

The INDIAN PANORAMA

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Nancy Pelosi okays drafting of impeachment articles against Donald Trump

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): Alleging that US President Donald Trump has abused power undermining national security and jeopardizing the integrity of the elections, Speaker of House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi on Thursday, December 5, said they are going ahead with the process to impeach him.

The Democratic Party, which enjoys a comfortable majority in the House, is most likely to get through the motion of impeaching President Trump, making him only the third president in American history to face removal by Congress.

"Our Democracy is what is at stake. The President leaves us no choice but to act, because he is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit," Pelosi said ramping up her charges against Trump. *contd on Page 30*



"Our Democracy is what is at stake. The President leaves us no choice but to act, because he is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit," Pelosi said ramping up her charges against Trump

Pakistan govt to sell unused state properties at Dubai Expo

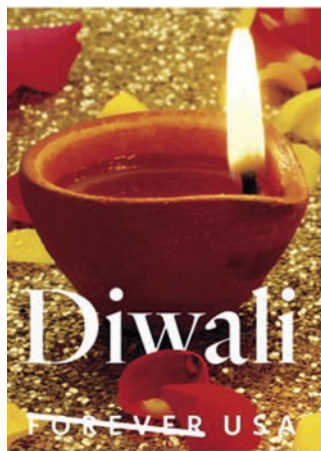


Prime Minister Imran Khan said that the precious government properties will be sold for better utilization of funds on public welfare projects.

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan government has decided to sell its precious unutilized state properties at the Dubai Expo to attract foreign and Pakistani investors, according to media reports on Thursday, as the cash-strapped country tries to overcome a ballooning balance-of-payments crisis and bolster its public finances.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said that the precious government properties will be sold for better utilization of funds on public welfare projects. The funds generated through the exercise will be spent on public welfare schemes related to education, health, food and housing, Dawn newspaper reported. *contd on Page 30*

Diwali 2019 Power of One Awards announced



NEW YORK (TIP): 2019 "Power of One" Awards have been announced. The awards this year are cohosted by the Permanent Missions of Belarus, Georgia and India to the United Nations, and Diwali Foundation USA, Inc.

The 2019 Exceptional Awardees will be presented on December 6, 2019 (4.5.30 PM) at ECOSOC COUNCIL CHAMBER, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK.

The recipients of the coveted awards are H.E. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, former Foreign Minister & Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UN; H.E. Nicholas Emiliou, former Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, NY; H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka, former CDC to PGA 72 & Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the UN; and H.E. Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

The list of speakers at the event includes H.E. Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, H.E. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations,

contd on Page 30

All Four Hyderabad Rape accused killed in police encounter

HYDERABAD (TIP): The four men accused of raping and murdering a veterinarian in Hyderabad were killed in an encounter in the early hours of Friday, December 6, Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar told PTI.

The encounter took place around 3.30 am, when the accused were

trying to flee while being taken to the murder site to reconstruct the sequence of events, reported Hindustan Times. The accused allegedly snatched a weapon and fired at the police. They tried to run towards a deserted pathway, an unidentified official told The Indian Express.

"They fired upon the police team and we retaliated in self-defense," unidentified officials told PTI. "Two of our men are also injured in the incident."

The accused - Mohammed, Jollu Shiva, Jollu Naveen and Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu - were arrested on November 29 for allegedly raping and killing the woman by smothering her. They burned her body. The four were under judicial custody and lodged in high security cells in Cherlapally Central Prison. *contd on Page 30*



Police officials at the site of the encounter in Shadnagar, Hyderabad

Photo / Twitter@ANI



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ONENESS - A Light For Humanity Commemorates Guru Nanak's 550th Birth Anniversary

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): A master of emotional intelligence, Guru Nanak led the revolution of reawakening the consciousness of humans 550 years ago at a time when people had let go of their humanity. The message Guru Nanak Sahib was shared through inspiring the souls of humans & was communicated through the universal language of music and emotions.

Creating a new instrument to translate the language of feelings, they had the Sikh Rabab carved as a tool to help us carve the human psyche. He taught the humanity the basic lessons of equality, mutual respect and rise above the barriers of race, cast & color with love and oneness.

Guru Nanak was a rebel, a revolutionary, a musical genius, a spiritual master and an activist. Guru Nanak fought for the rights of all people and believed in creating equal opportunities for all. Abolishing the caste system, removing gender inequality, challenging ideologies that isolate individuals and communities. The purpose of Guru Nanak's work was to reunite humans with themselves and the humanity within them through understanding their own emotions and learning the art of expression. Awakening the consciousness of humans and reconnecting them with the power of their emotions is how we can continue to keep the message of Guru Nanak alive and relevant.

The Sikh community of New Jersey celebrated the 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at New Jersey Performance Arts Center in Newark, NJ on November 23rd, 2019.

Around 3500 people attended this event which lasted over 4 hours. The audience was touched by the colorful background of the stage reflecting Sikh History and performances given by speakers as well musical performances.

The list of eminent guests included Phillip Murphy (Governor Of New Jersey), Gurbir Singh Grewal (Attorney



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy greets the Sikh Community
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



New Jersey State Senator Bob Menendez (Chair Senate Foreign Relations Committee) honoring with American Flag the hosts of "Oneness" -A light of humanity . Seen in photo are Onkar Singh, Senator Bob Menendez, Sukhinder Kaila
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (center), New Jersey State Attorney General Gurbir Grewal (right) and Hoboken City Mayor Ravi Bhalla (left), were honored during the 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak at NJPAC in New Jersey on 23rd Nov 2019
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



Daman & Sant Singh Chatwal Padma Bhushan awardee Indian American businessman and founder of the Dream Hotel Group, Jatinder Singh Bakshi, Chairman Nanak Foods the flagship brand of Punjab Milk Foods Inc., the largest and most innovative Indian dairy in North America and Dr. Mandeep Oberoi.
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



American comedian, writer, producer, political commentator, actor, and television host Hasan Minhaj entertained
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

General of New Jersey), Bob Menendez (Senior Senator of New Jersey) and many more mayors, councilmen and other dignitaries.

The event started with a Color guard ceremony in led by Colonel Kalsi.

Hannah Harleen sang the national anthem in her melodious voice to begin the event.

Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa then sang the "SatgurNanak Pargataya" in a very symphonious manner along with her musical instrument which was so delightful and peaceful to hear.

The audience enjoyed it .

Bhai Satpal Singh from London gave a great speech based on the basic teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and how we can apply to our day to day life to become true student of Guru Nanak and build our own self esteem. He engaged the audience so well and made them meditate with him. He was given many rounds of applause by the audience. The bottom line was to stay a "Student" thru out your life and keep your room for growth open.

Bhai Karamjeet Singh/Dr. Manpreet Singh performance included reciting "BarahMaha" from the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji which explains the different seasons of the year.

During this performance, Vilas Nayak created a live painting within 12-14 minutes which also reflected different colors related to various seasons of the year. It was a very colorful and great piece of art created by Nayak.

IKIGAI Group gave a very nice theater performance " KalTaran Guru Nanak Aaya". It reflected message spread to the society and humanity by Guru Nanak Dev Ji in fourteenth century.

contd on Page 6

Vayavyam



Esanyam



Nairuti



Agneyam



Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam



12 hours before the supreme court verdict on the Babri Masjid/Rama Janma Bhumi controversy, a friend from India suggested that the land under dispute may be divided into 5 equal parts and five temples representing 5 major religions -Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Buddhism, be built, which will truly reflect the spirit of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" in Maha Upnishad, inscribed in front of India's Parliament.

President of India should be inaugurated in the presence of the high priests of all 5 religions and 5 young girls from the 5 faiths.

Dr. Arnold Toynbee, the British historian and philosopher says: "It is already becoming clear that a chapter which has a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human race..."

"At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way-Emperor Ashoka's and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence and Sri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions. Here we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family-and, in the Atomic Age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves".



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Interfaith Celebratory Event organized in Commemoration of Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary



The host Amarjit Singh Anand extends welcome to the distinguished gathering



Prachi Makkar and her brother Surya Makkar, much sought after for their melodious singing of hymns, sing Gurbani



International Sikh Missionary and a scholar of Sikhism Giani Jagtar Singh Jachak spoke about Guru Nanak's mission



Shivpreet Kaur Dhillon (NY high-school student) made an excellent presentation about the spiritual-scientific connect in Guru Granth Sahib Jee

QUEENS, NY (TIP): 'Aspirations & Expressions' organized an Interfaith Celebratory Event at World's Fair Marina, New York, on the 17th November 2019, to commemorate the 550th Anniversary of the Blessed Advent of Sree Guru Nanak Sahib Jee, the Prophet of Oneness of Humanity.

The '1GOD1humanity' Accolades were presented to several Honorees for Humanitarian Service and Global Harmony and Community Service.

The program commenced with a soul-soothing recitation of Sacred Gurbani by sister-brother team of Prachi & Surya Makkar.

Giani Jagtar Singhji Jachak, International Sikh Missionary recited the Sikh prayers and paid rich tributes to the philosophy of Guru Nanak Sahib.

Amarjit Singh Anand, the host paid obeisance to the Divine Legacy of Guru Nanak Sahib Jee and said that Guru Sahib invested twenty-seven years of his seventy-year sojourn on this planet going on his global Divine Voyages across several continents, disseminating the Eternal and Universal tenets of Oneness of Humanity and harmonious co-existence.

Prof. Andrew Vidich, globally acclaimed educator and author paid glowing tributes to the DIVINE MESSAGE of ONENESS, conveyed by Guru Baba Nanak Jee.

Prof. Vidich (Founding Member of NY Interfaith Council and Director, Science of Spirituality NY org) presented his book LIGHT UPON LIGHT to Amarjit Singh Anand. Darshan Singh Bagga, community leader, presented his book ONE WORLD UNDER GOD to Anand.

Homi Gandhi, President of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, travelled from California, to pay homage to the Great Divine Master.

Jason Caplan (singer-musician from



Giani Jagtar Singh Jachak is honored by the event organizing committee members



A view of the gathering. Seen among others are Prof. Andrew Vidich, Homi Gandhi and Jason Caplan with his troupe

Virginia, with his troupe) recited Gurbani and an English devotional composition. He is the Founder of Universal Language Music Room and The Bridge Institute.

Shivpreet Kaur Dhillon (NY high-school student) made an excellent presentation about the spiritual-scientific connect in Guru Granth Sahib

Jee.

Rana Singh Sodhi (brother of Balbir Singh Sodhi, first hate-crime victim post 9-11 tragedy) travelled from California to join the community.

Amongst the esteemed honorees were : Darshan Singh Bagga (Interfaith Initiatives and Publisher of One World Under God); Prof. I. S. Saluja (Editor-

Publisher, The Indian Panorama); Parveen Chopra (Editor, One World Under God and South Asian Times); Dr. (Lt. Col.) Kamal Singh Kalsi, US army; Gurinderpal Singh Josan (Founder, Saragarhi Foundation & Bhai Mardana Foundation); Alamdar Shah Syed (co-founder Sanjha Punjab cultural org); Aunali Khalfan (interfaith activist and largest nationwide publisher of Holy Quraan); Veer Bhupinder Singh (Guru Granth Sahib, The Living Treasure org); Prof. Gurcharan Singh (posthumously); Dharmatma Saran (preserving Indian traditions & heritage); Jatinder Singh (National Director, United Sikhs).

Noor Salik received the Award on behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was honored for his humanitarian and spiritual contribution, pertaining to the long-awaited opening of the Sree Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, the gateway to the sacred land where Guru Nanak Sahib lived his final years, as an agriculturist.

Jaswant Singh (Spiritual-thematic artist from Canada) Gurdeep Singh Saigal (graphic designer, Canada) Jaswinder Singh Dhillon (NY banker and community activist) Prof. Saqlain Malik (NY social worker) Charanjit Singh (IT professional, Switzerland) Dharampal Singh (founder of old-age home in NY) supported Amarjit Singh Anand, in all these initiatives. All the team members are determined to serve humanity, in any manner possible.

Amarjit Singh Anand, a writer and the Founder & President of 'Aspirations & Expressions', feels blessed to be honored as a recipient of the 'Ambassador for Peace' Award, by the Interreligious International Federation for World Peace, NY (affiliated to the United Nations).

contd on Page 6



Another view of the gathering

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The honorees and the organizers



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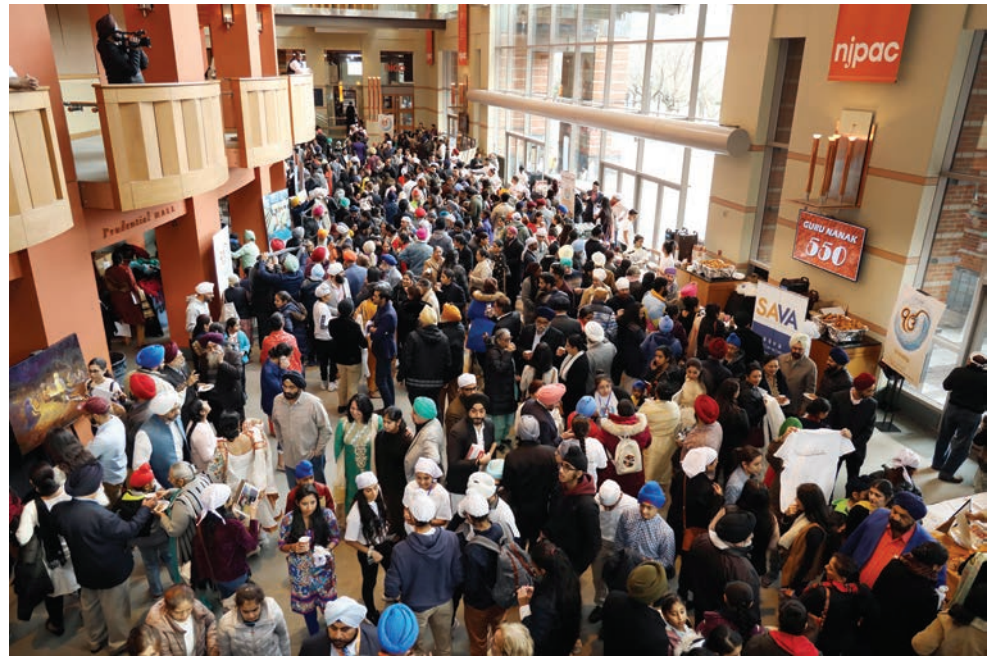
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ONENESS - A Light For Humanity Commemorates Guru Nanak's 550th Birth Anniversary



A view of the audience in the auditorium

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



Milling crowds at the venue

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

contd from page 2

Another presentation on the stage was based on the Divine journey of Guru Nanak Dev Ji from Nankana (place of birth) to Kartarpur (where he passed away).

Governor Murphy in his message said that New Jersey welcomes diversity and he is proud that Sikhs have found it as their home in this state. He assured about the safety of all the sects of the society. He recently visited India for two weeks. Governor wore a turban. He was

honored on stage by Major Kalsi, Harpal Singh & Onkar Singh.

Attorney General of New Jersey Gurbir Singh Grewal was very proud to be a member of law enforcement as a Sikh. He touched the basic teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in day to day life.

Senator Bob Menendez also spoke about his role in senate to promote and protect minorities. He brought 2 US flags for the organization.

Gagandeep Singh & Jashon Singh gave a melodious musical performance on

rabab and table. Simultaneously, Lawrence Koh who is a sand artist from Singapore showed the famous "Sacha Sauda" with his expertise.

Keynote Speaker Hasan Minhaj came to stage and started with few comedy lines.

He sat down with Shweta Singh of AajTak and had a detailed discussion from Guru Nanak's teachings, Sikh Religion and current state of world. He shared some of his own lifetime experiences with Sikhism. He took a few

questions from the audience. A seven-year-old asked him question related to identity and his answer was "Best is Be What You Are."

He was honored by Dr. Mandeep Oberoi.

Various dignitaries from the community were honored for their key role and contribution to the event

Harmeet Kaur (CNN) donned the role of Master of Ceremonies.

(Based on a press release)

contd from page 4

Interfaith Celebratory Event organized in Commemoration of Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary

Anand says he was commanded in a dream, in November of 2018 that he "MUST" organize such an event, on GURU NANAK JEE's 550th Anniversary to express his gratitude to his MENTOR, GURU NANAK SAHIB JEE, by bringing together ALL THE PEOPLE from various belief-structures, cultures and cultural traditions. He shared this dream with his ninety-two-year-old mother, who supported him to honor the cherished memory of his late father.

GOD and GURU SAHIB blessed him to accomplish the "assigned task", despite severe trauma, after the Divinemerger of his revered mother, in June, losing living space and then being thrust into a mental asylum. Anand expresses his immense gratitude to GOD and GURU for being blessed with unflinching faith in GOD through teachings of GURU NANAK SAHIB JEE.

(Based on a press release)

JEWES OF INDIA EXHIBIT IN NEW JERSEY

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is to open of its new exhibit, Jews of India: The History and Practices of the Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi Jews. The Opening Reception will be held in Mount Corners Drive, Freehold, NJ, on December 15 from 2 PM - 4 PM.

Guests will have an opportunity to hear from Monmouth County residents who are descended from Jewish Indian families, as well as other guest speakers. The Museum also has received recordings of some of the Bene Israel liturgical melodies, which will be played during the reception.

The history of the Jews of India is complex and shrouded in mystery. There are three groups: Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi, each with a different origin story. The Bene Israel has been the largest of the groups, with an oral tradition that they are descended from seven couples who were the sole survivors of a shipwreck off the Konkan coast, south of Bombay. Their arrival could date between the eighth century BCE and the sixth century CE. The Cochin and Baghdadi Jews arrived in India later and settled in different areas

of the country.

This exhibit was prompted by the donation of books and artifacts by community members Yochanan and Sophie Perry. Their personal story was highlighted in the fall 2018 issue of the Museum's newsletter, Heritage Highlights.

Family photographs, books, and objects will be on display, as well as a 1965 first day cover showing the stamp honoring the Cochin Paradesi Synagogue, which houses a set of copper plates dating from 1000 CE, given to a Jewish leader from the Hindu ruler, outlining special privileges which would forever be granted to the Jewish community

Funding has been made possible in part by a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State, through grant funds administered by the Monmouth County Historical Commission. The afternoon will include refreshments of wine, cheese, naan, and hummus.

For more information or to make a paid reservation (non-refundable), call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or visit www.jhmomc.org.

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher Introduces Bill Naming Post Office in Honor of Slain Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal



Deputy Sheriff Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal

WASHINGTON
DC (TIP):

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07) on

December 5 introduced

legislation to name a post office in Houston after Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal,

the first Sikh police officer to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office while maintaining his articles of faith. Deputy Dhaliwal was killed in the line of duty on September 27, 2019.

The bill provides that the post office located at 315 Addicks Howell Road will be named the "Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office."

"Deputy Dhaliwal represented the very best of our community: he worked for equality, connection, and community through his life of service to others," said Congresswoman Fletcher.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

The 2020 candidates who have qualified for the December debate

WASHINGTON (TIP): With just over a week before the qualification deadline, six candidates have cemented their spot on the next debate stage.

Senator Kamala Harris was qualified but dropped out of the race on Tuesday. That same day, Tom Steyer, a billionaire businessman and political donor, became the latest addition to the sixth 2020 Democratic presidential debate, which will take place December 19 in Los Angeles.

The six candidates who have already qualified are former Vice President Joe Biden, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Tom Steyer, Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Elizabeth Warren

The bar to qualify has been raised once again. Candidates need to prove that they have at least 200,000 unique donors, including at least 800 in 20 different states, U.S. territories or the District of Columbia. That's an increase from 165,000 last month. They also have to reach either 4% in at least four national or early-state polls or reach 6% in two early-state polls. That's an increase from 3% and 5%, respectively.



The six candidates who have already qualified are former Vice President Joe Biden, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Tom Steyer, Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Elizabeth Warren

Presidential hopefuls have until 11:59 p.m. on December 12 to meet both donor and polling requirements.

The debate will be hosted by PBS NewsHour and Politico. Ten candidates took the stage for

November's debate in Atlanta. Previous debates have taken place in Detroit, Houston, Miami and Westerville, Ohio.

Kamala Harris pulls out of Presidential Race

WASHINGTON (TIP): Kamala Harris is ending her presidential bid and suspending her campaign, she announced Tuesday. In a statement, the Democratic senator from California explained she did not have enough funding to continue her run for the White House. Calling it "one of the hardest decisions of my life," and one she had made over the last few days, Harris said her campaign "simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue."



Kamala Harris dropped out of Presidential race saying her campaign "simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue."

"I'm not a billionaire. I can't fund my own campaign," she said. "And as the campaign has gone on, it's become harder and harder to raise the money we need to compete."

She continued, "In good faith, I can't tell you, my supporters and volunteers, that I have a path forward if I don't believe I do. So, to you my supporters, it is with deep regret - but also with deep gratitude - that I am suspending my campaign today."

In a sign of how challenging the lack of funding had become, aides said Tuesday that by the end of this week, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg will have spent on advertising alone about twice what Harris had raised for her own bid since the beginning of the year.

And in recent days, long-simmering turmoil between her team of professional consultants, mostly from California, and a faction represented by Harris' sister, Maya Harris, about how the campaign should proceed had boiled over into news reports. Maya Harris, a Democratic activist who also worked for

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, has been at her sister's side for the duration of the campaign, serving as a top adviser.

Harris had begun her campaign in a commanding position, with a crowd of about 20,000 showing up at her kickoff rally in Oakland in late January. Her campaign at its inception seemed to show the capacity for growth, and she was viewed as a top-tier candidate. When she confronted Joe Biden about his stance on federal busing in the first presidential debate, it boosted her candidacy. But within days, her own views on busing became somewhat muddled.

Later, she struggled to articulate where she stood on health care and how she would pay for an overhaul of the health care system.

Harris, the third candidate in 48 hours

to announce the end of her campaign, informed her staff Tuesday of her decision to suspend her campaign. After her statement, Harris posted a video of her statement on Twitter.

Biden responded to the news of her departure from the race by calling her a "first-rate intellect," a "first-rate candidate, and "a solid, solid person" who is "loaded with talent."

Julián Castro commended Harris and attacked some of the news outlets that recently reported stories that were critical of her campaign, noting "articles out of Politico, the New York Times, the Washington Post, that has basically trashed her campaign and focused on one small part of it, and I think held her to a different standard, a double standard has been grossly unfair and unfortunate."

Without Harris, Steve Bullock and Joe Sestak, the Democratic primary field now shrinks to 15 candidates.

In early November, Harris cut all of her field organizers in New Hampshire and shuttered her field offices there in order to focus her efforts in Iowa. At the time, she told CBS News she was "all in" on winning the Iowa caucuses and predicted she would "do very well" in the first contest of the 2020 Democratic presidential primary. Before the November debate, Harris had 131 staffers and 17 field offices in the state and had spent 45 days in Iowa, and she had even spent Thanksgiving in Iowa with her family.

Harris' husband tweeted a note of support for his wife.

Social Security Expands Public Hours at Offices Nationwide

Wednesdays to Return to Full Public Service Hours; Agency to Hire 1,100 Direct Service Employees

WASHINGTON DC (TIP):

Starting on January 8, 2020, Social Security offices nationwide will be open to the public on Wednesday afternoons,



Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, announced. This change restores Wednesday public service hours that were last in place in late 2012. "I don't want someone to come to our office at 2:30 on a Wednesday only to find our doors closed," Commissioner Saul said.

In another move to improve service to the public, Commissioner Saul announced in his Open Letter to the Public at www.ssa.gov/agency/coss-message.html that the agency is hiring 1,100 front line employees to provide service on the agency's National 800 Number and in its processing centers. The agency is currently bringing onboard 100 new processing center employees and approximately 500 new teleservice representatives for the 800 Number. An additional 500 hires for the 800 Number will occur later in 2020.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

AS I SEE IT



By Tarlochan Singh

Remembering Inder Kumar Gujral on his birth centenary, December 4, 2019

Integrity, empathy were Gujral's hallmarks

In the times of coalition politics, IK Gujral was called upon to take over the mantle of prime ministership, which at the best of times is no less than a crown of thorns. He gladly accepted the gauntlet.

birth. Like many others, he, too, waxed and waned at each new twist and turn of events in Punjab.

Talking to him on Punjab was always a revelation because not only did he know so many finer points of the Punjab problem, but he was also a true friend of the Sikhs. In a point of fact, the two Punjabis, viz Inder Kumar Gujral and Kuldip Nayar, had such a constructive approach to the whole imbroglio that I often make this point on every platform that if we had another handful of Punjabis like this twosome, there would have been no Punjab problem at all.

These two Punjabis never shirked their responsibility to serve the nation in whichever capacity it was required. Their elevation as India's Ambassadors in two of the most important capitals of the world - Nayar in London and Gujral in Moscow - proved many things. But one of them is that non-service diplomats can outshine the career diplomats when called upon to do so. For, after all, ambassadorship happens to be a PR job for the nation. And, some men are born diplomats and PR men.

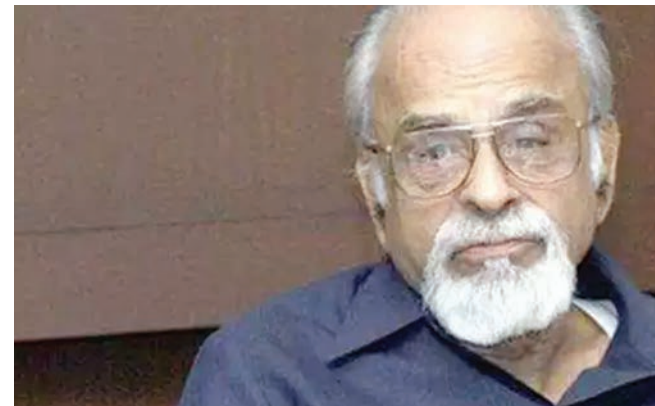
I do not want to dwell upon so many sides of Gujral's personality, for he was so multi-faceted that to do justice to such a man, even a whole book cannot suffice. As an elder intellectual and parliamentarian of the nation, he rubbed shoulders with some of the best minds of the world, even at a one-on-one level. But he wore his greatness so very lightly that he had friends from every walk of life. It was his boundless human empathy that made him so winsome in all possible situations.

That's why, in the times of coalition politics, he was called upon to take over the mantle of prime ministership of India, which at the best of times is no less than a crown of thorns. He gladly accepted the gauntlet. For, this challenge was an opportunity for him to prove that it was a new phase in the democratic evolution of the country.

Perhaps, it was for the first time that true federalism, which was the experiment of our Constitution, was being worked out in real terms. And if that succeeded, it would have started a new era of political management in the country. To be able to satisfy the diverse aspirations of all kinds of people in different states was a mammoth task inasmuch as, most of these aspirations were kept bottled up. It was a role of destiny, which Gujral played with consummate ease.

At 80, the way he worked, he could have put people younger to him to shame. But by not shirking his onerous responsibility, he had the challenge of carving out a place for himself in India's history as a man of the moment.

But the last and not the least important of his qualities was that he was an Ajatashatru, which means - a man without an enemy. Fortunately, at that time, we had both



Inder Kumar Gujral : 4th December 1919 - 30th November 2012

a Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition (Atal Bihari Vajpayee) who equally shared this quality between them. The parliamentary debate, which took place on the 50th year of Independence, underlined this point so well, as brought out by these two stalwarts. Even when he was engaged in a bitter argument, as intellectuals mostly do, he remained so unruffled and pleasant that the one worsted in the argument was also happy at the outcome. That's why even if he was so uncompromising in respect of his values and principles, he was flexible enough to take along with him even the worst of his detractors.

Now adding to his basic integrity and incorruptibility, as well as human compassion, you would find that there was no crisis from which he didn't come out in flying colors. He took the courage to oppose the Emergency as a Cabinet minister of Indira Gandhi and had to quit. But this unusual step brought laurels to him. The Gujral Doctrine had already won him several friends and India was seen in an altogether different light. Hence, it was a matter of great luck of the nation that we had such a person who could lead us into the 21st century without jerks and jolts. He was always a man far ahead of his times.

At that point, India having a Punjabi Prime Minister was important for another reason as well. For the first time, we had a Punjabi and, that too, a refugee to deal with Pakistan. No one could have been more at ease while interacting with Pakistan's Muslims. He had a rare command of the Urdu language and could quote Urdu poetry with such felicity that he could not but evoke a responsive chord in every heart in Pakistan.

He was convinced that these two young nations could or shall fulfil their trust with destiny only by burying the hatchet of mutual enmity and distrust.

(The author is a former Chairman National Commission for Minorities and a Member of India's Parliament)

Perhaps, it was for the first time that true federalism, which was the experiment of our Constitution, was being worked out in real terms. And if that succeeded, it would have started a new era of political management in the country. To be able to satisfy the diverse aspirations of all kinds of people in different states was a mammoth task inasmuch as, most of these aspirations were kept bottled up. It was a role of destiny, which Gujral played with consummate ease.

I first met Inder Gujral in 1980. I had then accompanied the Indian Olympic contingent to Moscow where Gujral sahib was India's Ambassador. I, therefore, had to meet him as a matter of courtesy. I requested for a personal audience, and lo and behold! He sent his personal car to take me to him. I knew that he was not protocol-minded, but that he could be so warm and informal was far from my imagination. Hence, it turned out to be a very friendly tete-a-tete. The fact that I came from Jhelum district, I think, also made him give me the kind of attention generally reserved for someone who is one's own kin.

Thereafter, in 1982, I became the PR chief of the Asiad. Gujral sahib had come back from his ambassadorial stint. As a leading citizen of the Capital and one of the nation's leading intellectuals, I was often in need of his advice and guidance, which I found was always available to me without any reserve and in ample measure. It was then that I started knowing him as a gentleman par excellence. Though he lived in the rarefied world of books and ideas, I found him rooted as much in the soil of reality. With no pretensions of mine as an intellectual, my interactions were just matter of fact and mundane. But he took it all in his stride.

Soon afterwards, I became the press secretary to President Giani Zail Singh. This forced me into the thick of every kind of activity, moving as often as possible in the world of VIPs. Hence, I met Gujral sahib in several capacities and on several occasions. For, that was the time when the Punjab problem monopolized the attention of the nation. Gianiji was concerned with the day-to-day happenings, both as a Punjab leader and a Sikh. Thus, in those days, I often interacted with a cross-section of Punjabis not only in Delhi but also the world over.

However, it was a great gain for me to know that Gujral sahib happened to be one of the finest Punjabis on the scene, in love with the culture and ethos of the land of his



COMMENT

Prof I.S. Saluja

From defending a diplomat's statement to advocating Hindutva and demanding a Hindu Rashtra

It started as an attempt to defend the Consul General of India at New York's statement he made on Kashmir at a private gathering of some Kashmiri Pandit families in New York at which film actor Anupam Kher, a Kashmiri Pandit, was also present, a couple of days ago. There was a lot of sympathy for the good natured and amiable Consul General of India in New York who most felt was unnecessarily targeted by media for his utterances. A few well-meaning friends of his formed a group to defend him. Initially, it was the CG, Kashmir and the rogue neighbor Pakistan creating trouble in the Indian State of Jammu and

Kashmir.

However, the Hindutva elements who have been advocating a Hindu Rashtra saw their opportunity and jumped into the group. Over the last of couple of days they succeeded in transforming the agenda of the group. The group does not any more speak about defending the CG's statement. The only cry is the Hindu unity and the Hindu Rashtra.

There is no harm in exercising one's democratic rights in a democratic country. For long Khalistanis have been demanding a Khalistan in India. It does not make a difference that there are

people here who want a Hindu Rashtra. If the Khalistanis demanding Khalistan are anti-India and enemies of the nation, the same yardstick could be applied to those demanding a Hindu Rashtra. What is the difference? The demands of both the Khalistanis and the Hindutva supporters are divisive and against the interests of India and its 1.3 billion people.

It is unfortunate that Indians who now are citizens of America should attempt to create hatred among people of Indian origin and divide them here in the US where hundreds of ethnicities have learnt to live in brotherhood and peace.

Aren't they committing crime against America and American people? Nobody should be allowed to take advantage of the freedoms offered by the greatest nation on the earth. Nobody should be allowed to practice any form of terrorism in the greatest democracy in the world which prides itself in the values of freedom and fraternity. President Trump who has been bold enough to deal with terrorism of all shades should find a way to lock up people of foreign origin who promote hatred and create divisions and are a threat to the American National Security.

What the breakup means for BJP, Sena

The former allies will have to hit reset button in state



“
Having had its way in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena leadership believes it is time they stepped out, which may be easier said than done. The Sena may have got their Chief Minister installed in the Mantralaya, but observers say if Maharashtra were to go to elections today, the biggest beneficiaries perhaps would be the NCP and the Congress.

”

A lot has been written about the day NCP supremo Sharad Pawar came calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi while the epic "maha drama" raged back home in Maharashtra.

One claim is that the Maratha strongman wanted to tell the BJP's topmost leader in person that he was aware of the attempts to tap the weak link in the NCP and his family, nephew Ajit Pawar, and that an end be put to it. After all, Sharad Pawar did provide the BJP moral support when the Shiv Sena played hardball after it fell short in the 2014 Assembly polls.

However, while "strange bedfellows" NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena struggled to reach the common meeting ground, the BJP carried on with the "plan" and the rest, as they say, is history.

In those terms, Pawar has a lot to thank BJP's "Chanakya" Amit Shah for. His career and stature have revived, and how. Despite being pushed against the wall, Pawar not only helped sulking NDA ally Uddhav Thackeray realize his dream by giving Maharashtra its first Shiv Sena Chief Minister, but also re-established his credentials countrywide. The Pawar factor is something the BJP had neither anticipated, nor bargained for.

BJP, post Maharashtra

BJP lost Maharashtra due to the "smart regional pride" pitch by the NCP and the Shiv Sena - "Gujaratis (Modi and Shah) trying to control things in Maharashtra". Can the move be tried elsewhere, perhaps Bihar? The BJP needs to be on guard now.

A section in the BJP now claims that Amit Shah is "not too fond" of Devendra Fadnavis. He is being touted as "solely responsible for the wrong distribution of tickets and decisions that led to a major state slipping out of the saffron hold".

His "closeness" to PM Modi and Nagpur (RSS headquarters) are his saving grace, they say, adding that "Fadnavis gave precedence to outsiders and this is not how the expansion of the BJP should have happened" in Maharashtra.

But a counter argument is that the "unnecessary needling of Pawar", who was perhaps playing his last political innings, via ED probes played a big role in him taking the lead to stitch the unlikely alliance. "Had it not been for the NCP and Congress turncoats, the BJP would have won much less," Fadnavis supporters say.

The bottom line, however, is that the BJP with 105 seats rejected the power-sharing offer of the Sena with 56 seats, forcing it to turn to archrivals NCP (54) and Congress (44). What happens six months later no one knows, but today the BJP is cutting a lonely figure in the state that sends 48 MPs to the Lok Sabha, second only to Uttar Pradesh's 80.

Maharashtra is a story of a party in a commanding position undermining rivals, banking on the "tainted" and paying the price. In those terms, it has a lot to worry for, maybe not immediately at the national level, but definitely in states, where the Maharashtra example has given hope and a template to rivals looking for means to stall the BJP juggernaut.

The formula was unsuccessfully tried by the Samajwadi Party and the BSP in Uttar Pradesh and the Congress and the JD(S) in Karnataka. The question is: will it work in Jharkhand, where a united Opposition is fighting the BJP minus allies AJSU, LJP and JD(U)?

National versus state politics

Those who believe the BJP's survival is in danger post-Maharashtra can think again. Backed by the might of the RSS and its own well-oiled election machinery, the BJP enjoys a pan-India acceptance that no other party can currently claim. Barring the South, that too only in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the BJP's presence is well registered across the country.

Rather, the buzz is that PM Modi believes it is time the party walks "without crutches". The Sena experience may have only consolidated the belief, which is why the upcoming Jharkhand elections will be an important test. "We can get help if required later," says a leader in response to why the BJP is flying solo and so are its NDA allies. Then there is the section that believes Maharashtra and Haryana should be seen as a wake-up call.



No more flexing of muscles together, Fadnavis and Thackeray have parted ways in Maharashtra

The BJP may be holding on to Karnataka, but Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh results last year have shown that people are ready for options, provided there are any. And the biggest proof is Haryana, where the Congress could have done better had it got its act together in time.

Also, the BJP lost Maharashtra due to the "smart regional pride" pitch by the NCP and the Shiv Sena - "Gujaratis (Modi and Shah) trying to control things in Maharashtra". Can the move be tried elsewhere, perhaps Bihar? The BJP needs to be on guard now.

Sena and national ambitions

Having had its way in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena leadership believes it is time they stepped out, which may be easier said than done. The Sena may have got their Chief Minister installed in the Mantralaya, but observers say if Maharashtra were to go to elections today, the biggest beneficiaries perhaps would be the NCP and the Congress.

The BJP and the Sena share a common thread, the "Hindutva vote bank". The section which voted for the Sena because it was with the BJP is unlikely to do so now. On the contrary, the BJP might get some extra sympathy votes.

The fact is because its vote share was decreasing due to the increasing spread of the BJP, the Sena was demanding an equal share in the power pie. Now that they have decided to break the Hindutva alliance, can their cadres gel with the new partners? That seems unlikely. The NCP and the Congress may have just increased their acceptability range with a little sprinkling of saffron in Maharashtra, but will they like to be seen standing with the Sena in UP and Bihar where other factors work? Again, unlikely.

The Sena's USP, or say range, is

Maharashtra-centric, limited to "Marathi mannos and Hindutva". Its politics has all through centered around this "anti-outsider" crusade against migrants, first from South and then North, mostly Bihar and UP.

Can the tiger change its stripes?

It all depends on whether the Sena can re-invent itself. Allying with a vehemently anti-BJP Congress may have diluted some of its original vote bank. Even diehard BJP detractors will concede that the vote was not for a Sena-Congress possibility. Then, with great power comes great responsibility.

Now the onus of running the Maharashtra Government is on Uddhav Thackeray and it is unlikely he will adopt an offensive position against either PM Modi or the BJP, signs of which are already visible. A day after he took over, the Sena said Modi and Thackeray shared "brotherly ties" and now it is the responsibility of the former to cooperate with his "younger brother".

Politics is the art of the possible. Perhaps the biggest mistake the BJP made was to undermine Pawar. Only now it will also have to live with allegations of "misusing" constitutional positions and banking on the "tainted" to "grab power".

While it plays a waiting game, the BJP is hoping for a Karnataka-like situation to develop. It believes the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi "will not survive for long", but it may have much to worry if it actually does. Whether the Sena will use the Aghadi to boost prospects in other parts of the country remains to be seen, but not paying attention to ground realities can certainly spell trouble for the BJP in poll-bound Jharkhand, Karnataka and Delhi and Bihar, next year.

(The author is a special correspondent with The Tribune, India)

Musharraf treason case ruling on Dec 17

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The verdict in the high treason case against former Pakistan dictator General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf would be pronounced on December 17, a special court announced on Nov 5.

Last week, the special court ordered 76-year-old Musharraf to record statement by December 5 in the treason case after the Islamabad High Court (IHC), after hearing the petitions filed by Dubai-based Musharraf and the Pakistan government, stopped the special court from issuing the verdict on November 28.

The statement was made by a three-member bench of the special court, headed by Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waqar Ahmed Seth, which was conducting a hearing of the case against the former president on Thursday, Geo News reported.

The new prosecution team's lawyers informed the court that they needed more time to prepare for the case.

Justice Seth said that no postponement will be allowed and an order in writing should be submitted stating that arguments would be completed by December 17.

Adjourning proceedings till December 17, Justice Seth said they would hear the arguments in the next proceeding and announce the verdict, Dawn News reported.

They (prosecutors) should keep aside other cases and fight this case, Justice Seth was quoted as saying by the report.

He said that the judges had come from various parts of the country for the special court.

"This is a special case and this is a special court," Justice Seth remarked.

The special court had on November 19 concluded the trial proceedings in the high treason case against Musharraf for declaring a state of emergency on November 3, 2007, and had ruled that a verdict would be announced on November 28 on the basis of the available record.

The high treason trial of the former military dictator for clamping the state of emergency on November 3, 2007, filed during the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government, has been pending since 2013. PTI

Japanese doc shot dead in Afghanistan

KABUL (TIP): A Japanese doctor who spent decades working in Afghanistan was killed on Nov 4 along with five Afghans in an attack in the east of the country. Tetsu Nakamura, 73, who headed Peace Japan Medical Services, was shot by gunmen while in a vehicle in Jalalabad in Nangarhar province. — AFP

Pakistan borrowed USD 10.40 billion during PM Khan's innings: Report

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The cash-strapped Pakistan government of Prime Minister Imran Khan borrowed USD 10.40 billion as loans from friendly countries like China and the UAE to stabilise the foreign exchange reserves and repayment of old loans, a media report said on Nov 5.

Pakistan has been facing a serious economic crisis with short supplies of foreign currency reserves and stagnating growth.

Since assuming power in last August, Prime Minister Khan has been appealing to close allies to provide concessional loans to reduce the size of the bailout package that Pakistan may need from the IMF.

The Economic Affairs Division, in a reply submitted in the National Assembly, the lower House, said the loans borrowed in the government included bilateral, multilateral and commercial loans, ARY News reported.

According to the figures, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by Prime Minister Khan borrowed commercial loans from Chinese, UAE and European banks. A total of USD 4.80 billion was borrowed as loans from the



commercial banks.

Pakistan has borrowed USD 4.550154 billion in the current fiscal year 2018-19 till now, the finance ministry informed the Senate, the upper House.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed to provide a USD 6 billion bailout package to Pakistan to avert an economic crisis.

Moreover, China, United Arab Emirates and Qatar provided direct deposits to Pakistan, the report said.

In May, the Ministry of Finance informed the Senate that Pakistan's

foreign debt has reached USD 88.199 billion.

The country borrowed USD 26.19 billion in past six financial years apart of USD 7.32 billion interest, which enhanced the overall foreign debt in past six years to USD 33.50, the ministry said.

Pakistan borrowed USD 6.90897 billion in fiscal year 2013-14, USD 5.40721 billion in fiscal year 2014-15 and USD 4.45020 billion in financial year 2015-16, the finance ministry said in its answer.

Pakistan's borrowing from foreign sources remained USD 6.520381 billion in fiscal year 2016-17, while in year 2017-18 the country borrowed USD 6.020526 billion from foreign sources, the ministry added.

While agreeing to the bailout package to Pakistan in May, the IMF said the country faces a "challenging economic environment, with lacklustre growth, elevated inflation, high indebtedness, and a weak external position".

The IMF said the funding programme would support the authorities' strategy for stronger growth by "improving the business environment, strengthening institutions, increasing transparency, and protecting social spending". — PTI

Bangladesh top court defers Khaleda Zia's bail hearing

With authorities in Bangladesh failing to submit the medical report of jailed former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Supreme Court on Nov 5 deferred the hearing of her bail application, according to media reports.

DHAKA (TIP): With authorities in Bangladesh failing to submit the medical report of jailed former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Supreme Court on Thursday deferred the hearing of her bail application, according to media reports.

The top court fixed December 12 as the next date of hearing in the Zia Charitable Trust case, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Zia, 73, was sentenced to seven years in jail along with three others in October in the case for abusing their power and raising funds for the trust from unknown sources.

The former prime minister is already serving a jail term since February after being convicted in another case related to embezzlement of funds of an orphanage named after her husband former president Ziaur Rahman.

The full bench of the appellate division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, fixed the next date of hearing as Zia's medical report was not submitted before it.

Earlier on November 28, the court had asked the medical board formed at



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for her treatment to submit the report.

Zia, the chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, has been receiving treatment at the BSMMU since April.

"The court has now asked to submit the medical report on December 11. It will hold the bail hearing on December 12," Zia's lawyer A K M Eshanur Rahman was quoted as saying in the report.

According to a report in bdnews24.com, at the start of the proceedings in the court, Attorney General Mahubey Alam informed that BSMMU had requested more time to prepare Zia's medical report. (Indiatoday)

30,000 animals to be sacrificed at Nepal temple festival

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's Gadhimai temple is all decked up for a five-yearly sacrificial ritual that will see over 30,000 animals, including buffaloes, sacrificed over two days at a massive slaughterhouse set up at the temple premises, ignoring protests by animal rights groups and an apex court order. Gadhimai, located in Bariyapur 100 km from Kathmandu, comes alive every five years when the mass slaughter is held. IANS

Sajith Premadasa appointed as Opposition Leader

COLOMBO (TIP): The Leader of United National Party, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has decided to appoint Deputy Leader parliamentarian Sajith Premadasa as the Leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka parliament. The decision was taken at the party's parliamentary group meeting held today (05) at the UNP headquarters Sirikotha. A group of UNP parliamentarians on two occasions have requested Speaker Karu Jayasuriya to appoint the defeated presidential candidate MP Sajith Premadasa be appointed as the Leader of the Opposition. Since the General Secretary of UNP MP Akila Viraj Kariyawasam according to parliamentary traditions requested the Speaker to appoint the party leader as the Opposition Leader there was disagreement within the party. (PTI)

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National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 4: IRS, Security Summit warns business owners about being targets for identity thieves

WASHINGTON (TIP): Amid threats from cybercriminals, the IRS, state tax agencies and the tax



industry urged employers large and small to step up cybersecurity protections against business identity theft. Identity thieves are displaying a sophisticated knowledge of the tax code and industry filing practices as they attempt to obtain valuable data to help file fraudulent returns. To address this and protect taxpayers and their business returns, the IRS has taken steps to identify and prevent business identity theft. "As the IRS and the Security Summit partners have strengthened our protections against tax-related identity theft, cybercriminals increasingly look for other places to find data to file fraudulent returns," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "We urge businesses to protect their data and watch out for warning signs that could be indicators of identity theft or fraudulent filings."

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Trump and first lady light the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): "At Christmas we remember this eternal truth: Every person is a beloved child of God. As one grateful nation we praise the joy of family, the blessings of freedom and the miracle of Christmas. On behalf of Melania and our entire family, Merry Christmas and God bless you all," the president said.

The event included performances from singers Jessie James Decker, Spensha Baker, Colton Dixon and Chevel Shepherd, as well as a performance from Max Impact, "the premier rock band of the United States Air Force," and the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, The United States Marine Band and West Tennessee Youth Chorus.

The beloved tradition of the National Christmas Tree lighting began more than 90 years ago with former President Calvin Coolidge, according to the National Park Service. On Christmas Eve in 1923, Coolidge lit up a 48-foot Balsam Fir from Vermont decorated with 2,500 electric bulbs in red, white and green.

Melania Trump officially unveils the 2019 White House Christmas decorations

This year, a 30-foot Colorado blue spruce from Palmyra, Pennsylvania, is the star of the show, CBS Washington, D.C., affiliate WUSA-TV reports. This is the first time the spruce has ever been



President Trump and first lady Melania Trump lit the National Christmas Tree on Thursday night at the Ellipse in President's Park in front of the White House. Those interested in catching a glimpse of the tree - adorned with 50,000 lights and 450 giant white star ornaments - have until January 1.

lit, as the previous tree - a Colorado blue spruce from Virginia - was damaged last year when a man tried to climb it four days before Christmas.

The 2019 spruce was planted in D.C. in late October and has been under the care of the National Park Service.

The walkway surrounding the National Christmas Tree at the Ellipse features 56 state and territory trees

decorated with handmade ornaments that are unique to each tree, according to the National Park Service.

The tree will light up daily at approximately 4:30 p.m. and turn off promptly at 10 pm Sunday-Thursday, and 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

A stage at the Ellipse will host free 30-minute concerts and dance performances from December 11-15 and December 17-22.

A DC neighborhood group just voted to rename the street in front of the Saudi embassy for Jamal Khashoggi

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): An effort underway in Washington, D.C., would create an in-your-face way to remind Saudi Arabia of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi: Rename the street in front of the Saudi embassy in honor of the slain journalist.

The first hurdle for this proposed honor was cleared Wednesday, December 4, when a neighborhood group approved a resolution that would symbolically designate part of the street that runs in front of the Embassy of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as "Jamal Khashoggi Way." The embassy's address is 601 New Hampshire Avenue NW.

The resolution from the seven-member Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A passed unanimously, commissioner James Harnett told CNN. The commission, which is part of the government in the District of Columbia, normally handles local issues like zoning, parking and trash collection in the West End and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods. But Harnett said commissioners were outraged by Khashoggi's killing, as well as President Trump's reaction to it, and felt the need to take action on an international issue.

"I think our concern ... and the need to say we want to weigh in on this issue, which has international implications, is that we are extremely disappointed over the lack of concern" in the White House's

response to the incident, Harnett said. "It's our belief ... that when there's a vacuum of leadership that someone steps up and makes sure that the community knows that this is something that we take seriously."

The resolution requests that the east side of New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. -- between F Street and Juarez Circle -- be designated as Jamal Khashoggi Way.

The resolution requests that the east side of New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. -- between F Street and Juarez Circle -- be designated as Jamal Khashoggi Way.

Street name could serve as reminder

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor and critic of the kingdom, was killed on October 2 after he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, to obtain paperwork for his upcoming marriage. The CIA has concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman personally ordered the killing of the journalist. Turkish officials maintain that Khashoggi was strangled to death shortly after he entered the consulate by a 15-member "kill team" sent from Riyadh and that his body was dismembered.

Trump indicated last week he will not take strong action against Saudi Arabia or bin Salman for the slaying.

Harnett hopes naming the street in Khashoggi's honor might be a constant

reminder to the Saudis that the US won't forget what happened to him while also reaffirming America's commitment to freedom of the press.

"This action will force the Saudis to remember, every day. This assault on the press is unforgivable and is deeply harmful to fabric of the truth," he said. "Leaders at all levels of government need to stand up in whatever ways they can to support people, make their lives better, and push for what's right. Up against the leaders who have abandoned their duty, this proposal is our way of pushing back."

The idea started last month

The effort to change the street's name dates back to last month, when an online petition was started to rename the street for Khashoggi.

The petition, which has more than 8,000 signatures, is signed by Michael Werz, a senior national security fellow at the Center for American Progress, and Gary Schmitt, a resident scholar in strategic studies at the American Enterprise Institute. The petition advocates renaming the street as a way "to be a daily reminder to Saudi officials that such behavior is totally unacceptable and as an expression of Washington's unstinting support for freedom of the press."

The approved resolution now goes to



Jamal Khashoggi

File photo

the DC city council. Harnett estimated it could take six to nine months for the council to vote on the resolution and for the mayor to sign it into law.

As with all laws in the District of Columbia, it also will be subject to approval by Congress, Harnett said.

This isn't the first time that part of a DC street has been renamed in front of an embassy to honor a dissident. In January of this year, Washington's city council passed a measure renaming the street in front of the Russian Embassy after Boris Nemtsov, a pro-democracy activist and critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The bill symbolically renamed the stretch of Wisconsin Avenue in front of the embassy to 1 Boris Nemtsov Plaza, adding that name to the street sign.

Nemtsov was shot and killed on a bridge near the Kremlin in February 2015 while walking home with his girlfriend.

Correction: An earlier version of this story said Werz and Schmitt knew Khashoggi personally. The two did not know him personally. The story has been updated to remove that reference.

(Source: CNN)

Indian American Congressman Ami Bera likely to lead crucial U.S. House subcommittee on Asia

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): The Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation was in the news recently for a hearing on human rights in Kashmir and South Asia that caused a diplomatic and political challenge for New Delhi.

An imminent shuffling of positions in the U.S. Congress could have particular significance for India with Indian American Congressman Ami Bera likely to take over the crucial Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation. The committee, which is currently headed by Democrat Brad Sherman, was in the news recently for an October 22 hearing on human rights in Kashmir and South Asia that caused a diplomatic and political challenge for the Indian government. While Dr. Bera is a strong proponent of closer India-U.S. ties, his potential leadership of the Asia subcommittee does not mean the Indian government will get a blank cheque from the body on Kashmir and related issues.

Key to Dr. Bera taking over the position from Mr. Sherman is a vote for the chairmanship of a subcommittee on capital markets. Mr. Sherman is in the running to head that subcommittee due to a series of shifts that are happening as a consequence of the death of Elijah Cummings in October, which left the chairmanship of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform vacant. In general, a member of the U.S. Congress holds no more than one committee or subcommittee chairmanship at any given time.

Contingent on Mr. Sherman shifting out to the capital markets subcommittee, Dr. Bera could be voted into the Asia



U.S. Congressman Ami Bera

subcommittee as early as the end of this week. A vote for the capital markets subcommittee is being held on December 4 afternoon, a Congressional aide told The Hindu.

Dr. Bera, a physician, is a California Democrat and has been a proponent of strong India-U.S. ties. While he was co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans in the 114th Congress (January 2015- January 2017), he co-sponsored an amendment to the annual defense authorization bill recognizing India as a 'Major Defense Partner' of the U.S. As recently as September, he co-sponsored a "Sense of the House" resolution (i.e. advice, guidance from the House of Representatives) that India should be a

permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

A source on the Indian side told The Hindu on December 4 that they had hoped Dr. Bera's leadership of the Asia Subcommittee would bring objectivity and impartiality to the committee.

Following the October 22 hearing, it was reported that Indian officials had been taken by surprise by the focus of that day's panels on India's actions in Kashmir relative to a discussion on Pakistan's sponsorship of terror in the region.

Incidents of violence, discrimination not conforming to India's legal protections for minorities, says U.S. diplomat

Nevertheless, Dr. Bera's support for India and strong U.S.-India ties does not mean the Indian government will get a

free pass on Kashmir and human rights and related issues, two separate sources on Capitol Hill and one former Congressional staffer told The Hindu.

During the October 22 hearing that focused on human rights in Kashmir and also discussed, among other things, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, Dr. Bera had emphasized India's foundation as a secular democracy and called for an easing of restrictions in Kashmir.

"The strength of India is its basis as a secular democracy and its history as a secular democracy. As the world's largest democracy, the core foundational basis of a democracy is the protection of minority rights. And I understand that democracy is complicated..." Dr. Bera said. While indicating that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter to India, Dr. Bera did make an "urgent plea" for India to allow journalists into the Kashmir region.

"The sooner we can get back to normalization of communication and press and others being able to visit, I think it's in India's interest to do that, and certainly in the world's interest..." Dr. Bera had said.

Dr. Bera is currently chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea. Given this latter position, Dr. Bera's potential chairmanship of the Asia and Nonproliferation Subcommittee is likely to see him, at least initially, focusing on the Korean peninsula and related nuclear issues in his new role.

(Source: The Hindu)

FIA - 10 years of community service

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Federation of Indian Associations Chicago, (FIA) with its President Ninad Daftari, Founder President Sunil Shah, Founder & Past President Onkar Sangha and incoming President 2020 Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan along with the executive team, all board members, the advisory board, family and friends of all FIA members (including seniors and children) which totaled to over 100 people who volunteered for "Feed My Starving Children" (FMSC) on Sunday November 24th at Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center.

At this event FIA Members and their friends and families helped pack 587 boxes which included approximately 126,792 meals which will feed 347 children for a year.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with



FIA Team and Supporters

communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive

and develop to their full potential. FMSC serves meals in over 70 countries and over 1 billion children have been fed.

Many members of FIA also donated to FMSC. The cause of FMSC is great and the whole FIA team felt that this holiday season we need to give back to the community and how better to give back

then to help the children. This was a very successful event and FIA promised to continue serving the community with many such upcoming events in the years ahead.

Photograph and Press release / Asian Media USA

J&K RESIDENTS TO BE ISSUED DOMICILE CARD

JAMMU (TIP): Four months after Jammu and Kashmir was split into two Union Territories, the Union Government is all set to provide domicile certificate to local residents, as demanded by party's top local leadership. The government is expected to announce a decision in this regard by December 15.

"A senior BJP leader had written a three-page letter to Union Minister Amit Shah days after the bifurcation, raising several issues concerning the locals, including jobs for the educated and protection of land rights. Also, a recent report on unemployment figures presented a dismal picture of J&K following which top BJP leaders visited New Delhi and met people at the helm to flag people's concerns."

The source, who was part of the delegation, said the Union Government promised to issue domicile certificates to local residents. "The Union Government insisted on a minimum 10-year stay in J&K for issuance of the certificate, but we demanded that this period be 15 years. The Centre agreed and the matter is almost sealed. We expect the Union Government to make an announcement by December 15," he added.

Sabarimala judgment not final word, says Supreme Court



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court has said its 2018 verdict allowing entry of girls and women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Kerala's Sabarimala was not the "final word" as the matter was referred to a larger Bench.

The apex court's observation came when senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for a woman devotee, Bindu Ammini, alleged violation of the 2018 verdict and said her client was attacked for her bid to enter the shrine. A Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde, referring to a recent verdict of the apex court, said the 2018 judgment was not the final word as the issue was referred to a seven-judge Bench for consideration. On November 14, a five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, in a 3:2 majority verdict, had referred the pleas seeking a review of its historic 2018 judgment to a seven-judge Bench of the apex court.

Nirav Modi declared fugitive economic offender

MUMBAI (TIP): Billionaire businessman Nirav Modi has been declared a fugitive economic offender by a special court in Mumbai. Nirav Modi, currently under arrest in the United Kingdom, is accused of defrauding the Punjab National Bank of more than Rs 10,000 crore by scamming a software used by banks worldwide. He was declared a fugitive economic offender by a Prevention of Money Laundering Act court in Mumbai.

Nirav Modi is the second person to be declared a fugitive economic offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, which was enacted last year. The fugitive economic offender tag allows Indian probe agencies to confiscate and attach properties of the accused and is targeted at those who flee India to escape prosecution.

The first person to be declared a fugitive economic offender under the act was Vijay Mallya, who is accused of fraud and defaulting on bank loans to the tune of Rs 9,000 crore. Mallya is also in the United Kingdom and is currently fighting efforts to extradite him back to India.

Unnao rape victim thrashed, stabbed, burnt alive

LUCKNOW/UNNAO (TIP): The Unnao rape victim, who has been battling for life with 90 per cent burns, was beaten up, stabbed and then set ablaze by five men on Thursday. The incident happened when the 23-year-old Unnao rape victim was on her way to a court in Rae Bareilly to attend a hearing in the rape case. The five men also included the two who were accused of raping the woman in December.

All the five accused - Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam and Shubham Trivedi - involved in the attack on the Unnao rape case victim were arrested hours after the incident. The prime accused has been identified as Shubham Trivedi.

Meanwhile, the Unnao rape victim, who has suffered 90 per cent burns in the incident, has been airlifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi for her treatment. She was earlier admitted to the plastic surgery burn unit in Lucknow.

THE CASE

In her statement to the magistrate, the Unnao rape survivor alleged that Shivam and Shubham Trivedi had abducted and raped her in December 2018. She had filed a case against the two in March this year. Shubham, who was in jail in connection with the rape case, was released on bail on November 30, 2019.

Immediately after securing bail, Shubham started following and threatening her. The victim and her family visited the Bihar police station close to the Sindupur village in Unnao several times but the police turned a deaf ear to the complaints.



The Unnao rape survivor, who has suffered 90 percent burns in the incident, being shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

AFLAME, VICTIM RAN FOR 1 KM FOR HELP

The victim was on her way to a Rae Bareilly court when she was abducted by the five men. Villagers in the Sindupur village told Aaj Tak that they saw the victim running towards the village while she was still ablaze.

Aflame, the victim ran for over a kilometre for help before eyewitnesses saw her. The woman was helped by a man who was working outside a house in the village. The victim also called 112 from someone's mobile phone and informed the police about the incident.

The PRV and ambulance arrived only after the victim's call. The woman was first taken to a local hospital but later shifted to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Civil) Hospital in Lucknow with 90 per cent burn injuries.

Ravindra, who sitting by the roadside in the village, told reporters that he was so frightened when he saw the woman running towards him that he actually went to pick up his stick.

"It was only when she came nearer that I found out she was severely burnt," he said. She had been calling out for help," he added.

The victim has also given her statement to the magistrate. In her statement, the Unnao rape victim named five persons who burnt her. She told the magistrate that she was beaten up by the five persons, stabbed and then burned alive by them.

Investigating police team in Unnao arrested four accused from their homes in the same village where they were sleeping and the fifth accused surrendered at the Bihar police station.

Manmohan's remark on 1984 anti-Sikh riots sparks debate

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday reacted sharply to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's remark that the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 could have been avoided if the then home minister PV Narasimha Rao had paid heed to Inder Kumar Gujral's advice of calling in the army, and put the blame for the riots on Rajiv Gandhi. The riots followed the assassination of the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984. Rajiv Gandhi, her son, succeeded her as the prime minister that very night.

"...when the sad event of 1984 took place, Gujral ji on that very sad evening went to the then home minister Shri [PV] Narasimha Rao and told him the situation is so grave that it is necessary for the government to call the army [in] at the earliest. If that advice had been heeded, perhaps the massacre that

took place in 1984 could have been avoided," Singh, a former PM and a senior Congress leader, said on Wednesday at a function to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Gujral, one of his predecessors.

The BJP criticised Singh's remark. Union minister Prakash Javadekar blamed Rajiv Gandhi for the riots, saying the prime minister has the right to order army deployment in such a situation. "In a way, Rajiv Gandhi supported the massacre with his subsequent comments that the earth shakes when a big tree falls," Javadekar told reporters about the riots following the assassination of Gandhi.

Javadekar also questioned why, in 1991, Singh went on to become a finance minister in a Cabinet headed by Rao if he had such adverse feelings about the leader.

NV Subash, a BJP leader and the grandson of Rao, too, condemned Singh's statement. "As a family

member, I am feeling saddened by this statement by Dr. Manmohan Singh; it is unacceptable," he told news agency, ANI.

But Gujral's son, Naresh Gujral, a parliamentarian from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) — a political ally of the BJP, complimented Singh for being "truthful". "I admire and compliment Manmohan Singh for being truthful and calling a spade a spade," he told news agency, PTI.

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said Singh's statement was a "shocking attempt to shift blame from Rajiv Gandhi and the Nehru-Gandhi family" to Rao. "The claim is shocking because it comes from Manmohan Singh whom we have always genuinely respected. It is inappropriate and indecorous as it involves two former PMs, Narasimha Rao and IK Gujral, neither of whom is alive to respond to this claim," he said in a statement.

Stage set for NDA, Opposition face-off over citizenship bill

NEW DELHI (TIP): The contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, is expected to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday, setting the stage for a confrontation between the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Congress-led Opposition.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is keen to pass the bill, but it has to reach out to its allies and like-minded parties to have a smooth passage in the Rajya Sabha, where the NDA is in a minority.

With the Shiv Sena, a long-time ally especially in Maharashtra, joining hands with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and the Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), led by Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar having reservations about the bill, the BJP has a daunting task at hand.

"It is an important bill and we will sit with our senior leaders to discuss our stand on it. We have certain reservations about the bill and we will inform the Union government about those. A final decision on the stand of the party will be taken after consultations," said a senior JD(U) leader, requesting anonymity.

The Congress, on the other hand, will have to deal with new-found ally, the Shiv Sena, which has traditionally been a vehement supporter of the bill. Senior NCP leaders said a meeting with the Congress and Shiv Sena could take place to discuss the stand of the alliance. Both the Congress and NCP are opposed to the bill.

"A key part of the common minimum programme between the Congress, NCP, and Shiv Sena



Activists protest against the present form of citizenship amendment bill.

- **The contentious citizenship amendment bill is expected to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday**
- **BJP needs support of at least 123 MPs in the 245-member Rajya Sabha for the bill's passage**

was that the three alliance partners will discuss all contentious issues before taking a decision on political and administrative matters. It is expected that an informal consultation will take place before the discussion takes place in Parliament," said a senior NCP leader based in Mumbai, also requesting anonymity.

The NDA is in a minority in the Upper House, but enjoys a mammoth majority in the Lower House. It will need the support of at least 123 members of

Parliament (MPs) in the 245-member Rajya Sabha for a smooth passage for the bill. So far, it has the support of 105 MPs.

Senior BJP leaders are reaching out to the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which has seven MPs, and the Telangana Rashtriya Samiti (TRS), which has six. BJP members are also expected to hold discussions with the YSR Congress Party, or YSRCP, which has two MPs in the Upper House. Senior ministers, however, claim that at least 122 MPs in the Upper House support the bill.

PM: CITIZENSHIP TO THOSE FACING PERSECUTION WILL ASSURE THEM BETTER LIVES

NEW DELHI (TIP): Referring to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said Indian citizenship for those facing persecution in their home countries would ensure that they get a better tomorrow.



Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, Modi said although a lot of apprehensions were expressed ahead of the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict, after it was pronounced, the people of the country proved all such apprehensions wrong.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, the PM said the decision might seem a politically difficult one, but it had raised a new hope of development for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Ajit Pawar gets clean chit in irrigation scam case

MUMBAI (TIP): Maharashtra's anti-corruption bureau (ACB) has cleared National Conference Party's leader Ajit Pawar's name in an irrigation scam case.

The 16-page affidavit, dated November 27, says that there is no criminal liability on the part of the then Chairman of the VIDC (Minister of WRD) in respect of the process of granting sanction.

Minister of Water Resources Department is Ex-Officio Chairman of the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation.

Pawar, who belongs to the NCP, served Maharashtra's irrigation department when the Congress-NCP coalition government was in power during 1999-2004.

The affidavit was submitted at the Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court by ACB superintendent Rashmi Nandedkar.

In its enquiry report, the ACB has also stated that, "there is no evidence on record to say that the Secretary of the Department had briefed the Minister of Water Resources Department about not accepting the liability of the tender work".

Rahul says cases against him are like 16 'medals on his chest'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi says he is not intimidated by a string of legal cases filed against him and considers them to be medals instead while addressing a rally in his Lok Sabha constituency of Wayanad in Kerala on Thursday. Rahul also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah of living in an "imaginary" world when the country was facing a crisis.

"When you look at a soldier he will have lots of medals on his chest. Every single case is a medal for me. I won't be cowed down by a string of cases," Rahul said referring to the 16-odd cases against him.

"When they lodge a new case against me, they add a fresh medal on my chest. Every time you put a case against me, I will speak of love. My strength is people and I will never forget you are standing with me," he said to a cheering crowd in Vaniambalam area of his north Kerala constituency.

Rahul Gandhi is an accused in the National Herald corruption case and was also booked for alleged defamation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi among other cases.

An undeterred Rahul again attacked Modi and Shah on Thursday.

"Both live in their own imagination. They have no contact with the outside world. They live in their own world and fantasize about things outside. That is why the country is in such trouble," he told the media.

Out on bail, PC slams handling of economy, BJP hits back

NEW DELHI (TIP): A day after being released on bail, former finance minister P Chidambaram on Thursday called the government an "incompetent manager" of the economy and criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "silence" on the slowdown.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to Chidambaram in the INX Media money-laundering case; he spent 106 days in custody, including in Tihar jail.

Addressing a press conference at Congress headquarters in Delhi, he said nothing summed up the state of the economy better than the series of numbers, 8, 7, 6.6, 5.8, 5 and 4.5 — a reference to quarterly growth rates of the GDP in the last six quarters.

"The government is unable to look for the obvious clues because it is stubborn and mulish in defending its catastrophic mistakes such as



demonetisation, flawed GST (Goods and Services Tax), tax terrorism, regulatory overkill, protectionism, and centralised control of decision-making in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)," Chidambaram alleged.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hit back at Chidambaram, accusing him of violating bail conditions, and said

the case against him was essentially about corruption he was allegedly involved in as the finance minister. His bail conditions stipulated that he not speak about the case.

Earlier in the day, Chidambaram joined other Congress members in their protest against the steep hike in onion prices.

Later, at the press conference, Chidambaram alleged that Modi has been "unusually silent" on the economy. "He has left it to his ministers to indulge in bluff and bluster. The net result, as The Economist put it, is that the government has turned out to be an 'incompetent manager' of the economy," he said, referring to an article in the October issue of the magazine.

However, the former finance minister refused to speak on the case pending against him though he made a brief reference to it in his opening statement.

HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN at NJPAC!

By Mabel Pais

The Hip Hop Nutcracker

"Hip Hop Nutcracker' brings a generous dose of contemporary spirit, sure to heat up even the most restless and wintry of souls" - **The New York Times**
"It turns 'The Nutcracker' on its head, in the coolest possible way!" - **CBS**

Start a hip-hop holiday tradition with your family! The Hip-Hop Nutcracker" with MC Kurtis Blow on Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 2 p.m. A holiday mash-up for the whole family, "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" is back and better than ever. Directed and choreographed by Jennifer Weber, The "Hip Hop Nutcracker" is a contemporary dance spectacle set to Tchaikovsky's timeless music. A unique and joyful event, this evening-length production is performed by a supercharged cast of a dozen all-star dancers, a DJ, a violinist, and MC Kurtis Blow, one of hip hop's founding fathers, who opens the show with a short set.

Just like the original, in "The Hip Hop Nutcracker," Maria-Clara and the Nutcracker Prince go on a dream adventure battling a gang of mice, visiting the land of sweets and learning the lessons of the holiday season. Innovative digital graffiti and visuals transform the landscape of E.T.A. Hoffmann's beloved story from traditional 19th Century Germany to the vibrant, diverse sights and sounds of contemporary New York City.

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Artists perform

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Special Guest: MC Kurtis Blow

The Creative Team

Meet the amazing creative team behind the scenes of The Hip Hop Nutcracker.

Directed & Choreographed by: JENNIFER WEBER

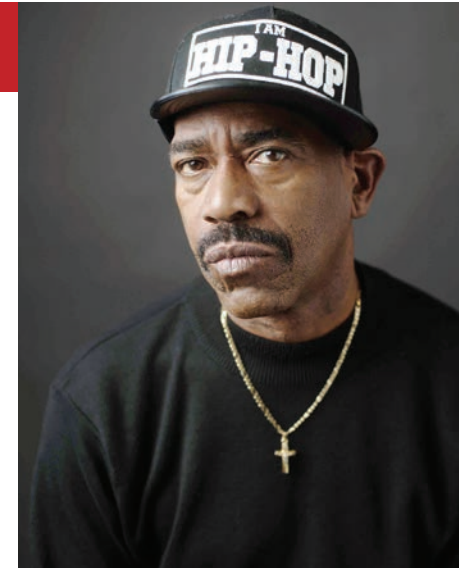
Adapted by: MIKE FITELSON
Based on "The Nutcracker" by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Production Stage Manager: JAMES STEELE

Lighting Designer: BURKE WILMORE
Video Designer: MOE SHAHROOZ
Company Manager: REBECCA EASTON

Original Beats and Remixes: DJ BOO
PRODUCTION STAFF CREDIT

Associate Director/Choreographer: RANDI FREITAS



Kurtis Blow
Photos / Courtesy NJPAC

Original Company Associate Director/Choreographer: TAEKO KOJI
Original Costume Design: WHITNEY ADAMS

Additional Casting: MEISHA LEE AND JANET LANGER

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For more, visit hiphopnutcracker.com

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He says, "I remember being very young, growing up in Europe and watching my father perform in an amazing circus and it was magical! The artists came from all over the world and performed incredible acts that mixed



Ensemble of artists

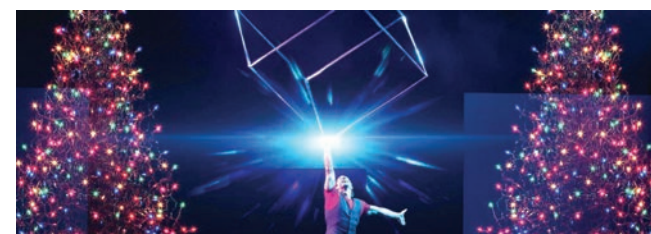
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

entertainment as well as daring routines."

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Among several other national and international awards, his specialty Act, Los Huincas Gauchos, received the Specialty Act Of The Year Award in Las Vegas. Besides his many achievements, Fernando has composed music for the Las Vegas Civic Ballet as well as several productions.

KELLY HAMILTON: Kelly Hamilton, award-winning,



An artist performs

Photo / www.holidaydreamsshow.com

is Vice President and Creative Producer for Q Productions Las Vegas. She is involved in all aspects of a project from production coordination, talent, creative concepts, costuming, staging, lasers and logistics. Her work blending lasers with performance has led her to appear on several television shows and she recently won 2 First Place ILDA (International Laser Display Association) awards for her programming and choreography.

MICHAEL LICATA: Michael Licata has been a force in the entertainment industry for over 20 years. As a manager, agent, drummer, writer, producer and musical director, he has been involved and responsible for multi-million-dollar projects for major recording artists. Michael has performed in internationally recognized music videos, on prestigious concert stages and has been awarded 16 Platinum/Gold records.

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(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality and Health & Wellness)

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ALIA'S GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI TO BE 'GRAND & BEAUTIFUL'

Alia Bhatt is all set to work in her first Sanjay Leela Bhansali film, tentatively titled Gangubai Kathiawadi. Going by reports, the film might be the most grand film ever made by the filmmaker, bigger than his last film, Padmaavat.

According to a report on Pinkvilla, Alia was passing by the sets of Gangubai and thought of having a look at the set erected specially for the shoot of the film. A source told the portal, "Alia Bhatt was passing by and was completely awestruck by the magnanimity of the sets. The movie set for Gangubai is not just larger than life but also a lot more grand and beautiful than Sanjay sir's earlier films like Padmaavat and Ram Leela. There is a lot of fine detailing that has gone into the making of the set and it is bigger than what anyone would have ever since."

There are also reports that actor Ajay Devgn will also make a special appearance in the film. He had featured in Bhansali's 1999 blockbuster Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, also featuring Aishwarya Rai and Salman Khan. This will be his first collaboration after 20 years.

MRUNAL THAKUR TO STAR OPPOSITE SHAHID KAPOOR IN JERSEY REMAKE

Actor Mrunal Thakur, who wooed the audience with her performances in movies like Super 30 and Batla House, will now be seen as female lead in Shahid Kapoor's Jersey. The film is a Hindi remake of the Telugu hit of the same name.

The Hindi version will be directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, who also helmed the original movie. Excited about sharing screen space with Shahid, Mrunal said: "I'm super excited to play the lead opposite Shahid in Jersey. When I saw the original film I was bowled over by its passionate emotional journey.

"It felt like I had lived a full lifetime of experiences in those two plus hours. So deep was the affect of the film on me that I couldn't get it out of my heart the whole night so I immediately watched it again the next day, I can't wait for Hindi audiences to experience a similar impact!"

Looking at the original version, Mrunal's character will be the anchor to Shahid's, who goes on an emotional journey against all odds to play cricket for the country in his mid 30's, when it's time for most people to retire from competitive sports.

On casting Mrunal, Gowtam said: "After Shahid came on board, I only had Mrunal on my mind for the lead opposite him, I loved her performance and confidence in Super 30 opposite Hrithik Roshan and felt she's perfectly fit for the part in Jersey and will do full justice to the role."

Shahid has already started polishing his cricketing skills and had shared a picture from the prep on Instagram. Talking about the film, Shahid had earlier said, "It took me some time to decide what to do next after Kabir Singh. But the minute I saw Jersey, I knew I wanted it to be my next. It is a wonderful, inspiring and personal human journey that I connected with deeply."



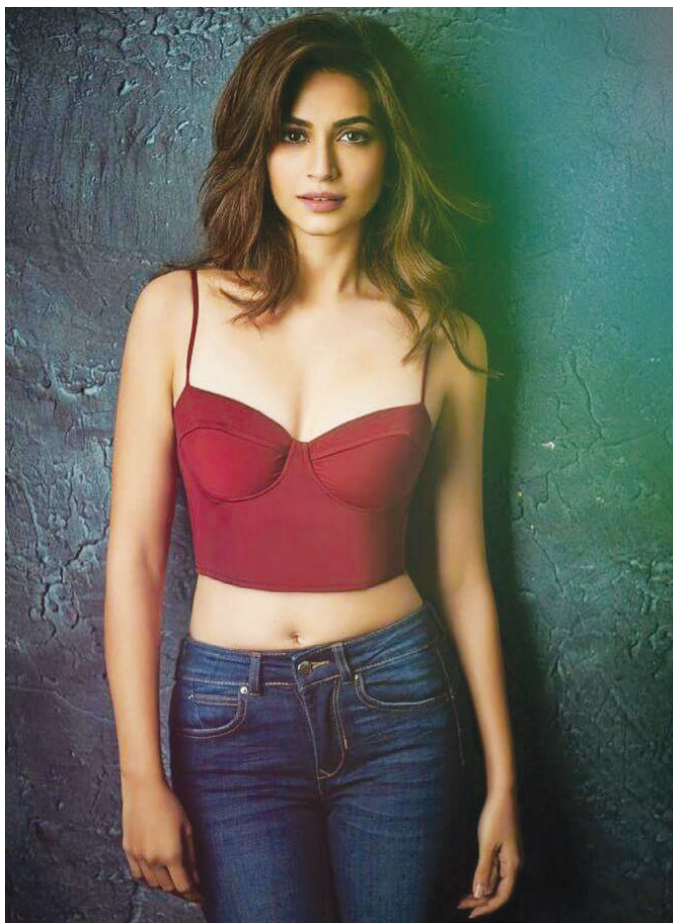
KRITI KHARBANDA ADMITS SHE'S DATING PULKIT SAMRAT

Actor Kriti Kharbanda has confirmed that she is dating her Pagalpanti co-star Pulkit Samrat. After earlier playing it coy in response to rumours, the actor said that she had wanted to break the news to her parents before announcing it to the world.

She told ETimes in an interview, "No, they are not rumours. We are dating each other. In all honesty, I wanted my parents to know first that I'm dating someone and when you start seeing someone, it's I think there's a time for everything when you're comfortable talking about it. Sometimes it can take five years; sometimes it can take five months. In our case, it was five months, but I'm in a very happy place and I have no qualms admitting that I am dating Pulkit Samrat."

Earlier, when asked about the rumours, she'd told IANS, "Can you blame them (for spreading the rumours)? We look so hot together. We have such great chemistry and look so cute together. Anybody would guess that we are in a relationship. Pulkit is very special to me and will always be so."

Although Kriti did not admit to dating Pulkit, she was all praises for him. She said, "We even complete each other's sentences while talking. I know what he is thinking. We have connected so much and had a lot of conversation. I think we have come to a point where we don't need to say anything to each other. We both know what the other one is thinking. He has changed drastically in the last one year and I am in awe. I am so impressed with the way he carries himself, the way he conducts himself and the respect he has for his co-actors and seniors. I know he is a good person and he is here to stay."



PRIYANKA IS MOST SEARCHED INDIAN CELEBRITY IN WORLD

Priyanka Chopra is the most searched Indian celebrity in the world, followed by Salman Khan. A recent study by a US based agency has confirmed that Priyanka was the most searched Indian celebrity on social media, with search interest peaking in December, when she tied the knot with singer Nick Jonas.

According to a report in Business Insider, SEMrush states that Priyanka's name was searched 2.74 million times between the period October 2018 and October 2019, with a monthly search volume of 4.2 million. Salman was searched 1.83 million times across the globe. Priyanka and Nick are all set to celebrate their first wedding anniversary on December 1. She is currently in India for the shooting of her Netflix film, The White Tiger.



Jennifer Lee hopes to open path for more women in Disney

Jennifer Lee became the first woman to direct a Disney animated feature film with 'Frozen' in 2013, and she hopes she isn't the last. Lee, who now runs Animation Studio in the role of a Chief Creative Officer, said the studio is actively driving initiatives to add more perspective to the storytelling, and ensuring that the rooms are more balanced.

As a studio, which is a place for incredible filmmakers to come from around the world, reflects that the stories of the world told by the people of the world is very important. We recently announced four new directors, some have been promoted from within and some we have brought in with more gender balance," Lee said during a round-table discussion at the Animation Studios in Burbank.

'BLACK WIDOW' A BIG ACTION FILM WITH HEART, SAYS FLORENCE PUGH

Actor Florence Pugh said Marvel Studios' upcoming 'Black Widow' maybe a big action movie but the Scarlett Johansson-fronted stand-alone has a lot of heart. The 23-year-old actor recently wrapped shooting on the film, in which she stars alongside Johansson and Rachel Weisz in the Cate Shortland-directed film. It also stars David Harbour and OT Fagbenle.

Teasing the tone of the film, Pugh said 'Black Widow' is a 'raw, painful and beautiful' movie.

"I think we've made something very raw and very painful and very beautiful and I think people are going to be really surprised by the outcome of a big action film having that much heart.

"And I know lots of people will be emotional about her because her character had such a hard ending (in 'Endgame'), but it was special learning from her, and she's been doing this for like 10 years in those films. For this to be her film was special. And I got to be there and see how she does stunts and lives it, and it's so her," she told 'Booksmart' star Beanie Feldstein on media source Actors on Actors.

Pugh, who will next be seen in Greta Gerwig's take on Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women', said she is grateful to be working with women directors in women-led projects.



PARIS JACKSON SKIPPED PROM TO ATTEND METALLICA CONCERT

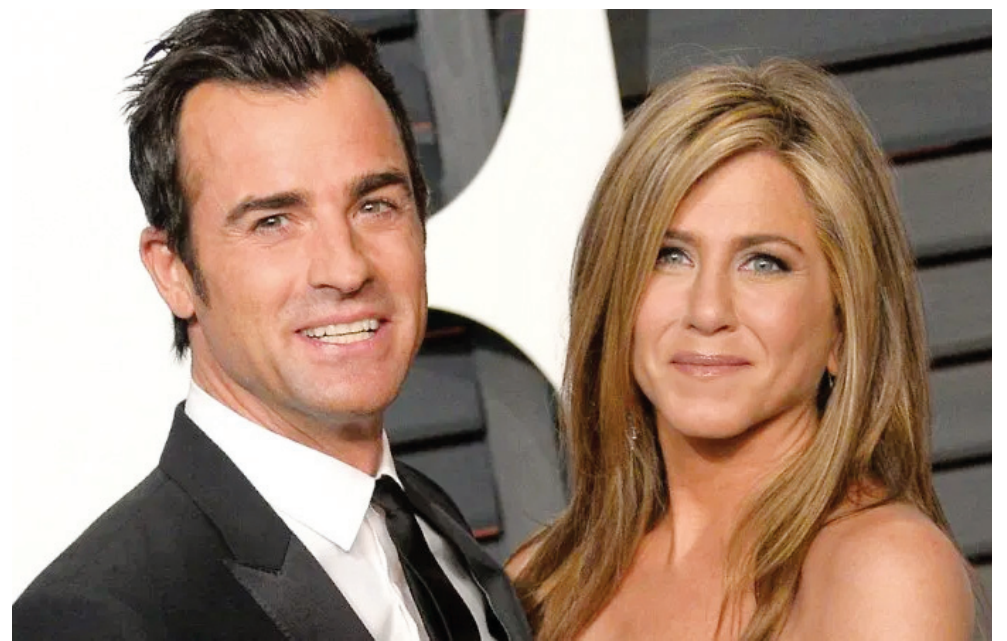


Actress-model Paris Jackson missed out on her high school prom so she could attend a Metallica concert instead.

The daughter of the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson, made the revelation during a Get Ready Together video with source alongside her brother, Prince Jackson. In the clip, the duo are seen getting hair and make-up done, as they get ready to attend the Ryan Gordy Foundation 60 Years of Motown celebration at the Waldorf Astoria in Beverly Hills, California last week.

"This is my second dress and I feel like a princess. I never actually went to prom. I skipped it to go see Metallica, so this feels nice. I would want my prom dress to look like this," she said in the clip, shared on Instagram.

Her sibling also approved of the look, adding: "Tinker Belly! Very nice, very nice - pretty." For the event, the two coordinated their looks, with Paris donning a white gown embroidered with silver gems and Prince opting for a black tuxedo bedazzled with similar jewels.



JENNIFER ANISTON CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING WITH EX-HUSBAND THEROUX

Popular Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston reunited with her ex-husband Justin Theroux for Thanksgiving on Thursday.

"Very VERY thankful for these friends and these nights," Theroux captioned the Instagram Story on Thursday evening.

The picture features 'Jennifer Aniston' with 'Courteney Cox', 'Jason Bateman', 'Jimmy Kimmel' and "Will Arnett' alongside other friends.

In the following Instagram Story, Theroux attempts to record 'Courteney Cox', giving a toast at the dinner.

"Jen, I love you so much... Justin,

please stop filming me!" Cox emphatically pleaded in the humorous snap.

"I'm sorry I'm supposed to be recording toasts," Theroux said in response. "I'm so sorry I have to cut, anyway, it will be on the DVD commentary."

Aniston hosted her annual Friendsgiving dinner on Wednesday night and made a special dish just for friend Jimmy Kimmel.

The 50-year-old star whipped up enchiladas for the late-night host after he jokingly complained to her the year prior about her dinner options.

CONFIDENCE, Play

By Mabel Pais

"As a candidate for President I am fully committed to equality between men and women in every area of government and in every aspect of life." - Candidate Jimmy Carter, 1976

".....I.... wanted to illuminate what I had to say about Carter's speech and what he was trying to do and about how we view history." -Susan Lambert Hatem, Playwright

".....how incredibly challenging it was - and is - for women to have a voice. This play examines the confidence it takes to be a person speaking up in a room where your voice is not welcomed or encouraged." - Ann Lambert, Producer

Charlotte's (NC) Off Broadway (Anne Lambert, producer) presents the Off-Broadway premiere of "Confidence (and The Speech)," a new play, written by Susan Lambert Hatem and directed by Hannah Ryan ("Hamilton," "An American in Paris") for a limited engagement at Theatre Row (410 West 42nd Street - between 9th & 10th Avenues). The performances will continue through December 7th.

On July 4, 1979 President Carter cancelled an important energy policy speech he was scheduled to give the next day and disappeared to Camp David. Ten days later, he emerged from his impromptu domestic summit and gave a new speech, the "Crisis of Confidence" speech, which many now view as unprecedented, farsighted and insightful. Others think it may have ultimately cost him the White House. Forty years later, college professor Cynthia Cooper is approached by a stranger, a young man, and asked to recall her time with the Carter Administration during the days before the now infamous "malaise" speech. If she is going to tell her story of that time, she is going to



April Armstrong watches an image of President Carter's TV speech



April Armstrong and Zach Fifer
Photos / Russ Rowland

play the President. And the young man who wants to know her story? Well, he is going to play her. This unique cross-gender play explores the confidence of a president, a nation in chaos and women in politics.

A cast of nine led by April Armstrong ("Ragtime," "Carousel") in the gender-bending role of President Carter, will include Ross Alden ("Cymbeline," "In the Bubble"), Sarah Dacey Charles ("Les Misérables," "Wit"), Mark Coffin ("The Cake," "Transport"), Zach Fifer ("Dominant Species," "Dead Sound"), Abigail Ludrof ("The Weak Ones," "Afterglow"), James Penca ("The Artist and The Scientist," "Love in Hate Nation"), Imran Sheikh ("A Midsummer Night's Dream") and Stephen Stout ("Puffs," "Twelfth Night").

The entirely female creative team includes Brittany Vasta (Scenic Design), Vanessa Leuck (Costume Design), Christina Watanabe (Lighting Design), Emma Wilk (Sound Design), S. Katy Tucker (Projection Design), Deb Gaouette (Properties), and Karla Garcia (Movement Direction). Becky Abramovitz is the Production Stage Manager, and Ellie Handel is the Assistant Stage Manager. Casting is by Cindi Rush Casting. General Management is by Visceral Entertainment.

"It's exciting to have a woman play President Carter. And, it's fun to watch a young man walk in a woman's shoes in the 1970s," says playwright Susan Lambert Hatem. "But I also wanted to illuminate what I had to say about Carter's speech and what he was trying to do and about how we view history." "We're very different people," notes Anne Lambert. "However, we have a shared experience of knowing how incredibly challenging it was - and is - for women to have a voice. This play examines the confidence it takes to be a person speaking up in a room where your voice is not welcomed or encouraged."

"Confidence (and The Speech)" had its premiere production at the Duke Energy Theatre in Charlotte, NC in 2018.

To learn more about Susan Lambert Hatem, visit susanlambertatem.com

To learn more about Hannah Ryan, visit hannahmryan.com

For the performance schedule and tickets, visit: confidenceandthespeech.com or the Theatre Row Box Office (410 W. 42nd Street).

Run Time: 95 minutes.

(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality and Health & Wellness)

NJSO-ZHANG Present Rachmaninoff with George Li

(NJSO named) "a vital, artistically significant musical organization"- **Wall Street Journal**

(Xian Zhang is) "dynamic podium presence," (has) "technical abilities, musicianship and maturity" - **New York Times**

"Li delivered full, 88-key arpeggios in the Andantino and the insanely difficult flurry of notes in the finale with exquisite skill." - **NJ Advance Media**

Orchestra gives NJSO premiere of Anna Clyne's "Within Her Arms"

Program also features Dvořák's Eighth Symphony

Music Director Xian Zhang conducts

Dec 5, 6 & 8 at NJPAC in Newark

Dec 7 at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) and Music Director Xian Zhang present Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto with pianist George Li, December 5-8 in Newark and New Brunswick. The program opens with the NJSO premiere of Anna Clyne's "Within Her Arms" (a tender string work Clyne wrote after the loss of her mother). The NJSO performance closes with Dvořák's Eighth Symphony. Performances take place on December 5 at 1:30 pm, December 6 at 8 pm and December 8 at 3 pm



NJSO Symphony Orchestra with Xian Zhang

Photo / Fred Stucker



George Li

Photo/ Simon Fowler

at NJPAC in Newark, and on December 7 at 8 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick.

NJ Advance Media praised Li's skill in his NJSO debut, when the pianist performed Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto during the 2018 Winter Festival: "Li delivered full, 88-key arpeggios in the Andantino and the insanely difficult flurry of notes in the finale with exquisite skill."

Concert tickets are available for purchase at njsymphony.org or 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476). Check out Student discounted tickets at njsymphony.org/students.

December 7 is College Night; Specially

priced tickets for college students include the concert and an exclusive post-concert party. More information on College Night is available at njsymphony.org/college.

NJSO Accent events also include a pre-concert singalong in the Prudential Hall lobby on December 5 at 12:30 pm and a Prelude Performance by the NJSO Youth Orchestras' Chamber Ensemble, led by conductor and NJSO violist Henry Kao, on December 8 at 2:15 pm.

The NJSO will collect new, unwrapped toys for the Orchestra's annual Toys for Tots drive. Learn more at njsymphony.org/accent. Learn more about the program at

njsymphony.org/rach3.

CONCERT PROGRAM

Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto
Thursday, December 5, at 1:30 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Friday, December 6, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Saturday, December 7, at 8 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

Sunday, November 10, at 3 pm | NJPAC in Newark

(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality and Health & Wellness)

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

At least 265 dead in floods, landslides as rains batter East Africa

NAIROBI (TIP): Two months of relentless rains have submerged villages and farms and sent rivers of mud crashing into houses across East Africa, with at least 265 killed, according to an AFP tally, as meteorologists warn of more to come.

The extreme downpours have affected close to two million people and washed away tens of thousands of livestock in Kenya, Somalia, Burundi, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

With a tropical storm headed for Somalia and more rain forecast across the region in the coming weeks, fears are rising over waterborne diseases and the prospect of hunger as crops are destroyed.

In Burundi, 38 people died on Wednesday night after heavy rains triggered landslides that swept through hillside communities in the northwest of the country, according to a provisional police toll on Thursday.

“It happened in the night, when everyone was at home, and landslides hit three very steep hills and buried everything in their path,” a witness told AFP.

“Whole families were buried alive in their homes or in the fields. It was terrifying.”

Kenya has been hard hit with 132 killed and 17,000 displaced, schools, roads, and health centres flooded, and water systems clogged across the country, government spokesman Cyrus Ogunu said in a statement on Tuesday.

“The weather forecast has indicated that the current rains are not expected to cease until the end of December 2019,” the statement said.

In South Sudan, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said nearly a million people have been affected by floodwaters which submerged whole towns, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation after six years of war.

Flooding has also affected 570,000 people in Somalia, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The European humanitarian agency ECHO meanwhile warned of a tropical



storm due to hit northeastern Somalia on Friday, bringing the threat of more flash floods.

In Tanzania, 55 people have died, according to an AFP tally of police figures, including 30 in flash floods in the northeast in October, 15 whose car was swept away by floodwaters in the town of Tanga, and 10 who drowned last month in northern Mwanza.

In Uganda, eight people have died and over 80,000 have been displaced by flooding and mudslides this week, Disaster Preparedness Minister Musa Ewewu said in a statement.

Days of heavy rainfall on Mount Elgon on Tuesday caused “multiple landslides in... Bududa district killing four people, injuring five and displacing over 6,000 people”.

In Sironko district, also on Mount Elgon, “two adults and two children were killed” and over 4,000 people affected.

“The risk of more flooding and landslides is real,” the minister warned.

Ethiopia has also been affected, with 22 people dying in a landslide in the south of the country in October.

Djibouti has also experienced unusually heavy rains, with a joint government and United Nations press statement reporting that some areas received “the equivalent of 2 years of

rainfall occurred in one day” in heavy downpours two weeks ago.

“Some 10 people (7 children) have reportedly been killed,” said the statement, adding that 250,000 were affected countrywide.

The extreme weather is blamed on the Indian Ocean Dipole—a climate system defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between the western and eastern areas of the ocean.

At the moment, the ocean around East Africa is far warmer than usual, resulting in higher evaporation and moist air flowing inwards over the continent as rain: the hallmarks of a “positive” dipole.

Scientists say the strength of this dipole is of a magnitude not seen in years, perhaps even decades.

These waters around East Africa have been about two degrees warmer than those of the eastern Indian Ocean near Australia—an imbalance well beyond the norm.

The heavy rains have also wrought destruction in central Africa, with scores killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including 41 in the capital Kinshasa last week.

In the Central African Republic, OCHA says around 100,000 people have been displaced. — AFP

58 migrants dead after boat capsizes off Mauritania

DAKAR (TIP): Scores of migrants who swam through rough Atlantic Ocean waters to safety from a capsized boat while 58 others drowned were receiving care Nov 5 in Mauritania after one of the deadliest disasters this year among people making the perilous journey to Europe.

The boat that left Gambia a week ago had been carrying at least 150 people, including women and children. It was headed toward the Canary Islands when it tried to approach the Mauritanian coast to get fuel and food, said Laura Lungarotti, chief of mission in the West African nation with the UN migration agency.

“Many drowned. The ones who survived swam up to the Mauritanian coast close to the city of Nouadhibou,” she said. “The Mauritanian authorities are very efficiently coordinating the response with the agencies currently present” in the northern city.

At least 83 persons swam to shore, the agency said. An unknown number of injured were taken to the hospital in Nouadhibou. It was not immediately clear whether anyone remained missing. Survivors said the boat had left Gambia on November 27. AFP

NZ airline tries edible coffee cups to reduce waste

WELLINGTON (TIP): Air New Zealand has started serving coffee in vanilla-flavoured edible cups in an attempt to eliminate waste generated by the eight million disposable cups the flag carrier uses each year. “It not only retains its warmth but I can also eat this when I’m finished with my coffee,” airlines’ head of customer experience Katie Holmetier said in a promotional video released on Nov 4. IANS

Australia to trim govt as PM Morrison demands policy delivery

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia will cut the number of government departments next year to focus on the continuity of policy and improving service, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Thursday.

Government departments will be cut to 14 from February 1, 2020, down from 18 now, Morrison told reporters in Canberra. “I want a public service that is focused on the continuity of policy and service delivery,” he added. Morrison earlier this year told public servants that his government’s policy was not being delivered quickly enough. Despite trimming the number of government departments, Morrison said he would not cut the number of ministers in his cabinet, negating the need for a reshuffle. Morrison said the department of education would merge with the department of employment, while agriculture would combine with the environment department. AFP

Pro-paramilitary demonstrators flood Iraqi protest camp

BAGHDAD (TIP): Several thousand men backing a paramilitary force close to Iran flooded the Iraqi capital’s main protest camp on Nov 5, worrying anti-government demonstrators who have denounced Tehran’s role in their country.

The men arrived in Tahrir (Liberation) Square in apparently coordinated marches from different parts of the capital, waving sticks, Iraqi flags and the logo of the Hashed al-Shaabi armed network.

Some carried portraits of Hashed fighters killed in fighting against jihadists as well as pictures of the country’s top Shiite cleric, Grand

Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

The Hashed had backed the Iraqi government but after a dramatic intervention by Sistani last week, it dropped its support. The embattled prime minister, Adel Abdel Mahdi, resigned at the weekend.

Many units within the Shiite-majority force have been trained or equipped by Iran.

The demonstrators occupying the square for weeks have explicitly criticised Iran for backing an Iraqi political elite they see as corrupt and inept.

They have insisted that all current figures in power are tainted with graft

and have been wary of political parties seeking to coopt the youth-dominated movement.

The new arrivals on Thursday mixed in with thousands of other protesters in the square, who appeared worried although no confrontation or skirmishes took place.

“They’ve ruined it,” one protester said, as another muttered, “It’s going to get messy”.

Mass rallies have rocked the capital and Shiite-majority south since early October, first denouncing government graft and a lack of jobs before moving to broader demands for deep-rooted regime change. AFP

SUPERFOODS FOR GLOWING SKIN

You know that old axiom “beauty starts from within”? Well, in the case of your skin it’s 100% true—which is one of the reasons the new goop skincare line is packed with vitamins and food-grade ingredients. What we eat has a direct effect on our skin and eating a healthy diet full of good fats, antioxidants, vitamin C, collagen, and amino acids can mean the difference between a fresh, glowing complexion and a tired, puffy, wrinkled one. Here are six superfoods packed with nutrients that directly benefit your skin and some of our favorite goop recipes that include them.

Avocados

Avocados are famously great for skin; high in poly- and monounsaturated fatty acids (like omega 9’s), they keep skin looking firm and dewy, help regenerate damaged skin cells, and reduce redness and irritation. The omega 9’s, in particular, keep your epidermal layer (the top layer of skin) moisturized, which gives you noticeably hydrated and healthy-looking skin. Avocados are also full of antioxidant carotenoids that not only fight free radicals, which are one of the major culprits of damaged skin and aging, but also help your skin maintain water content and elasticity.

Salmon

Oily fish in general, and salmon in particular, is packed full of omega 3’s, another good fat that does wonders for your skin. These polyunsaturated fatty acids protect the skin from sun exposure, help repair already damaged skin, and keep cell membranes healthy and hydrated, keeping toxins out and your skin looking supple and soft.

Blueberries



Antioxidants are one of the most important factors in maintaining beautiful skin, and eating blueberries is one of the easiest ways to get them. Antioxidants help fight and neutralize free radicals (one of skin’s worst enemies), which are known to damage skin cells and collagen, causing wrinkles, dry skin, and a host of other aging skin factors. Blueberries are also full of vitamin A, which helps normalize oil levels in your skin, and is very helpful in naturally clearing up acne-prone skin.

Bone broth

Bone broth is great for elasticity of skin as it’s full of collagen, minerals like calcium and magnesium, and essential amino acids. When bones are simmered for hours, the collagen inside them

cooks down into gelatin, which when ingested, keeps skin firm, smooth, and elastic. The gelatin in bone broth also helps soothe our digestive tract, which can help reduce inflammation, fighting yet another aging factor.

Lemon

Lemon is incredible for skin, not only because it’s packed with vitamin C, which helps neutralize free radicals and helps us make collagen and elastin (which bind skin cells together, giving us firm, younger-looking skin), but it’s also one of the most alkalizing foods available. Although lemons taste incredibly acidic, once metabolized, the minerals in them help alkalize the blood and balance our bodies’ pH (which in most bodies is too acidic due to over



consumption of things like coffee, alcohol, and processed foods). When our bodies’ pH levels are out of whack, our skin becomes super sensitive, dry and irritation-prone, so maintaining a good balance is key.

Turmeric

Turmeric is great for skin due to its incredible anti-inflammatory properties. Inflammation in the body is really rough on skin, leading to wrinkles and aging in the long term and making skin look puffy and tired in the short term. Eating or drinking dried or fresh turmeric helps fight inflammation, keeping skin looking fresher and younger, while also helping relieve more serious inflammatory skin problems such as eczema and rosacea.

Cover gray hair naturally at home

Gray hair is among the most dreaded nightmares that women have. You might disagree, but no one really gives gray hair much thought until you find one of your own. That’s when it starts to feel like the world is crashing down on you. Like everything is changing. And we, as human beings, do not like change.

While some of us make peace with it and gracefully transition into silver vixens, some of us like to take our time before we make the transition. That is if we ever choose to because you always have a choice. Following are natural ways to cover gray hair that you can choose from.

Henna pack

To prepare the pack, collect henna leaves from henna plant. Then make a fresh paste of henna by grinding the leaves. Add three teaspoons of amla powder into it. You can also add one teaspoon of coffee powder. Take a small amount of curd and mix all the ingredients. Apply the pack on hair and leave it till it dries. Then wash it off with a mild shampoo.

Potato peel rinse

Take around five potatoes and peel them. Put the peels in a cup. Take a pan and pour two cups of cold water then add the peels. Bring to a boil, lower the heat and simmer for five minutes. Place the pan away from stove and then let it cool. After it completely cools down, strain the liquid out and save it. Add a few drops of sandalwood oil for aroma and pour the cool mixture into a glass container with tight fitting lid. Use it as a hair rinse after washing your hair.

Black tea remedy



Boil two teaspoons of tea leaves without adding any sugar or milk and let it brew. Take the tea water and let it cool till the water becomes darker. Then apply it all over your hair. Rinse it off with water. Don’t use shampoo with the tea water.

Coconut and lemon remedy

Take about six to eight teaspoons (depending on hair length) of coconut oil. Mix three teaspoons of fresh lemon juice in the oil and apply it on hair. Keep it for an hour and wash your hair with a mild shampoo.

FOOD CORNER

EGG SALAD SANDWICH

A delicious dish, Egg Salad Sandwich is a healthy recipe made using tomatoes, onions and mayonnaise with bread slices and eggs! This breakfast recipe is a great sandwich and is a kids favourite! Try out this simple and easy to make recipe.

INGREDIENTS

4 bread slices, 4 teaspoon mayonnaise, 1 pinch salt, 2 teaspoon ghee, 1/4 cup finely chopped spring onions, 1 handful chopped lettuce loose-leaf, 2 boiled, finely chopped egg, 1/2 teaspoon chilli flakes, 1 dash spice black pepper, 1 sliced tomato, 1 sliced Red onion.

Method

Mix the eggs, mayonnaise, red chilli flakes, salt and pepper powder in a bowl. Spread this on 2 bread slices. Top it up with the tomato, spring onions, red onion and lettuce leaves. Cover with the remaining slices. Heat a tawa over low flame. Place the sandwiches and apply little ghee around the edges. Cook for 30 seconds on each side and remove. Serve with french fries.





ONE SHOT OF KETAMINE COULD CUT HEAVY DRINKERS' CRAVING

A one-off dose of party drug ketamine may help heavy drinkers significantly reduce their alcohol intake, an experimental study claims.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, suggests that giving a shot of ketamine to heavy drinkers after reactivating their drinking-related memories led to a rapid decrease in urges to drink, and a prolonged decrease in alcohol intake over nine months.

"We found that heavy drinkers experienced a long-term improvement after a very quick and simple experimental treatment," said the study's lead author, Ravi Das, from University College London (UCL) in the UK.

"Learning is at the heart of why people become addicted to drugs or alcohol. Essentially, the drug hijacks the brain's in-built reward-learning system, so that you end up associating environmental 'triggers' with the drug. These produce an exaggerated desire to take the drug," Das explained.

He said that once these reward memories are established, it's very difficult to re-learn more healthy associations, but it is vital in order to prevent relapse.

The study involved 90 people with harmful drinking behaviour, who all preferred beer.

The participants were heavy drinkers, but did not have a formal



diagnosis of alcohol use disorder and had not sought treatment.

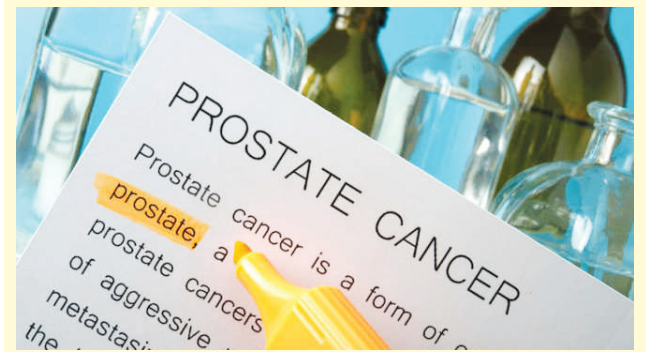
On average, they were drinking 74 units of alcohol per week, equivalent to roughly 30 pints of beer -- five times the recommended limit, the researchers said.

The participants were given a glass of beer, and told they could drink it after finishing a task.

They rated their urge to drink and were shown images of beer and other drinks, while rating their

anticipated pleasure, thus retrieving the reward memories surrounding beer drinking.

On the first day of the study, in order to establish their baseline drinking urges, they were then allowed to drink the beer, but on the second day, the beer was unexpectedly taken away from them. Removing an anticipated reward is known to be key factor to destabilising the memory of the removed reward.



NEW HOME TEST CAN DETECT PROSTATE CANCER

A new test can detect signs of prostate cancer using urine samples collected at home, according to a study which could predict whether patients will require treatment for the disease up to five years earlier than current methods.

The researchers, including those from the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the UK, said prostate cancer was one of the most common cancers in men, developing slowly in a man's lifetime with the majority of cases not requiring treatment.

However, they said, doctors struggle to predict which tumours will become aggressive, making it hard to decide on treatment for many patients.

The study, published in the journal BioTechniques, noted that the 'PUR' test -- Prostate Urine Risk -- could be performed on samples collected at home, so men don't have to come into the clinic to provide a urine sample - or have to undergo a rectal examination.

"The most commonly used tests for prostate cancer include blood tests, a physical examination known as a digital rectal examination (DRE), an MRI scan or a biopsy," said Jeremy Clark, lead researcher of the study from UEA.

Scientists make low-calorie sugar using bacteria

Scientists have used bacteria to derive a sugar from fruits and dairy products that has only 38 per cent of the calories of traditional table sugar.

The sugar called tagatose is approved by the US Food and Drugs Agency (FDA) as a food additive, and there have been no reports to date of the problems that many sugar substitutes have, such as a metallic taste, or links to cancer, according to the researchers at Tufts University in the US.

The researchers said tagatose may be safe for diabetics, and will not cause tooth cavities.

While derived from fruits and dairy products, tagatose is not abundant and is difficult to extract from those sources, they said.

The manufacturing process involves a conversion from more easily obtained galactose to tagatose and is highly inefficient, with yields that may reach only 30 per cent, the researchers explained.

In the study published in the journal Nature Communications, the researchers described a process that may unlock the commercial potential of this low-calorie, low-glycemic sugar.

Assistant Professor Nikhil Nair and postdoctoral fellow Josef Bober, both from the Tufts University, came up with an innovative way to produce the sugar using bacteria as tiny bioreactors that encapsulate the enzymes and reactants.

HOW THE BODY FREEZES IN RESPONSE TO THREAT DECODED

A chemical produced by nerve cells to allow transmission of signals between them, called serotonin, triggers a startle response, freezing the body momentarily in response to a potential threat, according to a new study.

The researchers, including those from Columbia University in the US, manipulated the levels of serotonin—and another chemical called dopamine—in the ventral nerve cord (VNC) of fruit flies, which is similar to the vertebrate spinal cord.

They analysed the steps taken by the insects on a special type of glass, and monitored how they moved.

The findings of the study, published in the journal Current Biology, revealed that when a fruit fly experiences an unexpected change to its surroundings—such as a sudden vibration—the release of serotonin helps to temporarily stop the fly in its tracks.

"We witnessed serotonin's biggest effects when the flies experienced rapid environmental changes. In other words, when they were startled," said study co-author Clare Howard from Columbia University.

The study offered insights into the biology of the startle response—a phenomenon, which the researchers said, is observed in virtually every animal studied to date, from flies to fish to people.

"Imagine sitting in your living room with your family and—all of a sudden—the lights go out, or the ground begins to shake," said Richard Mann, study co-author



from Columbia University.

"Your response, and that of your family, will be the same: You will stop, freeze and then move to safety. With this study, we show in flies that a rapid release of the chemical serotonin in their nervous system drives that initial freeze. And because serotonin also exists in people, these findings shed light on what may be going on when we get startled as well," Mann explained.

The researchers found that when they activated neurons producing serotonin in the VNC, the flies slowed down, and when these nerves were silenced, the flies sped up.

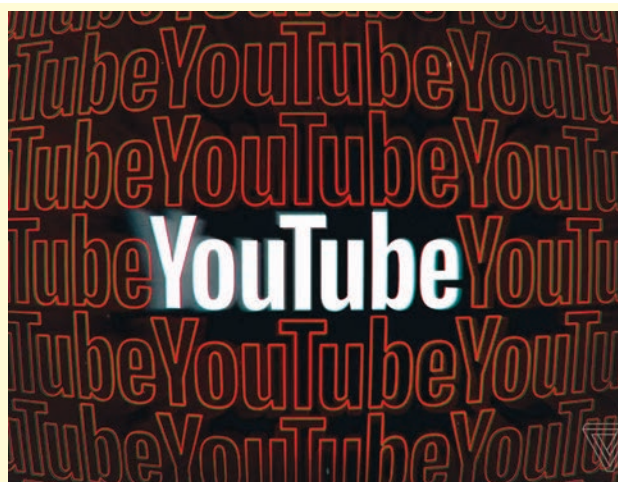
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YouTube eases up restrictions on violent video games

A new YouTube policy allows creators to upload video games with scripted or simulated violent content without bothering about getting automatically hit by age-restriction gates.

The new policy which came into effect on Monday paved the way for making such video games available to everyone, including those who stated their age to be below 18 years.

"We know there's a difference between real-world violence and scripted or simulated violence -- such as what you see in movies, TV shows, or video games -- so we want to make sure we're enforcing our violent or graphic content policies consistently," YouTube said in a product update.

"There will be fewer restrictions for violence in gaming, but this policy will still maintain our high bar to protect audiences from real-world violence," the Google-owned video-sharing platform said.

YouTube said it may still age-restrict content if violent or gory imagery is the sole focus of the video. For instance, if the video focuses entirely on the most graphically violent part of a video game. This policy enforcement update, however, does not change advertiser-friendly guidelines.



18,000-year-old frozen 'puppy' discovered in near-perfect condition in Siberia

A puppy said to be buried for 18,000 years has been found in amazingly perfect condition in Siberia, though the scientists are unable to decide if it is a dog or a wolf, a media report said.

Named Dogor, a local word for friend, it was found near Yakutsk in eastern Siberia last summer, the Sky News reported. The male pup's nose, teeth and fur were in remarkable condition.

Researcher Love Dalen said it was possibly the oldest dog ever found and was "amazingly well-preserved". It looked as if it was a "very recently dead animal", he said.

The body's age was measured by carbon dating its rib bone, though DNA tests did not confirm its lineage. David Stanton, a researcher at the Centre for Palaeogenetics in Sweden, said it could be from a species that was ancestral to both dogs and wolves.

UNDERSEA TELECOM CABLES CAN BE USED AS EARTHQUAKE MONITORING NETWORKS

Fibre-optic cables that make up the global undersea telecommunications network may help researchers assess offshore earthquakes, and hidden geologic structures in the depths of the ocean, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal *Science*, describes an experiment which turned a 20 kilometre section of undersea fibre-optic cable into the equivalent of 10,000 seismic stations monitoring quakes along the ocean floor.

The researchers, including those from the University of California (UC) Berkeley in the US, recorded a 3.5 magnitude earthquake, and seismic scattering from underwater fault zones during their four-day experiment.

They used a technique where a device with components for creating, manipulating and detecting light sent short pulses of laser down the cable, and detected how this was backscattered due to strain in the cable caused by stretching.

The researchers then measured the scattering at every two metres of the cable, and turned a 20-kilometre section into 10,000 individual motion sensors.

They said the technique could be used to map a previously unknown



fault system, and observe several dynamic tidal and storm-driven processes in the water column above.

The technique called Distributed Acoustic Sensing, was earlier tested with fibre-optic cables on land, but can now be used to obtain data on quakes happening under the sea, where few seismic stations exist, they said.

The researchers said the new system is sensitive to changes of nanometres to hundreds of picometres for every metre of cable length -- a change happening at the scale of one part in a billion.

"There is a huge need for seafloor seismology. Any instrumentation you get out into the ocean, even if it is only for the first 50 kilometers

from shore, will be very useful," said study lead author Nate Lindsey from UC Berkeley.

The scientists hope to use the dense fibre-optic networks around the world, spanning more than 10 million kilometers, on both land and under the sea to measure the sensitive seismic movements on the Earth.

"This is really a study on the frontier of seismology, the first time anyone has used offshore fibre-optic cables for looking at these types of oceanographic signals or for imaging fault structures. One of the blank spots in the seismographic network worldwide is in the oceans," said study co-author Jonathan Ajo-Franklin from Rice University in the US.

PLAYING SOUNDS OF REEFS CAN PULL FISH TOWARDS DEGRADING CORALS

Young fish can be drawn to degraded reefs using loudspeakers playing the sounds of healthy coral communities, according to a study which may lead to new strategies for restoring damaged corals.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, described the new technique to lure fish into damaged reefs by regenerating the sounds that are lost when the coral communities are quieted by degradation.

The researchers, including those from the University of Exeter in the UK, said boosting the populations using this kind of "acoustic enrichment" can help to kick-start a natural recovery processes of the reefs, counteracting the damage seen in many coral communities around the world.

According to the study, broadcasting healthy reef sound doubled the total number of fish arriving onto experimental patches of reef habitat, and also increased the number of species present by 50 per cent.

The researchers said this diversity included species from all sections of the food web such as herbivores, plankton feeders, predatory fish eaters, and those that eat marine waste and debris.



They added that different groups of fish provide different functions on coral reefs—meaning a diverse and abundant fish population is important for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

"Fish are crucial for coral reefs to function as healthy ecosystems," said study lead author Tim Gordon, of the University of Exeter.

Reefs become ghostly quiet when they are degraded, as shrimps and fish disappear, but they can be restored using loudspeakers which can recreate this lost soundscape and attract young fish back again, the researchers said.

"Healthy coral reefs are remarkably noisy places - the crackle of snapping shrimp and the whoops and grunts of fish combine to form a dazzling biological soundscape. Juvenile fish home in on these sounds when they're looking for a place to settle," said senior author Professor Steve Simpson, also of the University of Exeter.

By combining this method with habitat restoration, and other conservation measures, the researchers said fish communities can be rebuilt, accelerating ecosystem recovery.

RBI cuts GDP growth forecast for current fiscal to 5%, repo rate remains unchanged

MUMBAI (TIP): The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.15% amid the "current and evolving macroeconomic situation". The central bank did cut the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the current fiscal to 5% from 6.1%.

The monetary policy committee (MPC) of RBI has maintained an "accommodative" stance, eradicating any chances of a rate hike in future.

All members of the MPC voted in favour of the decision. Including this meeting's stance, the RBI has cut 135 basis points since the start of this financial year.

"We cannot mechanically reduce the rate and [must] allow some time for the previous rate cuts to play out. Currently 44 basis points have been transmitted. We have also introduced external benchmark lending rate since November 1 for the same purpose," said Shaktikanta Das, governor, Reserve Bank of India on the repo rate decision in a press conference.

"The MPC recognises that there is monetary policy space for future action. However, given the evolving growth-inflation dynamics, the MPC felt it appropriate to take a pause at this juncture. Accordingly, the MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged and continue with the accommodative stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target," said a RBI press release.

Abheek Barua, chief economist of HDFC Bank, said RBI's move on



lending rates came as a surprise given the dismal growth for the second quarter of 2019-20.

"It seems that the RBI wishes to see the lagged impact of its front-loaded 135 basis point cut in the policy rate along with some of the slew of fiscal measures plays out for future growth," he said.

The RBI has revised upwards its CPI inflation projection to 5.1- 4.7 % for the second half of the current financial year and to 4% - 3.8% for the first half of 2020-21

"Domestic demand has slowed down, which is being reflected in the softening of inflation excluding food and fuel," the RBI added.

The real GDP growth projected in the October policy was at 6.1 % for 2019-20. "GDP growth for Q2:2019-20 turned out to be significantly lower than projected. Various high frequency indicators suggest that domestic and external

demand conditions have remained weak," the RBI added in the release.

Taking into consideration these factors, RBI revised its GDP growth for 2019-20 downwards to 4.9-5.5% from 6.1% in its October policy for the second half of 2019-20.

The central bank's decision is followed by a weak growth environment. India expanded merely by 4.5% in the July to October quarter, marking the slowest pace of economic growth since March 2013.

"The MPC notes that economic activity has weakened further and the output gap remains negative. However, several measures already initiated by the government and the monetary easing undertaken by the Reserve Bank since February 2019 are gradually expected to further feed into the real economy," the RBI added.



Modi govt considers easing foreign control rule to aid Air India sale: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government is considering amending a rule to allow overseas control of local airlines, according to a person familiar with the matter, which may help its indebted national carrier lure a foreign suitor after multiple failed attempts for a sale.

At a meeting in early November, India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade asked the aviation ministry if it would be feasible to change the so-called "substantial ownership and effective control" clause, the person said, asking not to be identified as the details aren't public.

The rule mandates that control of an airline always remain in Indian hands, one of several reasons global firms have been wary of bidding for Air India Ltd. Doing away with the "substantial ownership" clause will enable an overseas stakeholder weigh in on major decisions of local airlines. That may lure foreign investors to the Air India sale without forcing the government to go down the politically contentious route of lifting the cap on overseas equity investment.

Currently, foreign airlines are barred from buying more than 49% in a local carrier, and foreign investors, other than airlines, need government approval to buy a stake bigger than 49%.

An email to the DPIIT was unanswered. A representative for the aviation ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech in July had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will look into suggestions of opening up sectors including aviation to more foreign investment. It has already eased rules in a number of areas such as retail, manufacturing and coal mining.

Maruti Suzuki becomes only car maker in India to cross 20 million in sales

NEW DELHI (TIP): Maruti Suzuki recently became the only car maker in India to clock 20 million in passenger vehicle sales. While it has been the leading car maker in India over the past decades, the figure underlines the firm's grip it has over the Indian auto industry.

Since selling its first car back in December of 1983 - a Maruti 800, Maruti Suzuki has established itself as a strong player and has fended off challenge from a host of rivals in the ensuing years. The company clocked its first 10 million in 29 years since 1983 while the next 10 million took it all of eight years.

Referred to as people's car maker, Maruti continues to enjoy the pinnacle position due to a number of reasons ranging from affordability, robust post-sales service, strong re-selling value and a range of cars which now also promise premium features and comforts, along with safety. "We are committed to bring value to the lives of our customers and delight them through our global technologies, and emphasis on safety and superior quality," said Kenichi Ayukawa, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India. "We are overwhelmed with this new record (of 20 million sales). Achieving this milestone is a great accomplishment for Maruti Suzuki."

Rebound in India services offers glimmer of hope for economy

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's dominant services sector rebounded last month, providing some cautious optimism the economy may be turning the corner.

The IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index rose to a four-month high of 52.7 in November, the first time in three months that the reading has been above 50 to mark an expansion in output. The improvement was driven by higher orders and strengthening business confidence. The index is still below its long-run average of 54.2.

"Although the services economy shrugged off some of the weakness seen in September and October, the latest PMI results continue to sound a note of caution regarding demand and the underlying state of the sector," said Pollyanna de Lima, a principal economist at IHS Markit.

The rise in the services index followed data earlier this week showing manufacturing also improved in November, resulting in the composite PMI index jumping to 52.7 from 49.6.

The improved PMI data for November strengthens our view that the worst might be over for the economy and a shallow recovery lies ahead. Recent efforts by the RBI and the government are beginning to now show results and economic activity should pick further momentum over the next few months.



The latest surveys offer a glimmer of hope for the economy after data last week showed growth weakening to a six-year low of 4.5% in the July to September quarter. While services growth weakened last quarter, industries like finance and real estate, and trade, transport and communication posted solid expansion of 5.8% and 4.8% respectively from a year ago.



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 - December 9 - December 15, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says you spend a lot of time thinking about the lovely moments that have suddenly happened in your life. Your success and general happiness could lead to over-confidence and you need to exercise caution. Watch your step or you could fall into a manhole. Of course, please do not take this in the literal sense. You may excite envy, perhaps even hidden or open rivalry, and people may want to pull you down.

TAURUS: Expenses will mount but there are more good tidings than bad and your interactions with people remain pleasant. All this contributes to happy and loving moments with progress and prosperity as the key words. Ganesha asks you to step on it as the time is good for you. You are filled with new ideas; they seem to be bursting out of your skull.

GEMINI: In this phase your creative instincts blossom. This can be a mildly pleasant, somewhat strange, even esoteric period. On a more down-to-earth plane, increased employment, gifts, a legacy or other benefit come your way. There will be more perks and recognition on the job front too. You plod away looking for more rewards both monetarily and aesthetically.

CANCER: The desire to accomplish more occupies your mind and you look for ways to reconcile your work with your true inner impulses. You are ready to stick your neck out, lead from the front to make change happen. You are ready to take on a leadership role. You will find time for religion and spirituality, travel and education. Issues revolving around your career, identity and home absorb your thoughts and plans.

LEO: You also make projections for the future. You understand the need to build harmony in the home and family as you realize that social interactions are vital not only for growth but as a security blanket when the chips are down, with no warning balls to announce their arrival. Ganesha blesses you.

VIRGO: There is professional success and you are admired and respected everywhere. You have a tremendous will to excel in your chosen field and you put in extra efforts and win respect, status, perks, benefits, awards, rewards, kudos and applause. It is all richly deserved, I must add along with Ganesha. There will be monetary gains and chances of enhance income.

LIBRA: There is also room for passion and romance, legacies and inheritance, loans, funds, bonds, parties and the whirl of social activities. You are in an ebullient and enthusiastic mood as you resolve many pending issues and make waves. These are soft and emotional moments. It is time to let your hair down. You will be in the throes of love and having a wild and wonderful time.

SCORPIO: You are confident, pragmatic and determined as you forge ahead to power, glory and accomplishments. Name and fame, popularity and plaudits, come your way along with outright competition and jealousy which are, as we all know, part and parcel of life. However, you will turn your attention to money matters and strike out in new areas of money making.

SAGITTARIUS: You want to grow and to develop as an evolved human being. There have been several attitudinal and occupational swings to cope with. Now you will attempt to reconcile them all gainfully and harmoniously. Ganesha is happy that you have found your way. Your entire persona undergoes a huge change for the better. You have seen a lot including true success. You resolve to continue with your efforts at both work and play.

CAPRICORN: There is a great intensity in your approach as you plan ahead. There could be some disruptions in your creative endeavours, but you surmount all roadblocks. You also manage to make time for social work and bond well with everyone you meet. Your professional and personal successes have really empowered you and you look at the future with confidence and charisma.

AQUARIUS: You rely solely on your sense of personal satisfaction and do not care too much about the good opinion of others or a desire for recognition. You work quietly and steadily, avoiding fanfare and publicity. Your interactions with parents, siblings, extended family and in-laws could also be demanding. You look at new ideas of income generation and look at yourself with new eyes.

PISCES: You are a new person now, full of commitment, caring and confidence. You are alert and active, and you experience the sweet satisfaction of achievement. Ganesha guarantees that! Ganesha assures you money and honey. There is a lot going for you in this period. The mood is upbeat and there is a hike in finances and more than just a touch of romance too.

Birthday Horoscope December 9 - December 15, 2019

DEC 9: Ganesha says being easy going is a wonderful quality, but it's not appropriate in all situations or with all people. Be careful not to put yourself at a disadvantage by bluffing to mask a lack of confidence, knowledge, or skill.

DEC 10: The Moon puts its spotlight on relationships in a way that require participants to bring them into better balance. Attachments with those near and fare are accented and require consideration.

DEC 11: Though it might seem otherwise,

consider the possibility that information that is at your disposal is inconclusive or even misleading. If doesn't hurt double-check.

DEC 12: There is likely to be a foul-up of sorts concerning weekend plans. You could be caught off guard by delays or misunderstandings. Missed communications are the likely reason for bottlenecks.

DEC 13: Communication faces challenges, as does travel. Bring diplomacy, tact, and fair-mindedness to bear on all your relationships and dealings. Reach out and connect but be

prepared to change perspectives.

DEC 14: Information seems hard to come by, either because of circumstances that are beyond anyone's control or because someone intentionally withholds it. Focus like a laser on getting what you need. Avoid power games.

DEC 15: If you have to put up with a long face on a friend or member of a group, it certainly could cramp your social style. On the other hand, you could let your sunny personality come to a troubled soul's rescue.

AVATAR, THE REINCARNATION OF GOD ON EARTH

The concept of Avatar is unique to Hinduism. It is closely linked to the idea that the source of Hinduism, which is otherwise known as Sanatana Dharma (Eternal Duty), is God himself. In other words, Hinduism was founded by none other than God himself who is known in Hinduism as Brahman or Isvara. The divine knowledge of eternal duties which are enshrined in the Vedas and other sacred texts arises from God only. Since he is the source of Hinduism, he is also responsible for its preservation and continuation, which he does either directly or indirectly through various means. An incarnation is one of them. In the following discussion we will discuss the meaning and significance of the incarnation of God in Hinduism.

Meaning of Avatar

Avatar in Sanskrit means appearance, manifestation, descent, materialization, or outgrowth. An associated word is avataram, which means descent or descending into water for bathing, coming down, crossing, translation or metamorphosis. It is also a reference to a holy place, or a place where God or an aspect of him is manifested. A short prayer or invocation which is addressed to God or a deity and which causes him to descend upon earth is known as avataram. The introduction, preface of a text or a book is avataram. Figuratively speaking, avatar means a shooting star or the descent of a star (ava + tara) into the earth atmosphere.

The concept of Avatar

Thus, the idea of avatar is very much rooted in the secular and religious practices of Hinduism. In the philosophical or theological context an avatar means a manifestation of God upon earth in corporeal form, which can be that of a human being or any living being. As an incarnation, God lives upon earth, goes through the same lifecycle as other living beings to resolve some fundamental problems of existence. It is always to set things right, to resolve some problem, or destroy evil. In a way you may consider it an intervention or micromanagement when we collectively fail or when gods fail us to put our world in order.

It is not clear when the idea of incarnation entered the Vedic belief system. The Vedas do mention a few incarnations of Brahma, which were later ascribed to Vishnu. In today's world, avatar is a very fundamental and popular belief of mainstream Hinduism. Originally, it was part of Vaishnavism. Followers of Vishnu believe that occasionally he incarnates upon earth in various forms as part of his obligatory duty to maintain the order and regularity of the worlds. Each time he manifests upon earth in a living form, it is known as an avatar, which can be either complete or partial.

However, the followers of Shiva do not believe that an incarnation of God is necessary. According to them, God's intervention does not require a special incarnation. There is no need for such an



emergency measure since God is omniscient and knows in advance what is going to happen. Therefore, if necessary as part of his duties he may manifest as an aspect or emanation rather than an incarnation. Hence, in Shaivism there are no incarnations for Shiva. His duties of preservation and concealment are carried out either directly or through his numerous aspects.

Functions of an incarnation

The chief purpose of an incarnation is to restore balance by destroying excessive evil as it becomes bothersome and threatens the order and regularity of creation. Its purpose is somewhat similar to that of a self-correcting mechanism or that of a safety valve. By nature, God is impartial. He does not take sides. He has no desires, partiality, bias or interest whatsoever. However, to keep the worlds going and keep the evil forces under check, he often takes the side of the good and the divine and even engages in a direct conflict. Apart from restoring balance and fighting evil, an avatar has other functions. They are listed below.

- Restoring and reestablishing dharma or righteousness.
- Restoring the forgotten or lost knowledge of sacred scriptures for the welfare of the humanity.
- Restoring and strengthening people's faith in God and righteousness.
- Reviving the lost knowledge of liberation or revealing the secrets of creation according to needs of the time.
- Serving as a role model and a source of inspiration to his devotees.
- Protecting those who seek his protection against evil and helping them on the path to liberation.
- Granting liberation to the souls who have completed their spiritual

journey.

An avatar is neither a messenger of God nor a prophet but God himself in a mortal body. He personifies God and represents all divine qualities. His force in that form is not diminished but may remain concealed.

The Bhagavadgita declares that whenever there is an ascendance of adharma (injustice and disorder) and the strengthening of evil, God reincarnates Himself on earth in an embodied state (jiva) to restore balance and reestablish Dharma. Rudimentary idea of incarnation can be found in the Vedas. For example, the Kena Upanishad mentions the manifestation of Brahma as an Yaksha, a celestial deity, before Indra, Agni and Vayu to test their might and teach them a lesson on vanity. As we have already stated, they also mention the incarnations of Brahma and a vague reference to the three strides of Vishnu as Vamana.

The idea gained further acceptance with the subsequent developments that took place within the Vedic religion and the rise of Shiva and Vishnu in the

Vedic pantheon as part of the triple gods (Trimurthis). Together with Brahma, they represent the triple functions of creation namely creation, preservation and destruction. Of them, Vishnu is the preserver who as part of his functions incarnates upon earth.

The Vedas, the Puranas, the Epics and the Bhagavadgita acknowledge the incarnations of Vishnu as an essential and important function of creation to ensure the order and regularity of the worlds and keep the chaos and demonic forces under control. The epic Ramayana is about the life and adventures of Lord Rama, who is believed to be an incarnation or avatar of Lord Vishnu. The Bhagavatapurana and the Mahabharata depict the miraculous life and achievements of Lord Krishna, who is also considered an incarnation of Maha Vishnu. The Vishnu Puranas deal with the major incarnations and manifestations of Lord Vishnu, apart from major events and mysteries associated with creation, and the conflicts between gods and demons.

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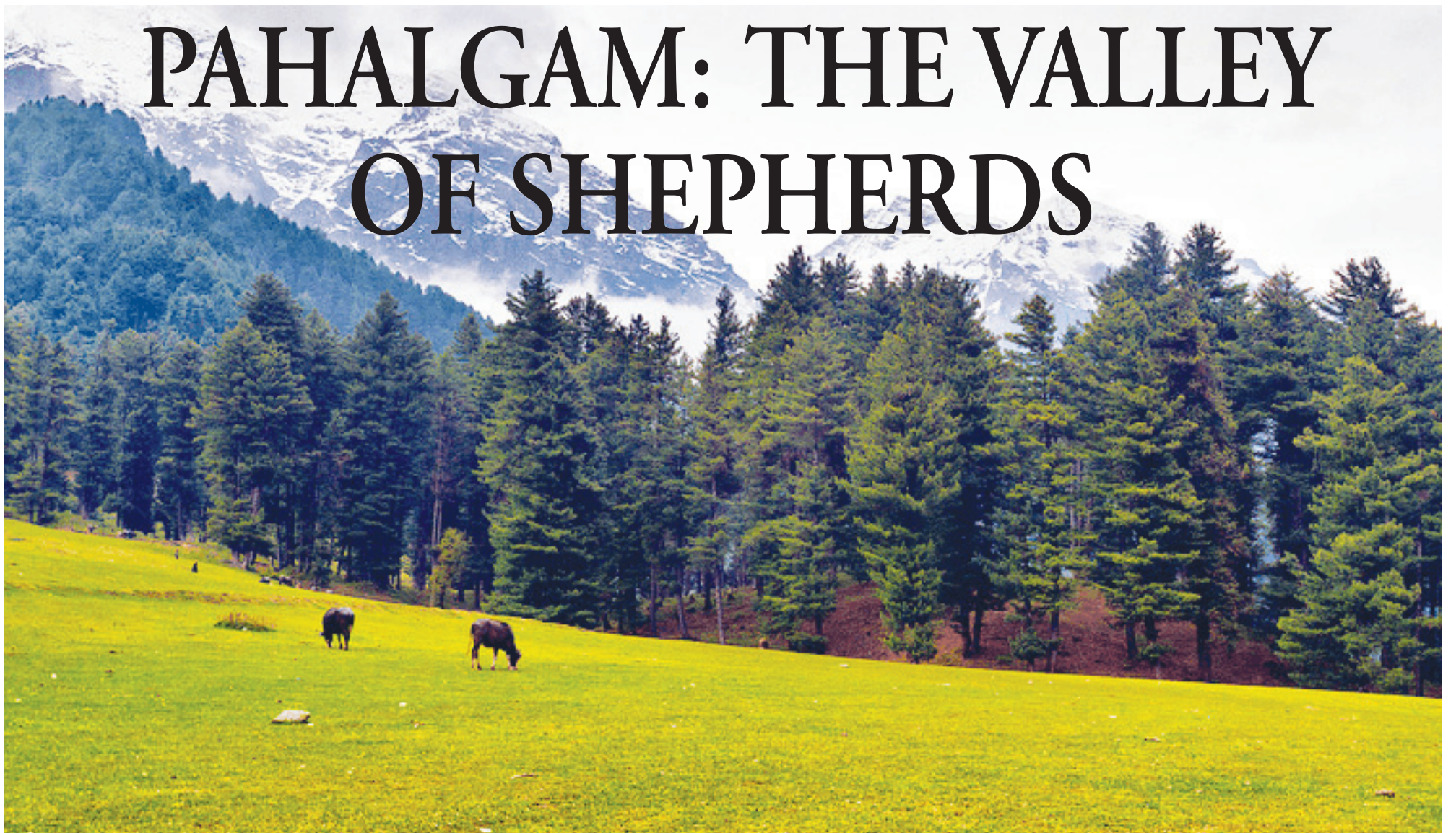
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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"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."

PAHALGAM: THE VALLEY OF SHEPHERDS



Out of the numerous places in Kashmir, Pahalgam stands out as one that is a must see. Pahalgam has plenty of sightseeing places, making it one of the go to destinations for all kinds of travelers, from family to couples and corporate teams, and so on. Located at a height of 7200 ft, Pahalgam- called the 'Valley of Shepherds', is a scenic hill station in Kashmir where great many Bollywood movies have been shot. Perched at the intersection of Lidder River & the Sheshnag Lake, Pahalgam is encompassed by thickly lush pine backwoods, stunning vistas of knolls and the snow-clad Himalayan mountains. The best time to go to Pahalgam, is from the start of March month to end of November. Although winter is also a great time as then you would be able to see Pahalgam in a different Avatar.

Here are some of the must see places in Pahalgam that make your tour quite memorable no matter when you visit:

Baisaran Hills

Known worldwide as the 'Mini Switzerland' owing to its long, dark meadows looking like those found in Switzerland, Baisaran is a picturesque glade, set just 5 km far from Pahalgam. The thick pine timberland that lends the green-carpet look to the glade gives a differentiating hue to snow-topped crests of the encompassing mountains. One of the top places to visit in Pahalgam, a trip to the knoll is really a treat for the senses. Furthermore, Baisaran is a perfect campground for trekkers who wish to travel further up to Tulian Lake. To get there you need to ride the ponies. An off-beaten track it lets one enjoy panoramic views of the Lidder Valley.

Pahalgam Golf Course

The Pahalgam fairway offers gorgeous views of the azure skies overhead a thick green turf and snow-covered peaks

standing tall at the backdrop. For golf aficionados, playing their favorite sport here is a one of a kind experience. But novices too can try a hand at golf amidst the rich ambiance of the Pahalgam Green.

Kolahoi Glacier

A breathtakingly beautiful spot Kolahoi Glacier is one of the must see sightseeing places in Pahalgam. The lone way to get to the Kolahoi Glacier is through a laborious trek, not for the weakling. At 18,000 feet, the stunning views upon entry truly make the journey a memorable experience. The trek is flushed with dense green mountain vegetation & green glades. Thundering River Lidder, thick conifer backwoods with ice cold loquacious rivulets are all there to make the trek to the icy mass all the more memorable.

Aru Village & Valley

When in Pahalgam, take a tour of the town of the Lidder Valley, Aru. Just 15 kilometers away from Pahalgam, it's the median location for any hike to the Kolahoi glacier, set at a height of 18,000 ft. The drive up to Aru is a scenic one so be ready with your cameras for some stunning shots of the Valley. On the way you'll also see plenty of young fawns and calves. The blue canopy over the head, surreal surroundings, whispers of the local pines & conifer woodlands and wonderful green glades, make Aru an idyllic honeymoon destination.

Chandanwari

Chandanwari, located on the periphery of Pahalgam, is one of the top tourist places having great religious importance. It is the initiation point of the Amarnath Yatra, an important pilgrimage held in the Hindu month of Sawan. Endowed with breathtaking beauty, this spot is a chief attraction for travelers coming to the Kashmir Valley.



Undulating landscapes and sporadic greenery overhangs the topography of this little and picturesque hamlet.

Tulian Lake

Among the top tourist activities in Pahalgam, a visit to the Tulian Lake is a never to miss opportunity. Set in the midst of the Zanskar and Pir Panjal Mountain ranges the lake gives stunning views of the bordering snow-capped peaks that are for the most part 300 meters above its level. Primarily overlaid with snow, Tulian Lake journey is a perfect way to witness the natural beauty of Kashmir Valley. Its way from Baisaran is a bit weary, with unmarked trekking trails, but the barren hills and the eye-catching landscape make up for the tiredness.

Betaab Valley

Betaab Valley is a beautiful spot located in the upper east side of Pahalgam. This valley ascribed its name to the hit Bollywood film Betaab, which was shot in its picturesque surrounding.

Sprawling lush meadows, snow-topped peaks and winding streams form the amazing topography of this valley. Aside from being a spot with noteworthy topography, the valley is a well known trekking base and campground for voyagers who are looking to scout the adjacent highland regions. The secluded settings, and the natural lush surroundings of the Betaab valley attracts many just-married couples, who are on a honeymoon trip to Kashmir.

Mattan

Mattan, located a couple of kilometers from Anantnag on the Pahalgam road, is a sacred Hindu pilgrimage site. The holy place attracts large number of devotees from all parts of the country. It is one of those religious spots in India where the ministers and savants used to assemble for worshiping the Sun God. The temple is well known for its lovely Shiva Lingam, which is safeguarded inside a captivating brick structure encompassed by clear blue water on all sides.

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contd from page 1

Nancy Pelosi okays drafting of impeachment articles against Donald Trump

She said: "The President has engaged in abuse of power undermining our national security and jeopardizing the integrity of our elections. His actions are in defiance of the vision of our Founders and the oath of office that he takes to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the US."

"Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our Founders and our hearts full of love for America, today, I am asking our Chairmen to proceed with articles of impeachment," Pelosi said.

Trump and the White House slammed the Democrats for their latest announcement on impeachment.

"...This will mean that the beyond important and seldom used act of Impeachment will be used routinely to attack future Presidents. That is not what our Founders had in mind. The good thing is that the Republicans have NEVER been more united. We will win!" Trump tweeted soon after Pelosi's announcement.

In a live televised address from the US capitol, Pelosi said the President's actions have seriously violated the Constitution - "especially when he says and acts upon the

belief, 'Article II says, I can do whatever I want'."

Pelosi, 79, has been leading the Democratic Party's effort to oust Trump from the White House through the Constitution approved impeachment process. The success of her efforts depends on the support from at least a few Republican Senators in the Senate, where the GOP enjoys a majority.

Over the past few weeks, she said, through the Intelligence Committee working with the Foreign Affairs and Oversight Committees, the American people have heard the testimony of truly patriotic career public servants, distinguished diplomats and decorated war heroes: some of the President's own appointees.

"The facts are uncontested: the President abused his power for his own personal, political benefit at the expense of our national security, by withholding military aid and a crucial Oval Office meeting in exchange for an announcement of an investigation into his political rival," she asserted.

"If we allow a president to be above the law, we do so surely at the peril of our republic. In America, no one is above the law," she said.

Trump and the White House have described this as an impeachment hoax. White House asserted that the president has done no wrong.

"The Do Nothing, Radical Left Democrats have just announced that they are going to seek to Impeach me over NOTHING," Trump tweeted.

"They already gave up on the ridiculous Mueller 'stuff,' so now they hang their hats on two totally appropriate (perfect) phone calls with the Ukrainian President," he said.

Pelosi and the Democrats "should be ashamed," said White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham. Trump "has done nothing but lead our country - resulting in a booming economy, more jobs & a stronger military, to name just a few of his major accomplishments," she tweeted.

"We look forward to a fair trial in the Senate," Grisham said.

Earlier in the morning, Trump challenged the Democrats to impeach him.

"The Do Nothing Democrats had a historically bad day yesterday in the House. They have no Impeachment case and are demeaning our Country. But nothing matters to them, they have gone crazy," he said.

"Therefore I say, if you are going to impeach me, do it now, fast, so we can have a fair trial in the Senate, and so that our Country can get back to business. We will have Schiff, the Bidens, Pelosi and many more testify, and will reveal, for the first time, how corrupt our system really is. I was elected to "Clean the Swamp," and that's what I am doing!," Trump tweeted. (Source: PTI)

All Four Hyderabad Rape accused killed in police encounter

The father of the veterinarian expressed his gratitude. "It has been 10 days to the day my daughter died," he told ANI. "I express my gratitude towards the police and government for this. My daughter's soul must be at peace now." (Source: PTI)

Diwali 2019 Power of One Awards announced

H.E. Kairat Umarov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, H.E. Mansour Al-Otaibi, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations, H.E. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, H.E. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, H.E. Darja Bavda Kuret, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations, Ms. Ranju Batra, Chair, Diwali Foundation USA, Inc and Mr. Ravi Batra, Chair, National Advisory Council South Asian Affairs. H.E. Valentin Rybakov, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations will moderate.

The event is cosponsored by the

Permanent Missions of Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Permanent Observer of State of Palestine and NY Office - IAEA.

The "Power of One" Award, aka "Oscars of Diplomacy," established by Diwali Foundation USA, Inc in 2017, is to celebrate and highlight the important work done in a peaceful manner, especially at the United Nations.

The inaugural "Power of One" Awards event, held on December 11, 2017 at the UNHQ, recognized some of those honorable individuals. To be eligible for the Award, one has to be a former Permanent Representative or former High-Level member of UN Secretariat, or soon to be "former," who has toiled selflessly to "help form a more perfect, peaceful and secure world for all. The 2017 Inaugural Awardees were H.E. Maged Abdelaziz (Egypt), H.E. Ion Botnaru (Moldova), H.E. Lakshmi Puri (India), H.E. Matthew Rycroft (United Kingdom), H.E. Nawaf Salam (Lebanon), and H.E. Yuri Sergeev (Ukraine).

Pakistan govt to sell unused state properties at Dubai Expo

"These unutilized state properties will be marketed at the Dubai Expo to attract foreign and Pakistani investors to buy these assets," Privatization Secretary Rizwan Malik informed the prime minister.

"Unfortunately, criminal negligence was done by the previous governments as they did not utilize these valuable properties. Despite billions of rupees' assets, various federal government institutions are bearing losses of billions of rupees every year," Khan said.

Khan also warned that stern action would be initiated against officers found to be creating hurdles in the identification of non-utilized government-owned properties, The News International reported.

The International Monetary Fund in July approved a three-year USD 6 billion loan for Pakistan with tough conditions to address its balance of payment crisis and help the country's ailing economy return to "sustainable growth".

Pakistan approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in August 2018 for a bailout package after the Imran Khan government took over.

Pakistan has also received billions in financial aid packages from friendly countries like China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. (Source: PTI)



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Focus on KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant as India continue auditions for next year's T20 WC

HYDERABAD (TIP): The likes of KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be aiming to cement their places in the squad as India continue auditions for next year's T20 World Cup when they take on the West Indies in a three-match T20 series, starting here on Friday.

India will continue their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia and many players, whose places are not yet secure, will try to impress the team management and selectors with their performances against the West Indies.

One such name is Rahul.

In the absence of injured opener Shikhar Dhawan, the series will provide the stylish right-handed batsman, who holds a good record in T20s, a very good opportunity to secure his place as Rohit Sharma's partner up the order.

In 31 T20 Internationals, Rahul has amassed 974 runs at an average of 42.74 with 110 not out being his highest score.

He is also a prolific scorer in the IPL.

Besides Rahul, another individual who would like to answer his critics with solid performances is Pant.

Pant has, of late, come under the scanner for his inconsistent form with the bat and poor glove work.

He has been seen as the successor to Mahendra Singh Dhoni, but after the conclusion of the ICC ODI World Cup earlier this year, Pant has endured a slump in form and was heavily criticised for throwing his wicket away on multiple occasions.

Even his glove-work came under heavy scrutiny and the left-hander was dropped in the longest format of the game and Wriddhiman Saha regained his place in the playing XI.

With the selectors bringing in talented Sanju Samson in the squad and talks of Dhoni coming out of his sabbatical soon, it's high time for Pant to either perform or lose his place in the squad.

The series is also huge for Samson.

Although he was named in the T20 squad against Bangladesh, Kerala 'keeper-batsman didn't get a single opportunity in the series and was only picked for this rubber after Dhawan sustained a knee injury while playing for Delhi in the Syed Mushtaq Ali National T20 Championship.

It is certain that Pant will be the first choice wicketkeeper but in case he fails again, it remains to be seen whether the team management gives Samson an opportunity, which he certainly deserves.

The good news for India is that Virat Kohli will return to lead the side after taking a break in the T20 series against Bangladesh.



On the bowling front, there are several notable comebacks with the likes of Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar returning to the side's T20 setup.

The duo of Kuldeep and Chahal, also known as 'Kulcha', will reunite after a long time.

Kuldeep last featured in the shortest format in February 2019 against New Zealand.

The Indian pace attack looks menacing with the return of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami.

Shami last appeared in a T20I in 2017, while Bhuvneshwar returns to the squad after recovering from a muscle problem.

Bhuvneshwar's last T20 was against the West Indies in the Caribbean in August this year.

The find of the Bangladesh series, Deepak Chahal, is also expected to play a big role alongside Shami and Bhuvneshwar in the past attack.

West Indies, on the other hand, would be looking for revenge after being dismantled by India 3-0 in their own backyard in August.

West Indies are considered a very good T20 side and what would act in their favour is that they have already acclimatised to the conditions, having played Afghanistan in a full series in Lucknow.

Having been entrusted with the captaincy responsibility, Kieron Pollard will look to lead from the

front.

With Nicholas Pooran ruled out of the first T20 because of a four-match ban for ball-tampering, the onus would be on Shai Hope and Shimron Hetmyer to guide West Indies batting line-up.

Besides, the Indians would also be wary of Roston Chase, who can make useful contributions with both bat and ball.

Keeping in mind the T20 World Cup, the West Indies are also trying out various combinations and have drafted in quite a few new faces in the team.

The visitors have opted for young Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Sherfane Rutherford, Keshrick Williams and Hayden Walsh Jr over experienced players like Carlos Brathwaite, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo.

Teams (from): India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami.

West Indies: Kieron Pollard (captain), Fabian Allen, Brandon King, Denesh Ramdin, Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford, Shimron Hetmyer, Khary Pierre, Lendl Simmons, Jason Holder, Hayden Walsh Jr, Keemo Paul, Keshrick Williams.



FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN BOB WILLIS DEAD AT 70

LONDON (TIP): 325 Test wickets from 90 Tests, a career as a broadcaster and a verified cult hero. If you are lucky, you get one of those. If you're Bob Willis, you can achieve all three with great distinction, and without giving one solitary damn. After a short illness, one of the country's finest fast bowlers and beloved pundits passed away on December 4.

His absence from Sky Sports' review show, *The Verdict*, during the recent New Zealand tour hinted there was something wrong. Only yesterday morning did word start to spread of the unthinkable. His was a story of triumph over trials. Aged 26, he'd had operations in both knees which, at 6ft 6ins, should have meant the end. He battled on for nine more years, getting himself into the record books where he remains to this day as England's fourth-highest wicket-taker in Tests.

For a generation, he was one of few hopes against Australia: a fast bowler of the sort of snarl they love over there, bounding in from an angled approach and following it up with a disdainful stare many more would become familiar with when he moved into television.

Summer of 81

In the stunning Headingley Test in Australia in 1981, Willis has a huge role. Sure, Ian Botham set them up, but it was Willis' 8/43 that knocked Australia down. The bond between those two stars was strong and Botham maintains Willis was the only world-class bowler he shared the field with during his 16 years as an international.

Willis also had the honour of captaining his country in 16 Tests between 1982 and 1984, a period in which he says he marshalled "a moderate England side". He oversaw seven wins in that time but maybe his best act of leadership came as vice-captain when he ordered Botham to run-out Geoffrey Boycott during a Test match in 1978 against New Zealand because the Yorkshireman was scoring too slowly.

The above alone is enough to warrant a glowing eulogy. But it was upon Willis' move to TV that the cult of Bob came to be. From bowling fire to spitting it on a regular basis. He was never a cheerleader and, more importantly, never a gobshite. He was the type to tell you what he thought without boasting about how he was telling you what he thought.

"There are more happy hookers in this England line-up than there are at Soho," he raged when Ishant Sharma bounced out half of the batting line-up at Lord's in 2014. When it was put to him that David Warner was drinking Jagerbombs before taking a swing at Joe Root in Birmingham Walkabout, Willis cut to core of the issue. "I have never had a Jagerbomb," he admitted, before questioning the choice of beverage. "Maybe Australian beer is even worse than it used to be."

A number of current England players, upon meeting him at a dinner recently, left with a greater understanding of Willis and what made him tick, along with deep affection. He loved the game dearly, not just for what it gave to him as a career but what it meant to him in his formative years spent in the garden with his brother pretending to be Colin Cowdrey and Basil D'Oliveira. English cricket will end bidding farewell to a person who embodied the very best of its heart, wit and soul.

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County

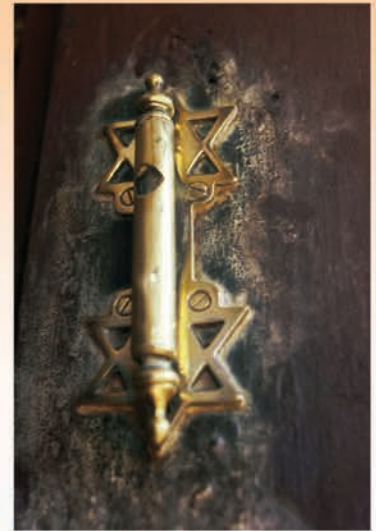
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The Jewish Heritage Museum is pleased to announce the opening of its new exhibit: *Jews of India: The History and Practices of the Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi Jews*. This exhibit is comprised of artifacts, books, and family pictures that showcase the fascinating history of each tribe. Guests at the Reception will hear from Monmouth County residents who are Jewish Indian descendants, and enjoy traditional refreshments.



The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County, 310 Mounts Corner Drive, Freehold, NJ (located in the Mounts Corner Shopping Center, at the Corner of Route 537 and Wemrock Road) For more information or to make a paid reservation, please call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or visit our website www.jhmomc.org

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