

We wish readers Happy 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ,
ਮਿਟੀ ਧੁੰਦ ਜਗ ਚਾਨਣ ਹੋਆ

With the emergence of the complete Guru, Guru Nanak, the mist cleared and the whole world was illuminated.



MESSAGE



Padma Bhushan
Sant Singh Chatwal
New York

I am pleased to learn that The Indian Panorama is bringing out a special edition to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of the First Master of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. I commend and congratulate the publication and its staff led by chief editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja who is a veteran in the field of journalism and has rendered yeoman service to society.

Born in a small village Rai Bhoi Di Talwandi, in Punjab, in 1469 Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji left his worldly remains in 1539 in Kartarpur Sahib.

Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was sensitive to the injustices around him. His life

experiences soon led to a spiritual path a journey which took him all over the world afar, spreading his message of humanity and gently questioning the norms and rituals of the powerful, especially the priests. 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. Guru Nanak embodies the values of tolerance, peace & love. Guru Nanak rejected labels, castes, class or distinctions of any kind; he was pure humanity. "Know ye all human race as one", he said. It is this universal

message which resonates with all across the world.

Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th Birth Anniversary is being celebrated the world over not only by over 27 million Sikhs spread across the world, but by all peace, love and human rights loving people anywhere in the world.

I wish the readers, patrons and the staff of The Indian Panorama a happy 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Happy Gurpurab!
Sant Chatwal



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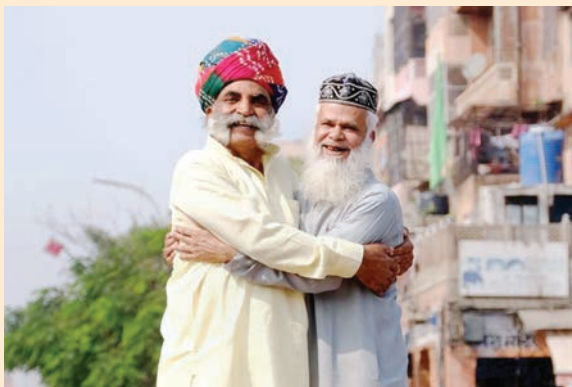
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Ram Temple at disputed site; 5-acre land for Babri Masjid Reconstruction, rules Supreme Court



People react after Supreme Court's historic verdict on the Ayodhya land case, in Jaipur, on November 9, 2019.

Photo / Courtesy PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court's final judgment in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute has cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya. The Supreme Court on Saturday, November 9 headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi unanimously decreed the decades-old title dispute in favor of Ram Lalla. In a 1045-page historic verdict, the top court reversed the Allahabad High Court's September 30, 2010,

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Trump Administration Proposes Increasing Fee for U.S. Citizenship Application

Proposal calls for new fees for asylum applications, DACA renewals



WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration is proposing to raise the cost of applying for U.S. citizenship, as well as creating new fees for some asylum seekers and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

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Guru Nanak Dev Ji: Pages 4-7
Kartarpur Corridor Inauguration Pictorial: Pages 16,17
Interview-Aarti Tikoo: Page 18

Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Kartarpur corridor, thanks Imran for the move

DERA BABA NANAK (TIP): It could not have got any bigger than this as the two warring nations finally joined hands to ensure that the 4-km-long cross-border corridor to the Kartarpur shrine, located across the wire fencing, got operational after Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally dedicated it to the public at a rally held here, 8 km away from the passage, amid the chanting of hymns.

Later, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Integrated Check Post and flagged off the first jatha (batch) of pilgrims to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the inauguration of Kartarpur Corridor

Three Indian Americans Named Recipients of Science, Math, Engineering Excellence Honors

WASHINGTON / TEXAS (TIP): President Donald J. Trump has named the recipients of the Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, with three Indian Americans among the awardees. Awardees come from schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and schools in the United States territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Among the recipients were **Jamboor Vishwanatha, Priya Natarajan and Salil Desai**. Vishwanatha is from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, winning one of the mentor awards. "Priya Natarajan may be the most



Jamboor Vishwanatha, Priya Natarajan and Salil Desai comprehensively excellent teacher – and human. Desai, from the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, was one of the recipients of the mentor honor.

WE'RE HIRING!

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MARKETING STAFF REQUIRED

We are looking for marketing persons for The Indian Panorama print editions and the web portal at a couple of locations which include Long Island, Queens, Manhattan and Buffalo in New York, Jersey City and Edison in New Jersey, Stamford in Connecticut, Atlanta in Georgia, Houston and Dallas in Texas, and Chicago in Illinois.

Persons with experience in newspaper

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Anyone who would like to work with us part time and on the basis of revenue sharing may email to salujindra@gmail.com or contact at 646-247-9458.

GURU NANAK: THE FOUNDER OF SIKHISM

Guru Nanak Jayanti, or as it is commonly called Guru Nanak Gurburb, is a Sikh festival which is celebrated with fervour in many parts of India and around the world. This year, the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh master is being observed on November 12. The Indian Panorama pays tribute to the Guru by bringing to our readers his life, teachings and travels

Baba Nanak Shah Faqir, Saba ka Guru, Sabhi ka Pir, a transform of the verse : 'Baba Nanak Shah Faqir, Hindu ka Guru, Musalman ka Pir', immensely popular in Punjab, truly defines some more significant aspects of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikh Panth and Sikhs' first Guru. Bound by intimate ties Nanak's disciples saw in him the 'Baba', guardian of generations of man, who, the benevolent protector, built the path, led them to it and guided their course all through, and all with love and care, not like a formal teacher asserting his authority.

The torch-bearer lived among them like one of them and practised along them what he preached. A faqir beyond possessions, passions or ambitions, and all desires, Baba Nanak, reigning over the domains not belonging to man, was the king of kings, the supreme Shah at whose feet emperors bowed and to whose divine aura expanse of their territories fell short. Not Hindu or Musalman, he was, and is still, everyone's Guru, the teacher guiding all to the right path, and everyone's Pir, the benefactor and spiritual guardian. 'Hindu ka Guru, Musalman ka Pir', part of the original verse, seems to have grown out of the forecast which astrologers made at the time of his birth. As the Bala Janam Sakhi has it, the planetary position at the time of his birth indicated that both Hindu and Turk, two main constituents of the society those days, would revere him alike and the path that he would found would alike be the path of both.

BIRTH AND EARLY DAYS

The divinity incarnate, Baba Nanak was born in A. D. 1469 at Rai-Bhoe-ki-Talwandi, now in Pakistan about 65 km west of Lahore. The place is now known as Nankana Sahib, re-named long back after Guru Nanak. The young Nanak was often found engaged in cosmic questions and fundamentals of life, which upset his father Mehta Kaluchand, an orthodox Bedi, one of the branches of Kshatriyas. Seeking to keep his interests centred on formal education he engaged a Brahmin to teach Nanak read and write Devanagiri, and a Maulvi to teach Persian and Arabic, besides himself devoting daily quite a lot of time in instructing him in arithmetic and accountancy. A precocious child, Nanak's interests were, however, widely different. Even at the age of five he retired to solitude to cogitate or resorted to the company of holy men seeking from them answers to eternal questions of life. Keen to drag him into trade and commerce, and indeed into the family life, and distract his mind from spiritualism, his father decided to marry him, a step which in cases like Nanak's most parents considered as an unfailing remedy since times immemorial. When married, he was eighteen and his consort Sulakhani, about two years younger to him. He was a caring husband and fathered two sons, Sri Chand



and Lakhmi Das, the bent of his mind was, however, always the same meditative and isolation-loving as before.

After his father's efforts to direct his interests to trading - rearing cattle or setting up a shop, failed, his sister Nanaki took him with her to Sultanpur where her husband Jairam arranged for him store-keeper's job at the 'modikhana' of Daulat Khan Lodhi.

The place changed and so his liferoutine but not his mindset. Here he chanced to meet Mardana, a Muslim minstrel, who, when he played on rabbab, could spell-bound his listeners. Ten years older to him Mardana was fascinated by Nanak's sweet melodious voice, charming manners, human concerns, spiritual fervour and soul-touching quality of his verses. Some accounts claim that Mardana was a friend of his childhood days. However, it was hereafter that the two were inseparably united. Nanak's job at 'modikhana' apart, his most time was spent in composing songs lauding Almighty and in singing them, and Mardana was always there accompanying him on his rabbab. Now onwards with his divine songs and Mardana's rabbab resounded every corner and square of Sultanpur, and with the mysticism that his songs revealed, the mind of every listener.

Nanak spent seven years at Daulat Khan's 'modikhana' not so much in weighing goods as in weighing questions facing life. A restless mind, Nanak lived as if in a transit-house awaiting a summon, the summon from Him, to proceed to his destination, his true home. He was now thirty, and as everyday, one morning when at river Bein, named Vahi in some accounts, to have his routine bath he heard the call from within the depths of the river waters. Pursuing the call he descended deep into the waters and did not come out. His clothes lying on the

Him.

The Puratan Janam-Sakhi defines it as his direct encounter with the Divine. In their book 'Sri Harmandar Sahib : the Body Visible of the Invisible Supreme' the authors of this essay have seen the episode from yet another perspective. In their attempt to renounce the world while all seekers of 'truth' or 'light', during the days of Guru Nanak or before, even Buddha and Mahavira, entered into forest, Guru Nanak entered into water believing perhaps that the world was not so completely removed off the sight when in forest as it was when into water's depths. In water, depth was Guru Nanak's base, and height, his vision, and complete darkness around led the eyes to seek the light within; in forest, sight rolled horizontally along the world which it sought to renounce, and external light illumined exterior obstructing the journey within.

Absolute renouncement of the world

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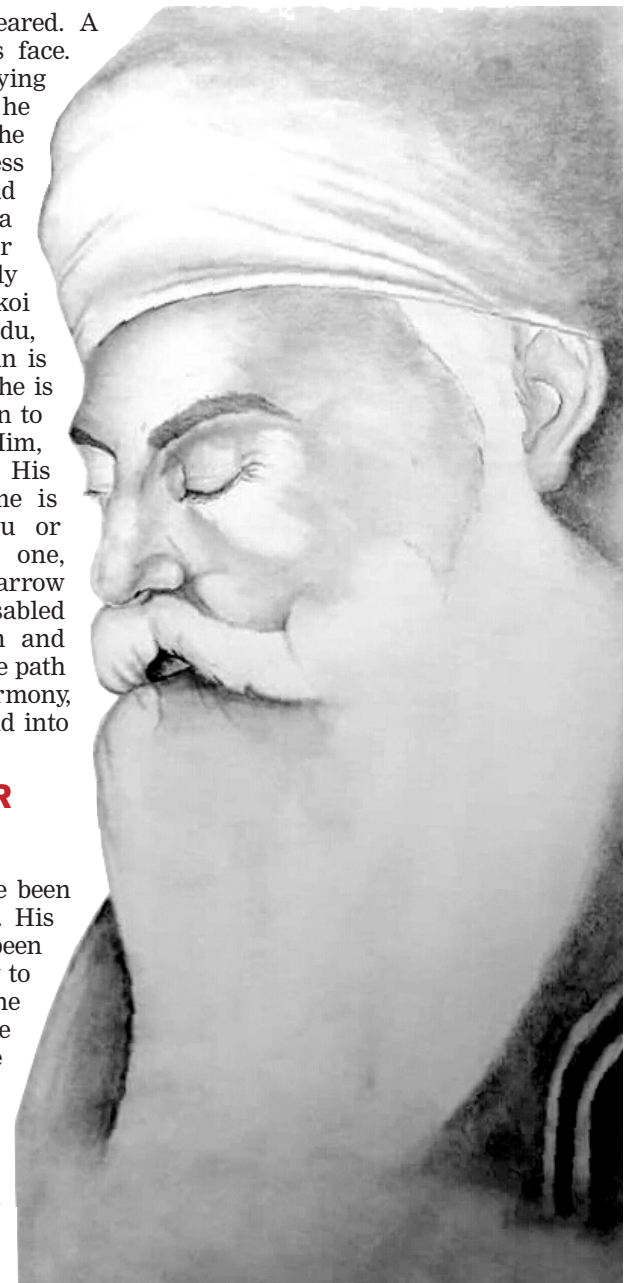
river bank led his kin and others to conclude that he had drowned.

After three days he re-appeared. A divine composure defined his face. Despite curious questions volleying from all around the whole day he did not utter a word, perhaps the light that the absolute darkness within the depths of waters had kindled into him had not taken a shape yet. No metaphysics or rhetoric, the other day he simply uttered : 'nai koi Hindu, nai koi Musalman' - neither one is Hindu, neither Musalman, that is, man is neither Hindu nor Musalman, he is only a man, all alike in relation to each other and in relation to Him, the Karta Putukha - Creator. His communion with the Supreme is only as man, not as Hindu or Musalman. The Enlightened one, Guru Nanak thus rejected narrow religious boundaries that disabled man from uniting with Him and divided mankind, and paved the path for universal brotherhood, harmony, tolerance and unity of mankind into the thread of humanity.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER IN SIKH PANTH

His three days in water have been variedly seen and interpreted. His absence from the world has been viewed by many as his journey to Sach Khand, the abode of the Eternal One, a commission he was invested with by the Almighty Himself, or to the wider world to preach what had descended on him during his intimate communion with

PENCIL ART:
SHRIYA SHARMA



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has always been the key to absolute union with the Divine; Buddha and Mahavira took six and twelve years to attain it, Guru Nanak, just three days, and water - complete dissociation from the world, and the absolute void which it produced, was his means. This event of Guru Nanak attaining Enlightenment in the course of ablution with water as his means underlines sanctity of water and ablution in entire post Guru Nanak Sikh tradition not merely as a sacred thing but as an essential part of Sikh faith, rituals and architecture. Not surprisingly, tank - Sarovar, seems to always have priority over temple in Sikhs' architectural tradition right since the days of Guru Ramdas who sought to construct the Sarovar first so that the temple emerged.

Guru Nanak gave up his job and distributed all his belongings to poor. Attired in a robe and kalandari cap and a rosary around his neck, perhaps similar to those he is seen wearing in medieval paintings, Baba Nanak, ever a faqir by aptitude, now a faqir also by appearance, left Sultanpur. Mardana was his constant companion. Now cynosure of all eyes, Guru Nanak almost mesmerized everyone with his divine aura, mystic verses and melodious voice. He first went to Sayyadpur in Gujranwala, a western Punjab now in Pakistan. Hundreds drew to his discourses, though Lalu, known in Sikh tradition as Bhai Lalu, a carpenter, was the first to be his regular disciple.

He then proceeded to Sialkot where he met the known saint of those days Shah Hamzah. At Shivaratri he reached Achal Batala and had discourse with yogis - holy men assembled there on the occasion. He then visited his birth-place Talwandi, paid respect to his parents and then retired for a few days into Chhanga Manga forest. He then proceeded to Multan. On way to Multan he met Sayyad Hamid Ganj Baksh, and at Chuniana, Sheikh Daud Karamati. Multan was the seat of many Sufis and saints. As the popular tradition has it, when yet in the course of meeting them a group of holy men sent Guru Nanak a bowl filled in to the brim with milk suggesting that Multan did not have for him any space left.

Nanak sent it back with a jasmine flower afloat indicating that fragrance, like which his presence was, did not require space in a bowl. It soared above and only added flavour to the contents of the bowl without encumbering it with its load. It was at Multan that he reformed a notorious thag Sajjan, a cheat, who not only joined his path but also donated his house. It was with Sajjan's house,

TWO DECADES OF ITINERACY



converted into a Dharmashala, rest house for travellers, by Guru Nanak himself, that the Sikh Panth's architectural geography began. As has Bhai Gurdas in a verse, deeply influenced by Guru Nanak's concept of transforming a house into a Dharmashala all his disciples began treating their houses as Dharmashalas - the abodes for pilgrims and travellers. Guru Nanak devoted almost two decades in his travels to different destinations, the apparent objective being mainly meeting and discoursing with holy men and visiting shrines of different faiths. Everywhere he was looking for the 'sustainable' - in the body of a particular

faith, its shrine, saints and its proclaimed doctrine. When not in agreement he discoursed and won over his opponents, not so much by magical power or intellectual acumen as by his moral strength and 'power of loving devotion'. Not attached to one community of faith Nanak's was not a sectarian angle.

His emphasis was on divine Reality to which particularities of caste, clan or race were irrelevant. Though the accounts of his travels vary in different sources, unanimity prevails in regard to this broad modus operendi during his entire itineracy and in regards to their direction-wise grouping, that is, his travels into

East, South, North and West. Each time on completion of his journey into one direction he returned to Talwandi and that served as the dividing line.

He was in East for twelve years, more than half of the total period of his itineracy. Besides the places like Mathura, Vrandavana, Haridwar, Agra and Kurukshetra in immediate neighbourhood or around, he went up to Prayag Varanasi, Gaya, Bengal and Kamrup, in north-east region. Some of his travel-accounts mention him visiting even China and Tibet. At Kukurshetra, he was

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LAST TWENTY YEARS: PANTH OF NAM-SIMARAN

on the day of solar eclipse, when hundreds of ascetics and pundits assembled there for the holy ritual dip. During his discourses with them his principles of acceptance of reality, love, harmony, truth, and inward purity influenced all and converted many to his Path. As is commonly believed, alleging him teaching profanity, the rigid authority imprisoned him along with Mardana but they were released within days when those in authority found them transforming the very atmosphere of the jail by their divine music.

At Kamrup, the known conjuror Nur Shahi tried to infatuate Baba Nanak by her tempting charms but the moment compassionate Nanak sang to her a hymn, now known as Kuchchaji, her ignorance was shed off. Falling on his feet she dedicated herself to his Path. At Puri he attended the evening service of Jagannatha performed as Arti. He realised its futility for when all-pervading God was omni-present and the sun, moon, stars and all forms of light were already in His service, the service rendered to a perishable object - an image, with just an extinguishable lamp, had no consequence.

This moment is believed to reflect in one of Guru Nanak's more significant verses - 'Gagan mein thal...', the sky is the tray... He was at Varanasi where followers of Kabir claim that he met Kabir, and Vaishnavites, that he met and danced with Chaitanya. A few sources allude to his journey to Mount Sumeru, a mythical entity, and to his discoursing with teachers died centuries ago. Scholars apply factual parameters to these claims and reject them as untrue ignoring the fact that Enlightened ones, as was Guru Nanak, transcended time and space and reached lands which to common masses were mere myths, and conversed with people who were by then part of legends or history. Histories or factual accounts do not record journeys of self such as Guru Nanak or Buddha undertook

In South, he went down to Rameshwaram and Sri Lanka. He had his route via Rajasthan, Central India, Andhra and Tamil Nadu, and on way back - a different route, fell Kerala, Mysore, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Sind. As the popular tradition has it, in Rajasthan he had opportunity to meet Mirabai, and in Gujarat, the known Vaishnava saint Vallabhacharya, though chronologically their periods were widely different. When 46, he proceeded on his northward journey into Himalayan region and was there for two years. His interactions with known and unknown ascetics and teachers apart, he came in contact also with the followers of Guru Gorakhnath and Machhendranath. They were highly impressed with Nanak's mission of journeying across the land to unveil the truth that enshrouded by the darkness of ignorance.

By around 1521 Guru Nanak concluded his travels. When wandering from a shrine to a saint, mosque to a Maulvi, or Sufi to a Sanyasi, he wondered why there was suffering when land had thousands of temples, Tirthas, holy men, ages-old religions, teachings and traditions. Realising that shrines or saints, they all led man to stale and formal ritualism, which on one hand isolated one man from the other and on the other hand obstructed him from uniting with the Creator; he sought the simplest possible path of 'Nam-simaran' - commemoration of His name, which beyond form and rites enabled man to enter into intimate communion with God. He discovered in commemoration of 'Nam' the gist of all



rites and the instrument of realising and communicating with the Formless One, without losing his way into the cobwebs of formal rituals.

The simplest possible path of reaching Him, 'Namsimaran' turned the eye from beyond to within - from river-bank to its waters' depths, and opened the all-perceiving window inside, and it is here - inside oneself, that one finds Him enshrining. Nanak said that the Beloved one was not far from him who sought Him within him.

As the Formless One is also without a Nam, the Nam that one gives to Him represents his own vision of Him. Thus a thing within oneself, the communion with Him - through 'Nam', his only manifest form of Him, is more intimate and also incessant. Guru Nanak laid as much emphasis on equality among all and fraternity as the highest principles of living. Instead of seeking to isolate as did meditation or other austerities Nanak's path attributed as much sanctity to Nam-simaran in commune as individually. Farther than this, in his concepts of Dharmashala, a form of 'Sangat' - commune, and Pangat or Langar, a form of community kitchen for all to dine together without discrimination, he not only underlined the need of a strong community life but also of personal goodness, sociability, harmony and equality among all.

With his new path, named variedly as 'Nam-marg' or 'Simaran-marg', Baba Nanak decided to permanently settle and share his vision - knowledge and light, with others. One of his disciples, Diwan Karorimal Khatri, donated a piece of land close to the holy river Ravi and here Baba Nanak founded, in the name of Kartar, the

Creator; the ever first seat of 'Nam-marg', naming it Kartarpur. Almost from 1521 to 1539 he was at Kartarpur.

In these 18 years, around the isolated seat of the Panth had emerged a huge township and the place was thronged by the followers of the Panth day and night and round the year. Nanak's simple mysticism and his plain, simple, clear and precise path attracted all and many of them stayed there permanently. Among others there were two young men Budda and Lahina, the curious minds come to just see what in Kartarpur dragged people to it, but once there they never went back.

On 2nd September, 1539, just a few days before his Nirvana, Guru Nanak summoned a large congregation. To everyone's surprise, he asked Lahina, now Bhai Lahina, to come to him. Lahina obeyed but was taken aback when Guru Nanak placed before him five Paisa and a coconut, and his head at his feet. He gave him 'Bani-pothi' - collection of his own hymns, and a rosary, and announced that since onwards Lahina as Angad - a part of his own being, as also the one who shared his spirit and soul, would be his successor and Panth's new Guru.

Guru Nanak established thus the unity of Guruship which was based on the principles of impersonality, indivisibility and continuity.

On 7th September, 1539, in some accounts it is 22nd September; Guru Nanak breathed his last and thus the light merged with the eternal light.

VISION OF GOD, SELF'S TRANSCENDENCE AND NIRVANA

'Ek-Omkar Sati Nam Karta Purukh

Nirbhau Niravairu...' the preamble to Japjee, unanimously revered as the Mool Mantra, represents Guru Nanak's concept of God.

Accordingly, God is one; He is the supreme truth, the truth beyond time, the truth before time came into being, the truth when time began scaling the universe, and the truth even now; He is the Creator - allcreating and all-doing; He is beyond fear and beyond hate; the omnipresent He pervades the universe; He is not the subject of birth, nor He dies to be born again. He created day and night, waters and breezes, earth, sky and oceans and the entire cosmos, nature and all. The 'Nirankar', He is beyond form and beyond human comprehension. No volume of thought, solemn-most silence, deepest meditation, any amount of fasting or similar other austerities or virtues, or thousands of devices can enable one to know the Truth that is Him or tear the veil of false illusion. If any, the righteous living one alone can invoke his grace for it is from one's deed and thought that he is judged, and it is He Himself Who assesses - honours or discards, his actions. Nanak said: 'What we sow that alone we take'. Guru Nanak forbade worship of idols or form, or worship performed out of fear or for gain, objectives that usually inspired idol-worship. As is the connotation of his hymn 'Gagan mein thal...', He, being the Destroyer of Fear, can not be Fear's instrument, or rather of any weakness in man, which is often in the root of idol-worship. Not so expressly initially, Guru Nanak accepted the Hindu theory of Karma and life hereafter; that is, there is rebirth after death, and the 'yoni', form -

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TEACHINGS OF THE GURU

man, animal, bird, fish or whatever, one has in the rebirth is determined by one's action in the present life. By righteous living a being might escape this vicious circle of death and rebirth and attain Nirvana.

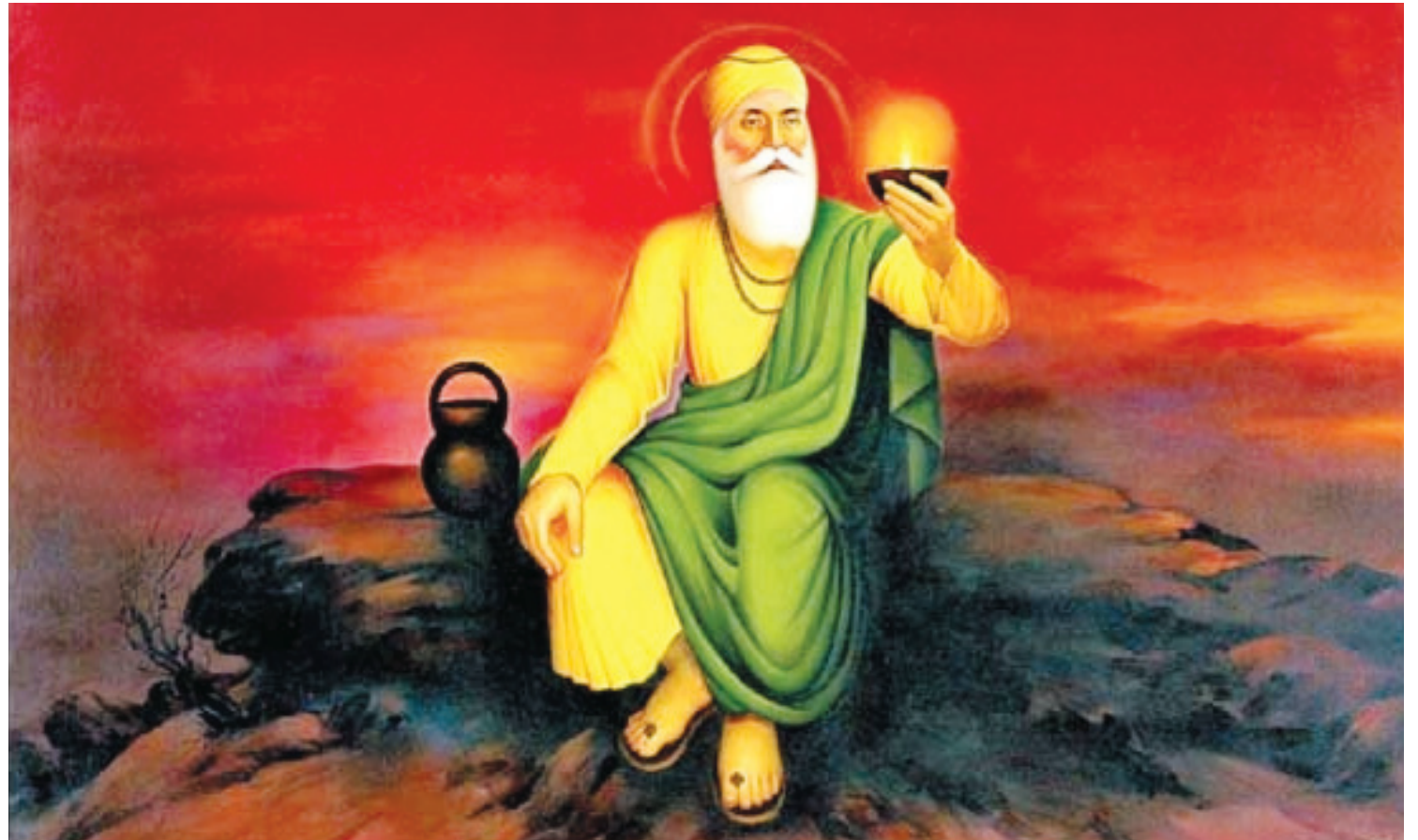
CASTE-SYSTEM, RELIGION AND RITES, STATUS OF WOMAN

Not a single incidence in Guru Nanak's life is denotative of his adherence to castesystem. On the contrary, in complete disregard of caste-considerations he had Mardana, a Muslim, as his constant companion. 'Those who condemn God's creatures condemn God Himself' is the underlying tone of many of his verses. He said that even amongst 'the noblest' there could be ignoble, and amongst the lowborn, pure and noble. His idea of a caste-free society transpired also in his concepts of Sangat and Langar. Nanak rejected a Yogi's wear or staff, ashes smeared on body, shaven head, blowing of conch-shell ... as things defining religion.

He emphasised that the religious was him who amongst impurities of the world became impurity-free. He prescribed prayer as its means for prayer rendered the soul, soiled by sin, wholesome and sin-free, similarly as ringed with soap garments, rendered dirty with grime, brightened. Renunciation was not his religion's part. He believed that householders could also do whatever required for their spiritual elevation and communicate with God. Once, one Yogi Bhagandarnath questioned him sarcastically: 'why he mixed acid with milk', that was, mixed family life with asceticism. Bhagandarnath considered family life as impure. Guru Nanak quietly said that Bhagandarnath had renounced family life considering it impure but he was going to householders every day for begging.

He asked the Yogi as to how he would protect the purity of his asceticism when it sustained on food that he every day received from impure householders. Guru Nanak did not consider the world around as false or illusionary. He said: 'Real are your worlds and real the created forms...'. What makes the created ones different from the Creator is reality's degree. The Creator is 'True Reality', 'Eternal Sovereign'. Guru Nanak also did not approve the theory of incarnation of God for the human body was prey to decay and death, whereas God was beyond them. He sometimes seems to combine personalness of Hindu God, spiritual equality of Buddhism and congregation of Islam. His religion was more or less universal and largely of secular type. A poet of uncommon sensitivity Guru Nanak not only collected the subject matter of his verses from every day experiences but also directed his attention to things common man every day faced. He sought to strengthen community life and thereby a strong nation. Not merely spiritual transformation, his verses, as is their underlying pith, seek to improve quality of social life too.

He did not ridicule hypocrites or censored social evils as did Kabir but he was as deeply concerned in regard to them. Instead of ridiculing he only pitied them. Nanak did not approve that women were treated as inferior of man whether in society or in religious hierarchy. He wrote: 'Of women we are born, of women conceived ... by women is the civilization continued ... Then why call her evil from whom are great men born ...' He asserted



that it is because of women that there is order and, except God, existence of all, man or beast. In later Sikhism women were admitted into the Order of the Panth, which is more often considered as the reflection of Guru Nanak's vision of woman.

Lessons & Teachings from Guru Nanak Dev Ji life

Submission to the Will of God (WAHEGURU)

Guru Nanak Dev ji gave the message of "Hukam Rajayee Chalna Nanak Likheya Naal". Guru Nanak Dev ji says that everything happens by God's Grace, so Rest assured that God knows better what is right or wrong for us. We should, therefore, accept His decisions without any grudge or question.

There is One God

Guru Nanak Dev ji said, "I am neither Hindu Nor Muslim, I am a follower of god", which actually spoke about his belief in one god. In Sikhism, the god is omnipresent, shapeless, timeless, and sightless. (Nirankar, akar, alakh). Sikhism stress that, before creation there was God, and because of His will (Hukam), the Illusion (maya of attachment and enticement) came into being.

The God in Sikhism is not male/female, and can only be seen through inward eye. Guru Nanak Dev ji explained one thing clearly that there is only One who gives to Everyone and we should not forget to Him. The Guru stressed that full knowledge of god is impossible in human form.

Goodwill for all – SARBAT DAA BHALAA

Guru Nanak dev ji passed the message of Universal brotherhood. He said that religion is not mere consistence of words but actually looks all men and women equally. Universal brotherhood is a strong theme in Gurbani written by Guru Nanak Dev ji. In our prayer, we say this line towards the end of daily Ardaas – "Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat da

bhala", which can be translated as "Nanak asks for 'Naam' (name of God) with which comes well being, happiness and positive spirit and with your blessings, Lord may everyone in the world prosper and be in peace" or can be broken down as:

Nanak, With Naam comes Chardi Kala and with your blessings, may there be peace for all

We request Him for the welfare of the whole humanity and not just of our community or our family alone.

SACH SUNAIS SACH KEE BELA

– (to speak the truth)

Guru Nanak Dev Ji told in front of King Babar "You are not Babar but JABAR". We should always speak the truth without any fear. According to the Guru's doctrine, the victory of truth is not dependent on ending or suppressing falsehood but in standing firmly by truth. That is why Guru Nanak Dev ji exhorts that to stick to truth and to remain on the side of truth when it is necessary is very essential –

SACH KI BANI NANAK AAKHAI SACH SUNAIS SACH KI BELA

I HAVE RELATED THE TRUE WORD OF THE TRUE LORD AS PER HIS WILL.

SEWA AND SIMRAN

Guru Nanak says that no one can save anybody else. It is only Guru who guides us to safety, and to be saved, one have to follow the right path of SEWA and SIMRAN told by him. Further the Guru is not to be found in big palaces, he lives with poor. Let us love the poor, God will bless us. If we recite Gurbani with love, we will find the Guru is speaking to us. We have been reminded of his observations many times in our life. When we barely make both ends meet, we are usually sincerely devoted to GURBANI and the Sikh way of life. But when we have excess money to spend on worldly pleasures we follow vices and ignore the real mission of human life. DHARAM is usually the first casualty

when we become rich. About SEWA Gurbani explains: (In the midst of this world, do SEWA and you shall be given a place of honour in the Court of the Lord)

The three Principals

VAND CHAKO: Sharing with others, helping those with less who are in need
KIRAT KARO: Earning/making a living honestly, without exploitation or fraud
NAAM JAPNA: Chanting the Holy Name and thus remembering God at all times (ceaseless devotion to God)

Shun five Evils

Guru Nanak Dev Ji asked his followers to shun five evils which leads to illusion (maya) which eventually acts as roadblock towards attainment of salvation. The five evils are

Ego, Anger, Greed, Attachment and Lust.

Importance of Guru

Guru Nanak Dev ji lay great emphasis on having the importance of Guru in one's life. He put forward the thought that salvation occurs not from pilgrimage or rites etc, but through heart, spirit and soul. For this to happen continuous seeking of knowledge must take place which is dependent on one's guru. Guru according to him is the voice of the god, the true source of knowledge and salvation.

No Discrimination

Guru Nanak Dev ji was strongly against all artificially created divisions and all discrimination, both in word and deed. He said that the caste of a person is based on what he does. His idea of a caste-free society transpired also in his concepts of Sangat and Pangat.

Against Rituals/Superstitions

Guru Nanak Dev Ji preached against superstitions, false rituals, worship of demi-gods and goddesses. He stressed that only One God, the Formless, is to be glorified. In this way, he showed the path of truth and enlightenment.

AS I SEE IT



By Karan Thapar

Unwriting history, creating myths

Accounts from the past suggest that Sardar Patel played a key role in the incorporation of Article 370 in the Constitution

What I like about history is that if the event is sufficiently far back in time, and we no longer remember how it happened or who did it, we can spin any story and present it as fact and most people will not be any the wiser. However, if you do it too publicly or loudly there's still a danger you could get found out. Did that happen to the Prime Minister and Home Minister on October 31 when they extolled their de-operationalization of Article 370? Let me place the facts before you and then judge for yourself.

Patel and Article 370

Speaking in Delhi, Amit Shah said "the unfulfilled dream of Patel was realized when 370 was repealed". Narendra Modi was even more explicit. He said Patel had inspired him to take the decision to dilute Article 370 and added, "I dedicate the decision to Sardar Sahab."

Even though neither explicitly said so, it was widely inferred the two men were suggesting Vallabhbhai Patel, first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of independent India, was against Article 370 and wanted it repealed. This was his unfulfilled dream. This is why the Prime Minister dedicated its dilution to him. And remember they were speaking on October 31, Patel's birth anniversary.

Now, let's see how history records Patel's stand on Article 370. Srinath Raghavan, the author of War and Peace in Modern India: A Strategic History of the Nehru Years and a professor at Ashoka University, says the first meeting to draft Article 370 took place at Patel's home on May 15 and 16, 1949. More significantly, Mr. Raghavan says when N.G. Ayyangar, the minister responsible for negotiating with Jammu and Kashmir's Prime Minister (as he was then called) Sheikh Abdullah, prepared a draft letter for Nehru to send to Abdullah summarizing the contours of the agreement - of which, incidentally, Article 370 was the core - he first sent it to Patel with the following note: "Will you kindly let Jawaharlalji know direct



Jawaharlal Nehru (right) and Sardar Vallabh Patel

as to your approval of it. He will issue the letter to Sheikh Abdullah only after receiving your approval."

Let's ponder over that letter. It says Nehru would only tell the Sheikh they had an agreement on the Kashmir clauses, including Article 370, after Patel wrote to him to say he was in agreement with them. In effect, this gave Patel a veto. If he had said he was not happy with it, Nehru presumably would not have written to the Sheikh indicating his acceptance. I assume this is why Mr. Raghavan told The Telegraph (August 13, 2019) that Article 370 was "Sardar Patel's formulation through and through."

Equally importantly, Mr. Raghavan says it was Patel who convinced the Congress Legislature Party to accept Article 370. Since in 1949 the CLP was the majority of the Constituent Assembly, this also means he convinced

the Assembly to accept.

Special status for Kashmir

Let me now cite another source on Patel's attitude to Article 370. I shall quote from page 517 of Rajmohan Gandhi's seminal biography of Patel called Patel: A Life. After writing Patel "suppressed" his own opinions, it's important to focus on what Mr. Gandhi says of the decision taken by Patel "in October 1949, while Nehru was abroad, when the Constituent Assembly considered Kashmir." Read what follows carefully: "Patel, who was functioning as Acting Prime Minister, acquiesced in a special status for Kashmir, inclusive of concessions that went beyond what Jawaharlal had accepted before his departure". Mr. Gandhi writes that Abdullah pressed for these concessions "and the Sardar did not stand in the way". Patel presumed that these concessions "seemed to represent Nehru's wishes which (he) did not want to repudiate in Jawaharlal's absence".

Once again, this is very revealing. First, Patel "acquiesced in a special status for Kashmir... that went beyond what Jawaharlal had accepted." Second, he did so because he presumed this "seemed to represent Nehru's wishes which he did not want to repudiate." This clearly implies he did not strongly disagree with these concessions otherwise he would have refused to go along or, at least, done so after expressing strong dissent. But that didn't happen. So, even if he "suppressed" his own views he did not give them great importance -- certainly not priority.

To be honest, Rajmohan Gandhi also records that Patel "predicted trouble": "'Jawaharlal royega', he said." Perhaps Nehru came to rue Article 370 but Patel was the one who ensured it got placed in the Constitution. He did not wait to find out whether Nehru actually wanted this. He simply assumed he did.

Does this account from history suggest repealing Article 370 was Patel's "unfulfilled dream"? And would

Patel feel honored that the repeal is being dedicated to his memory? As I said at the start, you must judge for yourself.

The case of Hari Singh

Now, while I am revealing insights gleaned from history, let me share two others. Page 517 of Rajmohan Gandhi's biography reveals that it was Patel who told Maharaja Hari Singh to leave the State. "He had agreed, when Nehru pressed him, to ask the Maharaja of Kashmir to leave the state." Mr. Gandhi quotes the Maharaja's son, Karan Singh, in support of this. "The Sardar told my father gently but firmly... my father was stunned. He emerged from the meeting ashen-faced, while my mother was fighting back her tears."

The second insight is more telling. It comes from Pheroze Vincent's article for The Telegraph of August 13. It concerns Syama Prasad Mookerjee - the founder of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, from which the BJP was born - and the decision to refer Kashmir to the United Nations, which Mr. Shah has roundly and repeatedly criticized. On August 7, 1952 this is what Mookerjee said in the Lok Sabha: "It has been said that I was a party when the decision was taken to refer the Kashmir issue to the UNO... that is an obvious fact."

So, doesn't it seem that Mookerjee, a member of Nehru's cabinet at the time, did not dissent? Otherwise in 1952, two years after he parted company with Nehru and a year after he formed the Jan Sangh, wouldn't he have said so? Instead, this is what he told the Lok Sabha: "I have no right and I do not want to disclose the extraordinary circumstances under which that decision was taken."

After all that, let me leave you with a bon mot. They say great men write history. One of the greatest, Napoleon, dismissed history as "a myth." Well, in India great men can also 'unwrite' history. Or, as Napoleon would have put it, they create myths.

(The author is a television anchor)



COMMENT

Prof. I.S. Saluja

What a coincidence! Supreme Court hands down a verdict in the decades old Ram Janmabhoomi - Babri Masjid dispute on Saturday, November 9. The same day, another historic event takes place north west of Delhi when Prime Minister Modi inaugurates the Kartarpur Corridor to facilitate pilgrimage by Sikhs to Kartarpur Sahib 4 miles into Pakistan territory. What a gift to the Sikhs on the

550th birth anniversary of the Founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Again, a coincidence that the man who led charge to demolish Babri masjid and dreamed and vowed to build a Ram Temple at the site had his dream realized on his 92nd birthday on November 9. Many happy returns of the day to Lal Krishna Advani.

While it is hoped that both the Hindu and the Muslim communities in India will realize that there is no question of a defeat or a victory for either community in

Supreme Court's verdict, and neither will be misguided by elements looking to foment passions at the drop of the hat. More than the power of any faith is the power of love and humanity. It is hoped the two communities will realize the necessity and value of peaceful coexistence. It is as much a responsibility of political and community leaders as it is ordinary citizens' to ensure no provocative language is used which may provoke and incite people against each other.

Pakistan Prime Minister deserves to be congratulated for taking a commendable initiative which has been appreciated by Prime Minister Modi himself. It may be a small step but surely it is a step forward to building confidence and winning hearts. India and Pakistan should know that they are neighbors and they have no choice but to remain neighbors and try to live as good neighbors. Kartarpur Corridor may be a beginning to a corridor between New Delhi and Islamabad.

A November 9 of happy coincidences :SC Verdict on Ram Janmabhoomi - Babri Masjid and Kartarpur Corridor Inauguration



Guru Nanak's 550th Birth Anniversary -AD 2019



By Mike Ghouse

On this auspicious day of the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji's birthday, as a Muslim, and on behalf of the Center for Pluralism, I wish peace, harmony and blessings to the world. This spirit of uniting people is the need of the day and may this Gurburab bring that light to the world. Guru Nanak, like all the great souls of the world, was concerned about the conflicts between different communities in India during his time. He started a movement to bring the Hindus and Muslims together and uplift the downtrodden and the Dalits and remove the caste barriers and bring sanity to the world. The central value of his teachings is serving fellow humans and caring for others. I am pleased to share a few points, including my interest. It is a story long overdue, and I have cut down the piece in half due to space. Thanks to Indian Panorama for publishing this piece.

PERSONAL : My Nana, whom we called "Sikh Nana" wore precisely the same colorful turban the Sikhs wear. I see him in many pictures of the Guru Nanak. I am a Sardar myself, of course, that is my alias name. I had extensive conversations with the Sikhs in the mid to late sixties, who served at Yelahanka Airforce Station and came to our mill to get their wheat grounded into flour, and I had the opportunity to spend time and learn about Sikhism. Thanks to my social studies book in the sixth grade at the Urdu Middle School in Yelahanka, a suburb of Bangalore. The book had two pages each for all the religious icons of the world. That's when I learned about Guru Nanak and Sikhism. I took my kids to the Garland Gurdwara Sahib several times, and I have visited all the five Gurdwaras in Dallas, Texas. We held two significant events in our annual programs - one was to honor Sikhs for their exemplary model of dealing with Wisconsin shooting, and the other was to commemorate the Sikh Genocide.

PLURALISM : The Center for Pluralism defines Pluralism, "Respecting the otherness of the other," and accepting the God-given uniqueness of each one of us. Guru Nanak believed in respecting the otherness of the other and was never hesitant to call on the corrupt practices that did not recognize the equality of others. He made a point to teach those values whether you were a peasant or a king, pauper or wealthy, he proclaimed, God was accessible to every human equally.

Guru Nanak said that a true Hindu and true Muslim is one who follows his path, and several centuries later, Mahatma Gandhi reiterated that a good Sikh is a good Hindu and a good Muslim is a good Christian.

The lowest among the low castes, lower than the lowliest, Nanak is with them: He envies not those with worldly greatness. Lord! The glance of grace falls on the land where the humble are cherished.

Guru Nanak believed in living the God-given life to the fullest extent. Like Buddha and Prophet Muhammad, he did not ask anyone to give up living their life and become an ascetic. He preached that spirituality is serving fellow humans and being one with all. "A holistic understanding of Peace, undergirded by ideas of equality and fraternity, is a part of the Sikh tradition. The very origin of Sikhism is linked to overcoming communal hatred and divisions of his time. Guru Nanak emphasized universal kinship as the highest of religious aspirations and urged his followers to treat all human beings as brothers and sisters. Particularly crucial for Sikhism is the overcoming of all discrimination based on caste, class, or creed - which are impediments for Peace." Pursuing Peace in a pluralistic world.

I had the pleasure of endorsing two books on Sikhism this year. One is called "Guru Nanak's Religious Pluralism and the Guru Granth Sahib" by Dr.

Harbans Lal and Roshan Attrey. What makes this book different from others is its emphasis on Pluralism and interfaith aspects of the Sikh belief system.

Dr. Harbans Lal writes, "A pluralistic society is one where multiple things, multiple viewpoints, multiple belief systems, can exist at the same time. More importantly, it is a society where minority religious groups can maintain their cultural and religious traditions without any fear." The other book is Unity in Diversity by Daljit Singh Jawa, and I wrote on the cover, "Who could write a book on interfaith in the most authentic way? The very foundation of Sikhism is Pluralism. The Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of guidance, is composed of Hindu and Muslim spiritual teachings. Of course, rituals are pathways in finding whatever you are set to find, and Sikhism also has religious rituals.

LANGAR : When you think of Sikhs, one of the first things that come to your mind is service. They strongly believe in feeding the hungry, and their food is like the last supper; it never ends. Great food!

Diana Eck, writes in Dallas Morning News, "This hospitality is not just a gesture; it is foundational to the Sikh faith. Eating together is what knits the Sikh community together and breaks down the barriers that divide the wider human community. In caste-conscious India of the 15th century, when the teacher Guru Nanak first gathered what became the Sikh community, the common meal was an egalitarian human revolution. In plain ritual language, it spelled out the fact that among Sikhs, there would be no discrimination of high caste or low, no male or female, no Muslim or Hindu, no Sikh or non-Sikh. We are just people, equal in the eyes of the one God. Eating together symbolizes a Sikh's rejection of discrimination and prejudice. May we all share more common meals as we discover what "we the people" truly means."

Sikhs set an exemplary model for conflict mitigation.

On August 5, 2012, a gunman Wade Michael Page walked into the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and opened the fire killing six people causing tremendous panic and apprehension. It all started with the murder of Balbir Singh Sodhi, a gas station owner in Phoenix, Arizona. The harassment continued, the humiliation of Dr. Prabhjot Singh, a Sikh Professor in New York and harassment of Mr. Jagjeet Singh, a truck driver by a Judge in Mississippi.

They followed the teachings of Guru Nanak by responding to the Wisconsin massacre with patience, forbearance, and kindness, and it was the right thing to do when tragedy befalls a community. They set a new benchmark in America for dealing with adversity.

The Sikhs across America chose the most powerful tools of all: Prayer and forgiveness. Indeed, it resonates with the teachings of all the great masters, and recently Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March and Martin Luther King's march in Selma. It disarms the oppressor, and the message of goodness gets conveyed. Every Gurdwara in America held candlelight vigils and speeches focused on forgiveness and goodwill - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNxf8fU0I>

The selfless service to humankind, known as Seva, is central to the teaching of Sikhism. There is no thought of reward or gains, and it is pure service to fellow beings. The Sikh community was appreciated by one and all at the annual Unity Day USA in Dallas.

RECONCILIATION. : Sikhism began as a reconciliatory effort in nurturing goodwill between people of different faiths. On this 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, I would urge Sikhs and others to reconcile the sparks of ill-will over the existence of Sikhism.

We need to revive the spirit of reconciliation. We need to pull our heads out of the sand and face the world and bring long-lasting freedom to all of us. An awkward but heart to heart dialogue among communities is the way forward, and we cannot pass on the ill-will gene to the next generation, if we understand the source of the conflict, we can find a



Sikh Community Honored at IX Annual Unity Day USA

solution. The sparks of the conflict lay dormant and burst into flames as a surprise resulting in the Sikh Genocide of 1984, which needs addressing squarely. Justice is due to the families who lost their loved ones. I will not go into details, but we need to understand the pain of the mothers who are still waiting to know the whereabouts of their children. Justice is the only cure to build peaceful societies.

The conflict with Mogul Kings needs to be reviewed and understood in its historical context. The power struggles between competing Kings are a part of the equation.

On this auspicious occasion of Gurburab, the Sikhs can make a genuine effort to pay tribute to the spirit of Guru Nanak Dev and remove the misunderstandings that erupted from a wrong translation of a verse in the Quran. It happened four centuries ago during the reign of Aurangzeb and has been rightfully etched in the psyche of some Sikhs. I have shared the correct version of the verse with Dr. Avtar S. Dhaliwal from Tennessee. It originated at the Parliament of World's religions in Melbourne, Australia, a decade ago.

The partition of India has caused a lot of unforgettable pain; children were mercilessly thrown from the moving trains, women raped, and men were brutally murdered. The pain will not go away, but we can make an effort to prevent this pain from passing it on to the next generation in the form of ill-will. The children don't deserve to carry our problems.

If the people who suffered on all sides sit down face to face and see the humanity in each one of them, we can learn to purge our hearts from the pain. I have talked with Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh families who have endured that pain. Most of them have forgiven each other, don't hold it against the offspring of the others.

The Sikh Community has done outstanding work in rebuilding abandoned mosques, temples, and churches. May this goodwill continue and embrace all humanity. Indeed, the land for the Golden Temple was a grant by King Akbar, and the first brick for the Golden Temple was laid out by a Muslim fakir. We have a good history that we need to cherish.

The Indian community is grateful to the Sikh Community for standing up to defend the Maryada of Kashmiri Muslim women, after the abrogation of article 370 in Kashmir. I know, millions of Muslims prayed for the Sikh community for doing the right thing, and I know many Muslim women have cried and prayed for the Sikhs. I had a tear in my eyes as well to know that the people are still there on this earth and thank Guru Nanak for creating a beautiful community of authentic sevaks.

Congratulations on building the Kartarpur Corridor. That is one thing the Indian and Pakistani politicians have done well. May the noor (divine light) of Guru Nanak brighten the world. Amen! Let each one of the humans live freely and securely with their Turbans, Hijabs, Kippas, dhotis, crosses, and the robes. Amen!

Happy Gurburab!

(The author is a thinker, author, speaker, newsmaker, and an interfaith wedding officiant. His new book American Muslim Agenda is available on Amazon, coming up are books on Human Rights and Pluralism. He is committed to building cohesive societies and offers pluralistic solutions on issues of the day. His information is at linked-in.)



Indian American Chemist Explores Relationship between Art and Science through Live Demonstrations



Geeta Govindarajoo, whose "Chemistry of Art" course at Rutgers-New Brunswick explores the ways art and science are fused.

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP):

Inspired after reading an autobiography by Ken Perenyi, a New Jersey-native who is considered one of America's most successful art forgers, Geeta Govindarajoo, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology created the "Chemistry of Art" course at Rutgers-New Brunswick explores the ways art and science are fused.

Figuring out how to make a specific type of paint through experiments with pigment and dye, learning how corrosion can affect metal or building a structure that will last for centuries like the Romans - all require a level of science.

The demonstrations include mixing a soluble silver salt such as silver nitrate, treating it with ammonia and adding dextrose, which creates silver metal that sticks to glass and cracks, similar to patterns on holiday ornaments. Students will also learn about paper making, jewelry making and will get a chance to create photographs by using paper and chemicals that develop in sunlight in order to demonstrate how the first photographs were taken.

The course will also take students out of the classroom to visit the Zimmerli Art Museum's Dimensionism: Modern Art in the Age of Einstein exhibit, which explores how modern art was influenced by advances in science. This includes Einstein's theory of relativity, which Govindarajoo said offers students a multidimensional way to explore the ways art and science inform each other.

Indian American Dimple Ajmera Reelected to Charlotte City Council

CHARLOTTE, NC (TIP): Indian American Dimple Ajmera won convincing re-election to Charlotte City Council in North Carolina on Nov 5. With little means, her parents immigrated from India when she was 16 to provide their children with greater opportunities. She spoke no English. Proving her tenacity, she went on to graduate from the University of Southern California (USC) and later became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). After joining City Council, Ajmera left her lucrative six-figure career in order to devote her full attention to a position and mission she valued - helping to make Charlotte a place where everyone has a chance to succeed and prosper, regardless of background or geography.

During her tenure on City Council, she has been a fighter with a proven record. Ajmera's platform includes, but is not limited to Public Safety, Affordable Housing, the Environment, Women's Equality, Economic Development, and Infrastructure. She is widely known for chairing the Environment Committee



Ajmera also has a record of bold accomplishments on affordable housing

and helping Charlotte become a global leader in sustainability with bipartisan support. The adoption of the Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) is the city's first-ever framework to transition to a low carbon future. Within 24-hours of its passing, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg visited Charlotte to announce a \$2.5 million grant from his

foundation toward Charlotte's efforts to fight climate change.

Ajmera also has a record of bold accomplishments on affordable housing. She played an integral role in securing the funding and neighborhood support for affordable housing development, St. John's Place. She continues to advocate for expanding access to affordable housing, increasing local awareness and action on school safety, and bringing traction and economic opportunities to the 69-acre Eastland site, an area left undeveloped for years.

Ajmera broke the glass ceiling with her historic victory in 2017. She continues to be a role model for women and immigrants. Ajmera was also given the 2018 Global Service Award by Rotary International and one of Longleaf Politics' 54 Top Young Political Stars in North Carolina. She has been recognized as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Mecklenburg County by the Mecklenburg Times. Most recently she was named Charlotte Business Journal's 40 under 40.

Indian American Ghazala Hashmi Becomes Virginia's First Muslim State Senator



Ghazala moved to the U.S. from India as a young girl with her family fifty years ago

VIRGINIA (TIP): Democrat Ghazala Hashmi created history when she unseated Virginia state Sen. Glen Sturtevant (R) on Tuesday, Nov 5 to become the first Muslim woman elected to the state Senate. "Today we sent a message that the status quo is no longer accepted.

Thank you all for your support and passion in helping me become the next state Senator for Virginia's 10th District! I couldn't be more honored to be a part of the change to come for Virginia" she tweeted after the win.

Ghazala moved to the U.S. from India as a young girl with her family fifty years ago. She was raised in a small town in Georgia and saw firsthand how community-building and open dialogue can bridge cultural and socioeconomic divisions, uniting people from all walks of life. Ghazala earned a BA in English from Georgia Southern University and a Ph.D. from Emory University.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Oncologist Receives Grants from American Cancer Society Awards

Dr. Ishwaria Subbiah is a medical oncologist and palliative cancer physician at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



HOUSTON (TIP): Dr. Ishwaria Subbiah an oncologist in Houston, Texas received a four-year, \$582,000 grant from The American Cancer Society for her work on Technology-enhanced Palliative Care for Cancer Patients in Phase 1 Trials.

Dr. Ishwaria Subbiah is a medical oncologist and palliative cancer physician at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She received her MS at Johns Hopkins University and her MD at St. George's University. Dr. Subbiah then went on to complete residencies at the University of Texas Health Science Center and Albany Medical Center. She completed post-graduate fellowships in developmental therapeutics, medical oncology and palliative medicine at MD Anderson. With this robust foundation, Dr. Subbiah cultivates a clinical practice and research focus on symptom management in all patients with particular emphasis on the older adults receiving novel therapies on clinical trials.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Mano Raju Wins San Francisco's Public Defender Race

SAN FRANCISCO

(TIP): Indian American Manohar Mano Raju won his election to remain San Francisco's Public Defender. He created history by becoming the first South Asian American to head a Public Defender's office when SFO Mayor



Indian American Mano Raju won his election to remain San Francisco's Public Defender

London Breed named Raju the city's Public Defender on 11 March this year following the sudden death of the incumbent Jeff Adachi.

Raju began his career as a public defender 18 years ago in the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office. He has been with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office for the past eleven years. In addition to trying cases and defending clients, Raju has served as the Director of Training in the Public Defender's Office where he worked with the office's staff to develop and enhance public defender practices. After serving as Director of Training, Raju was promoted to manage the Felony Unit, where he manages the office's felony attorneys while continuing to handle his own complex felony cases.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Student's death sparks anger among Hong Kong protesters

China expresses regret, protesters take to streets against police 'atrocities'

HONG KONG (TIP): A Hong Kong university student who fell off a parking garage after police fired tear gas during clashes with anti-government protesters died Friday in a rare fatality after five months of unrest, fueling more outrage against authorities in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The hospital authority said the 22-year-old died Friday morning, but didn't provide further details. The government expressed "great sorrow and regret" over Chow Tsz-Lok's death and police said they would propose a public inquest. Some 1,000 masked protesters marched through the busy central district at lunchtime, chanting 'Disband the police force', 'Hong Kong people, revenge' and 'A blood debt must be paid in blood'. Some carried white flowers and placards that read 'Hong Kong is a police state'.

Protesters demanded justice for Chow and hurled abuses at several police officials on site, calling them "murderers." The cause of his fall has not been determined.

Police official Suzette Foo later Friday repeatedly denied claims that officers pushed the victim down and had delayed emergency services.

Prominent activist Joshua Wong said Chow's death made protesters' demands



for an investigation into police conduct even more crucial. Wong was charged in August with organising an illegal rally.

The president of the University of Science and Technology, where Chow studies, dabbed away tears as he announced Chow's "tragic" death during a graduation ceremony, with the audience standing to observe a moment of silence. The ceremony was cut short, and black-clad masked students turned

the stage into a memorial for Chow.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang declined to comment on Chow's death.

The protests were sparked by a now-shelved extradition bill to mainland China that many see as Beijing's creeping interference on legal and other rights guaranteed to Hong Kong when the former British colony returned under Chinese rule in 1997. — AP

Facebook apologises after black workers complain of bias

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Facebook apologised on Friday after black employees anonymously shared feelings of workplace bias in an online post. The post shared at Medium by a "FB Blind" profile laid out perceived slights by managers, white colleagues, and the human resources department.

"No one at Facebook, or anywhere, should have to put up with this behaviour," corporate communications vice president Bertie Thomson said in response to an AFP query.

"We are sorry. It goes against everything that we stand for as a company. We're listening and working hard to do better."

Incidents described in the Medium post included being targeted for negative performance reviews or snide comments.

"On the inside, we are sad. Angry. Oppressed. Depressed," the post read.

"And treated every day through the micro and macro aggressions as if we do not belong here."

The anonymous post maintained that the atmosphere at Facebook had worsened in the past year when it came to non-white workers being recognised, empowered and treated equitably.

"The problem is not just with black employees of different genders," the post read.

"We are remaining anonymous because Facebook creates a hostile culture where anyone that is non-white is made to feel fear for their job and their safety to report any bad behaviours." AFP

British tourist 'eaten by shark' while on holiday

London (TIP): A British tourist was believed to have been eaten by a shark during a luxury trip to celebrate his wife's 40th birthday while swimming in what was deemed a "safe" lagoon, it was reported on Friday.

The victim, identified as civil servant Richard Martyn Turner, from Edinburgh, was snorkelling by himself in waters off the Reunion Island, a French department in the Indian Ocean, where four sharks were later caught, The Daily Mail reported citing Scottish media reports as saying.

The 44-year-old's death was confirmed by judicial sources days after his severed hand and forearm were found in the stomach of a tiger shark, which was at least 13-ft long.

His wife identified his remains through his wedding ring.

Meanwhile, DNA tests were also being carried out on the other remains found inside the tiger shark to confirm that they belong to Turner. The other three sharks will also have their stomach contents examined, The Daily Mail said.

The UK Foreign Office is yet to comment on the incident. IANS

NATO brain dead: Macron

PARIS/BERLIN (TIP): French President Emmanuel Macron has described NATO as "brain dead", stressing what he sees as waning commitment to the trans-atlantic alliance by its main guarantor, the US. "What we are currently experiencing is the brain death of NATO," the BBC reported, citing Macron as saying in an interview to The Economist on Thursday.

He warned European members that they could no longer rely on the US to defend the alliance, established at the start of the Cold War to bolster Western European and North American security.

Responding to Macron's remarks, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, while speaking in Berlin alongside visiting NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, said the French President "used drastic words - that is not my view of co-operation in NATO", reports the BBC.

Merkel acknowledged that there were problems, but said she did not think that "such sweeping judgements are necessary". Stoltenberg said the alliance remained strong.

Also reacting to Macron was Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, who said in a Facebook post, "Well said. Truthful words, and ones that get to the nub of the matter... An accurate description of NATO's current state."



Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said NATO must grow and change or risk becoming obsolete. IANS/Reuters

Erdogan says Turkey will not leave Syria until other countries pull out

ANKARA (TIP): Turkey will not leave Syria until other countries pull out, President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying on Friday, and Ankara will continue its cross-border offensive against Kurdish fighters until every one of them has left the region. Turkey launched its third military incursion into northeast Syria last month to drive Kurdish YPG fighters from its border and establish a "safe zone" where it aims to settle up to 2 million Syrian refugees.

After seizing a 120-km (75-mile) swathe of land along the border, Turkey struck deals with the United States and Russia to keep the Kurdish militia out of that area. Speaking to reporters on his flight home from a trip to Hungary, Erdogan said Turkey would only leave Syria once other countries have left as well, adding that the Turkish offensive would continue until all militants leave the area. "We will not let up until every last terrorist leaves the region," Erdogan said, referring to the YPG, the main component of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) that Ankara views as a terrorist organisation. Erdogan told reporters on Friday that he would hold a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday to "form the basis" of his talks in Washington, according to NTV. Reuters

Indian American Couple Charged with International Elder Fraud Scheme

RICHMOND, VA (TIP): A federal grand jury returned an indictment Nov 5 charging a Minnesota couple of Indian origin with their roles in a sophisticated fraud scheme that primarily targeted elderly Americans.

According to court documents and allegations in the indictment, Chirag Janakbhai Choksi, 35, and his wife, Shachi Naishadh Majmudar, 35, were members of a criminal conspiracy who had members that impersonated law enforcement officials to trick and coerce victims into mailing and shipping cash to other conspiracy members by convincing the victims that it was in their best interests to do so.

These schemes generally start with "robocalls", designed to create a sense of urgency with unsuspecting recipients. The messages typically tell the recipient that they have some sort of serious legal problem, and that if they do not immediately take a particular action demanded by the callers, then there will be drastic consequences, typically involving the arrest of the recipient, significant financial penalties, or cessation of government benefits. The fraudsters almost invariably instruct the call recipient that, in order to prevent these dire consequences, the recipients must pay money, by wire transfer or cash, to some purported government entity.

The conspiracy operated cells in multiple states, including New Jersey, California, Indiana, Texas, Illinois and Minnesota. In one particular alleged scheme, members of the conspiracy impersonated DEA agents and advised Victim 1 that a vehicle located near the southwest border contained cocaine and her bank information. The fraudsters then convinced Victim 1 to surrender half the cash in her bank accounts in good faith until a thorough investigation had been completed to clear her name of any criminal activity.

According to the indictment, Choksi used counterfeit driver's licenses to identify himself when picking up cash shipments from victims, and then made multiple deposits of that cash into bank accounts controlled by conspiracy members. The indictment also alleges that Majmudar went to the online websites of FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service to track shipments of cash sent by victims and made multiple deposits of victims' cash into conspiracy-controlled bank accounts.

Choksi and Majmudar are both charged with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, as well as one count of mail fraud. The maximum possible sentence for each of those charges is 20 years in prison. Choksi is also charged with aggravated identity theft, which provides for a mandatory minimum term of two years in prison that must run consecutive to any other sentence imposed.

Get Ready for Taxes: Important things to know about tax credits



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON (TIP): With the tax filing season quickly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service recommends taxpayers take time now to determine if they are eligible for important tax credits. This is to help taxpayers Get Ready for the upcoming tax filing season. The IRS recently updated its Get Ready page with steps to take now for the 2020 filing season.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT : The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit for working people with low to moderate incomes who meet certain eligibility requirements. Because it's a refundable credit, those who qualify and claim EITC pay less federal tax, pay no tax or may even get a tax refund. EITC can mean a credit of up to \$6,557 for working families with three or more qualifying children. Workers without a qualifying child may be eligible for a credit up to \$529. To get the credit, people must have earned income and file a federal tax return - even if they don't owe any tax or aren't otherwise required to file.

Taxpayers can use the EITC Assistant to find out if they are eligible for EITC, determine if their child or children meet the tests for a qualifying child and estimate the amount of their credit.

CHILD TAX CREDIT: Taxpayers can claim the Child Tax Credit if they have a qualifying child under the age of 17 and meet other qualifications. The maximum amount per qualifying child is \$2,000. Up to \$1,400 of that amount can be refundable for each qualifying child. So,

like the EITC, the Child Tax Credit can give a taxpayer a refund even if they owe no tax. The qualifying child must have a valid Social Security number issued before the due date of the tax return, including extensions. For tax year 2019, this means April 15, 2020, or if a taxpayer gets a tax-filing extension, Oct. 15, 2020. The amount of the Child Tax Credit begins to reduce or phase out at \$200,000 of modified adjusted gross income, or \$400,000 for married couples filing jointly.

CREDIT FOR OTHER DEPENDENTS: This credit is available to taxpayers with dependents for whom they cannot claim the Child Tax Credit. These include dependent children who are age 17 or older at the end of 2019 or parents or other qualifying individuals supported by the taxpayer. Publication 972, Child Tax Credit, available now on IRS.gov, has further details and will soon be updated for tax year 2019.

EDUCATION CREDITS: Two credits can help taxpayers paying higher education costs for themselves, a spouse or dependent. The American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) and the Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC) are

claimed on Form 8863, Education Credits. The AOTC is partly refundable.

To get either credit, the taxpayer or student usually must receive Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement, from the school attended. Some exceptions apply. See the instructions to Form 8863 for details.

INTERACTIVE TAX ASSISTANT: The IRS urges taxpayers to use the agency's Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) to help determine if they can claim any of these credits. The ITA also provides answers to general questions on filing status, claiming dependents, filing requirements and other topics.

Start with IRS.gov for help that includes tools, filing options and other services and resources. Taxpayers increasingly use IRS.gov as their first resource for tax matters. Information in languages other than English is available under the language tab on IRS.gov. Filing electronically is easy, safe and the most accurate way to file your tax return. There are a variety of free electronic filing options for most taxpayers including using IRS Free File for taxpayers with income below \$66,000, or Fillable Forms for taxpayers who earn more. Taxpayers who generally earn \$56,000 or less can have their return prepared at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites offer free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older. The Let Us Help You page on IRS.gov features links that take users to information and resources on a wide range of topics.

401(k) contribution limit increases to \$19,500 for 2020; catch-up limit rises to \$6,500

WASHINGTON TIP): The Internal Revenue Service announced that employees in 401(k) plans will be able to contribute up to \$19,500 next year. The IRS announced this and other changes in Notice 2019-59, posted today on IRS.gov. This guidance provides cost of living adjustments affecting dollar limitations for pension plans and other retirement-related items for tax year 2020.

Highlights of changes for 2020: The contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased from \$19,000 to \$19,500. The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 and over who participate in these plans is increased from \$6,000 to \$6,500.

The limitation regarding SIMPLE retirement accounts for 2020 is increased to \$13,500, up from \$13,000 for 2019.

The income ranges for determining eligibility to make deductible contributions to traditional Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), to contribute to Roth IRAs and to claim the Saver's Credit all increased for 2020.

Taxpayers can deduct contributions to a traditional IRA if they meet certain

conditions. If during the year either the taxpayer or his or her spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work, the deduction may be reduced, or phased out, until it is eliminated, depending on filing status and income. (If neither the taxpayer nor his or her spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work, the phase-outs of the deduction do not apply.) Here are the phase-out ranges for 2020:

For single taxpayers covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is \$65,000 to \$75,000, up from \$64,000 to \$74,000.

For married couples filing jointly, where the spouse making the IRA contribution is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is \$104,000 to \$124,000, up from \$103,000 to \$123,000. For an IRA contributor who is not covered by a workplace retirement plan and is married to someone who is covered, the deduction is phased out if the couple's income is between \$196,000 and \$206,000, up from \$193,000 and \$203,000.

For a married individual filing a separate return who is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is not subject to an annual

cost-of-living adjustment and remains \$0 to \$10,000.

The income phase-out range for taxpayers making contributions to a Roth IRA is \$124,000 to \$139,000 for singles and heads of household, up from \$122,000 to \$137,000. For married couples filing jointly, the income phase-out range is \$196,000 to \$206,000, up from \$193,000 to \$203,000. The phase-out range for a married individual filing a separate return who makes contributions to a Roth IRA is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains \$0 to \$10,000. The income limit for the Saver's Credit (also known as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit) for low- and moderate-income workers is \$65,000 for married couples filing jointly, up from \$64,000; \$48,750 for heads of household, up from \$48,000; and \$32,500 for singles and married individuals filing separately, up from \$32,000.

KEY LIMIT REMAINS UNCHANGED: The limit on annual contributions to an IRA remains unchanged at \$6,000. The additional catch-up contribution limit for individuals aged 50 and over is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains \$1,000.

Details on these and other retirement-related cost-of-living adjustments for 2020 are in Notice 2019-59, available on IRS.gov.

MIT India Event at Embassy of India Aims to Meet Future S&T Goals in India

WASHINGTON (TIP): Embassy of India in association with MIT-Club Washington DC organized an event on 31st October to highlight the activities of MIT-International Science & Technology Initiatives [MISTI] -India Program and discuss on path forward to achieve greater collaboration with MIT to meet future S&T goals in India.

Ambassador Harsh V Shringla addressed the gathering comprising of 100 MIT alumni, Deputy Chief of the Mission, Counsellor- Science & Technology and other Embassy officials who attended the event. He mentioned that the Government of India is extensively supporting research parks and technology business incubators which promote the innovative ideas and technologies till they become commercial ventures.

Ambassador expressed the importance of expanding engagement with such elite institutions with the science and technology enterprise of India and leverage binational relationship to build a strong technology led start-up ecosystem in India. Ambassador also explained about S &T opportunities in India and urged to collaborate to advance research and foster innovations in the cutting-edge technologies such as: Quantum Information Technology, Cyber Physical



Ambassador Harsh V Shringla addressed the gathering comprising of 100 MIT alumni, Deputy Chief of the Mission, Counsellor- Science & Technology and other Embassy officials

Photo / Courtesy Indian Embassy

Systems which includes artificial intelligence, robotics, sensors, big data analytics, geographical information systems and advanced materials, and Clean Energy and Technology for Electric Mobility. Prof Pawan Sinha, Professor at MIT who leads MIT-India Program, made

a detailed presentation on MIT-India Program (attached separately in the mail) and discussed various programs an opportunity to engage MIT with institutions in India.

Indian American Suhas Subramanyam Elected to Virginia House of Representatives



After spending time as a technology and regulatory attorney, Suhas served as White House technology policy advisor to President Obama

VIRGINIA (TIP): Indian American Democrat Suhas Subramanyam won the Virginia house of Representatives elections on Tuesday, Nov 5 by defeating his GOP opponent Bill Drennan in the 87th House District.

"Incredibly honored to be elected to the VA House last night and to join a @vademocrats majority. Thank you so much to the voters of HD-87 for making your voice heard, and thank you to the vols, staff, donors, friends and family who all made this possible", he tweeted after the victory.

"My promise to the people of Loudoun and Prince William: I will always listen to you, work tirelessly for you, and do everything I can to empower you. The campaign is over, but my work for you has just begun" he further tweeted.

Suhas is a proud resident of Loudoun County and has always maintained his commitment to serving the community. He was appointed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to the Loudoun Health Council, where he works to address some of the most pressing health care issues in Northern Virginia. For his professional accomplishments and work in the community, Suhas was named to the Loudoun Times-Mirror's 40 Under 40. In 1979, Suhas's mother, a native of Bengaluru, India, immigrated to the United States. She landed in Dulles Airport to start a new life where she could become a physician and raise a family. She united with Suhas's father, who was born in India and raised by the widow of a deceased army veteran.

He served on Capitol Hill as a health care and veterans policy aide, where he worked to expand and improve health care access to millions of Americans and drafted legislation to increase job opportunities and funding for veterans. He later earned his law degree with honors at Northwestern University School of Law, volunteering at the Center for Wrongful Convictions. There, he was part of the legal team that freed a man who had spent 21 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Trump ordered to pay \$2 million to charities over misuse of foundation, court documents say

NEW YORK (TIP): President Trump has been ordered by a New York State judge to pay \$2 million to a group of charities, settling a lawsuit alleging Trump misused his foundation for personal and political gain, according to a court document filed on Thursday.

The case, brought against Trump and his three eldest children by the New York State Attorney General's office last year, alleged that the foundation had misspent funds and ignored their oversight duties under New York charity laws.

Judge Saliann Scarpulla also signed off on agreement to the shut down the Trump Foundation and began the process of dissolution last year.

Attorney General Letitia James had asked for \$2.8 million in restitution but that was cut to \$2 million.

In addition to that payment, another \$1.8 million that remained in the foundation's coffers will be divided up evenly and distributed to eight charities, including the Children's Aid Society, the United Negro College Fund, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, according to the attorney general's office.

The Trump Foundation said in a statement that it was "pleased to donate an additional \$2 million" to what it called "worthy organizations."

The lawsuit was filed in June and it alleged "persistently illegal conduct" at the foundation.



Trump denied that the organization had done anything wrong.

The order for Trump to pay comes follows extensive reporting in The Washington Post about alleged wrongdoing at the foundation. The reporting documented how Trump used the charity's money to pay legal settlements for his private business, to buy art for one of his clubs, and to make a prohibited political donation.

Trump denied that the organization had done anything wrong.

(Source: Agencies)



EcoSikh Plants 59 Guru Nanak Sacred Forests

WASHINGTON (TIP): Dr. Rajwant Singh said in a statement that Eco Sikh has planted 59 Guru Nanak sacred forests in commemoration of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

99% of the trees planted, which include 550 trees of rare and vanishing variety are growing well attracting a variety of biodiverse creatures.

The biodiverse creatures will help add power of fertility to land. We need only 200 yards of land to plant 550 trees.

Ayodhya verdict gives us a message of living together peacefully: PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Characterising the day as landmark in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the historic judgment in the Ayodhya case "ushers a new dawn and today will also be remembered as a day the country added a golden leaf".

Addressing the nation following the Supreme Court judgment, PM Modi said people of the country should also remember the message that while it may take time, "our faith in the Constitution, judicial system and traditions remains unshaken".

It was time, he said, people bid farewell to any bit of rancour they may have harboured ever and underscored there was no place for fear, bitterness and negativity. After today's decision, he said, the onus was on the country to work towards building a new India, moving forward together and ensuring that no one is left behind.

"Today is also the day when the



Kartarpur corridor was thrown open for people, for which both India and Pakistan cooperated. The Ayodhya verdict teaches us to move by staying together," he said.

The world, he said, which knew India as the largest democracy, would now realise that Indian democracy was both alive and strong and every community and religion accepted the decision with

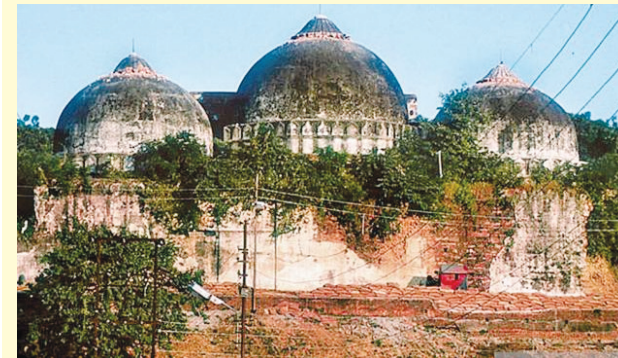
an open heart.

"India which is known for its unity in diversity and we all take pride in it. This mantra can now be seen in full bloom...this is a historic day that Indians will quote...it is not taken from history but 125 crore Indians are writing a new history and adding a golden leaf," he said.

Praising the judiciary for continuously and patiently hearing every side to arrive at an unanimous verdict in resolving a difficult issue, he said this could be appreciated when everyone knew the difficulties one faced to solve a problem within a family.

"Let's start now to work for a new India with faith and confidence and with the resolve that no one falls behind," he said, adding that more than before it was imperative to respect law and order and follow judicial system with a priority to work for a glorious future.

TWISTS & TURNS OF CASE



1528: Babri Masjid is built by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.

1859: The Britishers build a fence, allowing the inner court to be used by the Muslims and the outer by the Hindus.

1885: Mahant Raghbir Das files a plea in Faizabad district court, seeking permission to build a canopy outside the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid structure. Court rejects the plea.

1949: Idols of Ram Lalla placed under a central dome outside the disputed structure.

1950: Paramahansa Ramachandra Das files suit for continuation of worship and keeping the idols.

1959: Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking site possession.

1981: UP Sunni Central Waqf Board files suit for possession.

1986: Local court orders the government to open the site for Hindu worshippers.

1992: The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid structure demolished.

1993: 'Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act' passed for the acquisition of land by the Centre in the disputed area.

1993: Writ petitions filed at Allahabad HC, challenging various aspects of the Act.

1994: SC says in the historic Ismail Faruqui case that a mosque not integral to Islam.

2002: HC begins hearing to determine who owns the disputed site.

2010: Allahabad HC, in a 2:1 majority, rules three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

2011: SC stays HC verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute.

2017: CJI JS Khehar suggests an out-of-court settlement among rival parties.

Aug 7: SC constitutes a three-judge Bench to hear pleas challenging the 1994 verdict of the Allahabad HC.

Nov 20: UP Shia Central Waqf Board tells SC that the temple can be built in Ayodhya and mosque in Lucknow.

Dec 1: Thirty-two civil rights activists file a plea challenging the 2010 verdict of the Allahabad HC.

Mar 14: SC rejects all interim pleas, including Swamy's, seeking to intervene as parties in the case.

Apr 6: Rajeev Dhavan files a plea in SC to refer the issue of reconsideration of the observations in its 1994 judgement to a larger Bench.

Sep 27: Case to be heard by a newly-constituted three-judge Bench on October 29.

2019: SC says an appropriate Bench constituted by it will pass an order on January 10 for fixing the date of hearing in the title case.

Jan 8: SC sets up a five-judge Constitution Bench.

Jan 10: Justice Lalit recuses himself, prompting SC to reschedule the hearing.

Jan 25: SC reconstitutes a five-member Constitution Bench to hear the case.

Jan 29: Centre moves SC seeking permission to return the 67-acre land around the site to original owners.

Mar 8: SC refers the dispute for mediation by a panel headed by former apex court judge FMI Kallifulla.

May 9: A three-member mediation committee submits interim report in SC.

Aug 1: Report of mediation submitted to SC.

Aug 2: SC decides to conduct day-to-day hearing from August 6 as mediation fails.

Oct 4: SC says it will wrap up hearing on October 17, judgment by November 17.

Nov 9: SC grants the entire disputed land to deity Ram Lalla, directs Centre and UP Government to allot five acre land to the Muslims for building the mosque.

Ayodhya verdict: I stand vindicated, feel deeply blessed, says Advani

NEW DELHI (TIP): BJP veteran L.K. Advani, the most prominent political face of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, on Saturday said the historic Supreme Court judgment on the Ayodhya issue has vindicated his stand and he feels deeply blessed over the verdict paving the way for construction of a magnificent Ram temple.



Describing it as a moment of "fulfilment" for him, Advani, who celebrated his 92nd birthday on Friday, said "God Almighty" had given him an opportunity to make his own humble contribution to the mass movement and stressed that time has come to leave all contention and acrimony behind and embrace communal concord and peace.

Terming the agitation for Ram temple the biggest since India's Freedom Movement, he said it was aimed at the outcome which the verdict has made possible.

"I stand vindicated, and feel deeply blessed, that the Supreme Court has given its unanimous verdict paving the way for the construction of a magnificent temple for Lord Ram at Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya," he said in a statement, while "wholeheartedly" welcoming the judgement.

Stressing that Ram and Ramayana occupy an esteemed place in India's cultural and civilisational heritage and Ram Janmabhoomi (birthplace) holds a special and sacred place in the hearts of crores of countrymen, he said it is gratifying that their belief and sentiments have been respected.

Underlining that the judgment is the culmination of a long and contentious process over the last many decades, Advani, who has been the BJP's longest serving president, said, "Now that the prolonged Mandir-Masjid dispute in Ayodhya has come to an end, the time has come to leave all contention and acrimony behind and embrace communal concord and peace."

Won't challenge SC's Ayodhya verdict: Sunni Waqf Board



LUCKNOW (TIP): The Sunni Waqf Board has announced it will not challenge the Ayodhya verdict delivered by the Supreme Court today. Chairman of UP Sunni Waqf Board Zafar Faruqi in a written statement said he "welcomes and humbly accepts" the Ayodhya verdict delivered by the Supreme Court.

"I, as the chairman of the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board, want to make it clear that the Board will not go in any review of the Supreme Court's order or file any curative petition," Zafar Faruqi said.

In its verdict, the Supreme Court upheld the land title of the Hindu side and ordered the government to allot a 5-acre plot elsewhere in Ayodhya where the Sunni Waqf Board can construct a new mosque.

Sunni Waqf Board was the main litigant from the Muslim side in the Ayodhya case.

Earlier in the day, the Board's lawyer Zafaryab Jilani had said they are dissatisfied with the court's verdict and will appeal against it. "The Ayodhya verdict has a lot of contradictions. We will seek a review as we are not satisfied with the verdict," he had said.

On this, the Sunni Waqf Board said, "Any statement in this regard by any individual, lawyer or organisation which mentions that the Sunni Waqf Board will (file a review petition) is not our line."

Meanwhile, news agency PTI in a report said talking to it later, Zafaryab Jilani clarified that the press conference was organised by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and he had reacted as its secretary and not as the counsel for the Sunni Waqf Board.

Ayodhya verdict: It's victory of faith over facts: Owaisi

Hyderabad (TIP): AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday said the Supreme Court judgment on the Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhoomi land dispute is a "victory of faith over facts" and suggested rejection of the alternative five-acre plot given for construction of a mosque.

Owaisi quoted former Chief Justice of India JS Verma that the "Supreme Court is supreme...and final, but not infallible." "This is a 'victory of faith over facts' judgement," he said. On the apex court giving an alternative five-acre plot to the Muslim side for construction of a mosque, Owaisi said the Muslim side was fighting for legal rights and does not need charity from anyone.

Owaisi said he personally felt that the offer of the five acre plot to the Muslim side should be rejected. "I endorse AIMPLB's stand on the judgement. Our fight was for justice and legal rights. We don't need 5-acre land as a charity," he said in a tweet.

Asserting that there cannot be any compromise vis-a-vis construction of a mosque, Owaisi, however, said he would go with the decision of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB).



Alleging the Sangh Parivar and BJP were leading the country towards a "Hindu Rashtra", he said "the people who demolished the Babri Masjid in 1992... the same people were asked to form a trust and start temple construction." "Modi 2.0 is to make India a Hindu Rashtra and the road of that vision begins from Ayodhya. BJP and RSS will use this verdict, NRC and Citizenship Amendment Bill to achieve its poisonous agenda," he alleged.

He sought to know what would have been the Supreme Court's decision had the Babri Masjid not been demolished in 1992 and idols were not placed in 1949.

He claimed that the disputed structure was "sacrificed" because of the Sangh Parivar and conspiracy of the Congress.

Quoting the apex court judgement, he said: "The court has agreed that in the ASI report there was no mention of temple (at the disputed site). The Court has also said that we used to pray inside the Mosque. I don't understand the exercise of Article 142 of the Constitution by the Supreme Court. It is unusual. We are not satisfied with this."

He said he has the right to express his opinion that he is not satisfied, which cannot be termed as contempt of court.

Blaming Congress for the 'tussle' on the Ayodhya issue, Owaisi said the party which was in power during the demolition of the masjid was now showing its "true colours." "But for Congress party's hypocrisy and deceitfulness, the idols would not have been placed in 1949. Had the idols not been placed, the Masjid would have been still there and I would have been still praying over there. "What happened on December 6, 1992 was not just vandalism, it was an attack on India's secular fabric and brotherhood," he said.

BJP invited by maharashtra governor to form government

MUMBAI (TIP): The BJP in Maharashtra has been invited by the Governor to form government. The BJP with 105 seats and the Sena with 56 seats have a clear majority in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly.

But the BJP's hopes for a seamless transition into a second straight term with Devendra Fadnavis in charge are on hold with the Sena demanding equal power-share under what it calls was a "50:50 formula" discussed with Amit Shah earlier this year, before the national election in May. According to the Sena, the plan was for chief ministers from each party sharing the five-year term equally.

"The Governor of Maharashtra Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari today asked the leader of elected members of the single largest party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Devendra Fadnavis to indicate the willingness and ability of his party to form the government in Maharashtra," the Governor's office said in a statement.

"Elections to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly were held on 21st October and the results were

declared on 24th October. However, despite the passage of 15 days, no single party or alliance of parties has come forward to form the government," it said.

Fadnavis resigned as Maharashtra Chief Minister on Friday with no sign of a new government and his BJP and its ally Shiv Sena no closer to forming one together. Mr Fadnavis met with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari to hand in his resignation hours before the midnight deadline for government formation. The term of the Maharashtra assembly ended today. Addressing the media, Mr Fadnavis delivered his strongest statement against the Shiv Sena since 2014, when he took over as Chief Minister. He also questioned whether the Shiv Sena, which had not spared Prime Minister Narendra Modi from its attacks, was worth continuing an alliance with.

"Given their statements, especially against the PM, we are stunned and hurt. No one from the BJP ever targeted Bal Thackeray (Sena founder) or Uddhav Thackeray," Fadnavis said.

Multiple agencies warn central govt of possible 'terror attack' by JeM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Over the last 10 days, as state governments were asked to gear up for the Supreme Court's verdict in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case, the "dark web" had been buzzing with messages from the Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and multiple security agencies have now warned the government about a "major terror attack," a senior officer who did not want to be named said.

Importantly, multiple agencies like the Military Intelligence, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) have simultaneously warned the government of a possible attack. "It just indicates the seriousness of the threat," the senior officer said. "Each of these agencies have come to the same conclusion individually," the officer said.

"The frequency of the communication jumped several-fold in the last 10 days as it was increasingly clear that the judgment could be expected anytime," the senior official said. Importantly, much of the communications through the "dark web," are encrypted and "coded", making the task of security agencies that much more difficult, a second senior official who did not want to be named said.

AYODHYA: ALWAYS WANTED IT, SAYS CONG, THAT STARTED IT ALL

NEW DELHI (TIP): As the Supreme Court pronounced the Ayodhya judgment today, the Congress rushed to take a pro-temple stance with top leaders saying the party had always favoured a Ram Temple at the disputed site and worked towards it.

The Congress Working Committee chaired by party president Sonia Gandhi took a balanced line on the verdict saying "we respect it and appeal for harmony".

Officially, however, the party was more outspoken about its urge to see a temple.

"Obviously the answer is yes," Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said when asked if the Congress favoured a Ram temple at the disputed site. Surjewala said the Congress always wanted a temple at the site while the BJP exploited the matter for electoral gains.

Parallel to that, the Congress sees the Ayodhya verdict as a chance to shed its minority tag and tell people that all momentous decisions on the Ayodhya issue were actually taken by Congress governments.

Started in 1986 with the then District and Sessions Judge of Faizabad KM Pandey ordering the Babri Masjid doors to be unlocked for Hindus on February 1, 1986. The move was seen as political executed through the judiciary. At the helm then was late PM Rajiv Gandhi whose advisers thought that appeasing the VHP, which in 1984 launched a movement for the Ram Temple, would help Gandhi undo the damage done by overturning the Shah Bano verdict of the apex court.

"That didn't work," admits a senior Congress leader. Rajiv Gandhi, however, continued with majority appeasement and later let VHP hold a "shilanyas" at the disputed site in 1989 hoping for electoral gains in the upcoming General Election. Rajiv Gandhi even proclaimed "establishment of Ram Rajya" at Faizabad from where he launched his 1989 LS poll campaign. Outcomes revealed the Ayodhya strategy had not worked for the Congress and in fact the move Congress initiated had been successfully leveraged by the BJP and partners for political gains.

Chief Justice Headed Bench To Deliver 4 Judgments Next Week

NEW DELHI (TIP): After the historic verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute matter, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi headed bench of the Supreme Court is left with four other important judgements that have to be delivered within a week before he demits office on November 17.

The bench will pronounce verdict in another political sensitive case in which a review has been sought of the December 14, 2018 judgement by which the Modi government was given a clean chit in the procurement of Rafale jet fighter.

His bench will also pronounce its verdict on a plea seeking criminal contempt proceedings against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for wrongly attributing to the top court his "chowkidar chor hai" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the Rafale case.

Besides, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Gogoi will pronounce judgement on the pleas seeking review of the top court's verdict allowing women of all ages to enter the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.

On April 4, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Gogoi had also reserved its verdict on three appeals filed in 2010 by the Secretary General of the Supreme Court and its Central Public Information officer against the Delhi High Court order that the CJI's office falls under the ambit of the Right to Information Act. In the Rafale case, the top court would decide the pleas, including the one filed by former Union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie and activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan, seeking review of its December 14 last year judgement which gave a clean chit to the Centre's Rafale deal to procure 36 fighter jets from French firm Dassault.

SEVEN-DECADE WAIT OVER, KARTARPUR CORRIDOR OPENS FOR SIKH PILGRIMS



Sikh pilgrims in the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib complex at Kartarpur in Pakistan on Saturday, November 9.



Devotees paying obeisance in the sanctum sanctorum of Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur, (and) right actor and Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol on his way to Kartarpur from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Indian Punjab.



Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch and former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur, and (right) Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh and Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal launching the Rs 550 coin at Dera Baba Nanak.

SEVEN-DECADE WAIT OVER, KARTARPUR CORRIDOR OPENS FOR SIKH PILGRIMS



Pakistan Prime minister inaugurating the Kartarpur Corridor in Narowal district of Pakistan Punjab on Saturday, November 9 and (right) Indian PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the passenger terminal building of the Kartarpur Corridor on the Indian side, also known as Integrated Check Post, in Gurdaspur.



Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and his wife arriving in Kartarpur, and (right) Sikh pilgrims on their way to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the Kartarpur Corridor.



NRI Sikhs at the integrated check post at Dera Baba Nanak, and (right) former cricketer and Congress leader Navjot Sidhu paying obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur.



INTERVIEW

The Indian Panorama interviews **AARTI TIKOO**, Journalist & Political Analyst

Aarti Tikoo Singh speaking with The Indian Panorama team of Prof. Indrajit Saluja and Bidisha Roy at the Indian Consulate in New York Nov 4.

Indian Journalist Aarti Tikoo, a Kashmiri who reported extensively on Kashmir during the last two decades and testified Oct 22 at the US House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on "Human Rights in South Asia" in Washington was in New York on November 4 to speak on Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh-the way forward at the Indian Consulate.

The Indian Panorama team of editor Indrajit S Saluja and the assistant editor Bidisha Roy interviewed her on the occasion.

Here are excerpts from the interview.

TIP: In your testimony, you defended government of India's position on "administrative action" in Kashmir. What is your perspective, being a Kashmiri, on Kashmir?

I would like to tell your readers that my position about Kashmir is not really the position of the Indian government. My position is of the truth, is about what the reality is on the ground. If it's sometimes seen as the Indian point of view, I have no issues with that. People can draw their inferences according to their likes and dislikes. But my position is really about the truth - the truth that in 1990 it was the Pakistan supported militancy that destroyed the social fabric of Kashmir. Until 1990 we grew up in a different Kashmir altogether. I saw the culture of Hindu and Muslim coexistence. I saw that falling apart in 1989-90 when my family and all of us were displaced, we were driven out of Kashmir along with the rest of the community. From that point when I went back to Kashmir as a journalist, I have been watching the ground situation and trying to empathize with the victims of Pakistan supported militancy in Kashmir across the spectrum and I believe the biggest victim of cross border terrorism in J&K have been the Kashmiri Muslim civilians. Fifteen thousand Kashmiri civilians have been killed in the last 30 years. That's a huge number given the kind of violence the state has seen. It is the Kashmiri Muslim civilians who suffered the most including Kashmiri Pandits who got displaced. Almost 300 thousand Kashmiri Pandits were displaced. So when we say that you know I represented India's point of view, I would say India has not been able to either comprehend what has happened in Kashmir in last 30 years - one of the biggest critics of India is India itself because they don't really see how a common Kashmiri has been affected by violence which was perpetrated by Pakistan. And it continues to be perpetrated by Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan has gone around the world claiming that it is 'Islamic Jihad.' He has

- **Kashmiri Muslim civilians are biggest victim of cross border terrorism in J&K.**
- **Theocracy can never be equitable. Theocracy can never be secular. Can never be fair and just. I am not in favor of Hindu Rashtra at all.**
- **India has to work on internal as well as external security.**

gone around the world saying that it will continue with the 'Islamic Jihad' not realizing that the biggest victims are Muslims themselves without realizing the fact, it has not brought any good to Kashmir in last 30 years. The human rights violation they keep talking about, have been perpetrated by JeM, LeT, HM. The people, the terror group killed journalist Daniel Pearl who went to Pakistan to cover the ground situation. He was kidnapped and beheaded by Jaish e Mohammad which is very similar to ISIS with methodology and modus operandi, which is similar in its world view, similar in its agenda. If the entire mission is to establish Khalifat or a Sharia based society, well then, I would say the biggest losers, biggest victims will remain Muslims. That is my message and I think that If India can't comprehend this and articulate this position that would be very sad. As a journalist I think it is my moral obligation and responsibility to articulate the truth which has been on the ground for the last 30 years and it has not been told as it is because a part of Indian media is also ideologically driven by the left or right. There is partisan journalism across the world right now. Nobody is really telling you the nuance, grey area of truth because nothing really exists in black and white in conflict zone.

TIP: Do you think Pakistan cares for Muslims?

Absolutely not. Pakistan does not bother about the Muslims because if it was, then it would be treating Baluchistan Muslims equally. It would be giving them or People in Sindh the same kind of rights that Punjabi Muslims in Punjabi Pakistan have. Look at the entire country of Pakistan. Except for Punjab, every other region in Pakistan has been highly discriminated. They do not have the same kind of rights, facilities. You may say India has also several problems, discriminations going on against various people. But the fact remains - if you look at the broader picture in India there is far greater equality among regions and communities. You can't say that one community has been given greater advantage than the other. It's equitable distribution of rights. And that has been granted by the constitution of India to begin with. Pakistan on the other hand is an Islamic Republic. The moment you become a theocratic state, you will

automatically not grant equitable treatment to any of your citizens.

TIP: Is that a statement you are making consciously? That may hold true in case India becomes a Hindu nation.

That is why I am absolutely against any Hindu nation or any theocratic democracy in the world. Theocracy can never be equitable. Theocracy can never be secular. Can never be fair and just. I am not in favor of Hindu Rashtra at all. I don't know how people of right wing in India will perceive but that does not bother me. My position is that of the truth. I believe in stating truth as it is.

TIP: If Pakistan is the culprit for exporting terrorism - are the Muslims in Kashmir not culprits as well?

Again, this is a complex reality. One must understand that there is a section in Kashmiri Muslim society which has been pro Pakistan for a very very long time. It is also a constituency that feels affiliated with Jamaat e Islami which is a socio-political organization in Kashmir aligned with Jamaat e Islami Pakistan. Their core beliefs are that of any radical organization including the vision of having an Islamic state. This particular section within Kashmir has been pro Pakistan for a very long time. There are also people in Kashmiri society who have different points of view including who want autonomy in Kashmir or pre 1953 position. Kashmir's political opinion is not marginals. But the larger section of Kashmir is peaceful. Larger section of Kashmiri Muslims wants peace. Larger section of Kashmiri society has nothing to do with militancy and violence that we have facing. It is quite logical and reasonable to say that even a handful of people can destroy a social fabric of a society. You don't need an entire society to destroy it. You just need a few bad apples to ruin it. And that's what has happened in Kashmir. It is Kashmiri Muslim society that is fighting back this insurgency. It is the Kashmiri Muslim police who is fighting militants. It is the Kashmiri Muslim civilians who have been trying to manage a certain peace, normalcy, law and



order despite the fact that there has been so many attempts by Pakistan to disrupt peace in Kashmir. In last 70 years there have been elections when Kashmiri Muslim voters came out in huge numbers defying militant dictates, defying all the threats by Pakistan based terror groups. Who are these people? They are ordinary Kashmiri Muslims who feel that the only way to address all these issues is through constitutional wings.

TIP: Do you think there is a sense of alienation among the Kashmiri Muslims after the abrogation of article 370?

Absolutely. I think Kashmiri Muslims are dejected and also fearful and anxious at the moment because they really don't know what the abrogation of special status means in terms of competition in jobs, businesses and land rights. So there is that anxiety and I am sure most Kashmiri Muslims would like to negotiate and bargain with New Delhi politically, constitutionally and other legitimate means.

TIP What should be the priorities of the government?

The government should not do what it has been doing for the last 30 years. It should not incentivize militancy, separatism, terror network in the area. What it should really do is to strengthen democracy in Kashmir. It should allow democracy to take an organic root instead of imposing. People of Kashmir should feel they are part of democracy and not part of state-imposed structure. The government needs to show activism for economic development. The government of India needs to figure out mechanism that slowly makes J&K self-sufficient. People should find enough jobs within the state. That means to bring in big investment and big businesses. But you can't bring investment unless there is security. So the government of India has to ensure security first. Pakistan is not going to change its policy. Therefore, India has to work on internal as well as external security.

Readers may please send in their comments.

Mauritius re-elects incumbent PM

PORT LOUIS (TIP): Mauritius' ruling Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) has won more than half of parliamentary seats, securing incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth a five-year term, interim election results showed on Nov 8.

Thursday's vote was dominated by calls for fairer distribution of wealth on the prosperous Indian Ocean island of 1.3 million people which touts itself as a bridge between Africa and Asia and has a flourishing financial sector. MSM won 35 of the 62 seats up for grabs while its rivals, the Labour Party and the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), garnered 15 and 10 seats respectively, the election commission said. Two seats on the island of Rodrigues were won by the Organisation of the People of Rodrigues (OPR) party.

Jugnauth, 57, became PM in 2017 when his father stepped down from the post, and has already introduced a minimum wage to try and improve wealth distribution. The three parties campaigned on further strengthening the welfare state and improving equality in one of Africa's most stable and wealthy nations. Final results were expected later on Friday evening, Electoral Commissioner Irfan Rahman said. Some 723,660 voters, 76.84 percent of those eligible, turned out for the ballot, officials said. The turnout was 2% higher than the last election.

Mauritius expects its economy, which is dependent on tourism and financial services, to expand by 4.1% next year, up from a forecast 3.8% this year. Analysts expect economic diversification to proceed regardless of who wins the election. The challenger parties, arguing that the Jugnauth family's rule has been marked by nepotism and corruption, had appealed to voters to choose change. — Reuters

Oppn gives Imran 48 hrs to resign

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's opposition leaders, led by firebrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on Thursday gave Prime Minister Imran Khan a 48-hour ultimatum to resign, saying the massive anti-government protest will take a new direction after two days.

The right-wing Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader is leading the massive protest dubbed as 'Azadi March', which entered the seventh day on Thursday, demanding Prime Minister Khan's resignation, accusing him of "rigging" the 2018 general elections. Addressing thousands of protesters on Thursday night, Rehman said the government negotiators should not come for talks if the prime minister's resignation is off the table. "You are at a dead end now and now you must decide whether you want to continue to remain there or come out and give back the people their right," Rehman said. — PTI

Ailing Nawaz Sharif to fly to UK for treatment: Maryam

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has heeded doctors' advice and given in to his family's request to fly to London for the treatment of his diseases, his daughter Maryam Nawaz said on Friday.

Speaking to the media, she said the family could not risk the 69-year-old PML(N)supremo's health and has decided to send him abroad.

Maryam, 46, said she would not accompany her father as her name was still on the Exit Control List (ECL).

"Shehbaz Sharif is looking after all the boarding and lodging of the former premier. After losing my mother last year, my father is my everything now," a distraught Maryam was quoted as saying by the ARY News.

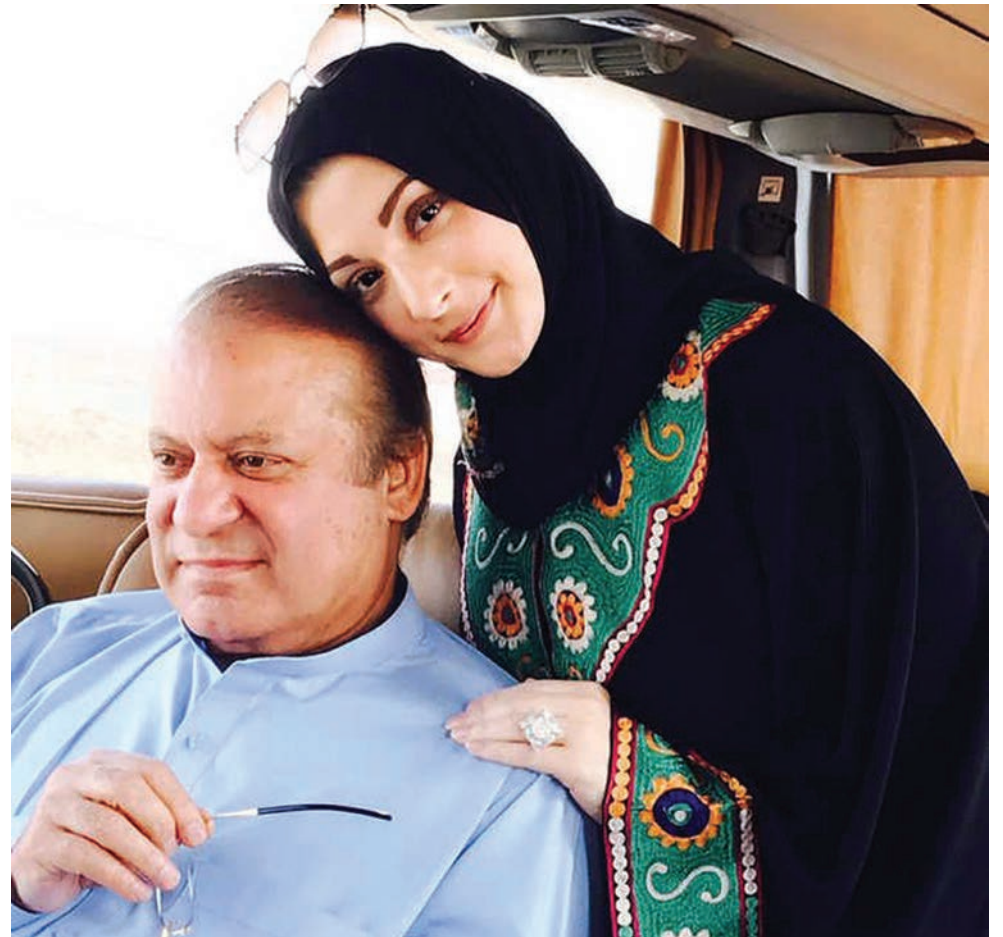
Sharif's wife Kulsoom died of throat cancer in London last year.

Maryam, who was released on bail on Wednesday by the Lahore High Court (LHC), said Sharif himself agreed to get the medical treatment abroad due to his critical health condition.

Sharif was shifted to his Jati Umra Raiwind residence in Lahore on Wednesday after his two-week stay at a Pakistani hospital for treatment of multiple diseases. He was admitted to the Services Hospital in Lahore on October 22 from Pakistan's anti-graft body's custody after his platelets dropped to a critical low level of 2,000.

Speaking to reporters during her appearance at Lahore's accountability court for the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case hearing, Maryam said Sharif should go abroad for his treatment at the earliest.

Asked if any request was put forward for the removal of the former premier's name from the ECL, Maryam said: "I don't know. I will look into it when I go home," she said. Earlier, a Sharif family member said the former premier might leave for London this week if his name was removed from the ECL by the government.



"Though Mr Sharif was not ready to go abroad after the recommendations of the medical board of the Services Hospital and the medics of the Sharif Medical City and the 'request' of his family members, he has finally agreed," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

The PML-N will file a request to remove Sharif's name from the ECL.

The application will be filed by Shehbaz and it was initially said that it would be filed on Saturday but the government confirmed having received the application on Friday. If the government approves the request, Sharif will leave the country next week, Samaa TV reported.

His medical reports were sent to doctors in London earlier and they have advised him to come to London for treatment as soon as possible.

According to government sources, Sharif's request will be evaluated on humanitarian grounds.

"We have received the request. We'll start processing it next week. It will take three to four days to see some progress," confirmed Punjab government's spokesperson Usman Basra. "We will also look at the medical reports and doctors' advice," he said. Naemul Haque, prime minister Imran Khan's special assistant on political affairs, has said the premier has no issue if Sharif wants to travel abroad. PTI

Malaysia hands jail term to man who brutally killed pregnant cat in dryer

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): A Malaysian man who killed a pregnant cat by putting it into a laundrette dryer has been sentenced to 34 months in jail, official media reported, in a case that sparked outrage.

K Ganesh was handed the prison term Tuesday after being found guilty of breaking animal protection laws at the self-service laundry outside Kuala Lumpur in September last year, official news agency Bernama reported.

He will remain free on bail for now as he plans to appeal.

The 42-year-old was the second man to be sentenced over the killing after a taxi driver was jailed for two years for the crime in January.

Malaysians reacted with fury when

CCTV footage went viral showing the cat being stuffed into the dryer late at night.

Two men then inserted tokens into the machine to set it running and left. A female customer later found the animal's carcass and the matter was reported to the police.

Sentencing Ganesh, Judge Rasyihah Ghazali said: "I hope this sentence will serve as a lesson to the accused and the public to not be cruel to animals." He was also fined 40,000 ringgit (\$9,700), Bernama reported late Tuesday. AFP could not immediately contact Ganesh's lawyers.

A third person was earlier detained over the killing but prosecutors dropped the case. —AFP

13 killed in road accident in Sindh province of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Thirteen people were killed and three others injured on Thursday as a passenger coach collided with a motorcycle-rickshaw in Pakistan's Sindh province. The incident took place near Saeed Abad area of Matiari district, reports The News International. Identities of the dead and the injured were not immediately known. Sindh Information Minister Saeed Ghani has expressed grief over the incident and assured that an investigation would be carried out. IANS

Pakistan, China to expand CPEC scope

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan and China have agreed to set a new direction to the USD 60 billion CPEC for future cooperation by largely shifting away from infrastructure projects and scouting for copper, gold, oil and gas sectors, according to a media report. PTI



BHUMI PEDNEKAR: I KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED COLOUR BIAS

As an actor, Bhumi Pednekar chooses to play characters that are diverse and have a noticeable emotional arc. Her character, in Amar Kaushik's *Bala*, for instance, is that of a girl who faces social bias because of her skin colour.

As a part of her prep, Bhumi spent many days reading about circumstances that women have faced due to this bias. Talking about it, she said, "It is disturbing to know that women have even been set on fire by their in-laws only because of their skin colour. All of us have heard of some extreme things that women go through because of this bias. I've never been in favour of promoting fairness enhancement products because I think every skin colour deserves the same respect and place in society. When I got a chance to play a character, who is deep-coloured, I felt that this was an opportunity to delve into what these girls go through and how society treats them. I know people who have experienced this kind of bias. I have a friend who is a successful lawyer, but she is judged for her skin colour."

ANUSHKA SHARMA LIKES TO WEAR VIRAT KOHLI'S CLOTHES

Actor Anushka Sharma has revealed in her latest interview that she loves to steal clothes from her cricketer husband Virat Kohli's closet. Talking to *Vogue* magazine, Anushka said Virat likes it when she does that.

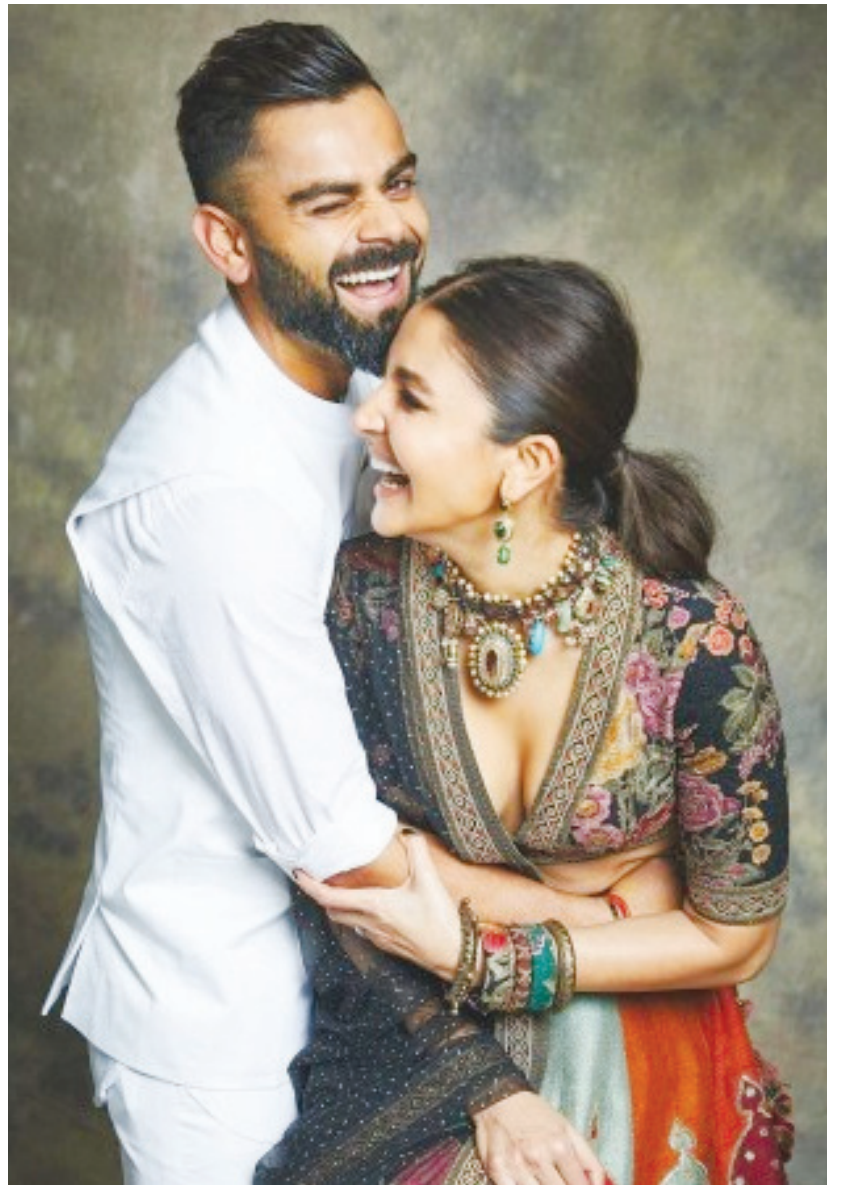
"I actually borrow a lot from his wardrobe, mostly T-shirts and stuff," Anushka said. "Sometimes I'll just take his jackets. Sometimes I just do it because he feels very happy when I wear his clothes," she added.

In the same interview, Anushka also mentioned how not wearing pink on her wedding day was not an option for her and how she doesn't believe in following trends. Anushka and Virat got married two years ago in Italy. The kept their wedding a complete secret from everyone and shared pictures on social media just hours later. Anushka's look in the pink Sabyasachi lehenga instantly went viral.

Anushka and Virat are currently on a vacation in Bhutan. They have been sharing pictures from their adventures on social media almost every day. The two are there as part of his extended birthday celebrations. Virat turned 31 on November 5.

Anushka shared a series of pictures on Instagram with her "confidante" on his birthday. In the photos, the two were seen lighting up a lamp in a monastery. Calling Virat 'a blessing' in her life, Anushka wrote, "This one is my blessing. My friend, My confidante, My one true love. I hope you find the light-guiding your path always and may you choose to do the right thing every time. Your compassion is what makes you a good leader and I pray that you always have that in abundance. Happy Birthday my love."

She also shared about a memorable trekking experience from the trip and penned a long post on Monday. The duo, while trekking for 8.5 km, stopped in a village on a mountain where they were showered with love by the villagers. Touched by the beautiful gesture of the villagers, Anushka shared her heartfelt emotions in her post along with a series of pictures on her Instagram.



TABU: 'CAN'T LABEL A ROLE AS GOOD OR BAD, A CHARACTER'S JOURNEY IS IMPORTANT'

A good character in an interesting narrative is always exciting, but when you get this combination in an international project, it's like an icing on the cake. And actors who get such opportunities often go to town sharing their excitement. Tabu is an exception. Even when she did award-winning films such as *The Namesake* (2006) and *Life of Pi* (2012), the actor had opened up about the projects only when she was spoken to.

She says, "I think I've been like this. I can't find any reason why I'm like this. Mujhe itna shayad apne baare mein baat karna achha nahin lagta. I mean I do talk about my films when required, but can't make it a 24 hour job. I do talk about my projects when I'm promoting them, or also when people are interested to know about the film or want hear what I'm saying."

According to Tabu, being a part of an interesting project is good enough and that there's no need to go gaga over it. She follows a similar approach towards her Indian projects too. "I was required to speak about *The Namesake* or *Life of Pi*. Those films are much bigger than my voice and everyone know what kind of films they are, what they conveyed and where they took me both professionally and personally. Given an option, I would never stop talking about these films. I feel indebted to be a part of such projects," says the actor.

For her, *The Namesake* was a life-changing experience. "My life can be divided like before *Namesake* after *Namesake*, before *Maqbool* after *Maqbool*, before *Haider* after *Haider*... These are the landmarks in my career. Also, *Life of Pi* won four Oscars. That says it all," she adds. *Source: HT*



JANHVI KAPOOR KICKS OFF DOSTANA 2 SHOOT IN AMRITSAR

Actor Janhvi Kapoor is in Amritsar with the director of her upcoming film *Dostana 2*, Collin DCunha. Janhvi shared multiple pictures from her day out in the city on Instagram.

One picture showed Janhvi posing for the camera with the Golden Temple in the background. She posted some more pictures of the holy place and captioned them with a 'folded hands' emoji. On her Instagram stories, Janhvi shared videos of herself and Collin enjoying the famous Amritsari lassi.

Dostana 2 is a sequel to 2008's romantic comedy starring Priyanka Chopra, John Abraham, and Abhishek Bachchan in lead roles. The new film will star Kartik Aaryan and newcomer Lakshya. It is penned by Navjot Gulati, Sumit Aroraa, Rishabh Sharma and D'Cunha.



Marion Cotillard lauds Haenel for speaking on sexual harassment

Oscar-winning actress Marion Cotillard is one of the many French film figures who have applauded fellow actress Adele Haenel for speaking out about the sexual harassment she was subjected to from the age of 12.

In an article published Sunday on the investigative website Mediapart, Haenel said that Christophe Ruggia, who directed her in the 2002 drama 'The Devils' (Les diables), repeatedly made advances toward her, including unwanted touching and kisses, and harassed her from the age of 12 to 15. 'The Devils' was the first film she starred in. In a post on her Instagram account, Cotillard wrote: "Your courage is a gift of unmatched generosity for women and for men, for the young actresses and actors, for all those who have been damaged and now know thanks to you that they don't have to suffer this violence."

KRISTEN STEWART WOULD HAVE MARRIED ROBERT PATTINSON

Kristen Stewart said former beau, 'Twilight' co-star Robert Pattinson was her 'first' love and had he proposed marriage, she would have said yes.

The actor reflected on her much-publicised relationship with Pattinson on radio program.

While assuring the coupling was not a publicity stunt, she referred to Pattinson as 'the best'.

"We were together for years, that was my first (love)," Stewart said.

The 'Charlie's Angels' actor said there was 'nothing' she could do about falling head over heels for Pattinson during 'Twilight' days.

When Stern asked Stewart whether she would have married Pattinson had he popped the question, she didn't deny the idea.

"I wanted to... yeah," she said, adding, "I don't know, I'm not a super-duper traditionalist, but at the same time every relationship I've ever been in, I thought that was it. I've never really been the most casual person."

Stewart and Pattinson first split in 2012 after a fling between her and director Rupert Sanders made headlines, before reconciling shortly after and ultimately calling it quits the following year.

The actor, who is currently dating screenwriter Dylan Meyer, said being under constant paparazzi lens prevented them from fully experiencing romantic moments.

"... You deprive yourself of so many experiences. We didn't walk down the street holding hands because we were like, 'We don't wanna give it to 'em.' But then, we didn't get to walk down the street holding hands, and it s***ed," she said.

Before Meyer, Stewart was in a relationship with model Stella Maxwell.



KATIE HOLMES ON DAUGHTER SURI CRUISE: WE KIND OF GREW UP TOGETHER



Actor Katie Holmes said she feels happy that she became a mother early in her 20s.

The 40-year-old actor shares her daughter Suri Cruise, 13, with ex-husband, Hollywood star Tom Cruise with whom she was married from 2006 to 2012.

In an interview with media source,

Holmes said motherhood happened at the most perfect time in her life.

"I was happy to become a mom in my 20s," she said.

"It's been nice that our ages fit how do I put this? Every age that my child has been and my age at that time has been a good match. We kind of grew up together," she added.



ANGELINA JOLIE ON BRAD PITT DIVORCE: I HAVE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE SCARS

Actress Angelina Jolie said she is recovering after her 'hurtful' divorce from actor Brad Pitt.

The erstwhile Hollywood grabbed the headlines with their romance for 12 years. They were married for two years of their relationship, from 2014 until their split in 2016.

The actress, 44, said she's on the path to recovery after seeing the ones she loves 'in pain'.

Jolie said she 'wrestled' with her heartache over the divorce because she was 'hurt'.

She told: "My body has been through a lot over the past decade, particularly the past four years, and I have both the visible and invisible scars to show for it."

Of heartache, she added: "The invisible ones are harder to wrestle with.

Life takes many turns. Sometimes you get hurt, you see those you love in pain, and you can't be as free and open as your spirit desires. It's not new or old, but I do feel the blood returning to my body."

The 'Maleficent' star said the 'Fury' actor has stopped her from moving to her dream home abroad.

The duo have three biological children Shiloh, 13, Vivienne, 11, and Knox, 11 as well as three adopted children Maddox, 18, Pax, 15, and Zahara, 14.

As they continue to co-parent their children, Jolie talked of the restrictions Brad had put on her being able to move as the couple continue to co-parent their children together. The actress vowed to move as soon as her youngest child turns 18 but until then she has to remain where Brad 'chooses to live'.

Want a glowing and flawless skin? Consume matcha, powdered green tea, which has a high amount of antioxidants and also have a lot of kiwis, which is a storehouse of Vitamin C, says an expert.

Blueberries

Extremely tasty and convenient to eat, blueberries are the favourite fruit of many gourmet-enthusiasts around the world. Despite their sweet taste, they are low on calories and contain antioxidants that protect against premature aging. Sipping on some natural blueberry juice or adding half a cup of the fruit to your yogurt or cereal is a great way to stay healthy and look stunning.

Spinach

Spinach is loaded with lutein, vitamins B, C, and E, potassium, calcium, iron, magnesium, and omega-3 fatty acids. It lowers your risk of prostate cancer.

Matcha

This is packed with high amount of antioxidants and also provides small amounts of vitamins and minerals. Polyphenols, which can be found in Matcha, have been tied to protection against heart disease and cancer, in addition to helping with better blood sugar regulation and blood pressure reduction. The powder boosts metabolism and slows down the process of aging, with some experts even claiming that it halts the growth of cancer cells.

Walnuts

Eating just one ounce of walnuts a day can work wonders for your health and beauty- giving you shiny hair, bright eyes, smooth skin and strong bones. In addition, adding walnuts to your daily diet helps with weight control and improving brain function. You can eat a handful of shelled walnuts by themselves, or add some in your salad or pasta. Walnuts are all you need for a variety of nutrients including protein, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E, fibre and antioxidants.

Kiwi

This fruit is loaded with antioxidants that keep skin firm and help prevent wrinkles. Kiwis are also a storehouse of Vitamin C, which is known to boost the immune system and fight stress. They contain a rare, fat-free form of Vitamin E that lowers cholesterol. Kiwi juices are extremely delicious, and you can add the cooling fruit to your fresh salads, Greek yogurt or fruit

WAYS TO GET FLAWLESS, GLOWING SKIN



tarts.

Turmeric

In addition to enhancing taste in almost all Indian dishes, it also has amazing advantages for beauty and health. Its anti-bacterial properties make it useful for both local application and ingestion. Applying it to the skin lightens pigmentation and eliminates dead skin cells. Turmeric is also great for keeping your hair

healthy and controlling oily skin.

Coconut water

Coconut water helps with weight loss. It also suppresses appetite and helps you feel full. In addition, ingesting coconut water leads to softer, more moisturised skin and reduces blemishes. Frightening acne breakouts can be controlled and indigestion can be prevented due to the reduction of acid reflux.

MAKE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WORK

Communicate

Step up and be the one who takes initiative! Foolish pride prevents us from progress. Like when we wait and expect our husband or friend will speak first. Someone has to break the ice. Why not you? Each time my wife and I don't see eye-to-eye, we take a few deep breaths. Then, we try and find common ground, as well as a tone that is sensitive to the moment and our emotions.

Do Nice Things

This doesn't mean spending money or buying a gift to smooth things over. Maybe, on occasion, a dozen roses or a nice gesture might work. But what about when that charm wears off? The best of us aren't concerned with material things and monetary gifts that try and cover up wounds. Genuine, heartfelt actions that require only our time and effort work best.

Respect Alone Time

No matter how much of an extrovert you may be, you still need time to yourself, in solitude, where you can collect your thoughts and decompress. All of us do! When I plan my week, I always build in time



for just me, when I think about what I need to do, what I want to do and all that matters most to me. When we're particularly stressed, sometimes, we just need a few moments to regroup and collect our thoughts, so we can then go into conversations and communicate more effectively. Ask your husband to respect your alone time, when you feel you need it. Do your best to let give your girlfriend time to de-stress by reading a book or going to the gym.

Love With All You Got

Last, but most importantly, so many problems that occur in relationships are solved by the presence of living in the moment, with love in our hearts. Don't waste time or waste words on things that don't deserve your attention. People are put into our lives for a reason. We're meant to grow together, learn and add color and value to each other's lives.

FOOD CORNER

DAL BAFLA

Ingredients

2 cups wheat flour, ¼ cup maize flour, ½ cup ghee, 1 tsp cumin seeds, ¼ tsp ajwain, Salt to taste, 1 ½ cups toor dal, soaked, A pinch of hing, 1 tsp red chilli powder, ½ tsp mustard seeds, 1 tsp sugar, ½ tsp turmeric powder, Salt to taste, 1 Tbsp desi ghee, 2 Tbsp coriander leaves, chopped



Method

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients together to make a stiff dough, adding a little water at a time. Divide the dough into smaller balls, and roll them using your palms to make them smoother. Bring water to a boil in a large pan. Add salt and turmeric, and then drop the balls and cook till they float on the surface.

Place them on a kitchen towel to drain excess water. Once they are dried, bake them in the oven at 150 degree C for till crisp and golden on both the sides.

Pressure cook the dal in 3 ½ cups of water for 3 whistles, by adding salt and turmeric powder. Let the steam escape and then add the hing and stir well. Add a little water if it is too thick, and bring to a boil. Meanwhile, heat ghee in a pan, add mustard seeds and let it splutter. Add red chilli powder, and quickly pour this tadka in the boiling dal. Add sugar and remove from the flame. Finish with coriander leaves.

DEEP SLEEP MAY CALM, RESET ANXIOUS BRAIN, REVEALS STUDY

A sleepless night can trigger anxiety by up to 30 per cent while a full night's nap can stabilise emotions, according to a study which recommends deep sleep as a non-pharmaceutical remedy for anxiety disorders.

People suffering from the mental health disorder are bombarded by feelings of worry, anxiety, or fear that are so strong that they interfere with their daily activities, the study, published in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*, noted.

The researchers, including those from the University of California (UC) Berkeley in the US, found that deep sleep—also known as non-rapid eye movement (NREM) slow-wave sleep—can calm and reset the anxious brain.

In this sleep state, oscillations in the electrical activity in the brain's neurons become highly synchronized, and the heart rate and blood pressure drops, the researchers said.

The findings of the study revealed a new function of deep sleep in which anxiety is decreased overnight by reorganizing nerve connections in the brain.

According to the researchers, the study provides one of the strongest links to date between the brain circuits involved in sleep and anxiety.

"Our study strongly suggests that insufficient sleep amplifies



levels of anxiety and, conversely, that deep sleep helps reduce such stress," said study lead author Eti Ben Simon from UC Berkeley.

As part of the study, the researchers scanned the brains of 18 young adults using functional MRI, polysomnography and other measures as they viewed emotionally stirring video clips after a full night of sleep, and again after a sleepless night.

They measured the anxiety levels of the participants following each session via a questionnaire

known as the state-trait anxiety inventory.

When the participants did not get any sleep, their scans showed a shutdown of a brain region called the medial prefrontal cortex, which normally helps keep our anxiety in check, while the brain's deeper emotional centers were overactive, the researchers said.

"Without sleep, it's almost as if the brain is too heavy on the emotional accelerator pedal, without enough brake," Walker said.



NEW HIV STRAIN DISCOVERED AFTER NEARLY 2 DECADES

A team of scientists at pharmaceutical major Abbott has identified a new subtype of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), called HIV-1 Group M, subtype L.

The discovery marks the first time a new subtype of HIV-1 has been identified since 2000.

The findings, published in the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (JAIDS)*, show the role next-generation genome sequencing is playing in helping researchers stay one step ahead of mutating viruses and avoiding new pandemics.

Since the beginning of the global AIDS pandemic, 75 million people have been infected with HIV and 37.9 million people die each year from the virus.

"In an increasingly connected world, we can no longer think of viruses being contained to one location," said Carole McArthur, Professor at University of Missouri, Kansas City, and one of the study authors.

Group M viruses are responsible for the global pandemic, which can be traced back to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

To determine whether an unusual virus is in fact a new HIV subtype, three cases must be discovered independently.

'Only child' seven times more likely to be obese

Parents with only child are more likely to tackle an obese kid as children without siblings may be at a higher risk of gaining weight than those who have brothers and sisters, say researchers.

This is because families with multiple children tend to make more healthy eating decisions than families with a single child, the study added.

The study, published in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, found that this kind of obesity could be seven times more common among youngsters.

"Healthier eating behaviours and patterns may result from household-level changes rather than peer exposure, as peer exposure is also present in away-from-home care," said study lead author Chelsea L. Kracht from the University of Oklahoma in the US.

According to the researchers, data was self-reported in daily food logs kept by mothers over the course of three days -- two weekdays and one weekend day. Teachers kept logs by proxy for any food children ate while at school.

SOME SKIN CANCERS MAY START IN HAIR FOLLICLES

Some of the most deadly skin cancers may start in stem cells that lend colour to hair, and originate in hair follicles rather than in skin layers, says a new study.

Hair follicles are complex organs that reside within skin layers. It is there that immature pigment-making cells develop cancer-causing genetic changes—and in a second step—are exposed to normal hair growth signals.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, found that unlike their normal counterparts, newly cancerous pigment stem cells then migrate up and out of the follicles to establish melanomas in nearby surface skin before spreading deeper.

The study was conducted in genetically engineered mice, with the results confirmed in human tissue samples.

"By confirming that oncogenic pigment cells in hair follicles are a bona fide source of melanoma, we have a better understanding of this cancer's biology and new ideas about how to counter it," said study author Mayumi Ito Suzuki, Associate Professor at New York University.

The study addresses the stem cells that mature into melanocytes, cells that make the protein pigment melanin, which protects skin by absorbing some of the sun's ultraviolet, DNA-damaging rays.

By absorbing some wavelengths of visible light, but



reflecting others, pigments "create" hair colour.

In a series of elegant steps, the research team established a new mouse model for the study of melanoma, one engineered such that the team could edit genes in follicular melanocyte stem cells only (the c-Kit-CreER mouse).

This capability enabled researchers to introduce genetic changes that made only melanocyte stem cells—and their descendants destined to form melanomas—glow no matter where they travelled.

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WHATSAPP INTRODUCES 'CATALOGS' FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Messaging giant WhatsApp on Thursday rolled out the 'Catalogs' feature for WhatsApp Business app that will allow enterprises to showcase photographs of various products that potential customers can browse through.

The new feature—which is being rolled out in countries like India, the US and Indonesia—is intended to make it easier to learn about the products and services businesses offer.

Catalogs are a mobile storefront for businesses to showcase and share their goods so that people can easily browse and discover something they would like to buy, a statement said.

"Previously, businesses had to send product photos one at a time and repeatedly provide information now customers can see their full catalog right within WhatsApp. This makes business owners look more professional and keeps customers engaged in the chat without having to visit a website, it added.

For each item in its catalogue, a business can add information including price, description and product code.



FAKE NEWS NOT EASY TO SPOT ON FACEBOOK: STUDY

Misinformation or fake news is not easy to spot on Facebook, according to a study which suggests that the social networking site muddies the waters between fact and fiction.

In the study, published on Tuesday in the journal *Management Information Systems Quarterly*, participants were fitted with a wireless electroencephalography (EEG) headset which tracked their brain activity during exercise.

They were asked to read political news headlines presented as they would appear in a Facebook feed and determine their credibility.

The participants assessed only 44 per cent correctly, overwhelmingly selecting headlines that aligned with their own political beliefs as true, the researchers said. "We all believe that we are better than the average person at detecting fake news, but that's simply not possible," said lead author Patricia Moravec, an assistant professor at The University of Texas at Austin in the US.

"The environment of social media and our own biases make us all much worse than we think," Moravec said in a statement.

The researchers worked with 80 social media-proficient undergraduate students who first answered 10 questions about their own political beliefs.

NASA'S VOYAGER 2 BECOMES SECOND SPACECRAFT TO REACH INTERSTELLAR SPACE

More than four decades after beginning its epic journey, NASA's Voyager 2 spacecraft has crossed the elusive boundary that marks the edge of the Sun's realm and the start of interstellar space, scientists have announced.

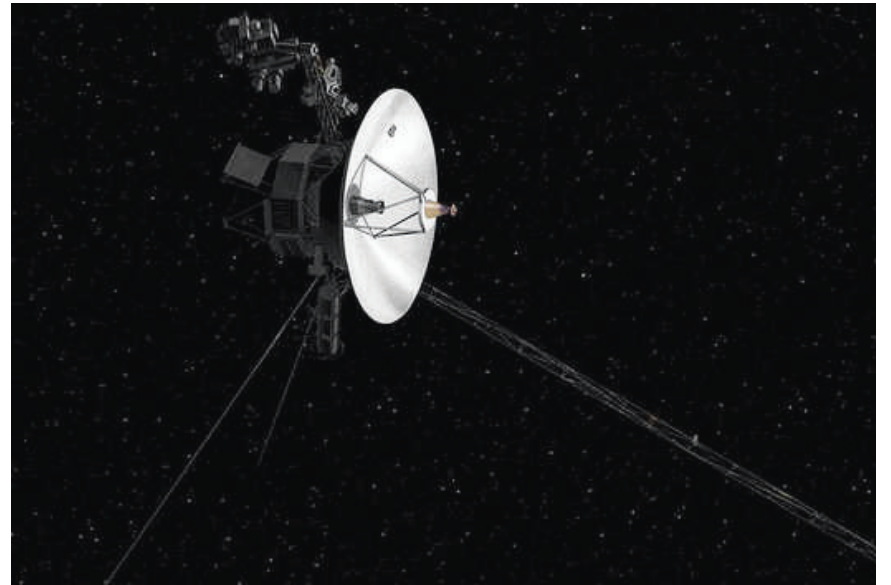
According to the researchers at the University of Iowa in the US, Voyager 2 has entered the interstellar medium (ISM), the region of space outside the bubble-shaped boundary produced by wind streaming outward from the Sun.

This makes Voyager 2 the second human-made object to journey out of the Sun's influence, following the US space agency's Voyager 1's solar exit in 2012.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, confirmed Voyager 2's passage on November 5, 2018, into the ISM by noting a definitive jump in plasma density detected by a plasma wave instrument on the spacecraft.

The marked increase in plasma density is evidence of Voyager 2 journeying from the hot, lower-density plasma characteristic of the solar wind to the cool, higher-density plasma of interstellar space, the researchers said.

"In a historical sense, the old idea that the solar wind will just be



gradually whittled away as you go further into interstellar space is simply not true," said Professor Don Gurnett from the University of Iowa, and corresponding author on the study.

"We show with Voyager 2—and previously with Voyager 1—that there's a distinct boundary out there. It's just astonishing how fluids, including plasmas, form boundaries," Gurnett said.

Voyager 2's entry into the ISM occurred at 119.7 astronomical units (AU), or more than 11 billion miles

from the Sun. Voyager 1 passed into the ISM at 122.6 AU.

The spacecraft were launched within weeks of each other by NASA in 1977, with different mission goals and trajectories through space. Yet they crossed into the ISM at basically the same distances from the Sun.

That gives valuable clues to the structure of the heliosphere—the bubble, shaped much like a wind sock, created by the Sun's wind as it extends to the boundary of the solar system, the researchers said.

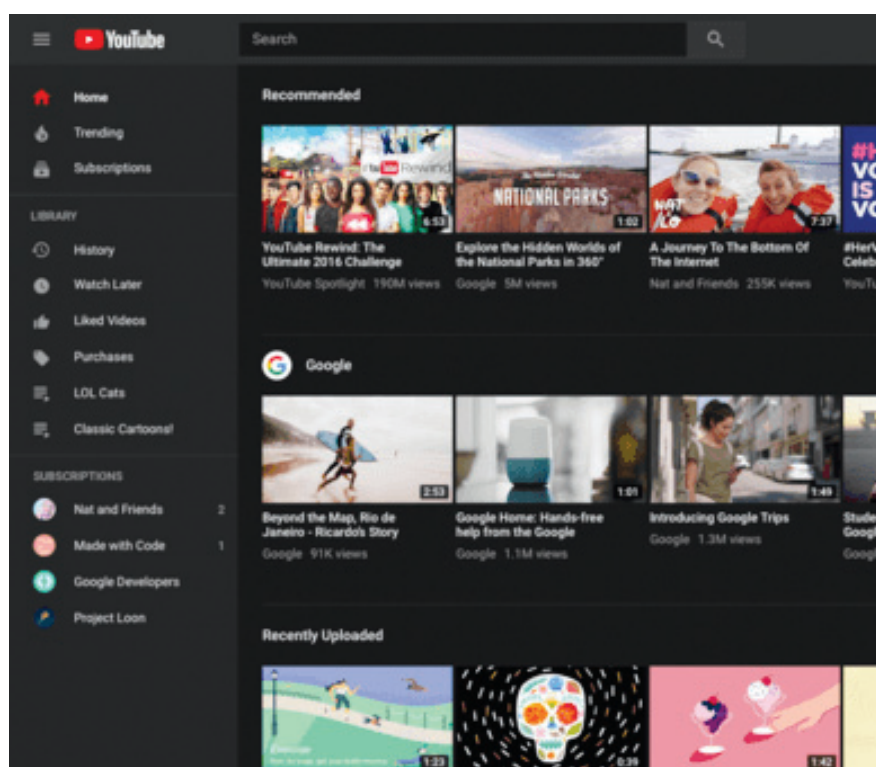
YOUTUBE REDESIGN: VIDEOS GET BIGGER THUMBNAILS, LONGER VIDEO TITLES

YouTube is getting a major redesign and the new changes will be visible on desktop, Android and iOS apps. With the new update YouTube is going for a more minimalist look by decluttering the home page. YouTube's homepage will now feature bigger thumbnails and longer video titles. The updated YouTube design is rolling out to all starting today.

If you've received the new YouTube design you'll notice a distinct change in look with bigger thumbnails. In essence, two rows of videos have now been turned into one. Video titles have also become longer now with more space on the home page. YouTube is also adding channel icons along with the video title making it easier for users to access them directly.

With more space for bigger video thumbnails, YouTube has removed some content shelves from the home page. Some video genres that will remain on the YouTube home page will be breaking news, music mixes and more. YouTube is also adding an 'add to queue' short-cut with this redesign. Users can now add videos to queue directly from the thumbnail on desktop. Like before, videos saved in queue will not be saved once the browser is closed.

YouTube desktop is getting



another feature which was first rolled out to its mobile apps. YouTube's 'Don't recommend channel' feature is now available on desktop. This feature is available on suggested videos and users can access it by selecting the three dotted menu. YouTube also said it

will introduce topics selection for desktop and tablets soon.

YouTube's redesign gives more emphasis to creators with more visibility for videos. But at the same time it also loses out on the availability of videos on the home page. In fact,

'Fundamentals of economy robust', says govt as Moody's cuts India's outlook to 'negative'

The government on Friday said the fundamentals of the economy remain quite robust with inflation under check and bond yields low. The statement came after Moody's Investors Service lowered outlook on India's ratings to 'negative' from 'stable', saying there was increasing risks that economic growth will remain materially lower than the past.

In an official statement, the finance ministry said India continues to offer strong prospects of growth in near and medium term.

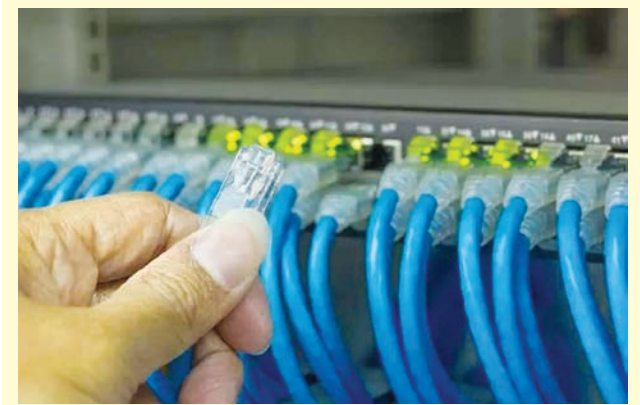
"India continues to be among the fastest growing major economies in the world, India's relative standing remains unaffected. IMF in their latest World Economic Outlook has stated that Indian Economy is set to grow at 6.1% in 2019, picking up to 7% in 2020. As India's potential growth rate remains unchanged, assessment by IMF and other multilateral organizations continue to underline a positive outlook on India," the statement added.

Moody's said India's outlook partly reflects government and policy ineffectiveness in addressing economic weakness, which led to an



increase in debt burden from already high levels. To strengthen the economy, the government has undertaken series of financial sector and other reforms, said the statement by the finance ministry. "The Government has also proactively taken policy decisions in response to the global slowdown. These measures would lead to a positive outlook on India and would attract capital flows and stimulate investments," it added.

"While government measures to support the economy should help to reduce the depth and duration of India's growth slowdown, prolonged financial stress among rural households, weak job creation, and, more recently, a credit crunch among non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), have increased the probability of a more entrenched slowdown, the rating agency said in a statement.



India may impose 25 % safeguard duty on imports of single-mode optical fibre

The government may impose a provisional safeguard duty of 25 per cent on imports of single-mode optical fibre, used for signal transmission, based on a Commerce Ministry investigation that found a sudden and significant surge in the imports of the fibre.

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the ministry's investigation arm, initiated the probe in September following a complaint from the domestic industry.

The preliminary findings concluded that the product is being imported in increased quantities and may cause a serious damage to the domestic industry, DGTR said.

"Existing critical circumstances justify the immediate imposition of a provisional safeguard duty in order to save the domestic industry manufacturing like or directly competitive products," it said.

"Considering the critical circumstances and the extent of serious injury, pending final determination of rate of safeguard duty, a provisional safeguard duty of 25 per cent is proposed to be imposed on the imports of single mode optical fibre..from all countries," according to a notification of the DGTR.

However, certain developing countries would be exempted from this decision, it said.

The finance ministry will take the final decision to impose the duty.

Safeguard duty is a trade remedy available to World Trade Organization member-countries. It is imposed to provide a level-playing field to domestic players in case of sudden and significant increase in imports of a product.

The application for the DGTR investigation was made by Sterlite Technologies and Birla Furukawa Fibre Optics.

China says it has agreed with US to cancel tariffs in phases

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (TIP): China and the United States have agreed to roll back tariffs on each others' goods in a "phase one" trade deal if it is completed, officials from both sides said on Thursday, sparking division among some advisers to President Donald Trump.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry, without laying out a timetable, said the two countries had agreed to cancel the tariffs in phases.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the rollback would be part of the first phase of a trade agreement that is still being put to paper for Trump and President Xi Jinping to sign.

White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham told Fox News Channel the United States is "very, very optimistic" about completing a deal that would defuse a 16-month trade war between the world's two largest economies.

"I cannot get ahead of the talks with China, but we are very, very optimistic that we will reach a deal soon," she said.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, however, said in an interview with Fox Business Network: "There is no agreement at this time to remove any of the existing tariffs as a condition of the phase one deal."

"They're just negotiating in public, trying to push this in a direction," Navarro said of reports he said were put out by "Chinese propaganda press."

Experts warn the pact could still fall apart. U.S. officials said a lot of work remained to be done when Trump announced the outlines of an interim deal last month.

Trump has used tariffs on billions of dollars of



Chinese goods as his primary weapon in the protracted trade war. The prospect of lifting them, even in phases, has drawn fierce opposition from advisers in and outside of the White House who remain wary of giving up a key aspect of U.S. leverage.

U.S. stocks pared gains after Reuters reported that the plan faced internal opposition.

"There is no specific agreement for a phased rollback of the tariffs," said Michael Pillsbury, an outside adviser to Trump.

"The American side has been ambiguous when and which tariffs will be lifted. The Chinese have some wishful thinking and are trying to soothe their domestic hardliners that the tariffs will someday come off."

New Facebook logo arrives as its family grows

Facebook on Nov 4 unveiled a new logo to represent the Silicon Valley company, distinct from its core social network.

The move aims to highlight the Facebook "brand" which operates a range of apps and services including messaging, photo-sharing, virtual reality and is developing wallets for digital currency.

The new branding, basically the company name in crisp lettering, will be stamped on its "family" of offerings including WhatsApp, Messenger, Instagram, Oculus, Workplace, Portal and Calibra, according to chief marketing officer Antonio Lucio.

"Today, we're updating our company branding to be clearer about the products that come from Facebook," Lucio said.

"We're introducing a new company logo and further distinguishing the Facebook company from the Facebook app, which will keep its own branding."

The new corporate logo "is a way to better communicate our ownership structure to the people and businesses who use our services to connect," Lucio added. The move comes with Facebook under intense scrutiny from regulators around the world over how it polices content on its platforms, and with some politicians and activists seeking a breakup of Silicon Valley giants.



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 11 - November 17, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says you make rapid progress. There is visible success and everything you touch turns to gold. In this period you rise in your esteem and leave the opposition far behind. You will experience and do full justice to a rare state of exceptional creativity and charisma. There is better health and a much more positive mindset. You are ready to take on the world and its challenges and come out trumps.

TAURUS: There will be nothing that you feel is difficult to achieve or is impossible to surmount. You dig deep and draw on your resources. You display an iron will and an impressive capacity for sheer and sustained hard work. You will excel in all areas of life. Ganesha blesses you. You continue with rapid progress in whatever you do. The bold and beautiful side of you will rule this period.

GEMINI: This will be a period characterized by the love of all that is beautiful by all that appeals to your aesthetic senses. There will also be a lot of hard work. You will find time for hobbies, sports and leisure activities and may be drawn to higher study and research. You have worked hard and now is the time for rewards, as you immerse yourself in pleasurable activities.

CANCER: There are new ventures, avenues and interests to expend your recharged energies. This bountiful trend will continue for a while. Ganesha is happy for you. You will be tremendously busy and extremely productive as you engage in all kinds of work and leisure activities. You are firing on all cylinders and there could be the danger of a burnout.

LEO: You may need a change of lifestyle, more organized eating habits and regular hours to sustain yourself as you relentlessly forge ahead on all fronts. You are in a brilliant phase as far as the ingenuity and quality of your work is concerned. You make shrewd, inspired moves that get you places. Ganesha is watching over you.

VIRGO: The intensity of the phase takes you by surprise. The domestic angle is highlighted and there will be many demands on your time and resources. There will be hospital expenses and issues with children and teenagers that need to be dealt with family. You will be terribly stretched in this period. Expenses soar and you could be at your wit's end.

LIBRA: In a bid to escape the pressures, you do a lot of feel-good shopping. To feel and look better and to present a more impressive image to the world, you get yourself a new image / wardrobe / persona. New acquisitions or refurbishing your old possessions will renew your zest for life which has taken a beating in recent times. There is intense bonding and many new alliances and partnerships.

SCORPIO: There is joy in relationships and many happy moments with loved ones. This can be a crazy and confusing period, says Ganesha. You will be pushed and torn in different directions. You are plagued by several thoughts and indecisions and may be running around in circles for answers. You feel challenged to perform in several spheres and will have to deal with mounting expenses.

SAGITTARIUS: You look for new ways to earn more and at the same time you ask more out life; you desire a lot more than a humdrum existence. You want a meaningful life. There will be journeys for business or pleasure, or both. You try to leverage your knowledge and personality to become more successful. People will play a major role in your life socially, emotionally, and of course, professionally.

CAPRICORN: You will reach out to others and be fully involved with contacts, contracts and communications, all of which will lead to progress and material gains. You will also deal with deeds and documents for both, personal and business purposes. You will meet new people, socialize, accept invitations, attend many parties and outings and live a bit daringly and dangerously.

AQUARIUS: You turn your efforts and energies homewards. There are many domestic responsibilities and you plunge into taking care of children, parents, elders and in-laws. There is need for less emotion and more objectivity, patience and calm. You interact with siblings, co-workers, neighbours and they all appreciate your concerns. They recognize your worth and you are delighted by all the effusive praise showered on you.

PISCES: The work front is on stable ground as of now, you have sewn up the loose ends, and so you feel that it is time to concentrate on domestic and family commitments. You are a caregiver and are naturally empathetic. You like looking after people and will be a great asset in a world of suffering and despair. Ganesha blesses you. You are like Florence Nightingale, always there for those who need you.

Birthday Horoscope November 11 - November 17, 2019

Nov 11: Ganesha says while there may be more emotional hills to climb than your reserved analytical nature prefers, then comes in a stream of logic, precision perspective, fair thinking, and good decision-making.

Nov 12: You may need a little rest-and-relax time by yourself or to take care of private things. Perhaps you want to express your artistic or musical side; or need to recharge energies, meditate, or sleep.

Nov 13: There might be a sudden money decision needed or money is spent in an impulsive, risky way. Make sure you're getting value and what you want. Watch for the day's little personal challenges.

Nov 14: Today's stability should be reassuring, if for no other reason than it's nice to have a day that goes smoothly, predictably. People and words are reliable. Life seems reasonable, just, fair.

Nov 15: If by any chance yesterday's peace and equanimity lulled you into complacency, some

jarring incident could snap you out of it, and soon. It's a test of your ability to improvise.

Nov 16: News or a message opens the door wide to fresh, expansive possibilities, either concerning or emanating from your home or family. Outlooks turn optimistic.

Nov 17: The Moon can make day-to-day life anything but routine, which may become a mix of exciting change and unsettling unpredictability. New people and experiences await.

THE RIGHT WAY TO WORSHIP HINDU GODS

Each deity in Hinduism represents a certain force. They have specific duties and powers to promote and uphold Dharma and ensure the order and regularity of the worlds. They also exist in the microcosm of our minds and bodies as subtle forces or energies and help us in our thoughts and actions. As upholders of Dharma and representing Brahman in their purest aspects, they help devotees achieve fulfillment in their lives by granting their wishes, according to their faith, conduct, devotion, service, sacrifices and karma.

Image worship

According to some Vaishnava schools, an image of a god is a living manifestation or incarnation (arca) of him. You have to cultivate the same reverential attitude towards the image as you show to the god if he truly manifests in front of you in a physical form. They also believe that the power and glory of such images grow in proportion to the offerings we make and the devotion we show. The images which are worshipped by a large number of people and receive large quantities of ritual and spiritual offerings possess greater powers to grant our wishes than those who do not receive the same devotion or attention.

It is why certain ancient Hindu temples attract a large number of devotees throughout the year. The deities in them possess enormous attractive power and command a large following. That power is enhanced daily by a retinue of officiating priests who attend upon them with relentless devotion, treating them as royal guests. From their architectural design one can see that Hindu temples are not built to serve as mere places of worship, but as energy centers or spiritual power houses. They generate a lot of spiritual aura, and thereby contribute to the material and spiritual welfare of the people who worship the deities or live nearby. While devotees have a unique opportunity to endear themselves to gods through ritual and sacrificial worship, the gods have an opportunity to reciprocate their love and devotion. They do so by helping them in various ways, alleviating their problems or suffering, or granting them peace, prosperity, happiness, good health, knowledge, wisdom, intelligence, progeny, name and fame, and so on. They also protect them from evil influences and adversity. The gods possess enormous manifesting power. It is up to the devotees how they can harness it, without hurting themselves or their chances of liberation.

Each god in the Hindu pantheon represents a certain aspect of creation. They possess specific powers which are natural to their roles and functions and which they use to help their devotees in specific ways according to their desires and prayers.

Worshipping Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva

You can use this knowledge to seek divine help and augment your own power and potential to achieve your



worldly goals or work for your liberation. For example, if you want to abide in Dharma or improve your scriptural, spiritual and ritual knowledge and cultivate insightful wisdom, you should worship Brahma, the lord of the mind and intelligence. If you invoke him correctly with right attitude and aspiration, he can open your mind to the knowledge of our scriptures and endow you with superior intelligence and higher mental faculties. He and goddess Saraswathi, his associate shakti, can make you skillful, knowledgeable and efficient in your chosen profession or field and attain excellence on the path of knowledge and duty (jnana karma). If you are a student, he is the deity for you.

Dharma is one of the chief aims of human life. It helps you cultivate discernment (buddhi). However, you cannot live by Dharma alone. You also need Artha (wealth) to perform your obligatory duties as a householder to serve God and fulfill his aims upon earth. However, wealth brings in its wake many problems and can potentially draw you into selfish, materialistic and egoistic pursuits. When you earn wealth, you need the predominance of sattva and divine qualities to keep your balance and remain humble and focused on the path of selfless service (karma sanyasa) and devotion (bhakti)

For that, you should worship Lord Vishnu or any of his numerous manifestations and incarnations. If you approach them correctly with humility, devotion and sincerity, Lord Vishnu and goddess Lakshmi, his associate shakti, will grant you peace and prosperity. They protect you from harm and evil. A devout householder, who is pure in his heart, is a personification of Lord Vishnu. His abode is verily a sacred place, Vaikuntha. He serves God as his true servant (Bhagavata), with his mind engaged in devotional thoughts.

There is another important aim in life

namely the fulfillment of sexual desire or desires in general (Kama) to ensure the continuation of the family and the world and to assist souls in their rebirth. However, just as wealth, sex is also a minefield which can potentially cause your spiritual downfall. You cannot pursue the goal of fulfilling your sexual desires, without having control over your raw passions and emotions and without restraining your mind and senses.

Further, your sexual desire or passion can easily be penetrated by evil thoughts and transformed into lust. To avoid it, you have to gain control over your mind and body and stabilize your mind. For that, you have to practice yoga and engage your mind in the contemplation of the Self (atma samaya). With practice and by knowing the distinction between the true self and the physical self, you will gain mastery and self-control over your thoughts, passions and emotions.

However, you cannot do it alone. You will face many difficulties and obstacles as you try to control and regulate your natural and sexual urges. Your mind and

body resist the change and turn against you. You will experience restlessness as you are assailed by lustful thoughts and negative tendencies. The best way to resolve this problem is by seeking the help and protection of Lord Shiva.

He is the right deity, the lord of the mind and body, the true Yogi, the eternal Sadhu, who can dispel the darkness (tamas) in you and can grant you the power to control your sexuality, lustful thoughts, raw passions and emotions. By contemplating upon him and seeking his help, protection and intervention, you can stabilize your mind in the contemplation of the Self.

Similarly, you can worship other gods and goddesses of Hinduism and seek their help. For example, Ganesha can help you cultivate knowledge, strength and discernment to overcome obstacles such as confusion, delusion and fear, which prevent you from achieving success. Hanuman can instill qualities such as courage, faith, purity, strength and devotion which can help you engage in karma sannyasa yoga as a householder and qualify for liberation.

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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."

TOP BACKWATER DESTINATIONS IN KERALA



Placed in the South-Eastern part of India on the Malabar Coast, the state of Kerala lies in between the Arabian Sea in the West, the Western Ghats in the East. Backwater destinations in Kerala are one of the prime attractions of 'god's own country'.

Peaceful ride along these palm-fringed backwater destinations in Kerala with thrilling view of the sunset, lush paddy fields, the moonlight and the gentle lapping of water as you meander along on a kettuvallams (the traditional rice barges which have now been tastefully converted into houseboats in Kerala) make it an experience of a lifetime.

The backwaters are uninterrupted through the entire length of Kerala, initially used as a mode of transferring goods like coconut, rubber, spices, and others. However, now it serves for the activity of backwater tourism. The cruise ride will open up to a different world of backwater villagers, fishing operation and take you through other scenery.

Alleppey

Alleppey also known as Alappuzha or the 'Venice of the East' is an attractive town in Kerala. It is one of the most significant tourist centers in the state because of the large network of inland canals. Many of the Kerala backwater cruises either start or end at this point and is known as the center of the coir industry.

Alleppey used to be the busiest centers of trade in the past, till now the canals are the source of livelihood among the villagers. Alleppey presents a scenic view of the intertwined backwaters, beaches, and lagoons.

A houseboat cruise in these backwaters is a pleasurable experience. You will also get to witness a lighthouse once used for uploading goods.

Kumarakom

The view offered from Kumarakom is like no other; the green paddy fields and the Mangrove forests fight for the attention; along with the canals which are bedded by white lilies draw tourists to this spot from all over the world.

Kumarakom is situated about 16 km from Kottayam along the Vembanad Lake. A journey through the vast canals and streams in the country boats will take you across the lovely villages of Kerala. The soothing surroundings, placid lakes, lush greenery bestow Kumarakom with a physically and spiritually uplifting ambiance. It is no wonder Kumarakom is one of the best places in Kerala for Ayurveda.

Another attractive feature of this place is the Bird Sanctuary that extends a long way; it is home to many migratory birds. Some of the exotic birds leave the tourists fascinated. The area is also famous for handicrafts which are made in a traditional way.

Kasaragod

Kasaragod is far from the tourist hubs but is a beautiful village that offers backwater facilities and is more secluded and free of commercialism. This place is perfect for peaceful boat rides and sightseeing. Kasaragod is placed in the Northernmost District of Kerala, at Padanna and holds its own essence.

This area has kept up to the traditional ways and can be seen in their hospitality system as well, the locals play host during your stay at the retreat. They have not embraced the modern lifestyle in any form and visiting this part will make you come close to the original lifestyle of the locals.

Kollam

One of the finest backwater destinations in Kerala to start your houseboat ride is Kollam. Kollam is one of the oldest ports on the Malabar Coast and is renowned for its Cashew industry. 30 percent of the backwaters of this town is occupied by the famous Ashtamudi Lake.

The sight that the ride offers across Kollam is spectacular; blooming water lilies, canals and the songs from the birds leave you content. Kollam houseboat cruises serve the longest backwater ride in Kerala, lasting for 8 hours from Kollam to Alleppey. The traditionally designed houseboats come along with the authentic cooks, who serve you freshly



cooked meals along the way.

Kuttanad

The appealing geographical feature of Kuttanad is that it is the lowest place in India and lies below the sea level. Rice is grown in abundance in this area, hence holding the name "The Rice Bowl of Kerala". Kuttanad is a part of the Alapuzha District and covers the very

heart of the backwaters.

Besides the stretches of paddy fields, it has a rich growth of banana, yam, and cassava, making agriculture the main source of income for the locals. Owing to the variety of crops that grow in Kuttanad, with the added milieu of blue water bodies, green paddy fields and numerous birds it automatically makes this place vibrant and beautiful.



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Kartarpur corridor, Thanks Imran for the move

Modi said with today's inauguration, a seven-decade-old demand of the Sikhs now stood fulfilled. The PM was fulsome in his praise of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"Mein wazir-e-azam Imran Khan Niazi ka abhaari hun jinhone hame yeh raasta diya." (I am indebted to PM Imran Khan for having given us this passage). After the Punjab Government cancelled its part of the festivities, apparently not wanting to send the protocol for a toss, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh joined the PM, Governor VP Singh Badnore, former CM Parkash Singh Badal, Union ministers Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Hardeep Puri, MPs Sunny Deol and Sukhbir Singh Badal on the dais. The stage was managed jointly by the SAD and the SGPC.

Badal said that for 18 long years, from Baisakhi 2001 till 2018, come rain, sunshine or sleet, late Akali leader Kuldeep Singh Wadala organized monthly prayer meetings at the Zero Line, urging the Almighty to pave a passage to the bordering country which would ensure that his Sikh brethren could pay obeisance at the very place where Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, spent the last 18 years of his life.

Badal reminded the gathering that Wadala died in June 2018 and 17 months later the corridor sprang to life.

To commemorate his memory, the Punjab Government has named one of the roads leading to the corridor as Kuldeep Singh Wadala Marg.

"This is a just tribute to the man who made all this possible," said Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia.

Interestingly, Capt Amarinder stuck to his stand on the corridor, which he has been viewing with skepticism, as he warned the neighboring country against "misusing the passage to carry out its nefarious designs."

At one point, Badal took everybody, including the PM, by surprise when he said Punjabi farmers were suffering as they were not being paid adequate MSP for wheat and paddy.

Let me tell Pakistan that we, Punjabis, are not wearing bangles. The corridor should not be utilized by Pakistan for any other purpose other than what it is meant for Capt Amarinder Singh, Punjab CM

Ram Temple at disputed site; 5-acre land for Babri Masjid Reconstruction, rules Supreme Court

verdict that equally divided the disputed 2.77 acres between Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and Muslims, terming it "legally unsustainable".

"Even as a matter of maintaining public peace and tranquility, the solution which commended itself to the High Court is not feasible. The disputed site admeasures all of 1,500 square yards. Dividing the land will not sub-serve the interest of either of the parties or secure a lasting sense of peace and tranquility," said the Bench, which included Justice SA Bobde, Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice S Abdul Nazeer. The Hindus have been in exclusive and unimpeded possession of the outer courtyard where they have continued worship and the inner courtyard has been a contested site with conflicting claims of the

Hindus and Muslims. The ASI report concluded that there was, in existence, a massive underlying structure below the disputed structure even though it didn't conclude that the temple was demolished.

It held that Ram Lalla was a juristic person but the Ram Janmabhoomi was not. The Bench held that Sunni Central Wakf Board had failed to establish its case of dedication by user and the alternate plea of adverse possession.

While giving the decree in favor of Ram Lalla, the Bench said: "Suit 4 filed by Sunni Central Wakf Board must also be partly decreed by directing the allotment of alternate land measuring 5 acres to the Muslims for the construction of a mosque and associated activities within the city of Ayodhya."

"While determining the area of land to be allotted, it is necessary to provide restitution to the Muslim community for the unlawful destruction of their place of worship," it said using its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

"This exercise, and the consequent handing over of the land to the Sunni Central Waqf Board, shall be conducted simultaneously with the handing over of the disputed site comprising the inner and outer courtyards as a consequence of the decree in Suit 5 (of Ram Lalla)," the Bench said.

"Justice will not prevail if the court were to overlook the entitlement of the Muslims who have been deprived of the structure of the mosque through means which should not have been employed in a secular nation committed to the rule of law. The Constitution postulates the equality of all faiths. Tolerance and mutual co-existence nourish the secular commitment of our nation and its people," the SC underlined.

"The verdict is very balanced," said senior counsel CS Vaidyanathan, who represented Ram Lalla.

The SC directed the Centre to set up within three months a trust or any other appropriate mechanism to which the land would be handed over in terms of the decree that went in favor of Ram Lalla. Referring to the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993, through which 67.7 acres in and around the disputed site was acquired, the Bench said the government was free to hand it over to any trust which was willing to comply with the terms as the government might impose. It means both disputed 2.77 acres and the acquired land of 67.7 acres can go to the proposed trust for building of the temple. Rejecting Nirmohi Akhara's claim to be a she bait, the Bench asked the Centre to give it "an appropriate role in the management" of the temple having regard for its historical presence at disputed site.

Trump Administration Proposes Increasing Fee for U.S. Citizenship Application

The proposed actions are just the latest of the Trump administration's rule changes, large and small, that make it tougher for low-income people to immigrate legally or become citizens of the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security published its tentative new set of fees in a proposed rule posted Friday evening, and the plan will be open to public comment for 30 days starting Nov. 14, the day it is scheduled to be published on the Federal Register.

Recipients of DACA, which provides legal protection for people brought to the U.S. illegally as children, would under the proposal need to pay \$275 to renew their two-year legal permits.

Some asylum seekers who apply for protection with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the DHS

agency that processes citizenship and other immigration applications, would for the first time be asked to pay \$50 to apply for asylum. That would make the U.S. one of the few countries in the world to attach a fee to humanitarian protections.

In addition to the new or raised fees, the government is proposing to eliminate fee waivers, meaning applicants with incomes under the federal poverty line would be required to pay the higher citizenship fee and any costs associated with renewing a green card or work permit.

USCIS cited increased costs and declining revenue to cover expenses as part of need to increase some fees. USCIS said that without the increases, the agency could operate at a deficit of more than \$1 billion in the future.

"The adjudication of immigration applications and petitions requires in-depth screening, incurring costs that must be covered by the agency, and this proposal accounts for our operational needs and better aligns our fee schedule with the costs of processing each request," said Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of USCIS.

The government is also planning to transfer money raised through the new proposed fee schedule to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency under DHS that carries out deportations, workplace investigations and other immigration enforcement actions. The money would be used to root out any potential fraud in future applications for citizenship, green cards, asylum and other immigration benefits.

Under the proposed new fee schedule, immigrants looking to become citizens would now need to pay \$1,170 rather than \$640, a cost that almost no one would be permitted to waive. The administration last month changed its fee waiver policy, so that reliance on public benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps or housing assistance would no longer qualify immigrants for the waiver. Melissa Rodgers, director of programs for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, said the proposed fees would likely price out many people who could have otherwise become citizens.

"This is a wealth tax on becoming a U.S. citizen," Ms. Rodgers said. "It's part and parcel of the assault on the naturalization process."

The new asylum fee wouldn't apply to most migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border and asking for protection. Countries that charge for asylum protection include Australia, Fiji and Iran.

Numerous immigrants, including asylum seekers, DACA recipients and the approximately half a million immigrants with temporary protected status must also pay a separate fee to work legally in the U.S. The cost associated with that permit would increase to \$490 from \$410. The new proposed fees are part of President Trump's broader effort to restrict immigrants' ability to enter the U.S. A federal judge last Saturday blocked a Trump administration policy that would have required immigrants moving to the U.S. to demonstrate they have health care or the financial means to pay for medical costs. That mandate could have blocked more than half of new immigrants looking to move to the U.S. through family ties.

Federal courts in three states in October blocked another DHS policy that would have required many of the same applicants to demonstrate that they wouldn't become reliant on any public benefits should they be allowed to immigrate to the U.S. That rule would have also blocked immigrants already in the country from gaining permanent residence if they had used public benefits or might in the future. Mr. Trump has also cut the number of refugees allowed into the country to a record-low 18,000 for the fiscal year that began in October. (Source: WSJ)

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