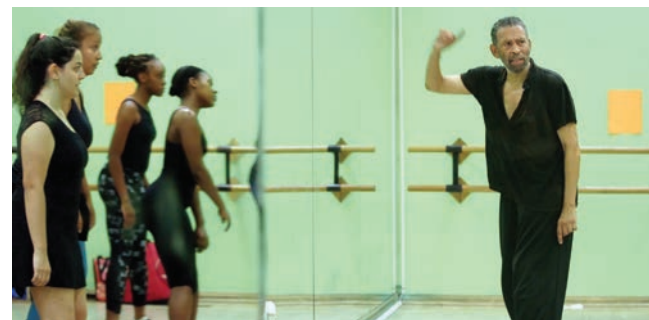
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY : John Carluccio

ABOUT JOHN CARLUCCIO :John Carluccio: Producer, Director, is a two-time Emmy nominated filmmaker with an eye for documenting under-recognized creative communities. He founded CINQUA, a creative documentary company that creates innovative content with the aim to educate, entertain and inspire. To learn more, visit johncarluccio.com. To learn more about his CINQUA, visit cinqua.com

ABOUT TRACY E. HOPKINS : Tracy E. Hopkins is an award-winning and widely published arts and entertainment journalist. With over 25 years of experience, she has interviewed hundreds of performing artists and written and reported for numerous media outlets including The Associated Press, PEOPLE, Essence, Entertainment Weekly, AARP and Broadway World, as well as produced news packages for BRIC TV (BRIC Arts



Child artists, (front) Gregory Hines with Maurice Hines



Maurice Hines teaching (2017) at Debbie Allen Dance Academy
Photos / Courtesy CINQUA

Media). To learn more, visit tracyhopkins.net

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT : "Creative partnerships are difficult. They are more difficult when working with family. They are even more difficult when you are in the public eye. I am especially drawn to telling this heightened story about brotherly love and the uneasiness of being estranged from a sibling."

"Maurice has said, 'I didn't always respect Gregory, but I never once stopped loving him.' This challenging gray area is what I desire to offer insight into. I'm fascinated by how publicly two brothers can appear connected, but in private they carry the lingering secret of separation."

"This documentary offers insight and new opportunities for compassion at a time when our world truly needs it. Maurice's story is beautifully complex and relevant." - John Carluccio, Director/Producer.

"Maurice Hines: Tapping Through Life" (Live)

"He's an old-school entertainer, the life of the party ... he's a spoonful of sugar and a shot of caffeine ... it's a pleasure to be in the company of a shameless, ebullient vaudeville heart"

- The Washington Post

".....a whirlwind: limber, graceful and seemingly carefree"

- The New York Times

Get ready to laugh, smile, and tap your feet (but please leave the tapping to Maurice Hines!) to the infectious song & dance of a Broadway legend, with the DIVA Jazz Orchestra!

NJPAC, Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m

Maurice Hines, Tony Award-nominated dance legend, fresh from a successful off-Broadway run, "Tappin' Thru Life" comes to The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)! Maurice, actor-director-singer-choreographer, taps us through his incredible career in this song-and-dance celebration that pays tribute to his younger brother, the legendary Gregory Hines and other performers who inspired him, from Frank Sinatra to Lena Horne. He'll be backed by his protégés and fellow hoofers (and siblings) John and Mary Manzari. Plus, Hines has invited four young local dancers-two sets of extremely talented twins who recently appeared in NJPAC's "The Tap Dance Kid" - to join him on stage! It's a celebration of brotherly love told through rhythm, music and fabulous feet.

Hines and his crew of uniquely gifted sib-sets will be, by the acclaimed all-female DIVA Jazz Orchestra, directed by Sherrie Maricle. "Tappin' Thru Life" includes Hines' distinctive take on your favorite American



Maurice Hines: Tapping Through Life Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

standards, including:

- o "Luck Be a Lady"
- o "Smile"
- o "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)"
- o "Get Me to the Church on Time"
- o "I've Got You Under My Skin"

Tony Award nominee Maurice Hines' Broadway credits include "Sophisticated Ladies," "Bring Back Birdie," and "Eubie!" He was featured on the big screen in Francis Ford Coppola's "The Cotton Club," and won raves for his direction and choreography of the hit musical, "Uptown ... It's Hot!" Hines' critically hailed jazz albums include Maurice: "I've Never Been in Love Before" and "To Nat King Cole, With Love." To learn more about Maurice Hines, visit mauricehines.com

Tickets for these performances are available at NJPAC.org or at the NJPAC Box Office, or at 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

ABOUT DIVA JAZZ ORCHESTRA : Hard-charging,

Powerful, Immersed in the history of their craft and in total command of their instruments, That's DIVA - an ensemble of 15 extremely talented and versatile musicians who just happen to be women.

Sherrie Maricle, leader and swinging drummer of The DIVA Jazz Orchestra, won a 2014 Ovation award for best music direction for "Tappin' Thru Life." DIVA has toured the world and has been featured on a variety of TV specials, including the 25th anniversary of the Kennedy Center, CBS Sunday Morning and the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular. To learn more, visit divajazz.com

ABOUT NJPAC : The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, N.J., has the most diverse programming and audience of any performing arts center in the country, and is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day.

NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 9 million visitors (including over 1.7 million children and families) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

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



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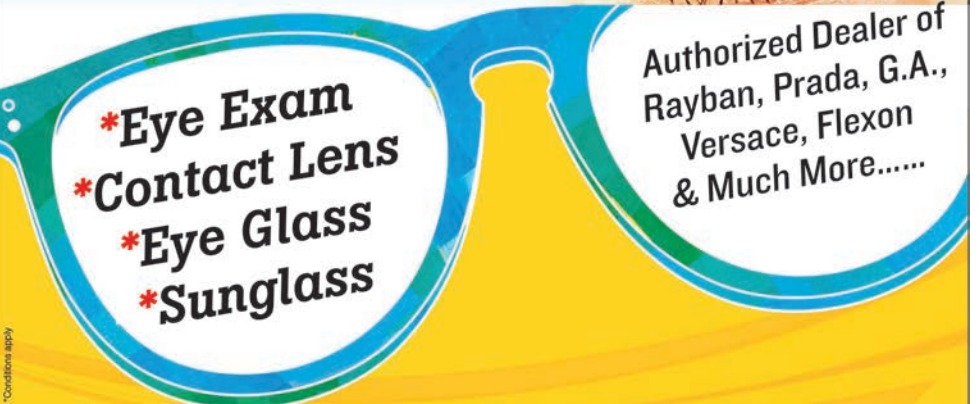
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Truce after spike in Israel-Gaza violence

GAZA CITY (TIP): A Gaza Strip ceasefire came into effect early Nov 14, an Egyptian source and a senior Islamic Jihad official said, following a spike in violence and bloodshed in the Palestinian enclave.

The “ceasefire agreement comes as a result of Egypt’s efforts” and has been endorsed by “Palestinian factions including Islamic Jihad”, said the top Egyptian official. An Islamic Jihad source confirmed the agreement.

According to the official, the agreement stipulates that Palestinian factions must ensure a return to calm in Gaza and “maintain peace” during demonstrations, while Israel must stop hostilities and “ensure a ceasefire” during demonstrations by Palestinians. — AFP

Kuwait govt resigns after grilling on infra

KUWAIT CITY (TIP): Kuwait's Cabinet submitted its resignation on Nov 14, days after the country's minister of public works announced she would step down after being grilled by parliament.

Some elected lawmakers had accused Jenan Ramadan, who is also minister of state for housing, of failing to fix infrastructure and roads that were damaged in massive floods in 2018.

Ten lawmakers had filed a no-confidence motion against her, according to local media.

Ramadan had claimed, however, that the problems plaguing her ministry are long-running and argued she should not be held responsible for issues that precede her time as minister.

There was also reportedly an effort underway among lawmakers to request to grill the country's powerful Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Shiekh Khaled Al Jarrah Al Sabah. — PTI

World's oldest captive white rhino dies in French zoo

RENNES (TIP): The world's oldest captive white rhino, South African-born Sana, has died at the age of 55, the French zoo that she called home for the last 26 years said November 14. Born in 1964 in the Umfolozi National Park in South Africa's eastern KwaZulu-Natal province, the southern white rhino was transported to Europe seven years later as a zoo attraction. Sana lived in several parks in Germany before arriving in 1993 at Planete Sauvage, a zoo in western France near the city of Nantes that had opened the previous year. AFP

Emperor Naruhito performs centuries-old night time Daijosai ceremony as key succession rite

TOKYO (TIP): Emperor Naruhito performed from November 14 evening a centuries-old Shinto thanksgiving ceremony known as the Daijosai, the last of the major succession rituals following his enthronement in May. The state-funded rite has stirred controversy for its religious aspects.

The Yukiden Kyosen no Gi event started at 6:30 p.m. and lasted for about three hours.

It was followed by the Sukiden Kyosen no Gi rite, which started around 12:30 a.m. Friday in the Sukiden hall, built for his once-in-a-lifetime event along with dozens of other temporary buildings on a 6,500-square-meter plot of land.

That ritual was conducted with newly harvested grain from Kyoto Prefecture.

The Sukiden Kyosen no Gi ended at around 3:15 a.m.

Guided by ceremonial officials bearing small torches, the 59-year-old emperor, clad in a white robe, entered the Yuki Hall — part of the gigantic Daijokyu Halls specially constructed on the Imperial Palace grounds for the ceremony.

For the first time, the emperor offered newly harvested rice to the Shinto sun goddess Amaterasu, the mythical ancestress of the imperial family, as well as the deities of heaven and Earth. He partook of it himself to give thanks and pray for the peace and prosperity of Japan.

A total of 510 people, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, lawmakers, prefectural governors and other representatives, observed the first part of the rite from nearby. Empress Masako, dressed in a white layered court kimono,



also paid tribute at another hall in the compound.

Although details of the main ceremony were not disclosed, scholars have said the emperor, with the help of two maidservants and using bamboo chopsticks, placed food offerings, including rice, salmon, abalone and sweet chestnuts, from boxes made of oak leaves onto over 30 dishes more than 500 times before reading out a message to the ancestral gods and deities. In the message, He thanked them for an abundant harvest and prayed for a peaceful country.

A theory put forward by folklorist Shinobu Orikuchi (1887-1953) that the emperor unites with gods on beds prepared inside the sanctum halls drew attention when the last ceremony was held in 1990 for former Emperor Akihito,

but the Imperial Household Agency has dispelled that view.

Security was tight, with police standing guard and a number of security vehicles positioned around the palace.

About 150 people attended a rally held by a group opposed to Japan's imperial system in front of Tokyo Station, which is near the palace, according to the organizer.

“There are so many people affected by (recent) typhoons. It's wrong that a lot of tax money has been poured into the Daijosai when we're only halfway done with rebuilding,” said one participant.

“The imperial system is wrong because it makes a distinction between those born noble and not. I want people to know that some are opposed to it,” said a 67-year-old freelance editor.

Japantimes.com

Bolivian senator claims interim presidency

LA PAZ (TIP): Bolivians have new uncertainty to grapple with now that opposition Sen Jeanine Añez declared herself interim President of the crisis-torn Andean country just hours after Evo Morales flew off to self-exile in Mexico.

Questions remained about who might rally around Añez, while Morales' supporters angrily accused her of trying to seize power in her declaration, raising the prospect of more troubles following clashes over the disputed October 20 presidential election.

People took to the streets cheering and waving national flags on Tuesday night after Añez claimed the post of Senate leader, the position next in line for the presidency. Furious supporters of Morales responded by trying to force their way to the Congress building in La Paz yelling, “She must quit!”

Añez, a women's rights activist and former TV presenter, seemed in a



tenuous position. She declared herself interim president even though she lacked a quorum in the Senate after Morales' party boycotted the session, and she wasn't sworn in by anyone before appearing on a balcony of the old presidential palace wearing the presidential sash.

Morales resigned shortly after an Organization of American States audit reported widespread irregularities in the vote count. He is in Mexico, but his resignation still needs approval by both Houses of Congress, and lawmakers could not assemble the numbers for formal sessions. — AP



Tempers flare over rebuilding of Notre-Dame spire

PARIS (TIP): The French army general charged with overseeing the rebuilding of Paris' fire-mangled Notre-Dame, has caused astonishment by publicly telling the cathedral's chief architect to "shut his mouth" in a sign of tension over the monument's future look.

General Jean-Louis Georgelin and chief architect Philippe Villeneuve are at odds over whether to replace the cathedral's spire—which was toppled in the April 15 blaze—with an exact replica, or mix things up with a modern twist.

President Emmanuel Macron, who appointed Georgelin to head the massive reconstruction project, has said he is in favour of adding a "contemporary" touch.

But Villeneuve insists the tower must be redone exactly as it was before.

Tensions boiled over into an open squabble at a meeting of the cultural affairs committee of the National Assembly—the lower house of parliament—late Wednesday.

"As for the chief architect, I have already explained that he should shut his mouth," Georgelin erupted, to gasps of astonishment from those present at the meeting.

The former army chief of staff suggested that "we move ahead in wisdom so that we can serenely make the best choice for Notre-Dame, for Paris, for the world".

He said the final option will be decided in 2021, and called in the meantime for the "hustle and bustle" over the issue to stop.

Georgelin confirmed the five-year timeframe set by Macron for rebuilding



the religious edifice—a deadline some experts see as too ambitious.

Villeneuve, however, has previously said the target could only be met if the spire is rebuilt to resemble its former self.

The Notre-Dame, part of a UNESCO world heritage site covering the banks of the river Seine in Paris, lost its gothic spire, roof and many precious artefacts in the April 15 blaze.

Paris prosecutors said in June a poorly stubbed-out cigarette or an electrical fault could have started the fire and opened an investigation into criminal negligence.

Last month, the culture ministry said nearly one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) had been pledged or raised for the gargantuan reconstruction.

The cathedral remains enveloped in scaffolding and plastic sheeting.

Georgelin told MPs the Notre-Dame "remains in danger".

"The phase of securing the edifice is not over. It will be done when the scaffolding around the spire has been dismantled," he said, and warned of winter gales threatening to "destabilise" the temporary, protective structure.

On the positive side, the Notre-Dame "no longer seems to be emitting lead" offsite—a major concern shortly after the disaster that saw hundreds of tonnes of lead in the roof and steeple melt.

Villeneuve, the cathedral's architect since 2013, told the RTL broadcaster last month: "Either I restore it identically, it will be me, or they make a contemporary spire and it will be someone else." — AFP

Cambodia's Angkor temple complex ending elephant rides

PHNOM PENH (TIP): Officials in Cambodia have ordered that elephants that serve as tourist attractions at the country's famed Angkor temple complex be moved to a new home in a suitable jungle area.

The agency that oversees the Angkor site said in a statement on November 14 it is important for the animals to be able to live in their natural habitat, and there are other ways to provide attractions and rides for tourists.

Some of the 14 elephants officially at the site are old and in ill health. They have been providing rides for tourists since 2001. A female elephant there died of heart failure in the heat after giving a tourist a ride.

The agency said tourists will be allowed to see the elephants at their new location but not ride them. — AP

Teenager kills one, injures three in Russian college

MOSCOW (TIP): A 19-year-old student in Russia's Far East opened fire in his college on Thursday morning, killing one classmate and injuring three other people before shooting himself, investigators said.

The male student in a construction college in the town of Blagoveshchensk "murdered his classmate and wounded three using a rifle registered to him," the Investigative Committee of far-eastern Amur region said.

"During (police) attempts to apprehend him, he shot himself dead," investigators said.

The victim was also 19 while the injured students ranged from 17 to 20 years old.

The small college in the town centre was surrounded with police cars and some of the streets were closed off on Thursday, local website Amur.Info said, adding that the shooter likely used a shotgun in the middle of a lecture attended by 20 people.

Russia has relatively few school shootings due to normally tight security in educational facilities and the difficulty of buying firearms legally but it is possible to register hunting rifles.

Last October, a teenage gunman killed 20 people and injured more than 40 at his college in Moscow-annexed Crimea, apparently inspired by the 1999 Columbine high school shooting in the United States. AFP

Chaos prevails in HK as protests intensify

HONG KONG (TIP): Pro-democracy protesters today stepped up a 'blossom everywhere' campaign of road blocks and vandalism across Hong Kong that has crippled the international financial hub this week and ignited some of the worst violence in five months of unrest.

The new phase in the crisis, which has forced schools and shopping malls to close as well as the shutdown of large chunks of the vital train network, has prompted the police to warn the city is on the verge of "total collapse and a breakdown".

China, facing the biggest challenge to its rule of the territory since it was handed back by the British in 1997, has insisted it will not buckle to the pressure and warned of even tougher security measures.

Protesters choked roads and blocked traffic with anything they could lay their hands on including bricks, bicycles, couches and other materials. Key arterials routes were targeted in morning and after-work peak hours.

Various lines on the subway — used daily by more than half of the city's 7.5 million people — were also suspended,



forcing many workers to stay at home.

In the Central business district, hundreds of people left their offices at lunchtime to join the more hardcore protesters setting up barricades outside luxury-item shops and headquarters of big financial firms.

Masked protesters dressed in their signature black were also locked in a series of tense standoffs at university campuses, following intense clashes on Tuesday night that saw police fire tear

gas and rubber bullets.

"The rioters' intention is to bring Hong Kong into a total breakdown. No excuse, no political motives can justify or glory this madness," police spokesman John Tse told reporters on Wednesday.

The protest movement has been fuelled by anger that China is choking the liberties and freedoms that Hong Kong is meant to have under the terms of the handover deal with the British. — AFP

PERIOD MYTHS WE NEED TO SET STRAIGHT

All women have to suffer the agony of menstruation but much more incessant is the dark cloud of cultural nuances that hammer us down. As soon as the pitiable and othered days, we have our mommies telling us what to do and what not to do. Poor thing is that the infiltrators of this half-believed, half-cooked knowledge are women themselves and we have no option but to comply with these myths about periods. So, here's looking into the hell that is made of those five days of our everyday living.

Myth 1: We're always on 'that time of the month'

First of all, it's important to understand that a woman's menstrual cycle is not the same as her period. The actual time that a woman bleeds is known as menstruation, but her menstrual cycle is the entire time from one period starting to the next.

Although it's widely circulated that a woman's menstrual cycle lasts 28 days, that's only an average number. Some women's cycles are much longer, from 29 to 35 days, while others can be shorter. Situations like travel, weight fluctuation, emotions, and medication can all affect when a woman's period occurs, too.

So, comments about how women are "always on their time of the month" aren't appreciated. Every period is like every woman — unique to the individual.

Myth 2: The pain of a period is 'just like' anything you've experienced

The pain we get during a period is real. We're not talking about headaches or bumping into sharp corners. Some of us have to take off work and curl up in bed, hoping the pinching cramps will subside because it's that bad.

This condition even has a medical name: dysmenorrhea. In fact, around 20 percent of women have dysmenorrhea that's severe enough to interfere with their daily activities. This condition affects our ability to concentrate, makes



us more anxious, and can make us downright unpleasant. It's also not anything you've experienced before.

Myth 3: It's OK to dismiss our feelings when we're on our period

There's a very real physical change in a woman's body during this time. In the days leading up to a woman's period beginning — when she's "PMSing" — her levels of estrogen plummet, while her levels of progesterone sharply increase.

Estrogen is linked to serotonin, the

"happy hormone," and progesterone is linked to the part of the brain that causes fear, anxiety, and depression. The effects of hormones on mood are complicated, and while progesterone may depress some emotions, it has a mood-balancing effect. There's a very real physical change in a woman's body during this time. In the days leading up to a woman's period beginning — when she's "PMSing" — her levels of estrogen plummet, while her levels of progesterone sharply increase.

Estrogen is linked to serotonin, the

"happy hormone," and progesterone is linked to the part of the brain that causes fear, anxiety, and depression.

The effects of hormones on mood are complicated, and while progesterone may depress some emotions, it has a mood-balancing effect.

Myth 4: Hormones define women

Speaking of hormones, women have been accused of being "hormonal" for a long time. Some men have even equated our feelings to hysteria, as if it's an illness, to explain female behavior, but news flash: Everyone has hormones, and nobody likes them to be messed with. Even men. Just take a look at this study on male contraception, which was discontinued because participants couldn't handle contraception's side effects of acne, injection pain, and emotional disorders.

Women accept these same side effects with their birth control, even if they negatively affect our overall well-being.

Myth 5: Period blood is dirty blood

Period blood isn't rejected body fluids or the body's way of flushing out toxins. Think of it as evolved vaginal secretion — there's a little bit of blood, uterine tissue, mucus lining, and bacteria.

But it doesn't change whether or not we can have sex, and it doesn't mean conditions are less than ideal down there. Period blood is very different from blood that moves continuously through the veins. In fact, it's less concentrated blood. It has fewer blood cells than ordinary blood.

Checklist for skin care during winter season

Be a friend to a moisturiser, use face oils and avoid excessive exfoliation to get a natural glow despite the chill in the air. Megha Shah, cosmetologist at Beauty & Curves Clinic, Surat, has shared a few skin care tips that can be followed during winter season:

- Cool breeze may deprive your skin of the essential moisture that keeps it soft. Apply and then reapply the moisturiser. But make sure that it is not too heavy for your skin. Otherwise, it will make your skin look oily and dark. A gel-to-cream base moisturiser would be ideal for any skin type.
- Bio oil not only offers anti-ageing properties, but also provides nourishment to the skin. These oils add a protective layer to your skin and offer that super glow.
- Hot water takes off the natural oil from the body, it plays havoc if you already have a dry skin. A lukewarm water is ideal to suit your body temperature as



it does not dilate capillaries due to excessive heat.

- Have a nutritionally rich diet or food items rich in Omega 3 for a glowing skin. Nuts and seasonal vegetables are great for your skin. Avoid starchy and sugary foods as they may cause bloating and acne.

- Since your skin is already dry during winter season, excessive exfoliation will wash off all the natural oils from the skin and can damage it badly causing redness. Use gentle exfoliators like oatmeal and coffee powder, and seal it with a cream.

FOOD CORNER

COCOUNT CHICKEN CURRY

Ingredients

- 8 Pepper corns (Kalimirchi), 6 Coriander Roots (Dhania), 3 cms thinly sliced Ginger (Adrak)
- 625 ml Coconut milk, 2 thinly sliced Green chilli (Hari mirch), 1 Lime Peel, 4 shredded Lime Leaves (Nimbu Ke Patte), 1 kg cut into 8 pieces Chicken, 1 tbslp Fish Sauce, 3 tbslp Lime Juice (Nimbu Ka Raas), 3 tbslp chopped Coriander (Dhania), To taste Salt (Namak)

Method

- Beat peppercorns, coriander roots and ginger together. Heat peppercorn mixture in a wok.
- Stir in chillies, coconut milk, lime peel and leaves. Heat to simmering point.
- Mix the chicken pieces.
- Cook over medium heat till the chicken is tender and liquid is reduced, it will take about 40 to 45 minutes. Mix fish sauce, salt and lime juice.





STRESS HORMONE CONTROLS YOUR BODY CLOCK 24/7

Stress hormone, and not neurons, manage the fixed circadian rhythm that controls everything from sleep needs to body temperature, the researchers have found.

Our internal clock is controlled by some very distinct hereditary genes, known as clock genes. These genes are particularly active in the so-called suprachiasmatic nucleus area of the brain.

However, these areas of the brain are not directly linked by neurons, and this made researchers at the University of Copenhagen curious.

Using lab tests, the team demonstrated that the circadian rhythm is controlled by the stress hormone, corticosterone.

"In humans, the hormone is known as cortisol, and although the sleep rhythm in rats is the opposite of ours, we basically have the same hormonal system," said Associate Professor Martin Fredensborg Rath from the Department of Neuroscience.

In the study with the stress hormone corticosterone, the researchers removed the suprachiasmatic nucleus in a number of rats.

As expected, this removed the circadian rhythm of the animals.

However, the circadian rhythm of the cerebellum was restored when the rats were subsequently implanted with a special programmable micropump.



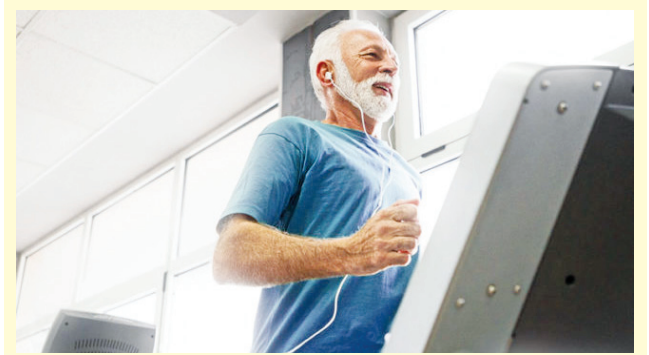
In this case, however, the researchers used the pump to emit doses of corticosterone at different times of the day and night, similar to the animals' natural rhythm.

"Nobody has used these pumps for anything like this before. So technically, we were onto something completely new," said Rath.

With the artificial corticosterone supplement, researchers were again able to read a rhythmic activity of clock genes in the animals.

"This is interesting from a scientific point of view, because it means that we have two systems - the nervous system and the hormonal system - that communicate perfectly and influence one another, all in the course of a reasonably tight 24-hour programme," Rath elaborated.

The researchers now plans to study other rhythmic hormones in a similar manner, including hormones from the thyroid gland.



STAYING ACTIVE DURING HEART ATTACK RECOVERY CAN DECREASE RISK OF DEATH BY 30%

It's never too late to start exercising — even if you've had a heart attack. In fact, a new study shows that exercising regularly after you've recovered from a heart attack can lower your risk of dying.

Physical activity is also safe for most people, with benefits seen even from brisk walking for just 30 minutes a day.

"This study provides additional evidence that regular physical activity — such as a structured cardiac rehabilitation program — is a key part of maintaining wellness after recovery from an acute event [such as a heart attack]," said Dr. M. Wesley Milks, medical director of cardiac rehabilitation at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, in Columbus, Ohio, who wasn't involved in the study.

Exercise works after heart attack

In the study, researchers from Harvard University examined data on more than 1,500 male survivors of a heart attack. The men were followed for about 14 years as part of the Harvard Health Professionals Follow-Up Study.

Researchers found that men who increased their physical activity from a low level before a heart attack to a high level afterward were 27 percent less likely to die from any cause, compared to men who stayed at a low level.

This was true only for men who continued to exercise at the higher level for more than a few years.

"Those who only participated in exercise shortly after the heart attack and then petered out did not have these survival benefits," said Dr. Victoria Shin, chair of the cardiology division at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, in Torrance, California, who wasn't involved in the study.

Men who were high-level exercisers before their heart attack and were able to resume that level afterward benefitted even more: They were 39 percent less likely to die from any cause, compared to low-level exercisers.

In addition, men who walked at least half an hour a day after their heart attack were 29 percent less likely to die. That's 210 minutes a week, which exceeds the physical activity recommendations.

How fast men walked after their heart attack also mattered: The faster their pace, the lower their risk of dying. The new study didn't include women, although the results are similar to an earlier study done in postmenopausal women.

DON'T LIKE VEGETABLES? IT MAY BE YOUR GENES

Why is it difficult for some people to eat vegetables? Researchers at the University of Kentucky believe a certain gene makes compounds in some vegetables taste particularly bitter to some people, so they avoid nutritious, heart-healthy vegetables like broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cabbage.

Such individuals may also have a similar sensitivity to dark chocolate, coffee, and beer, according to Jennifer L. Smith, a licensed registered nurse and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine and one of the authors of the preliminary study.

The study, which will be presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions in Philadelphia November 16-18, is based on some previous work that found that this genotype was associated with the types of vegetables eaten by college students.

Humans are born with two copies of a taste gene called TAS2R38. Those who inherit two copies of the variant called AVI are not sensitive to the bitterness of these chemicals. But those who inherit one copy of AVI and one copy of PAV are especially sensitive and find these foods particularly bitter, Smith said.

For this study, researchers investigated the possibility that this association existed in people with two or more cardiovascular disease risk factors. Over a 3-year period, they conducted a secondary analysis of data using a sample from a previous study that investigated gene interactions in people at risk for



cardiovascular disease. They analyzed food frequency questionnaires from 175 people.

The average age of the respondents was 52. More than 70 percent of them were female. They found that people with the PAV form of the gene were more than 2 1/2 times as likely to rank in the bottom half of vegetables consumed.

This study could change how doctors approach people who are advised to change their diet in order to have a healthier cardiovascular system.

"This association could influence their ability to alter their diets to meet a heart-healthy eating pattern," Smith said.

Still, Smith said more research needs to be done about the best way to encourage people to eat their vegetables.

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Low-cost AI sensor may help save children, pets left in cars

A newly developed small, low-cost artificial intelligence (AI) enabled sensor may help save children or pets left alone in vehicles by triggering an alarm, scientists said on Monday.

The device combines radar technology with AI to detect unattended children or animals with 100-percent accuracy, according to the researchers at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

The device, which is small enough to fit in the palm of a hand at just three centimetres in diameter, is designed to be attached to a vehicle's rear-view mirror or mounted on the ceiling, they said.

The system works by sending out radar signals that are reflected back by people, animals and objects in the vehicle. The built-in AI then analyses the reflected signals.

"It addresses a serious, world-wide problem. The system is so affordable it could become standard equipment in all vehicles," George Shaker, an engineering professor at Waterloo said in a statement.

The researchers acknowledge that the development of the wireless, disc-shaped sensor was funded in part by an automotive parts manufacturer that is aiming to bring it to market by the end of 2020.



Twitter leads in child abuse content on social media

The UK-based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has revealed that nearly half of the child abuse content in the social media space is being shared openly on micro-blogging platform Twitter.

According to a report in The Telegraph that accessed the IWF data, 49 per cent of the images, videos and url links it found on social media, search engines and cloud services in the last three years were on Twitter - "making up 1,396 of the total 2,835 incidents".

This is a scary incident as the child abuse images and videos slipped through Twitter's filters and were available for anyone to see.

According to the IWF, it helps minimise the availability of online sexual abuse content, specifically child sexual abuse content hosted anywhere in the world. The majority of its work focuses on the removal of child sexual abuse images and videos.

"We search for child sexual abuse images and videos and offer a place for the public to report them anonymously. We then have them removed," it said on its website.

Microsoft's Bing search engine was second in the IWF report, with 604 incidents recorded between 2016 and 2018, followed by Amazon with 375 and Google with 348.

GOOGLE SECRETLY GATHERING HEALTH DATA OF AMERICANS

Google is reportedly gathering health information of millions of US citizens—without informing them or their doctors—to design an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven software, the media reported.

According to a report in The Wall Street Journal, "Google is engaged with one of the US's largest health-care systems on a project to collect and crunch the detailed personal-health information of millions of people across 21 states" and at least 150 Google staffers may have access to the data.

St. Louis-based faith-based healthcare organisation Ascension is sharing lab results, diagnoses and hospitalisation records—as well as health histories complete with patient names and dates of birth—with Google, the report claimed.

"The initiative, code-named 'Project Nightingale,' appears to be the biggest effort yet by a Silicon Valley giant to gain a toehold in the health-care industry through the handling of patients medical data," the report said.

The crunching of health data is the next big frontier for tech giants as Apple to Amazon and Microsoft are aiming big to infuse data findings into their devices and solutions in the burgeoning healthcare space.

The New York Times later wrote that "dozens of Google employees"



may have access to sensitive patient data and some may have downloaded that data too.

As part of "Project Nightingale", Ascension uploaded patient data to Google's Cloud servers.

In a blog post, Google tried to clarify its partnership with Ascension. "All of Google's work with Ascension adheres to industry-wide regulations regarding patient data, and come with strict guidance on data privacy, security and usage," said Tariq Shaikat, President, Industry Products and Solutions, Google Cloud.

Google said it has a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with Ascension, which governs access to Protected Health Information (PHI) for the purpose of helping providers

support patient care.

"To be clear: under this arrangement, Ascension's data cannot be used for any other purpose than for providing these services we're offering under the agreement, and patient data cannot and will not be combined with any Google consumer data," said the company.

Ascension also issued a statement, saying it is working with Google to optimise the health and wellness of individuals and communities, and deliver a comprehensive portfolio of digital capabilities that enhance the experience of Ascension consumers, patients and clinical providers across the continuum of care.

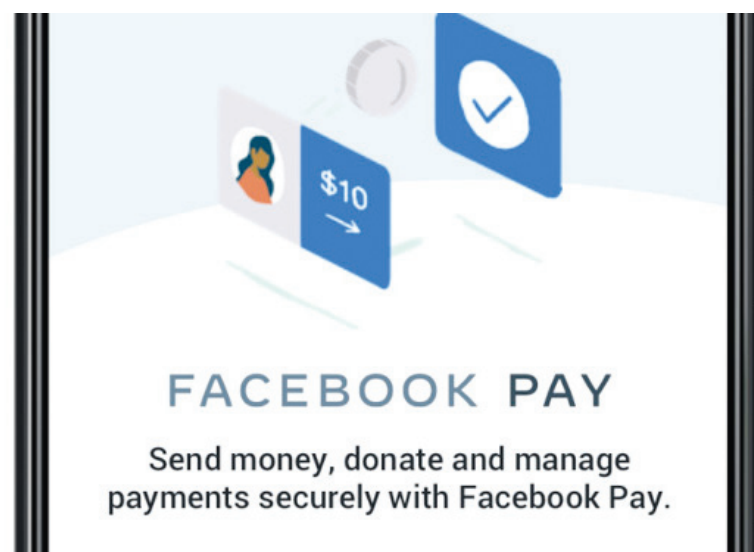
FACEBOOK PAY: HOW TO SET UP, AND HOW IT IS DIFFERENT FROM WHATSAPP PAY

Facebook on Wednesday introduced a new payment platform, Facebook Pay. The new service is aimed at making payments easier across Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Currently available in the US only, Facebook Pay comes before WhatsApp Pay roll-out in India which is expected to happen by the end of this year.

What is Facebook Pay?

Facebook and Instagram both allow users to sell products on their platforms. While Facebook has a dedicated Marketplace, Instagram has been expanding its shopping feature. Facebook Pay will allow users to shop, donate to causes, and even send money to friends.

With Facebook Pay, you can add a preferred payment method to make payments. This will do away with the need to re-enter payment information each time you shop. Facebook also lets you set up Facebook Pay app-by-app which means the service isn't automatically enabled. Users can see their payment history, manage methods, and make changes to the Settings in one place. Facebook will also provide real-time customer support for its new service.



How, where to use it?

If you're living in the US, here's how you can set up Facebook Pay.

STEP 1: Go to Settings > Select Facebook Pay on the app or website.

STEP 2: Select a payment method

STEP 3: Whenever you make your next transaction, select Facebook Pay.

Facebook says its new service is compatible with most major debit and credit cards and even Paypal.

Initially, Facebook Pay will be available to Facebook and Messenger. Users can use Facebook

Pay for in-game purchases, peer-to-peer payments on Messenger, payments on select Pages and businesses on Facebook Marketplace. You can also use the service to make payments for fundraisers.

WhatsApp Pay

WhatsApp Pay is expected to roll out in India by the end of this year. Based on UPI (Unified Payment Interface), WhatsApp Pay has been available to select users as part of beta trials. WhatsApp Pay has so far focused on peer-to-peer payments.



No claimants for dormant Swiss accounts of Indians; some may get liquidated soon

NEW DELHI/ZURICH (TIP): No claimants have come forward for about a dozen dormant Swiss bank accounts linked to Indians, leaving the funds lying in these accounts at the risk of getting transferred to the Switzerland government.

The Swiss government began making details of dormant accounts public in 2015 to allow their claimants submit necessary proof to get access to those funds, which included at least 10 accounts linked to Indians.

These included some accounts linked to Indian residents and nationals from the British rule era, but ironically not a single dormant account linked to an Indian has been successfully claimed in the last six years, as per the records available with the Swiss authorities.

The claim period for some of these accounts would expire next month, while a few others can still be claimed till the end of 2020.

Incidentally, some of the accounts linked to Pakistan residents have been claimed since then, as is the case with several other accounts linked to residents from other countries including Switzerland itself.

The list included close to 2,600 dormant accounts when it was first made public in December 2015, which had around 45 million Swiss francs (over Rs 300 crore) lying unclaimed since at least 1955. There were also nearly 80 safety unclaimed deposit boxes when the



list was first made public for claims from the real owners or their heirs.

More accounts are being added every year since then after they become dormant under the Swiss banking laws and the list now includes nearly 3,500 accounts.

While Swiss bank accounts have been a matter of heated political debate for many years in India due to suspicion that they were being used to hoard alleged black money, it has also been suspected that people linked to the erstwhile princely states had stashed some funds in banks in Switzerland.

Under global pressure over recent years, Switzerland has opened its banking system for regulatory scrutiny from abroad and it has also entered into pacts for automatic exchange of information on financial matters with a large number of countries, including India. The first batch of

details about accounts held by Indians in Switzerland-based financial institutions was given to India recently under this automatic information exchange information and the next such exercise would take place in September 2020.

In the meantime, the claims for dormant accounts are being managed by the Swiss Banking Ombudsman under cooperation from the Swiss Bankers Association.

As per the details available with the ombudsman, the dormant accounts linked to Indians that are waiting for their claimants include those included to at least two persons from the erstwhile Calcutta (now known as Kolkata), one from Dehradun, two from erstwhile Bombay (now known as Mumbai) and also some Indian settled in France and the UK.



SBI slashes GDP growth forecast to 5% in FY20

NEW DELHI (TIP): An SBI research report today sharply cut the country's GDP growth forecast to 5% for FY 2019-20 from the earlier projection of 6.1%.

The second quarter GDP growth rate is likely to slip to 4.2% on account of low automobile sales, deceleration in air traffic movements, flattening of core sector growth and declining investment in construction and infrastructure, according to Ecwrap — the report from the Economic Research Department of SBI.

The report, however, said the economic growth rate will pick up pace in 2020-21 to 6.2%.

To propel economic growth, it said, the RBI may go for "larger rate cuts" in December monetary policy review.

Last month, while reducing the key policy rate (repo) by 25 basis points for the fifth time in a row, the RBI had also reduced its growth forecast to 6.1% for 2019-20 from 6.9%.

Meanwhile, the SBI research report said, "We are revising our GDP forecast for 2019-20 to 5% from 6.1% earlier." India's GDP growth had dipped to about a six-year low of 5% in the first quarter of the fiscal.

"We expect Q2GDP growth at 4.2%. Our acceleration rate for 33 leading indicators at 85% in October 2018 is down to just 17% in September 2019, with such decline gaining traction from March 2019," the report said, while terming the decline in September IIP by 4.3% as "quite alarming".

Ecwrap further said the growth rate in 2019-20 "should be looked" through the prism of synchronised global slowdown (countries have witnessed 22-716 basis point decline between June 2018 and June 2019, and India cannot be isolated!).

Critical situation: Voda's India future in doubt, says CEO

LONDON (TIP): Vodafone has said its future in India could be in doubt unless the government stopped hitting operators with higher taxes and charges, after a court judgment over licence fee resulted in a 1.9 billion euro loss to the group in its first half.

Chief Executive Nick Read said India, where Vodafone formed a joint venture with Idea Cellular in 2018, had been "a very challenging situation for a long time", but it remained a sizable market where Vodafone had a 30% share.

"Financially, there's been a heavy burden through unsupportive regulation, excessive taxes and on top of that we got the negative Supreme Court decision," he said today.

Vodafone had asked the government for a relief package comprising a two-year moratorium on spectrum payments, lower licence fee and taxes and waiving interest and penalties on the Supreme Court case, which centred on regulatory fees.

Asked if it made sense for Vodafone to remain in India without any relief package, he said: "It's fair to say it's a very critical situation."

Read said Vodafone was not committing any more equity to India and the country effectively contributed zero value to the company's share price.

Vodafone, the world's second largest mobile operator, reported improving organic revenue growth as it saw signs of improvement in Spain and Italy and as it integrates its German cable acquisition.

Huawei to give staff \$286 million bonus for helping it ride out US curbs

SHENZHEN, CHINA (TIP): Chinese telecoms giant Huawei Technologies said on Tuesday it will hand out 2 billion yuan (\$286 million) in cash rewards to staff working to help it weather a US trade blacklisting.

The world's largest telecoms equipment provider has said it has been trying to find alternatives to US hardware after the United States all but banned it in May from doing business with American firms, disrupting its ability to source key parts.

The cash is a mark of recognition for work in the face of US pressure, Huawei's human resources department said in a notice to staff seen by Reuters. It will also double pay this month for almost all its 1,90,000 workers, a company spokesman said.

The cash rewards will likely go to research and development teams and those working to shift the company's supply chains away from the United States, the spokesman said.

Details of Huawei's plan were first reported by the South China Morning Post on Tuesday.

Many in the US government believe that Huawei's equipment, particularly its 5G networks, pose a security risk, because of the company's allegedly close ties to the Chinese government. Huawei has denied the Chinese government plays any role in its operations.

Although granted reprieves from much of the US



exclusion, Huawei had been working to find alternatives after it witnessed the crippling effect of US sanctions on its smaller Chinese rival ZTE Corp in early 2017.

The company is also the world's second largest maker of smartphones and a surge in shipments of devices helped it to report a 27% rise in third-quarter revenue last month.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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



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

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

Weekly Horoscope - November 18 - November 24, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says this is a strong situation. You are both practical and idealistic. You are torn by several compulsions. This is one of the most idealistic times in your life and you are filled with sympathy for others. You want to reach out and help the whole world. You may work with the sick and disadvantaged in some institutional setting or spend time with a religious group or some guru.

TAURUS: You are moving ahead at a furious pace. Many things are on your plate. During this time, you may also begin to take an interest in philosophy and religion as you want to know how you fit into the universal order. You spend time on abstractions and how they relate to your life. You are looking at new insights into your life that will make it much more meaningful. There are also expansions.

GEMINI: You live larger than life. Ganesha feels that you overextend yourself. You may push too hard and really hurt yourself in the bargain. You feel that anything you do will work out all right. You take risks and gamble away. All I am saying is that there may not be stability and direction in what you are doing. This is not an especially lucky or lucky influence. All it does is make you confused. You live in a bubble of illusion. You spend too much and make erratic and sometimes unwise decisions.

CANCER: The Moon and your mind is wandering like the Ganges estuaries. It is going everywhere and forming rivulets wherever there is soft ground. Sometimes, particular event triggers off this period of soul-searching. Or it could be just the workings of an idle mind. There could be problems in your business or professional life. You may feel weak and insecure and people may take advantage of your apparent weakness. You look around for answers and seek out god men or gurus. There may be some solace in them but the final answers have to come out of your core.

LEO: You come to grips with life, with the situation that holds you by the scruff of its neck and shakes you like a wet boy. I must add here, like I always do, that I am mere human and these are just generalisations. You must recognise the fact that some aspects of your life need to be questioned and worked on. Take the bull by the horns and work on changing the situation. Make whatever changes are appropriate. This is a time of testing.

VIRGO: You are on firmer ground. You are wading through the maze of your mind and finding fulfilment. You are making new beginnings. You are ready to take on more responsibility and hard work. You look hard at the successful conclusion of projects on hand. You examine your mistakes and realise that no one else but you are to blame. There is also stability at home and there is joy in the family.

LIBRA: There is a flurry of activity. There is travel, new associations, many friends and encounters that take your breath away. There may be a roll in the hay and your indiscretion could cost you dearly. There is a lot of experimentation in your life now. There will be many experiences now and you have to go with the flow. Ganesha is an ally and will support you wholeheartedly. But take care not to overextend yourself and take on new projects. You could develop health issues.

SCORPIO: There is emotion and new love. You spend tender moments in the arms of your beloved. Remember, I am using the singular here with great deliberation. You have a tendency to sow your wild oats. Go for it but watch your step. You help out with charities and give yourself freely to missions. No one understands you now. You are a strange bundle of contradictions. You are both ecstatic and mournful. Even you do not know where to hide.

SAGITTARIUS: You are moving ahead in many directions. You are a maze of pulls and pressures. You are in the midst of people and yet may feel cut off from others and lonely too. You are not alone but you are certainly lonely. There may be new love affairs. An old relationship may break up now. Do not dwell on it. Move on, focus, concentrate your energy and don't scatter it. There is travel and many new expenses too.

CAPRICORN: There is beauty and joy in your life. You spend on goodies without watching your pocket. You could be out on the first ball or even hit wicket on a wide. It is a silly way to get out. You could even score a self-goal or miss a penalty when it could have been the decider. I know. This is the nature of life and existence. You go where it takes you and often not where you want to be. Ask Ganesha for guidance.

AQUARIUS: You are forging ahead on all cylinders and making headway in all your undertakings. You are succeeding in unravelling all the webs that have imprisoned you. This can be a very imaginative period and you can use it positively and well. You are more in touch with reality and yet allow your imagination to soar. You are both rational and intuitive and this is, most certainly, a great way to be.

PISCES: You are on the go with new ventures and adventures. There will be more than the usual expenses as you could also be planning a holiday with family and friends. Health is good too and there is happiness all around. You have nothing to complain about. Your peer group rallies around you as you rise steadily in your career. There could be new love too and you spend quality time in the arms of amora! Ganesha is by your side making your sojourn in this planet as comfortable as possible. You are filled with optimism and hope.

Birthday Horoscope November 18 - November 24, 2019

Nov 18: Ganesha says, you fare best on home turf, which makes this a good year to invite people over. Surprises involving home and family are the kind you'll like. Be open to the innovative, technological, and modern.

Nov 19: Be careful of making any commitments or taking on burdens, especially if they involve friends or money or a combination of the two. You could get in over your head. Read the "fine print".

Nov 20: The Moon may incline you to withdraw from the world, nice for engaging in

quiet reflection, soul searching, recharging your physical and mental "batteries". Schedule medical exams.

Nov 21: An active Moon is your green light to forge ahead with plans. You're a force to be reckoned with. You're full of ideas and the energy to put them into action. Make something happen!

Nov 22: The year brings a change of pace, but you're still your outgoing gregarious self. Although the trend is still up, however, everything isn't likely to go your own way. But

at least it's not dull!

Nov 23: Problems you face won't leave much wiggle room. Though you don't have much leverage, especially socially or financially, that doesn't mean you should be a pushover. Stand up for yourself!

Nov 24: A lack of funds or other shortages could put a crimp in your plans, or you could view these as an opportunity to make use of your ingenuity. There are benefits to be found in hidden places.

SYMBOLISM OF PUJA, THE RITUAL WORSHIP OF GOD

In Hinduism we come across a common method of worship called puja or pooja. Unlike the elaborate sacrificial ceremonies, it can be performed by anyone except those who have incurred impurity due to menstruation or the death of a family member, etc. As the most popular form of worship, "puja" is practiced in almost every Hindu household even today, either every day, occasionally on certain days in a week or month, or on important religious, auspicious or festive occasions as required by tradition. A puja can either be a simple ritual worship or a very complicated one, depending upon the way it is performed. One may perform it to overcome a problem, seek divine help, or just to render devotional service to the family deities. For many people, puja is part of the daily sacrifice (nitya karma).

Meaning of puja

Many interpretations can be given in Hinduism to the word "puja" which consists of two letters, namely, "pa" and "ja." According to one interpretation, "pa" means "parayana" or continuous repetition of the names of God and "ja" means "japa" or continuous mental recitation of the names of God. According to this interpretation "puja" is essentially a kind of Hindu worship in which both parayanam and japam are practiced by the devotees.

In a puja ceremony, Hindus offer both flowers and water to the deity. Thus from this point of view, "pu" means "pushpam" or flower and "ja" means "jal." The letter "ja" can also mean simultaneously "japam." So in this context, puja becomes that form of Hindu worship, during which water and flowers are offered to God along with recitation of His names.

Lastly, puja has a spiritual dimension also. According to this interpretation, puja means that form of worship through which we give birth to or awaken the indwelling spirit in us. Here "pu" means "purusha," meaning the eternal self and "ja" means "janma," meaning to give birth to or to awaken.

According to Hindu beliefs, during the puja the deity, which is normally an idol or a statue, comes to life. This happens both outwardly in the object of worship or the deity and inwardly in the subject of worship or the devotee. The statue or the form of the deity is brought to life externally through the chanting of mantras or special invocations, or specifically speaking, through the performance of 'prana pratishtha' or establishing the life breath in it. Similarly, the indwelling spirit in the worshipper is awakened because of his sincerity, concentration, devotion, and divine grace which is symbolically represented as 'prasada,' grace or blessing from above.

How puja is conducted

Hindus perform pujas in various ways. The commonest form of worship follows a well-established sequence of actions, or procedure, which is approximately similar to how a visiting guest is customarily treated by a devout



householder. According to the Vedic tradition, visiting guests are considered gods (athidhi devo bhava) and they are supposed to be treated with the same respect as gods are treated during an invocation or sacrificial ceremony. Thus, although the puja ceremony is a later day development, the idea of honoring the deity by paying respects and making offerings is very much rooted in Vedic ritualism and sacrificial ceremonies.

During the ceremony, the first step involves uttering an invocation, mantra or prayer, inviting the chosen god to visit the place of worship, which is indicated to him by specifying the directions, the time and the place name. This is generally performed either by a mediating priest or the worshipper himself. Once it is done, it is assumed that the deity has agreed to come and arrived at the designated place as requested. The worshipper then washes his feet with a symbolic gesture and offers him a seat with utmost respect.

These honors are extended to him as if he is physically present in front of the worshipper in person. Just we offer water or a drink to a visiting guest to quench his thirst as if he has walked in the bright sun for a long time, the worshipper next offers him water to drink by placing a glass in front of the idol or dropping water with a small spoon or ladle. Once he is seated, as a mark of utmost reverence, love and self-surrender, he once again washes his feet with ceremonial water.

After that, the idol is bathed with water, milk, honey, etc., and massaged with various perfumes and scented pastes such as turmeric powder, sandal paste and curd mixed with ghee to the accompaniment of various mantras which usually end with "samarpayami," meaning, "I have offered." After the bathing ceremony, the deity is offered new clothes to wear during the ceremony, which is symbolically represented either

by a peace of cotton thread in simple ceremonies or real clothes in more organized ones.

Having made him comfortable in the new attire and honoring him with a high seat, the worshipper then makes him a series of offerings namely pushpam (flowers), phalam (fruit), gandham (sandal paste), dhupam (incense), deepam (light), naivedyam (food), jalam (water), mantram (recitation of sacred verses) and mantra-pushpam (a sacred flower). All these arrangements, devotional offerings and respectful prayers are intended to make the deity feel comfortable and at home in the new surroundings and enter a positive state of mind.

Once the worshipper follows all the steps and makes sure that he has endeared himself to the deity with his devotion and sincerity, he intensifies his worship with more prayers and supplication, expressing deep devotion and gratitude. The purpose of such an elaborate procedure is to build rapport with the deity and earn his love and

grace for which he specifically chooses prayers and hymns that extol the virtues, triumphs and greatness of the deity.

In more elaborate ceremonies of Hinduism, which may last for one more days, the deity is entertained with songs, music and dance, and on occasions taken out in a public procession. He is also made a number of customary offerings and gifts such as clothes, incense, flowers, perfumes, light, ornaments, food items, money, etc. These offerings may be real or imaginary. Both approaches are valid. Their purpose is to express one's gratitude, devotion, love and surrender.

The puja ceremony of the Hindus, generally ends with the offering of aarati or sacred flame to the deity and the distribution of prasadam, or the remains of the offering. The word prasadam is a combination of two words namely 'pra' and 'sada'. It literally means the bestowed or giver of eternal life. Hindus believe that, when an offering of food is made to a deity, it becomes pure, sacred and blessed with his touch.

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

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

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

SHILLONG: THE SCOTLAND OF THE EAST



Described variously as the Scotland of the East, abode of clouds and the Rock Capital of India, Shillong has to be one of India's most sought after tourist destinations in today's times. A mesmerizing land of immense natural beauty, this present day capital city of Meghalaya has a long standing history. It was the British capital of the then undivided Assam. The city's colonial charm is a paradise for nature and heritage lovers alike. Present day capital of Meghalaya, Shillong is the ultimate hangout point for music lovers as well who is looking for new sounds and stirring melodies.

Embark on a musical journey in the city often referred to as India's Rock Capital and a watchful stroll along the narrow alleys is a good start to have. Extend your sojourn and see names like Lou Majaw, Afflatus and Soulmate in their own territory. For the ones who like things ready-on-a-platter, we suggest you visit Shillong during any music concert. Once your thirst for melody is quenched, time for some water rappelling at the Elephant Falls; golfer or non golfer, Shillong Golf Course is one place you would not want to miss out on; take a leisurely stroll along the Wards Lake and indulge in water activities like boating, skiing and rowing at the Umiam Lake.

TAKE A STROLL AROUND WARDS LAKE

Located in the midst of the colonial era Shillong, Wards Lake is a popular hangout place for the tourists and locals alike. Unlike the Umiam Lake, this one is more planned and all the facilities have been provided keeping in mind requirements of the leisure traveller. The entire area is adorned with flower beds, beautiful trees, lovely high lands and a bridge. Seekers of tranquility will have their share of personal space amid a growing city; nature lovers can admire the man-made corner for the greens and photography enthusiasts will not mind

spending some time in Wards Lake. Extend your walk towards the northeast direction of the lake and after about 15 minutes you will arrive at the Shillong Golf Course which with all its greenery and pine trees!

BOATING AT UMIAM LAKE

Located about 15 kms north of Shillong, this lake is basically a water reservoir that was formed due to the damming of the Umiam river. Historically this lake holds a special place in North East India, courtesy the fact that the dam that gave birth to Umiam Lake is the first Hydel power project in the region. A massive water body, the total catchment area of the lake and dam is spread over 220 square kms. This beautiful lake is a paradise for the nature lovers and ones who crave for a hide out from the daily hustle of city life. The water of Umiam Lake is very clean and hence offers a never-to-be missed opportunity of boating and other water activities. Hire a boat and sail into its crystal clear water to enjoy the surrounding beauty of the entire landscape. The water sports complex at Umiam Lake offers adventure sports options like water skiing, sailing and rowing to the visitors.

GOLFING IN SHILLONG

Courtesy its past as the British capital of the then undivided Assam, Shillong has the imprints of the days bygone; Shillong Golf Course is one of them. But it will be sheer injustice to the magnanimous entity if we box it up only as a colonial remnant and a place for the professional players to test their skills. The 18-hole course is a green paradise with grass spread across like carpet with trees standing like watchful protectors. The lush green hills that form the backdrop of beautiful pine and rhododendron trees add to the splendor of the landscape. Be a part of the golf tournaments that are held on this venue to be one with the surroundings and its legacy.



MUSICAL SOJOURN

Shillong is the unofficial but undisputed rock capital of India with a legacy of musical heritage that runs through the veins of every Shillong dweller. Music is in the air of this beautiful city and get ready to bump into at least one good musician with his instrument hanging on the shoulder in any corner of Shillong. The influence of metal and rock sound is prominent in Shillong music scene but let's not undermine the rich local musical flavours that are equally rich in tone and texture. Shillong is home to India's first and most prominent all-female band Afflatus and the famous Lou Majaw. Few of the bars and pubs are known for their live band performances with famous local bands like Soulmate and Prisoners of Chaos weaving their magic. And if you have had enough of indoor performances, maybe you should visit Shillong during a music concert. Indian and international musicians gather in

those concerts and cast a spell of melody on the audience leaving them wanting for more.

WATERFALL RAPPELLING

Elephant Falls is the combination of three small torrents that form a strong stream that adorns the fern-covered rocks. The place got its name in the colonial era when the Englishmen spotted a giant rock resembling an elephant near the fall. The rock got destroyed during an earth quake and the Englishmen left the country but the name stayed. Due to its origin in three streams, the water force of Elephant Falls is one to reckon with which offers ample opportunities for adventure sports like waterfall rappelling. For starters, you can try rappelling from the height of 40 ft and don't worry; you will be well harnessed under expert surveillance. Climb down from your starting point and feel the immense water pressure on you while you struggle to find your footing in the slippery rocks.



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Three books launched on Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College

NEW DELHI (TIP): Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal November 7 unveiled three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji in New Delhi.

The books were launched in the run-up to 550th Birth Anniversary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at a function at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College. The National Book Trust has published these titles - 'Guru Nanak Bani', 'Nanak Bani', and 'Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev' to spread the



message of Guru Nanak Dev's writings among readers of Indian sub-continent. These books, published originally in Punjabi, shall be translated into 15 major Indian languages.

Speaking on the occasion, Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said, the teachings and philosophy of Guru Nanak Dev are still relevant in today's world.

Addressing the gathering, Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank called upon the people to take the message of the Guru Nanak Dev in every nook and corner of the globe.

The books were launched in the run-up to 550th Birth Anniversary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at a function at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Terrorism results in \$1-trillion loss to world economy: PM Modi

scourge has caused USD 1 trillion loss to the world economy.

In 10 years, terrorism has claimed the lives of about 2.25 lakh people and destroyed societies, Modi said.

"The atmosphere of doubt created by terrorism, terror financing, drug trafficking and organized crime indirectly and deeply harms trade and business. I am happy that the first seminar on BRICS Strategies for Countering Terrorism was organized.

"We hope that such efforts and activities of the five working groups will increase strong BRICS Security Cooperation against terrorism and other organized crimes," the Prime Minister said.

According to the BRICS joint statement, the five countries condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization, and recognize terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable.

"We urge for concerted efforts to fight against terrorism under UN auspices in accordance with international law, recognize the primary role of states and their competent authorities in preventing and countering terrorism and express our conviction that a comprehensive approach is necessary to ensure effective results in combating terrorism.

"We recall the responsibility of all states to prevent financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions, including those from their territories," the statement said without referring to any country.

Modi said sustainable water management and sanitation are important challenges in urban areas.

"I propose to hold the first meeting of BRICS water ministers in India," Modi said.

"Recently, we started 'Fit India Movement'. I want to increase contacts and exchanges between us in the field of fitness and health," he said.

Modi also emphasized on paying special attention to mutual trade and investment, saying intra-BRICS trade accounts for just 15 per cent of the world trade, while its combined population is over 40 per cent of the world's population.

"Now we need to discuss the direction of BRICS, and

how to mutually cooperate more effective in the next 10 years. Despite success in many areas, there is considerable scope to increase efforts in some areas.

"The theme of this summit - 'Economic growth for an innovative future', is very apt. Innovation has become the basis of our development. Therefore, it is necessary that we strengthen cooperation for innovation under BRICS," the Prime Minister said.

Modi said with the mutual recognition of visas, social security agreement and qualifications, "we will give people of five countries a more conducive environment for mutual travel and work".

Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa on Thursday opened the 11th BRICS Summit where deliberations are taking place on key areas such as trade, investment and counterterrorism.

Ahead of the summit, BRICS leaders-Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Prime Minister Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa-posed for a group photo.

Brazil is the current chair of the grouping which represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world population and they have a combined nominal GDP of USD 16.6 trillion. - PTI

Assembly elections in J&K soon, says L-G Girish Chandra Murmu

-- who had to resign as the Chief Minister after the BJP had withdrawn support from the coalition government in June 2018.

On August 5 this year, the Centre announced the unprecedented measure of abrogating Article 370 - which granted J&K semi-autonomy - and converted the state into a Union Territory. The UT-status of J&K came into effect from October 31.

Attempts to re-initiate the electoral process gained an impetus after the Centre recorded an unprecedented 98 percent turnout in the J&K Block Development Council elections held on October 24.

5 wounded in shooting at California high school

Reports of approximately 5 victims being treated. Parents, deputies are on scene everywhere protecting

your children," the Santa Clarita Valley branch of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office tweeted.

Saugus High School and all schools in the William S. Hart district were placed on lockdown while authorities flooded the area.

Video from local NBC television showed a line of students walking away from the school and a row of police and fire department vehicles parked out front.

KTLA video, broadcast on CNN, showed one woman being loaded into an ambulance.

"Several injured. LASD resources on site and searching for suspect," Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Undersheriff Tim Murakami said in a post on Twitter. "Will be locking down area schools. Advise residents to shelter in place and report any suspicious activity." (Source: Reuters)

Prince Charles hails contribution of Sikhs in United Kingdom

has hailed the "inspiring" principles of Sikhism and the contribution of the Sikh community in the UK. The Prince of Wales, who visited Gurdwara Bangla Sahib in New Delhi to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, posted a personal message on the Clarence House Instagram page before he left for India.

"As I depart for India, on my tenth official visit, I just want to convey my warmest best wishes to all of you in the Sikh Community in the UK, and across the Commonwealth, on the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji," he said.

"The principles on which Guru Nanak founded the Sikh religion, and which guide your lives to this day, are the ones which can inspire us all -- hard work, fairness, respect, and selfless service to others. In embodying these values, Sikhs have made the most profound contribution to the life of this country, and continue to do so, in every imaginable field, just as you do in so many other places around the world."

"This week, as Sikhs everywhere honor the founder of your faith, my wife and I wanted you to know just how much your community is valued and admired by us all, and that our thoughts are with you at this very special time," Prince Charles added, signing the note, "HRH The Prince of Wales."

(Source: IANS)

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Virat on cusp of surpassing Ricky Ponting's huge feat

NEW DELHI (TIP): India batsman Virat Kohli will be on the cusp of achieving a massive milestone when he comes out to bat in the first Test against Afghanistan in Indore. The right-handed batsman is currently tied at the 2nd place in the list of players with most Test centuries (19) as captain along with Australia's Ricky Ponting. If Kohli manages to get a ton in Indore, he will surpass Ponting to take the sole spot at the 2nd position in the list. Currently, former South Africa international Graeme Smith is on the top position in the list with 23 hundreds as captain in Tests.

Kohli can also equalise Ponting's record of centuries as captain across all formats. Ponting had scored 41 tons as captains across formats, while the Indian skipper is currently at 40. If he gets one more, he will be tied at the top spot along with Ricky Ponting.

Kohli has 7,066 runs in the format and is currently at the 7th position in the list of Indian players with most runs in the Test. If he manages to score 146 runs in the match, he will surpass former India captain Sourav Ganguly to reach 6th position in the list. Ganguly, in his career, amassed 7,212 runs in 113 Tests, at an average of 42.17.

In terms of innings, India are also miles ahead from other teams, with Kohli & Co. inflicting an all-out in 37 innings since 2018.

England (30), Sri Lanka (24) and South Africa (24) make the top four in the list. Yadav, Sharma and Shami took wickets in the morning session before Mushfiqur, who top-scored with 43, and Haque put on 68



for the fourth wicket. Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin broke the stand after getting Mominul bowled for 37. It was his 250th wicket in home Tests, and he added to the tally by then bowling Mahmudullah for 10.

Shami ended Mushfiqur's resistance and struck on successive deliveries to stop the Bangladesh tail from wagging. Shami bowled Mushfiqur and then trapped new man Mehidy Hasan lbw, prompting

the umpires to break for Tea. Taijul Islam then played out Shami's hat-trick ball after the break, but was later run out for one. Yadav cleaned up Ebadat Hossain to wrap up the innings in 58.3 overs.

India were 86 for one at stumps after Rohit Sharma was caught behind off paceman Abu Jayed for six. Mayank Agarwal, on 37, and Cheteshwar Pujara, on 43, put on an unbeaten 72-run stand to see off the day's play.

India vs Bangladesh: Stats reveal Indian bowlers' dominance in Tests since 2018

NEW DELHI (TIP): India bowlers displayed yet another scintillating performance with the ball on Day 1 of the first Test against Bangladesh in Indore as the visitors were bowled out for 150. After winning the toss, Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque opted to bat. With Mohammed Shami picking up three wickets, and Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav and R Ashwin picking up two wickets each, the hosts inflicted yet another all out in the longest format.

Doing so, Kohli-led India inflicted an all-out for the 20th time in a Test since 2018, which is the highest by any team. England have inflicted an all-out in 18 matches since 2018, while Australia have inflicted an all-out in 16 matches.

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SINDHU EXITS, SRIKANTH ENTERS QUARTERFINALS

HONG KONG (TIP): World champion PV Sindhu exited the \$400,000 Hong Kong Open in the pre-quarterfinals but Kidambi Srikanth made the quarters for the first time in seven months after claiming a thrilling win in men's singles here today. It was also curtains for HS Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap as they suffered contrasting losses in the second round.

World No. 6 Sindhu went down 18-21 21-11 16-21 to world No. 18 Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand in 69 minutes to continue her recent dismal run.

Srikanth emerged as the only Indian survivor after notching up a 21-11 15-21 21-19 win over compatriot Sourabh Verma in the men's singles second round.

Earlier, Prannoy suffered a 12-21 19-21 loss to Jonatan Christie in the second round. Former Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap went down fighting to world No. 2 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 21-12 21-23 10-21.

In other results, fourth seeded Japanese pair of Arisa Higashino and Yuta Watanabe beat the Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa 21-19 21-12 in 42 minutes in the mixed doubles.

India assured of 6 medals at Asian Youth Boxing

ULAANBAATAR (TIP): India were assured of a bagful of medals at the Asian Youth Boxing Championships after six of the country's pugilists advanced to the semifinals with dominating victories here today. Soy Selay (49kg), Aman (+91kg), Ankit Narwal (60kg), Naorem Chanu (51kg), Jasmine (57kg) and Vinka (64kg) made the last-four stage. Selay defeated Philippines' Flint Jara 5-0, while Aman (+91kg) out-punched Taiwan's Kai-Hsung Wang in a bout that didn't go the full distance. Narwal was also up against a Taiwanese, Yu Lin, and the Indian prevailed 5-0. In the women's draw, Chanu claimed a 5-0 triumph over South Korea's Eunsu Sun. Jasmine got the better of Japan's Kimura Mona, while Vinka sailed past Taiwan's Hsueh-Tzu Tsui. However, Neha Kasnyal (60kg) and Rohit Mor (52kg) bowed out following quarterfinals losses.

Ex-Arsenal star Thierry Henry to coach Montreal Impact

PARIS (TIP): Ex-Arsenal star Thierry Henry has been appointed coach at MLS franchise Montreal Impact on a two-year contract, the Canadian club announced on Thursday. "Welcome to Montreal @ThierryHenry!" the Major League Soccer (MLS) club tweeted. Henry, whose baptism of fire as a manager ended in disaster at French club Monaco when he was fired in January, will coach the Canadian club for a minimum of two seasons, Montreal Impact said.

"Henry signed a two-year deal, with an option for 2022," the club said on its website. Henry, 42, who helped France win the World Cup in 1998, is familiar with the MLS, having played from 2010 to 2014 with the New York Red Bulls.

"It's an honour to coach the Montreal Impact and return to MLS," Henry said on the website.



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