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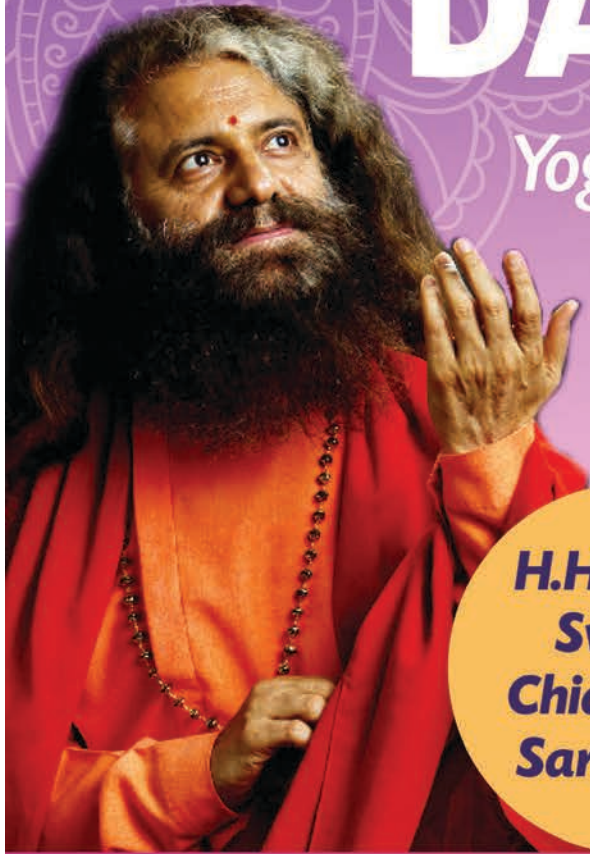
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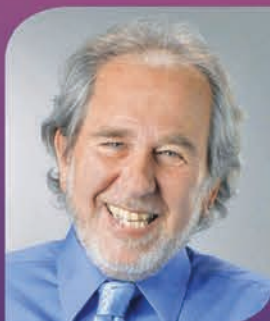
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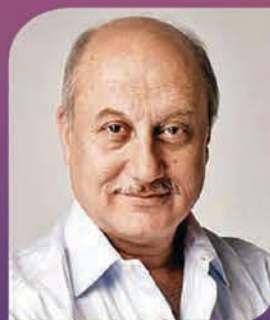
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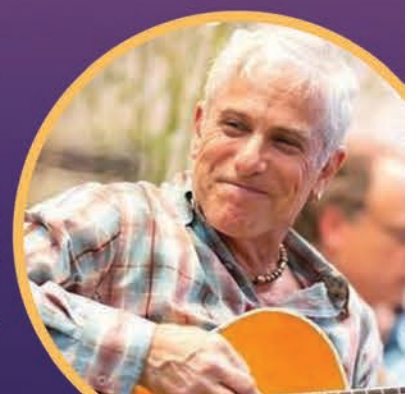
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9 Trump's Immigration Policies Explained

16 AAPI is all geared up for 35th annual convention

All Eyes on Modi-Trump Meeting on June 26

Community Reception for Modi on June 25



PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet President Trump on June 26 amid no huge expectations

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will be heading out on a three-nation tour of Portugal, USA and Netherlands from June 24 to 27, 2017. The trip comes after a recently concluded six-day four-nation trip of Europe.

In a week that promises some hectic diplomatic activity, the PM's US trip is the most anticipated one as that will see him meet US President Donald Trump for the first time. **contd on Page 32**

Dr. Neeru Chadha is the first Indian Woman Judge to be elected to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea



A distinguished lawyer and one of the leading experts on different aspects of international law in India, Dr. Neeru Chadha is the first Indian woman judge to be elected to the ITLOS

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): Dr. Neeru Chadha has become the first Indian woman to be elected as a Judge to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), for the nine-year term 2017-2026, elections for which were held today at the United Nations in New York. She is only the second ever woman Judge of ITLOS in its two decades of existence, where there have been a total of 40 Judges. **contd on Page 32**

Mueller investigating Jared Kushner's business dealings, says Washington Post

Mueller is also investigating Trump for obstruction of justice?

WASHINGTON (TIP): Amidst all kinds of rumors, including the one that Trump may feel impelled to fire the Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the fact is the Russia inquiry seems to be widening with every passing day.

The latest, according to a report published on June 15 in Washington Post citing officials familiar with the matter, is that Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating the business dealings of Trump's son-in-law and "trusted aide" Jared Kushner.

The news comes as the Justice Department continues its investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and the Trump administration's potential ties to Russia. The Washington Post report suggests that scrutiny has



Under investigation Jared Kushner has maintained a studied silence while President Trump vents his displeasure in Tweet after Tweets

been folded into the special counsel office and includes Kushner's business dealings, though it offers no details on what that scrutiny is.

The interest in Kushner's activities by the special counsel's office is no more

extensive than the FBI's interest in his multiple roles on both the Trump campaign and transition team, earlier reported by CNN. The new development Thursday appears to be that the inquiry

contd on page 32



Conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards

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IS chief may be dead, says Russia: No information to support claim: US

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia said June 16 it was verifying whether the elusive Islamic State terror group chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had been killed in a targeted Russian airstrike in strife-torn Syria last month.

The airstrike on May 28 was carried out on the outskirts of the dreaded militant group's de facto capital Raqqa, on a command post where IS leaders were holding a meeting, according to Russian state media reports.

"According to information, which is being verified via different channels, the meeting was also attended by the (IS) leader Ibrahim Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was eliminated in **contd on page 32**



The dreaded IS leader Ibrahim Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi may have been eliminated in a Russian air strike, says Russia

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Indian American former CEO faces SEC suit in California

SACRAMENTO, CA(TIP): An Indian American former CEO of Systems America Inc., has been charged for violating federal security rules by allegedly misrepresenting facts about his company and engaging in manipulative penny stock trades to boost its share price.

The 49-year-old Adesh Kumar Tyagi issued exaggerated press releases and made misleading disclosures about his company, Law360 reported quoting a complaint filed on Wednesday by the US Securities and Exchange Commission in California federal court.

"His game plan was to grow the company through acquisitions. Lacking cash, however, he engaged in a fraudulent scheme to artificially inflate the per-share price of the company's securities so that he could use Systems America stock to acquire other companies," the legal news service reported.

Systems America, which was later renamed Cloudeeva was founded by Tyagi as a privately held company in 1994. In the mid-2000s the company started falling into neglect, but, in 2010, Tyagi wanted to revive the company.

The company claimed that it has eight full-time employees and Fortune 500 clients when it actually had no full-time employees and only two clients. Tyagi also said that no officer or director of the company had been named as a defendant in a criminal proceeding when he himself had two pending criminal proceedings as a defendant.

The SEC alleges that Tyagi tried to push up his company's share price by 'marking the close' - buying the stock just before the close of the trading day at a slightly higher price than was on offer on at least 16 different dates.

According to Law360, he pleads guilty to criminal securities fraud charges brought over trading schemes in November 2016 and is scheduled for sentencing in January 2018.

SEC seeks disgorgement of the more than \$274,000 from Tyagi, which he allegedly earned through the sales of inflated stock and unspecified civil monetary penalties. It also seeks prejudgment interest, officer-and-director bar, penny stock offering bar and permanent injunctions that refrain Tyagi from participating in transactions of any security of an entity that he is related to.

Indian man arrested in Pittsburgh after row over onions

OAKLAND, PITTSBURGH (TIP): Yuba Raj Sharma, an Indian-origin man has been arrested in Oakland, Pittsburgh after he went on a violent, naked rampage, threatening to shoot staffers at an Indian eatery. According to the complaint, he got into an argument with staff because they put onions in his food.

According to the complaint, Sharma told the owner that "he was going to shoot him," and after 911 was called, Sharma pulled down his pants exposing himself while verbally taunting the owner and another staff member.

According to media reports, the 43-year-old man was arrested after the confrontation at the All India restaurant. Police charged him with terroristic threats, indecent exposure, resisting arrest and public drunkenness.

Indian origin Sameer Hasmukh in critical condition after being shot in Atlanta

ATLANTA(TIP): In yet another incident of shooting of an Indian origin man in the US, a 24-year-old man from Sundher village in Patan, Gujarat, Sameer Hasmukh Patel, was shot at in a departmental store here late on Monday, June 12 night. Sameer was shot after two suspects robbed the departmental store in which he worked, according to information available with The Indian Panorama.

Sameer was closing the store when two unknown persons barged into the store and shot at him and fled with the cash chest. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, but his condition was critical when family members spoke to his friends early June 13 morning.

A member of the family said that Sameer came to Atlanta three years ago to work at a departmental store and search for opportunities for his family members."

According to information available with The Indian Panorama, Indian Consulate in Atlanta is also in touch with the family



Adesh Tyagi issued exaggerated press releases and made misleading disclosures about his company

Indian-American entrepreneur latest self-made billionaire in Chicago

Highlights:

- Rishi Shah came with a USD 600 million infusion of venture capital into Outcome Health
- Rishi Shah's Outcome Health is now valued at \$5.6 billion
- The company took in more than \$130 million in revenue last year
- The company provides its services to medical providers for free

CHICAGO (TIP): In yet another refreshing success story, Indian-American Rishi Shah, who quit college 10 years back to pursue entrepreneurial dreams, has become tech's newest billionaire. And his business partner, Shradha Agarwal, is close behind.

Their windfall came with a US \$600 million infusion of venture capital into Outcome Health, the Chicago healthcare tech company they founded in 2006. It's now valued at US \$5.6 billion.

Shah grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook, the son of a doctor who emigrated from India; his mother managed his father's medical practice. The initial idea for a company providing content to doctor's offices was inspired, Shah says in an interview to local media, by his sister.

"My sister has type 1 diabetes," Shah says. "If she gets on an insulin pump and she is able to achieve better blood sugar control and she is checking her blood sugar more effectively, the device manufacturer wins, the insulin manufacturer wins, the blood glucometer wins, the doctor wins, but the payor wins most of all. And she wins personally."

He attended Northwestern University as a transfer student, where he met a woman named Shradha Agarwal, now Outcome's president. Originally working on a campus magazine, they eventually founded a company called ContextMedia, out of Northwestern in 2008, funding it by taking loans that have over the years reached a combined USD 325 million instead of giving up equity. Knocking on doctor's office doors around the Chicago area, the two found little appetite for their idea.

Some doctors didn't see the value in digital education in their offices; others



Indian-American entrepreneur Rishi Shah (left) and his business partner Shradha Agarwal | Rishi Shah Photo: Courtesy LinkedIn | Shradha Agarwal photo: Courtesy Twitter

who did want to see revenue to feel comfortable committing to such a fledgling product. Without signing them, however, the entrepreneurs had no revenue with which to placate them. They eked out \$1 million in revenue that first year. "Then we were off to the races," says Shah, doubling most years since. "We had to build a profitable business, or at least a break-even business, from scratch," says Shah. "We had no margin of error."

Outcome Health is not only the newest unicorn company, having earned the honor just last week, but it is also already valued in the top 30 on the list of roughly 200 non-public companies worth \$1 billion.

CEO Rishi Shah, 31 and president Shradha Agarwal founded ContextMedia in 2006 while the two were at Northwestern University. The company began to sell its video monitor services to physicians and hospitals without any outside investment.

Over the next decade, the company



grew and big-time investors noticed, but Shah and Agarwal passed up offers in order to scale organically and retain ownership. In January, the company changed its name to Outcome Health as it slowly pushed towards its first major round of funding.

According to Crain's, the company took in more than \$130 million in revenue last year and posted an operating profit margin of roughly 40%. Outcome Health doubled its revenue in each of the last two years, and it also grew with its acquisition of AccentHealth last November.

Today, Outcome Health helps both patients and doctors by providing touch screen monitors to hospitals and health care offices around the country. The company installs large, interactive video boards that allow physicians to better explain a patient's current health care needs or problems through the use of video, graphics and interactive visual aids.

Two Indian American conductors named recipients of 2017 Solti Foundation awards

EVANSTON, IL (TIP): Two Indian American conductors Roger Kalia and Sameer Patel are among nine recipients of 2017 Solti Foundation awards.

Established in 2000 to honor the memory of Sir Georg Solti by lending significant support to career-ready young American musicians, in 2004, the Foundation concentrated the focus of its award program to exclusively assist talented young American conductors early in their professional careers (its original mission was of a more general arts nature). Since then, it has awarded over \$500,000 in grants to American conductors.

Penny Van Horn, Board Chair of The Solti Foundation U.S. and Elizabeth Buccheri, Artistic and Awards Committee Chair, announced the names of the recipients of the 2017 Solti Foundation Career Assistance Awards. "The Solti Foundation U.S. is thrilled to announce the 2017 Career Assistance Award recipients," said Ms. Van Horn. "These young conductors are part of the fabric of our future musical landscape, and we are proud to identify, support and encourage these young musicians in the early stages of their classical careers."

Co-Founder and Music Director of the Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York, Assistant Conductor of the Pacific Symphony and Music Director of Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, Roger Kalia is only the second assistant conductor in the Pacific Symphony's history to have his contract extended for two additional years. A proud recipient of a 2013 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Kalia conducted the Memphis



Roger Kalia and Sameer Patel are among nine recipients of 2017 Solti Foundation awards

Symphony in 2011 after winning Second Prize in their International Conducting Competition, which led to his debut the following season and launched his professional career. In 2011 Kalia served as a fellow at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, chosen by Marin Alsop.

Associate Conductor of the San Diego Symphony, Sameer Patel also begins his tenure as Associate Conductor of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony this summer 2017. Internationally, Patel has guested with the Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Leipziger Sinfonieorchester, and Orchestra Giovanile Italiana. Recipient of a 2016 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Patel is also a Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholar. In 2013, Sameer was one of only six conductors selected by the League of American orchestras for the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview.

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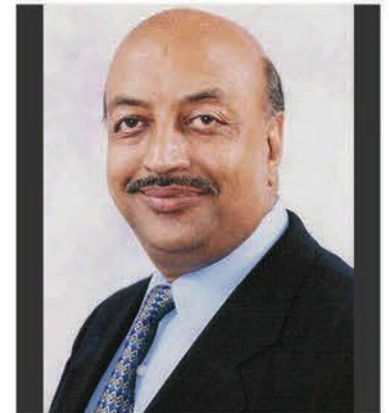
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International Day of Yoga at the United Nations to honor India's ancient tradition of Yoga: June 20th-June 21st, 2017

Spiritual luminaries, celebrity yogis, diplomats to participate
FREE Public Event Features Interactive Yoga Demos, Sacred Chanting, Meditation, Inspiring Talks, Divine Music, & Much More

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): More than 1,000 people are expected to participate in the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations in New York City on June 20th-21st, celebrating the ancient tradition of Yoga brought to the West from India.

This historic gathering will be led by one of India's most revered and beloved Spiritual Leaders, His Holiness Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Co-Founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), along with Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Director of the International Yoga Festival at Parmarth Niketan, and Secretary General of GIWA. Both luminaries, known for their altruism and global interfaith endeavors, have curated some of today's leading yoga talent to join them in illuminating the myriad gifts yoga brings to the world.

This unprecedented spiritual gathering features most renowned yoga experts including: Jivamukti's Sharon Gannon; Off the Mat founder Seane Corn; Kundalini Yoga Master Gur-mukh Kaur Khalsa; Former All-Pro NFL Player turned Yogi Keith Mitchell, who will join Kirtan Master Jai Uttal; spoken word artist and social media phenom Prince; author/scientist well-known for bridging science and spirituality Dr. Bruce Lipton and famed Indian actor Anupam Kher. They will be joined by representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as, UN delegates, ambassadors and dignitaries from around the world.

Organized by the Indian Mission to the UN, this FREE event is open to the general public and it's expected to gather nearly 2000 people, united in the mission to create a more peaceful world through the "true" practice of yoga, which extends beyond the mere physical practice of asanas.

According to Swami Chidanand Saraswati, "During International Yoga Day, the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, and people from New York to New Zealand will similarly be reaching to the sky with Yogic techniques developed by India's ancient sages to ease the pains, strains and stresses of daily life. How symbolic then, that the United Nations will be holding this unifying event on its very lawn, for all to participate and appreciate. With so much turmoil, conflict and challenges in our world today, Yoga is the key to a healthier, happier and more harmonious future."

Swamiji is the President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), one of India's largest and most well-known spiritual institutions, based on the banks of the holy River Ganga in the lap of the Himalayas. Parmarth has welcomed royalty, celebrities and international dignitaries from Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla to Macklemore and Uma Thurman and so many other eminent dignitaries, providing a spiritual haven serving the wellbeing of all.

International Day of Yoga UN Event Highlights include:

Tuesday, June 20th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm (North Lawn of the United Nations Headquarters)

This celebration will include yoga classes, yoga dances, meditation, chanting, as well as, inspiring messages on the true meaning of yoga:

- Dynamic yoga classes with three of America's most renowned yoga experts: Seane Corn, Sharon Gannon and Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa.
- Sacred Vedic Chanting and singing with Kirtan artist and Grammy® Nominee Jai Uttal
- Meditation to expand our consciousness with Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati
- Spoken Word Poetry by Prince Ea.
- Inspiring Message on the meaning of yoga and simple pranayama with Swami Chidanand Saraswati
- Unity Pledge & Dedication ceremony honoring the true spirit of Yoga with leading New York Metro area Yoga Teachers.

Wednesday, June 21st from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. (ECOSOC Chamber / United Nations Headquarters.)

An informative panel discussion, followed by audience Q&A on Yoga & Health featuring:

- Swami Chidanand Saraswati (President of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, India and Founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Divine Shakti Foundation).
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati (President of the Divine Shakti Foundation, Secretary-General of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and



Director of the International Yoga Festival).

- Dr. Bruce Lipton (scientist and bestselling author of The Biology of Belief).
- Keith Mitchell (former All-Pro NFL Football Player turned Yogi).
- Anupam Kher (famous Bollywood Actor).
- Dr. Nata Menabde, Executive Director of WHO Office at the United Nations.
- Swami Sivadasananda, Executive Board Member of International Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centres.
- Mr. Stanton Kawer, CEO, Blue Chip Marketing WorldWide.

REGISTRATION:

To attend this prestigious FREE event, RSVP is required (For UN Security). Please register at: tinyurl.com/IntlYogaDay-UN. Note that this registration will close on Thursday night.

2017 OUTSTANDING 50 ASIAN AMERICANS IN BUSINESS AWARD

NEW YORK, N.Y. (TIP): The 16th annual Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Awards Dinner Gala will be held on June 20th at Cipriani Wall Street in New York. This year the top Pinnacle Awardee is Don H. Liu, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary for Target Corporation.

As in past years, the Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award Gala will include a wide array of Asian ethnicities that represent a microcosm of elite Asian American business owners, professionals and corporate executives across the United States. The award committee identifies and selects outstanding leaders who have built a successful business or who have distinguished themselves in their community. Of those, the committee also identifies top Pinnacle Award recipients who have reached the acme of their professional career and are widely acknowledged as leaders in their industry. This year, the award gala will cumulatively have honored over 700 successful Asian Americans representing over 50 industries and professions. In recognizing this year's role models from the Asian American business community, John Wang, president of AABDC is also highlighting the emergence of the New Majority as America's ethnic minorities are poised to become the biggest combined demographic bloc in coming years.

"We're proud to honor high-achieving Asian Americans in business, and excited to join with Latino, African American to form the new Mainstream Economy," Mr. Wang said. The Keynote speaker is JuE Wong, former President of Elizabeth Arden, and accomplished global corporate executive and board member.

The Asian American Business Development Center, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1994. It assists Asian American businesses in strengthening their capacity to compete in the mainstream market, to expand business opportunities and to promote recognition of Asian American businesses' contributions to the general economy. For more information: AABDC: www.aabdc.com Outstanding 50 Awards: www.outstanding50award.com

MS-13 is Targeting New York for more bloodshed, say authorities

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): The recent spate of murders attributed to the MS-13 gang on Long Island is no accident - but rather the result of a sick directive from higher-ups in El Salvador for bloodshed in the Empire State, law enforcement revealed Thursday, June 15, says a New York Post report.

MS-13 honchos in El Salvador have "implemented the 'New York Program,' which mandates an increase of violence and bloodshed in New York," Nassau DA Madeline Singas revealed Thursday.

Singas made the chilling remarks at a press conference to announce the arrests of dozens of reputed MS-13 gang members as part of a 41-person indictment.

The defendants are responsible for 32 violent acts in Nassau, including eight attempted murders, she said.

MS-13 is suspected of being behind the brutal Long Island killings of four young men whose

bodies were discovered in a wooded area in Central Islip in April. The gang is also believed to be behind the savage deaths of best friends Nisa Mickens, 15, and Kayla Cuevas, 16, around Brentwood in September.

Multiple incidents alleged in Thursday's indictment involve handguns and machetes, the latter of which is MS-13's weapon of choice, Singas said.

"MS-13 has terrorized communities, killed innocent people, and stolen the childhoods of the vulnerable young people they recruit to join their ranks," Singas said. "We will be unrelenting in our efforts to stop MS-13 from recruiting in our schools and spilling blood in our streets."

MS-13 has also been a target for President Donald Trump and US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who have vowed to eradicate the violent group.

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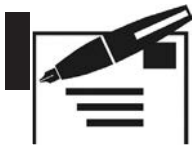
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GUEST COMMENT

MODI IN USA: LOW PECKING ORDER BUT HIGH HOPES

In the hierarchical approach to the world order, the scheduling of appointments with the new monarch gives a fair idea about the pecking arrangement. PM Narendra Modi gets to meet US President Donald Trump towards this month end. India's adversary China and budding allies Japan and Israel have already been given the full treatment early on: Xi Jinping spent two days at the Trump "Winter White House", Shinzo Abe played golf while Benjamin Netanyahu arrived when the paint was wet on the new nameplates in Washington DC. In contrast, Modi gets to meet Trump after several middle-level Asian leaders - of Vietnam, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey - have called on the US President and some others met him in Riyadh. Consider Trump's Saudi Arabia visit, and a fair idea emerges about India's place in the new US administration's worldview.

Generally, there are two items in a high-voltage diplomatic tete-a-tete: inventive photo ops and the agenda on the table. It will be worth watching if Modi's protocol managers are resourceful enough to conjure a better photo opportunity than the ones afforded to Abe and Xi. After all, despite slowly getting hyphenated with its restive neighbors (US Defense Secretary Mattis was the latest to link Afghanistan with Indo-Pak tensions), visuals of Trump-Modi bantering may be necessary to subdue sceptics about India's meandering and event-based foreign policy.

In Washington, Modi should come into his own when he sits across the table for discussions with Trump as both are firm believers in transactional relationships - but their national priorities are bound to clash. India needs the US to overcome its technological backwardness in cutting-edge sectors with Make-in-India as well as maintain its annual intake of Indian software engineers. The US, on the other hand, is on the lookout for countries that can take up policing on its behalf on distant shores and be a readymade market for "America First" products. PM Modi's predecessor had pulled off the nuclear deal. Modi, the self-acknowledged deal-maker, will be on test as he seeks to break down Trump's resistance to visas and Make-in-India.

(Tribune India)

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AS I SEE IT

Retrieving ground in Afghanistan



By Rakesh Sood

The legitimacy of its institutions, including the unity government and the security forces, must be enhanced

First week of June provided a grim reminder of the worsening security situation in Afghanistan. A suicide attack on May 31 in the heart of Kabul, with a truck bomb containing 1,500 kg of explosives, has left more than 150 persons dead and hundreds injured. No one has claimed responsibility and the Taliban issued a statement denying any involvement. Afghan intelligence have blamed the Haqqani network working together with the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence, a charge vehemently rejected by the Pakistani government.

Two days later when over a thousand people collected near the site, the mood of the demonstrators was anti-government. Banners and slogans were raised calling on the government to resign. As the demonstrators moved towards the presidential palace, police used water cannons and tear gas to break up the crowd. According to the police, some protesters were armed and began shooting, forcing the police to retaliate. Half a dozen protesters were killed. Among them was Salim Izadyar, son of Mohammed Alam Izadyar, a prominent Tajik and the Deputy Speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House).

Fault lines exposed

The following day, on June 3, at Izadyar's funeral, three suicide attackers blew themselves up killing more than 20 and injuring over a hundred mourners. Among those present were Chief Executive Abdullah, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and former intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh, who escaped any injuries. A fourth attacker was nabbed and has admitted to having been recruited and trained by the Taliban in Quetta.

Coming in quick succession, these events have exposed the weaknesses of the National Unity Government (NUG), emboldening the opposition. Dr. Abdullah has appealed for calm and said that if it helps, he is ready to step down. It is clear that his support base has eroded. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Rabbani hinted at conspiracies. Protesters have pitched a tent outside the hospital in the area, which has become a focal point for speeches by Tajik leaders, including former Vice-President Ahmad Zia Massoud, who hold the Pashtun-dominated government of President Ashraf Ghani responsible. The Tajik-led Jamiat is now reaching out to other ethnic groups, Uzbeks and the Hazaras. Meanwhile, Uzbek leader and Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum left for Turkey last month for 'medical treatment' following growing public criticism after his security guards sexually assaulted a political rival.

The NUG agreement, concluded in September 2014, with strong backing of the U.S., was more than just a means of resolving the electoral dispute between the two candidates, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah. It was a power-sharing

arrangement between the Pashtuns who have traditionally ruled Afghanistan and the non-Pashtuns (Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras). The creation of the post of the Chief Executive, to be converted into the position of a Prime Minister within two years, was an attempt at moving away from the highly centralized presidential system introduced in 2003 towards a more federal arrangement. In 2003 too, the Northern Alliance had demanded the position of a PM but had to be content with the compromise of a President and two Vice-Presidents on the tacit understanding that the two Vice-Presidents would come from the smaller ethnic groups. The U.S. had strongly backed the idea of a strong American-style presidency, overlooking the fact that the institutional checks and balances of the U.S. system were missing in the war-ravaged country.

The constitutional amendment for converting the position of the CEO into that of PM is still pending as parliamentary elections which were due in 2015 have not taken place; these elections were to be preceded by changes in the election procedures which were to be worked out by a special commission that would, in turn, be approved by a newly constituted Independent Election Commission. With this process having come to a halt and a change of administration in Washington, differences between President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah today can no longer be patched up. They keep erupting, reflecting a governance structure that is both under internal strain and external attack by the Taliban. The visible anti-government sentiment is a worrying sign.

Deteriorating security

There is talk about pushing through a parliamentary election next year and advancing the presidential election by a year (it is due in 2019) to save costs. However, the deteriorating situation raises questions about the feasibility of elections. Today, less than 60% of Afghanistan's territory is under government control; the rest is either contested by or under the Taliban. While putting its weight behind the NUG in 2014, the Obama administration also backed the idea of 'a lasting political settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban'. To this end, he announced that 8,400 U.S. troops would stay on in Afghanistan (together with another 5,000 from NATO partners) in an 'assist, advise and train' mission.

The Trump administration has yet to announce its policy though indications are it might authorize an increase of 3,000-5,000 in U.S. troop levels. This is the figure mentioned by General John Nicholson in his testimony to the U.S. Congress in February and has been supported by both Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster. Gen. Nicholson described the current situation as a 'stalemate' which needed to be tilted in favor of the Afghan security forces. Like

his predecessors, he too held Pakistan responsible for the Taliban's successes, pointing out that eliminating external sanctuary and support is essential to the success of the mission. Yet, other than calling for a 'holistic response', he failed to specify what this would entail.

Since the U.S. has been unable to change Pakistan's behavior despite having provided nearly \$34 billion in economic and military assistance since 2002 accompanied by occasional threats to suspend or withhold the funds, enhancing capability of the Afghan security forces remains the only option. This means strengthening the Special Forces in both the Army and the Police as these are most effective in fighting the insurgency and providing air power and artillery. The U.S. provides \$3.4 billion out of the NATO's annual support of \$4 billion for the Afghan National Security Forces. In addition, it spends nearly \$18 billion on maintaining its troop presence (it costs slightly more than \$2 million a year to deploy a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan). In comparison, raising and equipping a brigade of Special Forces would cost a billion dollars a year. Therefore Gen. Nicholson's idea of a slight increase in international troop presence can only work only if it is coupled with practical ways of enhancing Afghan capabilities.

Mirage of reconciliation

In recent years, numerous initiatives to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table have been attempted. A Taliban office in Doha was intended to get the Taliban negotiators away from the ISI's control but turned out to be a non-starter. The four-country quadrilateral group involving China along with Pakistan, the U.S. and Afghanistan came to an abrupt end when it was revealed that Mullah Omar was no longer alive and had died, possibly two years earlier. Russia is now promoting the idea of talks by playing up the idea of the larger threat of the Islamic State that has emerged in eastern Afghanistan in Nangarhar province though this has failed to carry much traction with the Afghan authorities. President Ghani is putting his faith in a new regional initiative, similar in composition to the Heart of Asia process. If the past is any guide, none of these will yield any concrete benefits because unless the ground situation is materially altered, any talk of reconciliation with the Taliban remains premature and ends up conveying mixed signals, to the Afghans, the Taliban and Pakistan.

If the gains of the last fifteen years are to be preserved, the only option is to enhance legitimacy of the Afghan institutions: the NUG, the election process and the Afghan National Security Forces.

(The author is a former Ambassador to Afghanistan and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. He can be reached at rakeshsood2001@yahoo.com)

Trump's Immigration Policies Explained

President Trump has directed his administration to enforce the nation's immigration laws more aggressively, unleashing the full force of the federal government to find, arrest and deport those in the country illegally, regardless of whether they have committed serious crimes.

The Department of Homeland Security released documents detailing the plans, which include:

- Publicizing crimes by undocumented immigrants
- Stripping such immigrants of privacy protections
- Enlisting local police officers as enforcers
- Erecting new detention facilities
- Discouraging asylum seekers
- Speeding up deportations

With an executive order and a pair of Department of Homeland Security memos, the Trump administration has significantly hardened the country's policies regarding illegal immigration. Here are some of the most significant elements of the new approach:

WHO WILL BE DEPORTED: In 2014, the Obama administration issued guidelines for deporting unauthorized immigrants that placed the highest priority on gang members, felons and those who posed security threats. A goal was to concentrate limited resources on the most serious cases, but many Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents complained that the priorities tied their hands, taking away their discretion as to whom to pursue.

Under the new directives, the government "no longer will exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement." Immigration agents can now focus on picking up and removing anyone charged with or convicted of any criminal offense, even minor ones, as well as anyone already ordered deported, regardless of whether they have a criminal record.

One unauthorized immigrant in California, Kristina, who did not want her last name used because of fear of deportation, said she was alarmed to learn on Tuesday that she would now be considered a prime target. Kristina has been in the country for 25 years and has been ordered deported, but her removal had been postponed for the last four years by the Obama administration. "We have our whole lives here; our children are citizens," she said. "Now I don't know if I can go out, if I should drive."

But the Obama guidelines "translated into de facto protections" for people with no legal right to live in the United States, said Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which opposes legalization for unauthorized immigrants. Unless they fell into one of the high-priority categories, Mr. Stein said, "the chance of being deported was virtually zero."

'CATCH AND RELEASE': Under the Obama administration, people caught crossing the border without permission were often released into the United States while their requests for asylum wound through the immigration system, a process that can take years. Most requests are denied, but by then, the immigrant has been living in the United States all that time and may not be easy to find.

The Trump administration has declared an end to the so-called catch and release policy, though it may take awhile to see any significant change. "Catch and release" came about in part because the government had nowhere to hold detainees waiting for immigration decisions. One of the memos released on Tuesday directs officials to expand detention facilities, but it will take time to build centers big enough, or find enough room in jails, to hold the thousands of Mexican and Central American asylum seekers expected to cross the border this year.

The document also raises another alternative: sending migrants back to Mexico to wait out the immigration process, even those who are not originally from Mexico. That proposal comes with its own problems. Though United States law appears to allow it, Mexico's laws do not, if the immigrant is not a Mexican citizen.

NO JUDGE REQUIRED: Two decades ago, Congress passed a law allowing the government to quickly deport undocumented immigrants who have not been in the United States very long, without allowing them to go before a judge.

In practice, the government has used this process, called "expedited removal," relatively narrowly because of concerns about whether it violates constitutional rights of due process that are granted to anyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status. Since 2002, expedited removal has been applied only to immigrants who have been in the country less than two weeks and were caught within 100 miles of the border. That is because the Supreme Court has held that such immigrants can still be considered "in transit" and not here long enough to qualify for due process protections.

The Trump administration is now planning to use expedited



Foreign nationals were arrested during the week of February 6, 2017, during a targeted enforcement operation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Photo courtesy U.S. Immigration and Customs

removal as extensively as the original law allows, saying that limits on its use had contributed to a backlog of more than half a million cases in immigration court.

Immigration advocates vowed to challenge the change.

"Someone could be living in Chicago for a year and a half and then be swept off the street by an ICE agent," said Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the A.C.L.U.'s Immigrants' Rights Project, referring to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. "He is going to be detained and removed right away without ever seeing a judge."

CHILDREN TRAVELING ALONE: One of the memos on Tuesday acknowledges that children who arrive at the border alone - "unaccompanied alien children," in government parlance - are entitled to special protections: Unlike other border crossers, whom border patrol agents may deport without a legal hearing, these children must appear before an immigration judge and be interviewed by an asylum officer. Children have surged across the border in recent years, many fleeing violence and destitution in Central America.

But the memo turns a sterner face to their parents, who, under the new policy, may be subject to deportation or even prosecution for enabling their children to come into the country.

The memo notes that parents and relatives often pay smugglers several thousand dollars to bring their children from Central America, an act that the memo says amounts to facilitating illegal smuggling or trafficking.

Immigration advocates are predicting that the policy will drive parents of migrant children further underground. With parents fearful of prosecution, advocates say, navigating the immigration process - or even showing up to court - could become much harder for these children.

Some 750,000 people who were brought into the country as children were issued work permits and temporary protection from deportation under an Obama program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. Even President Trump said last week that the subject "is very, very difficult" for him and that he promised to "deal with DACA with heart."

So far, the Trump administration has left the program alone. But chills went through the community of "Dreamers," as DACA recipients are known, with the recent arrest of a 23-year-old Mexican immigrant in Washington State, Daniel Ramirez. Immigration agents arrested him when he went to his house to detain his father, a convicted drug trafficker. They said Mr. Ramirez admitted to having gang affiliations, which cancels the protection offered under DACA. But Mr. Ramirez denies having made the admission, and his lawyers are fighting his deportation.

Role of local police: A program known as 287(g), named for its section of the Immigration and Nationality Act, allows the Department of Homeland Security to train local and state law enforcement officers to work as de facto federal immigration officers, identifying undocumented immigrants in their communities and jails and turning them over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

From 2006 to 2013, the program led to 175,000 deportations, according to federal statistics. But investigations and court rulings revealed an ugly side effect: In some jurisdictions, local officers were using their authority to racially profile Latinos. One of the most egregious cases was in Maricopa County, Arizona's most populous, during the tenure of Sheriff Joseph Arpaio, who a federal judge ruled had discriminated against Latinos in patrols and other enforcement efforts.

The Obama administration curtailed the use of the program, which currently involves 32 agencies in 16 states. The Trump administration wants more agencies to take part, and some

have already expressed a desire to do so.

STATISTICS AND SANCTUARIES: The administration is trying to significantly expand the amount of information available on the enforcement of immigration laws and, in particular, unauthorized immigrants who commit crimes. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will establish a new office to work with the victims of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants, some of whom appeared with Mr. Trump on the campaign trail.

The office, known as Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement, or Voice, will provide victims with information about defendants' immigration status and whether they are in jail. Significantly, funding for the office comes from reallocating "any and all resources that are currently used to advocate on behalf of illegal aliens" by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE will now have to provide monthly public reports on its apprehensions and releases. The agency also has to publish a weekly report about state and local authorities that release undocumented immigrants from jails. That is a clear shot across the bow at so-called sanctuary cities that limit their cooperation with federal immigration authorities, contending that turning in unauthorized immigrants would destroy the fragile relationship that the police have with immigrant communities.

"We are going to continue our policy that has been in place because we think that it helps us have a safer, stronger, better community," Mayor Stephanie A. Miner of Syracuse said on Tuesday.

The Trump administration is already pondering ways to punish those cities by denying them some federal aid.

"Now everyone is going to be able to see how many criminal aliens are being released as a result of the sanctuary policies," said Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports tighter controls on immigration.

NO PRIVACY: In January 2009, the departing Bush administration extended some Privacy Act rights, which American citizens and legal permanent residents already had, to undocumented immigrants. That meant that information obtained by one agency, like the Internal Revenue Service or Citizenship and Immigration Services, could not generally be shared with other agencies, like Immigration and Customs Enforcement. One rationale for the move was to protect the personal information of immigrants who might one day become citizens covered by the Privacy Act.

The Trump administration has now rescinded those privacy protections. One of the memos released on Tuesday said that those protections had been detrimental to the families of the victims of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants, because those families could not get information about such defendants' legal status, or whether they had been deported, leaving victims "feeling marginalized and without a voice."

The Department of Homeland Security said it would develop new rules on the sharing of undocumented immigrants' private information. But advocates for unauthorized immigrants said they feared that immigrants who had applied for legal status - in the process divulging they were not here legally - were now in danger of having that information used to deport them.

"The constitution doesn't traditionally allow bait and switches," said Thomas A. Saenz, the president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, an organization that advocates for immigrants. "These are folks who submitted their information attempting to play by the rules, with part of the rules being that the government would protect their privacy."

BEEFED-UP FORCE: The memos released on Tuesday repeat Mr. Trump's demand in his executive order for a larger enforcement force that can speed up the removal of millions of undocumented immigrants from the United States.

In practice, that may play out more slowly than the president might prefer. The source of this caution is none other than John F. Kelly, the homeland security secretary, who told lawmakers this month that he did not believe it would be possible to hire the desired 15,000 ICE and border patrol agents in the next couple of years. "I'd rather have fewer and make sure that they're high-quality people," Mr. Kelly told lawmakers. "I will not skimp on the training and the standards."

On top of the stringent hiring standards and training, Border Patrol applicants are required to take a polygraph test, which nearly 60 percent fail. A previous surge in hiring under President George W. Bush resulted in dozens of corruption cases, with Border Patrol and other agents accused of taking bribes and providing information to Mexican drug cartels.

(The Indian Panorama Bureau compilation)

Nawaz Sharif retains billionaire status despite decline in fortune

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has retained his billionaire status with his declared assets standing at Rs 1.72 billion in 2016 despite decline in his fortune, making him one of the richest lawmakers in the country.

Sharif continues to receive substantial amounts from his son Hussain who is doing business in Saudi Arabia despite a controversy surrounding the Panama Papers Leaks that dragged the ruling family to the courts.

According to the statements of assets of lawmakers, released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) yesterday, the prime minister owned assets worth Rs 261.6 million in 2012, but that saw a six-fold increase and reached Rs 1.82 billion in 2013 -- the first year of his third stint as the country's chief executive, making him a declared billionaire for the first time.

In 2014, his assets crossed the two billion-mark, but in 2015 declined slightly to Rs 1.96 billion. Earlier in 2011, he owned assets worth Rs 166 million, the Dawn reported.

The value of his assets has further declined to Rs 1.72 billion in the year that ended on June 30, 2016.

Sharif owns a Toyota Land Cruiser, gifted to him by an unspecified individual, as well as two Mercedes cars.

The house he lives in is owned by his mother and he has multiple foreign and local currency accounts, huge swathes of agricultural land and investments in industrial units such as sugar, textile and paper mills.

Sharif declared in 2015 for the first time ownership of birds and animals worth Rs 2 million, which are valued at Rs 5 million, the daily said.

The Sharif family's estate in Raiwind is priced at Rs 4 million, while his property in Lahore's Upper Mall area is said to be worth over Rs 250 million.

The prime minister is one of the richest lawmakers of the country. (PTI)

Suicide bomber strikes near Shiite mosque in Kabul, 4 dead

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (TIP): A suicide bomber struck outside a Shiite mosque in the Afghan capital Kabul late Thursday night, killing four people, including a leader of Afghanistan's ethnic Hazaras, Hajji Ramazan Hussainzada. Another five people were wounded, said Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish.

Danish said there was gunfire outside the mosque as the suicide bomber tried to force his way inside, but he was stopped by a police officer, who died in the explosion. Another policeman was wounded.

The US-based SITE, which tracks the online activity of extremist organizations, said the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack through its Amaq news agency. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim, however the IS affiliate in Afghanistan has taken responsibility for past attacks against the country's minority Shiites.

Last year IS claimed an attack on a Shiite shrine that killed 14 people.

Muslims are observing the holy month of Ramadan, during which the faithful fast from sunrise to sunset and mosques are typically crowded in the evening hours.

Kabul has been battered by violence in recent weeks. The worst attack in Afghanistan's 16-year war took place on May 31 when a massive truck bomb exploded at a busy intersection in Kabul, killing more than 150 people. (AP)

Rescuers aid 4,500 homeless after deadly Bangladesh mudslide

DHAKA (TIP): Rescuers recovered the body of a woman from the mass of mud that collapsed onto a village in southeastern Bangladesh, and were searching on Thursday for several more missing after landslides killed at least 141, officials said.

Officials said the six or so people were still missing in the worst-hit region of Rangamati.

"We will continue our search and rescue program today, said Jasim Uddin, a deputy director of the fire department in the worst-hit district. "We are looking for them."

The government, meanwhile, turned its focus to providing food and other aid to some 4,500 people whose homes were swamped by mud and debris unleashed by the landslides on Tuesday.

Families were also receiving cash and materials to help them build new homes. (AP)

Pak's action against terror funding only on paper, India to tell watchdog

ISLAMABAD (TIP): On Sunday, India will take on Pakistan in the final of the ICC Champions Trophy in London. The same day, in Valencia in Spain, it will be a contest of a different sort as the government sets about exposing Pakistan for "hoodwinking" the international community on "terror funding" and not taking any action against Jamaat-ud-Dawa and its arms when the plenary meet of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the international terror financing watchdog, begins.

An Indian delegation headed by Enforcement Directorate chief Karnal Singh will brief the forum, where 198 member countries and the UN, IMF and World Bank will discuss ways to counter terror financing.

India, according to top government sources, has prepared a detailed report on Pakistan which names the country for supporting the funding activities of banned outfits like JuD, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and others, operating freely from Pakistani soil.

Not just that, India will also inform the international community in the FATF plenary, to be held from June 18 to 23, that JuD has not just increased its activities in Pakistan but also spread its tentacles to Yemen, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and other countries.

Sources said FATF will be informed that Pakistan's action against terror outfits like JuD/LeT and its chief Hafiz Saeed was nothing but "paper activity" which was devoid of any ground work and was meant to "hoodwink the international community".

Based on intelligence collected by Indian agencies, it will be informed that Pakistan had seized only 69 accounts of JuD and its front Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) in 15 years, which was "nothing" and showed Pakistan's true intent about taking action against terror



outfits. India is also armed with more details about the current activities of Saeed, his organisations in Pakistan and beyond.

"JuD, FIF and its student wing Al-Muhammadiya Students (AMS) have indulged in organising lectures, rallies, meetings, fund raising activities and recruiting youngsters to take up jihad against India.

Global terrorists Hafiz Saeed, Abdul Rehman Makki and others of JuD are openly engaged in these activities apart from funeral prayers for terrorists who are sent to India to attack security forces and are killed, but Pakistan has allowed them to continue their activities," a senior home ministry official said.

On the basis of inputs shared by the NIA and other agencies, India will inform international delegates that Pakistan has not taken any action against the perpetrators of 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the January 2016 attack on an IAF base in Pathankot

despite sharing all evidence with it.

During its last meeting, the FATF had slammed Pakistan for not blocking the financial routes of JuD and its affiliates.

"Pakistan, if it doesn't take any action, faces the risk of being named a major defaulter of counter-terrorism measures," a government official said.

Islamabad had taken several measures, including taking over management of UNSCR 1267 designated organisations LeT and its charitable arms — FIF and JuD — and appointing an administrator from Punjab (Pakistan) government to oversee their operations apart from freezing some bank accounts related to individuals and entities associated with LeT, JuD and FIF, banning advertisements seeking funds in the name of charity and holding public rallies.

It had also blocked websites and telephone services for raising funds. However, India maintains that all this was mere "eyewash". (PTI)

Panama Papers leaks: Pakistan PM Sharif says he and his family have done nothing wrong

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Embattled Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today said he and his family have done nothing wrong as he lashed out at "some unseen elements" for hatching conspiracies against his democratically-elected government.

"Today, I have just presented my stance before the JIT," Sharif told reporters after appearing before the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing his family's alleged corruption as was reported by the Panama Papers leaks.

The 67-year-old PML-N leader, who became Pakistan's first sitting premier to depose before such a panel, said that these allegations have nothing to do with his tenure as the prime minister and are not charges of corruption.

"It should be noted that these allegations have nothing to do with my tenure as the prime minister and are not charges of corruption. They are charges against me and my family on a personal



level about the family business," Sharif said after nearly three hours of questioning by the six-member team.

He said as former chief minister and now third time prime minister, he approved projects worth trillions of rupees but "my opponents could not accuse me of any wrongdoing."

Sharif said he and his family have repeatedly been subjected to merciless accountability but no allegation of corruption had ever been proved.

"My opponents have levied charges of corruption against me, however, neither in the past, nor in the present, have any charges of corruption been proved against me and my family."

He expressed confidence that the outcome of the ongoing inquiry would not be different as he and his family have done nothing wrong.

He also accused that "some unseen elements were hatching conspiracies against him and the democracy which would damage" the country.

"All conspiracies of our political opponents will fail," he said.

The JIT chief Wajid Zia had summoned the prime minister to appear before the probe team on June 15 with all documents relevant to the case.

The summons was issued to Sharif, 67, after he returned last Saturday from Kazakhstan where he had attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. (PTI)

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Prior to upcoming visit by PM Modi, USINPAC does outreach with the Trump Administration



USINPAC Indiana Chair Raju Chinthala was among the Key participants

WASHINGTON (TIP): As part of its ongoing strategic dialogue at Capitol Hill, The US India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) held a meeting with members of the Trump-Pence administration. Key participants at the dialogue were Raju Chinthala, USINPAC Indiana Chair, who met with Micheal Cutrone, the Special Advisor to the Vice President for South and Central Asia and Mr. Paul Teller, the Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. In light of the upcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the nation and his meeting with President Trump, USINPAC was keen to provide valuable insight on matters pertaining to Indian Americans.

This will be Prime Minister Modi's first to Washington under the Trump administration. Unlike his past meetings this current visit will be singularly focused on bilateral relations. The Modi-Trump meet also comes at a time when the H1-B visa program is under intense scrutiny and President Trump has announced to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords last week. President Trump had then called out India and China for being some of the world's biggest polluters and had alleged that under the Climate accord the US would have to pay India 'billions and billions of dollars.' The Indian government is looking forward to smoothening out any wrinkles with the new administration, regarding immigration reform and reaffirm the US-India partnership in the spheres of international diplomacy and Defense & Security in the region.

Press Secretary Sean Spicer, in a press briefing announced: "President Trump looks forward to discussing the ways to strengthen our ties between the United States and India and advancing our common priorities fighting terrorism, promoting economic growth and reforms and expanding security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region."

Raju Chinthala remarked, "We had a very cordial and productive meeting with the Trump-Pence administration on various domestic and international issues. USINPAC will continue to develop dialogue between the US and India to strengthen our alliance and take it to the next level."

Trump govt cancels Obama policy for illegal immigrant families

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration announced on Thursday that it is cancelling an Obama-era policy to allow millions of illegal-immigrant parents of children born in the United States to stay in the country.

The 2014 policy, known as DAPA, for Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, aimed to help the families of so-called "dreamer" children stay together free from the threat of deportation.

It was never implemented after 26 states successfully sued in a Texas federal district court to block it. The US Supreme Court let the lower court ruling stand last year after a four-four tie vote. Set out in a memo from the administration of then-president Barack Obama, the policy said the government would defer any action against illegal immigrant parents of children who are lawful permanent residents - mainly those born in the country to parents without legal status.

DAPA would have affected as many as four million people by some estimates, those with US-born children who were in the country before 2010. But the Department of Homeland Security announced it was rescinding the policy with the support of the Justice Department. DHS Secretary John Kelly explained the move saying "there is no credible path forward to litigate the currently enjoined policy." (AFP)

Cut Pakistan aid for supporting terror: 2 US lawmakers to Trump administration

WASHINGTON (TIP): Two top lawmakers have accused Pakistan of supporting terrorism and urged the Trump administration to cut military aid to the country, saying the US should make it more difficult for Islamabad to get its hands on American weapons.

During a Congressional hearing this week, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Ted Poe, alleged that Pakistan is engaged in terrorism and asserted that the US needs to cut its military assistance to it.

"We need to go on the record here, on this part of our government, to say that we're not going to be providing weapons to countries like Pakistan that we're afraid will shoot down our own people and afraid we know they're engaged in terrorism," Rohrabacher said during a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-proliferation and Trade hearing on Foreign Military Sales.

"We know what they've done now. They still hold Dr. Afridi (who helped locate Osama bin Laden)...in a dungeon," he said.

"We should be facilitating our support and our weapons systems to countries like Egypt that are fighting this threat to Western civilisation, to all of civilisation. And we should make it more difficult not less difficult for countries like Pakistan to get their hands on American weapons," Rohrabacher asserted.

Congressman Ted Poe, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-proliferation and Trade, said that the US is having the issue with Pakistan whether "they're loyal or playing us for years on the issue of aid" to Pakistan and sales to Pakistan.



"We were concerned about the Pakistanis scrambling F-16s that we made and sold to the Pakistanis so that they wouldn't shoot down Americans who were doing the job of taking out this terrorist. I personally think Pakistan plays the United States because they turn to China if we don't help them," Poe said.

"I understand all that. They have nuclear weapons and we want to have a relationship with them so that they don't look to China. I get all that. But are we doing anything different on sales to Pakistan to make sure those sales of whatever it is aren't used against us directly or used against us indirectly because of the military helping the Taliban in Afghanistan where we have our troops and those weapons could be used against the United States?" he asked. "Are we doing anything different to make sure that doesn't happen or are we still using the same formula," Poe questioned.

Tina Kaidanow, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Political-Military Affairs, told lawmakers that with Pakistan the United States has a robust end use monitoring programme, to ensure that the items that it provides to them are used appropriately and within the boundaries of what the US has asked them to accomplish.

"We regard Pakistan as an important partner on counter-terrorism issues. They will be essential in bringing the Afghan Taliban to the table for peace talks. There are a number of things where we need their cooperation and their assistance," Kaidanow said.

"We do want to help them on the counter-terrorism front. But on the other hand, again, we have very big concerns that we continuously front with them on support for Haqqani, on support for other things. This has been made clear to the Pakistani government at the highest levels," the senior State Department official said. (PTI)

US Pacific Commander Harris expected to step down next year

WASHINGTON (TIP): Admiral Harry Harris, the US Pacific military chief known for combative views on Beijing's South China Sea expansion, is expected to step down next year, US officials said on Friday, leaving President Donald Trump to fill a key post closely watched by China.

Harris, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, could end his term as head of Pacific Command (PACOM) after three years in May, two sources with knowledge of the potential change told Reuters. Most PACOM commanders serve three years but there is no official term limit.

A US official said that while the timing could be right, the process of replacing Harris - starting with a nomination to the Senate Armed Services Committee - had not yet begun.

"That definitely hasn't happened," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I would guess it maybe happens in the winter sometime."

"This is pure speculation, and no decisions have been made regarding the transition timing for the next commander," chief PACOM spokesman Captain Darryn James said.

"That said, the usual transition for combatant commanders is around the



three-year point, and since Admiral Harris took command of PACOM in May 2015, his projected date has always been May 2018," James added.

Several US sources said Harris' departure would be part of normal rotation of command.

If Trump follows Obama's example, he will need to nominate a successor around September for approval by the US Senate by the year-end.

Those deliberations would come as Trump courts China to pressure North Korea to give up its nuclear and missile programs. Harris, who upset China two years ago by dubbing its South China Sea island-building as a "great wall of sand," reports to Trump through Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

The appointment of his successor will be closely watched by Washington's allies in Asia. (Reuters)

Embassy of India celebrates Baisakhi



WASHINGTON (TIP): Embassy of India, Washington DC celebrated Baisakhi on June 3 in the 350th Birth Anniversary year of Guru Gobind Singhji. The event was attended by around 250 Indian American community members from various parts of United States.

The celebration was marked by an auspicious beginning with Shabad Kirtan, welcome remarks by Ambassador Navtej Sarna and a cultural performance consisting of Punjabi traditional music and dance (Bhangra and Giddha).

Sikh scholar Dr. Harbhajan Singh Ajrawat spoke on the teachings of Sikhism and highlighted the significance of Baisakhi.

The fun and festivity was enjoyed by all the guests.



A cultural performance consisting of Punjabi traditional music and dance thrilled the audience

Consulate General of India, Chicago, in Association with 100 Community Organizations, will Host 3rd Edition of International Yoga Day



Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India in Chicago called upon Indian-Americans and all nationalities to participate in the 3rd International Yoga Day in large numbers

NAPERVILLE, CHICAGO (TIP): Consulate General of India in Chicago, in collaboration with the City of Naperville, is all set to host 3rd edition of International Yoga Day on 24th June 2017 (Saturday) at Naperville Yard, 1603 Legacy Circle, Naperville, IL 60563.

City of Naperville issued a Proclamation and declared June 24th, 2017 as International Yoga Day in the City of Naperville. Mr. Steve Chirico, Naperville Mayor will be Chief Guest at the International Yoga Day, which will be attended by dignitaries, elected officials, and community leaders from different walks of life. Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India in Chicago said that the program will commence at 10:00 am and end at 12:00 noon, followed by a community festival and an array of cultural activities till 05:00 pm. Apart from the demonstration of common asanas (postures) under Common Yoga Protocol, breathing techniques, Meditation Workshop, etc., the Program will include a number of activities relating to yoga.

The event is free for all. However, as the space is limited, those interested in attending the event and knowing more about it are cordially requested to visit [Facebook.com/IndiaInChicago](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInChicago). Participants are requested to bring their own yoga mats. Ms. Bhushan said that about 2,500 guests, 100 community organizations, yoga and spiritual centers, business establishments, etc. will grace the occasion. She called upon Indian-Americans and all the nationalities to attend the event in large numbers in order to make it a resounding success. *(Photograph and Press release by: Asian Media USA)*

In Kansas, SAALT demands a response to hate crimes

KANSAS (TIP): On June 6, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national South Asian racial justice and civil rights organization, participated in a critical hate crimes forum facilitated by the US Department of Justice Community Relations Service in Kansas. Representatives from government agencies, diverse community leaders, and advocacy organizations gathered at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Kansas City to examine and address the bigotry and hate violence targeting our communities nationwide.

The Kansas community is still reeling from the February killing of Indian origin Srinivas Kuchibhotla by a gunman who screamed "Get out of my country" before opening fire. This attack was neither the beginning nor the end of the epidemic of hate violence targeting South Asian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and interfaith communities across the country.

"The United States was founded on religious liberty, yet our country is flooding with hatred and violence explicitly targeting communities based on their religion, race, nationality, and perceived identity," stated Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of SAALT. "The President's responses to the tragedy in Kansas along with many others have been deeply problematic. Multiple attempts at a 'Muslim Ban', careless words or complete silence following attacks on our communities, and his failure to name white supremacy as a clear and present danger to our country all combine to signal the lack of necessary interest, will, and leadership to address these fundamental issues."

New Initiative for Senior Citizen NRIs: Holy Pilgrimage to India

NEW YORK (TIP): RE (live) INDIA, a luxury travel portal for senior citizen NRIs (non-resident Indians) living in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Europe, Africa & Australia, has been launched by O'Harani, in partnership with Rising StarMedia and Bollywood actor, producer and director Viveck Vaswani.

RE (live) INDIA'S maiden voyage, called the Golden-Scarlet Odyssey, will lead travelers through the holy sites of North India: such as the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Paonta Sahib Gurudwara in Himachal Pradesh and Vaishno Devi Temple in Katra (Jammu and Kashmir). The fully-supervised, eight-day-journey kicks off this September, with additional trips offered in October and November (for exact dates and full itinerary, please visit www.oharani.com/relive-india/).

"Many NRIs who live in North America have aging parents and grandparents, and it is not always convenient for the entire family to travel together, either because of school schedules, finances or simply not having the time," said O'Harani President Jitin Hingorani. "With our very experienced and capable team in India, we have custom-designed these 'tirth yatras' (Hindi for 'holy pilgrimages') for our aging uncles and aunts, while keeping their security, luxury and safety of utmost importance."

The benefits of O'Harani Luxe's luxury holy pilgrimage include:

- Small, exclusive group of 10-12 travelers
- Medical practitioner, along with first-aid kit, on the entire journey
- Each passenger's medical history will be ascertained in advance
- 24-hour hospital on call within a



RE (live) INDIA'S maiden voyage, called the Golden-Scarlet Odyssey, will lead travelers through the holy sites of North India: such as the Golden Temple in Amritsar

- 50-mile radius of each destination
- One-to-two senior citizen to travel concierge ratio for the entire trip
- Advance ticketing and VIP access at all places of worship
- Five-star rooms at all resorts, palaces and hotels
- Customized vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals, keeping in mind health and dietary restrictions for diabetic, Vegan and Jain travelers
- First-class ground transportation, including Volvo buses and helicopters, when necessary
- Daily yoga and spa treatments, exercise and entertainment, with ample time for rest and relaxation
- Each tour will also include the company of an Indian entertainer

(television or film)

"So many of our aging family members dream of going back to their homeland to visit with near and dear ones and fulfill their Hindu duty of cleansing their soul through a holy pilgrimage," said actor, producer, director Viveck Vaswani. "This journey will create an engaging and educational experience for our senior citizens, while enabling the Indian entertainment industry veterans to respect their elders in a unique and fulfilling way."

For pricing and the complete day-by-day itinerary for the September 2017 holy pilgrimage, please visit www.oharani.com/relive-india/. Limited spots available. Reservations and deposits must be made by July 30th.

DARJEELING CRISIS**MISCREANTS MOUNT
ATTACKS ON GOVT
PROPERTIES IN THE DARK**

Even as the situation in Darjeeling continues to be tense, the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha has called for its version of Dandi March to protest a police raid on its office



Despite heavy security, there has been a spate of arson attacks around Darjeeling carried out by suspected supporters of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) who are demanding a separate state. Pic courtesy:AFP

DARJEELING (TIP): For the second successive time this week miscreants struck at the dead of the night to vandalise and ablaze government properties around Darjeeling as the demand for a separate state continued to roil the hill station.

On June 17 (Saturday) around 1 am, suspected Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supporters set fire to Goke II gram panchayat office under Bijanbari block about 25 km away from Darjeeling. The first floor of the building was completely gutted.

The attack came after a relative quiet day in the hills.

Local Trinamool leaders said that on Friday night Morcha supporters set up roadblocks on two roads that connect Gok with Darjeeling.

On Saturday morning, GJM protesters have planned to take out a 'Dandi march' on the lines of the one that Mahatma Gandhi undertook in 1930.

The rallies are supposed to start from different points of Darjeeling and converge at the GJM office at Patlaybas that the police raided on Thursday. Police are unlikely to allow the protest rallies because the situation is already tense.

Most GJM leaders are still in hiding to evade arrest.

On Saturday morning the hills remained completely shutdown, the third day of the indefinite bandh called by the GJM after the police raided their office on Thursday.

**PRESIDENTIAL PICK LIKELY
TO COME FROM PARTY AS
BJP LOOKS WITHIN**

As consultation starts within the saffron party and with the Opposition for the prez election, the ruling side wants a President who has strong BJP affiliation

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's next President is likely to be a dyed-in-the-wool BJP leader, contrary to speculation that the ruling party might field a technocrat or some apolitical candidate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is yet to discuss his preference with party leaders, but ruling party said the leadership is not inclined to repeat the 2002 experiment when it had fielded an 'outsider', APJ Abdul Kalam, for the top post.

As consultation starts within the BJP and with the Opposition for the July 17 election, the ruling side wants a President who has "strong BJP affiliation".

On June 16 (Friday), Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Venkaiah Naidu drove to the residence of BJP patriarch LK Advani and also called on Murli Manohar Joshi.

Although the two members of the BJP's Margdarshak Mandal were seen as possible contenders, sources said that Friday's meetings with the two were to seek their views on the party's presidential candidate. Advani and Joshi had fallen out of favour with the party leadership earlier. They are unlikely to be considered for the post, said party sources. Finance minister Arun Jaitley is returning from abroad on Saturday and is expected to touch base with socialist parties over the next few days.

Kalam was a surprise candidate in 2002 for a greater consensus, but the changed scenario in 2017 gives the BJP



Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Venkaiah Naidu with CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury leave after a meeting on presidential poll as part of the ruling party's outreach to stitch a consensus in New Delhi. Pic courtesy: PTI

more manoeuvring space to pick candidate from among its leaders.

India elects its President through a complex voting pattern involving all parliamentarians and members of legislative assemblies – each of them having a different vote value.

An MP has the highest vote value. Today, BJP has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha and government in more than a dozen states. NDA's total strength in Parliament is over 400 out of total 776. "Such mandate is not to choose an 'outsider' for the top post," a government leader said. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, too, is averse to a Kalam-type experiment.

This position rules out chances for the

likes of agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, whose name has been proposed by the National Democratic Alliance partner Shiv Sena, or the Metro-man, E Sreedharan.

The BJP is likely to announce the name of its candidate on June 22 and the nomination is expected the next day.

Sure of its victory, the BJP will also choose its candidate with an aim to break the new found unity in the Opposition. A divide in the camp can take the fizz out of campaign to bring anti-BJP forces under one umbrella. "It will be a success for us, even if we manage to wean away one or two major parties from the Opposition camp," a Union minister said. Source: HT

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION**AAP's Khaira films House ruckus, suspended**

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) legislators, raising slogans inside the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, on June 16 attacked the Congress government for its "failure" to announce a loan waiver for farmers. Some were seen in a cantankerous spat with Congress MLAs. But it was AAP's Bholath MLA Sukhpal Khaira who was suspended by Speaker Rana KP Singh for the rest of the session for uploading a video of the unruly scenes on Facebook.

With Khaira recording the heated exchanges between Akali and Congress MLAs, that ensued after an outburst by Minister for Local Bodies Navjot Singh Sidhu, Congress MLAs, who were led by Kuljit Singh Nagra, raised objections. Subsequently, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Brahm Mohindra moved a motion and Khaira was suspended for the session. The AAP MLA refused to hand over his cellphone, arguing that other MLAs were carrying phones as well, that House proceedings were not in progress when he had shot the video and that similar incidents had occurred in the past too. As AAP MLAs, led by Leader of the Opposition HS Phoolka, protested the decision, the Speaker adjourned the House.

"I equate the unfair attitude of the Speaker with the Abdalis, Duranis and Mughals who mercilessly executed people, denying them an opportunity to defend themselves," a defiant Khaira said. Tempers ran high during question hour as SAD and Congress MLAs entered into a spat over the "unparliamentary" language used for Tourism and Culture Minister. Congress MLAs Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Nagra, Parminder Singh Pinky and Rana Sodhi stormed into the well of the House and



AAP leader Sukhpal Khaira (below left) and Lok Insaaf Party leader Simranjeet Singh Bains, who has also been suspended for the rest of the session, along with other party members in Chandigarh on June 16. Pic courtesy: HT

nearly came to blows with Akali members. SAD's Rozy Barkandi was pushed by Ghanaur MLA Thekedar Madan Lal Jalalpora. There were at least two adjournments and two walkouts.

Earlier as the session began, SAD-BJP MLAs, including Pawan Kumar Tinu, Ajit Singh Kohar, NK Sharma, HPS Chandumajra and Arun Narang, rushed to the House well,

Ajaib Singh Bhatti elected deputy speaker

The House opened with legislators unanimously electing Congress MLA from Malout, Ajaib Singh Bhatti, a Dalit leader, as deputy speaker of the 15th Vidhan Sabha. Bhatti said his family and he were indebted to CM Amarinder Singh who recommended him for the coveted post.

Amarinder congratulated Bhatti for his elevation and said that Bhatti's long administrative and political experience would further enhance the glory of the august chair.

He said that politics was in Bhatti's blood, as he inherited it from his father late Arjan Singh, who contested assembly election from the erstwhile combined constituency Nihal Singh Wala in 1957.

raising slogans over "unkept" poll promises. The protests became louder as Sidhu got up to reply.

The minister lost his cool while responding to a query on the Harike project after certain remarks were made against him. An enraged Sidhu then spoke of the "illegal activities" of the Badal family, blaming them for the Rs 350 crore PRTC loss.

Addressing the Assembly on the third day of the Budget session, CM Amarinder Singh reiterated his government's commitment to fulfilling all poll promises, including a loan waiver and "kurki" (auction) abolition for the debt-ridden farmers. Over repeated disruptions, he said: "The prestige of the Speaker's office has never been lowered like this by throwing paper missiles at him." Source: The Tribune

1993 MUMBAI BLASTS: ABU SALEM, FIVE OTHERS CONVICTED; 1 ACQUITTED

MUMBAI (TIP): Twenty-four years after 12 blasts rocked the city killing 257 and leaving 713 grievously injured, a special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act court on Friday convicted six out of the seven accused, including Abu Salem and Mustafa Dossa. In the dock is a second batch of accused, tried by special judge Govind A Sanap, after the main trial of 123 accused ended in 2006 with the conviction of 100.

The court has set the next hearing date on June 19 (Monday) to decide the date for argument on quantum of sentence.

Others who were convicted include Feroz Khan, Taher Merchant, Riyaz Siddiqui, Karimulla Khan. The court pronounced the sentence after hearing arguments from the defence and the prosecution. Out of the six convicted by the Tada court, only five face the gallows. Riyaz Siddiqui will only attract life sentence as he is not held guilty of criminal conspiracy.

Abdul Qayyum Shaikh who has been acquitted by the court had allegedly sent arms and ammunition from abroad which landed at Dighi Jerry. He also had allegedly sold a licensed revolver to Sanjay Dutt in September 1992.

Special CBI counsel Deepak Salvi said trial for the seven, arrested between 2003 and 2010, had to be separated as they were nabbed after a substantial portion of the previous trial was completed.

With no other accused currently in custody, the Friday verdict was the last in the case for now. Thirty-three accused are absconding, including key conspirators Dawood Ibrahim, his brother Anees Ibrahim, Mustafa's brother Mohammed Dossa and Tiger Memon.

Salem was extradited in November 2005 from Portugal. His confession led to the arrests of Siddiqui and Shaikh. Mustafa was named in 1995 by a co-accused and arrested in 2003 after he



As many as 13 serial blasts rocked India's financial capital on March 12, 1993. The Mumbai blasts left 257 people dead and over 713 injured.

arrived in Delhi from Dubai.

The CBI submitted the attacks were planned to avenge the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, and the riots in its aftermath.

The lesser known Taher (60) also has a predominant role. A resident of Kambekar Street in central Mumbai, he grew up with Dawood and his brothers and was said to be the don's trusted aide. He allegedly motivated associates to arrange men from Mumbai for training in handling of arms and ammunition in Pakistan. Taher is also accused of collecting funds to procure arms and ammunition. He was extradited from Abu Dhabi in 2010. The 12 coordinated attacks between 1.30 pm and 3.40 pm on March 12, 1993, planned over 15 meetings across UAE and India, also destroyed property worth Rs 27 crore. Special CBI counsel Deepak Salvi told the court in his opening arguments that "this was the first ever terrorist attack in the world where RDX was used on such a large scale after the Second World War."

Special judge Sanap took over the trial in 2011 and the proceedings concluded in



Abu Salem

March this year. The trial was stayed after both the accused and the prosecution moved the apex court challenging various legalities. Dossa's lawyer Rizwan Merchant challenged the applicability of the voluminous evidence of 686 witnesses from the previous trial.

BANNED BY DOMESTIC AIRLINES, TDP MP FLIES TO EUROPE ON HOLIDAY

HYDERABAD (TIP): TDP MP JC Diwakar Reddy, who has been banned by all domestic airlines from flying over his alleged unruly behaviour at the Visakhapatnam airport, flew to Europe on June 16 (Friday) night as part of his annual family vacation.



JC Diwakar Reddy

According to JC Prabhakar Reddy, brother of the Anantapur MP, the tour was planned well in advance.

It is something the family did every year, he said.

"He and his family left for vacation on Friday night. I was also supposed to go along with them. But I could not go due to personal work. What is wrong in his foreign tour? He got his visa long ago. It was not planned yesterday," Prabhakar, a TDP MLA from Anantapur told PTI on Saturday.

He, however, did not disclose the holiday destination as well as the airline his brother took for the overseas trip.

Though the exact duration of the vacation is not known, a TDP leader said it might last seven to 10 days.

Following the June 15 episode, in a show of unity, all major domestic airlines have barred the MP from taking their flights—similar to the action taken by the carriers after the incident involving Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad earlier this year. On Thursday, Reddy was scheduled to fly IndiGo's flight 6E-608, which departs from Visakhapatnam at 8.10 am, to Hyderabad. But he reached just 28 minutes before the scheduled departure, according to the airline. Source: PTI

SIX J&K POLICEMEN KILLED, DISFIGURED IN ANANTNAG

SRINAGAR (TIP): Six policemen, including a Station House Officer of the Achabal police station, were killed when militants ambushed their vehicle at Thajiwara Achabal in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on June 16 (Friday) evening. Officials said that around 6:30 pm, Station House Officer, Achabal, Sub Inspector Firoz Ahmad Dar and five constables were in a Tata Sumo vehicle travelling towards Anantnag town when a group of at least five militants ambushed their vehicle and fired at the police party. In the attack, all the policemen were killed. Soon Army and police cordoned off the area but the militants escaped. The attack took place 17 km from the spot in Arwani where an encounter between militants and security forces was in progress and barely 5 km from the Army's Khandru camp, one of the most fortified installations in south Kashmir.

Officials said that the militants took away rifles from the slain policemen. Before fleeing, the militants are believed to have disfigured the bodies of the cops by firing on them from close range.

J&K Director General of Police S P Vaid told The Indian Express that militants ambushed the vehicle of SHO Achabal at Thajiwara. "They fired at the policemen from very close range and later escaped with five AK-47 rifles," Vaid said, adding that the militants were the local Lashkar-e-Toiba module operating in the area.

55-YR-OLD MAN THRASHED TO DEATH BY R'STHAN CIVIC STAFF

JAIPUR (TIP): A 55-year-old man was today allegedly thrashed to death by civic body employees in Pratapgarh district when he reportedly stopped them from taking photographs of women defecating in the open.

Zafar Khan, a social worker, was assaulted by five MC employees, his brother Noor Mohammad told the media. "The employees, shaming those defecating in the open, scared away some tribal women by taking their photographs. When my brother intervened, they attacked him. As soon as we learnt about the incident, we rushed to the hospital. We were told he was brought dead," he said.

The police have lodged a case of murder against the five employees and the Commissioner of the Pratapgarh municipality who, according to an eyewitness, was on the spot when Zafar Khan was thrashed. Family members of the deceased and locals staged a protest outside the mortuary, demanding that the "killers" be arrested. They blocked the national highway for several hours. Members of the CPI-ML (Liberation), with whom Zafar was associated, said he had paid with his life for opposing "bullying".

INDIA HANDS OVER MALLYA EXTRADITION PAPERS

NEW DELHI (TIP): India last week provided the United Kingdom the documents required to be submitted in a London court for the extradition of fugitive business tycoon Vijay Mallya.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) handed over the documents received from the probe agencies to the British High Commission in New Delhi last week. The documents will be submitted to the court of the Chief Magistrate at Westminster in London. The business tycoon is wanted in India for his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines' default on loans worth nearly Rs 9,000 crore.

"These papers were required in connection with the hearing in the extradition matter which, as I said, is sub-judice in the court in London and these papers were handed over to the British High Commission (in New Delhi) last week. This is a huge bunch of papers," Gopal Baglay, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said on Friday.

The documents the MEA handed over to the British High Commission on June 9 included a supplementary charge sheet filed by the CBI against Mallya in a court in Mumbai on June 2, and a sworn affidavit by the superintendent of police in charge of the Special Investigation Team of the agency.

Russia in favour of Indo-Pak bilateral talks

NEW DELHI (TIP): Moscow endorsed New Delhi's view that India and Pakistan should resolve all outstanding disputes through bilateral talks in accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999.

After New Delhi dismissed Islamabad's claim that Russian President Vladimir Putin recently offered to mediate between India and Pakistan, Moscow, too, made it clear that no third party had any role in resolving the dispute between the two South Asian neighbours.

A spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian government emphasised that Moscow's "principled" position on resolving India-Pakistan differences remained "unchanged". "The differences between Islamabad and New Delhi should be resolved by them on a bilateral basis in accordance with the provisions of the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999," said a spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian government.

The statement came after media reports quoted Nafees Zakaria, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Pakistan government, saying that Putin offered to mediate between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Bollywood Actor Arjun Rampal celebrates rights of children in style, enthralls New Yorkers at CRY Gala

Bidisha Roy

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): On June 9, over a hundred Indian Americans gathered at the Taj Pierre Hotel in Manhattan for the annual CRY America Charity gala event to celebrate the rights of children in New York. The evening was very special as celebrity guest Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal joined CRY America to support the cause & amplify the voices of underprivileged children. The annual event witnessed high profile guests come together to support the cause of children in distress.

Speaking at the event, Shefali Sunderlal, president of CRY America said: "Only 54 percent of children complete their education in India due to obstacles such as child labor, child marriage, and distance from schools and gender discrimination. With the support of over 20,885 donors and 2,000 volunteers, CRY America has impacted the lives of 660,632 children living across 3,350 villages and slums through support to about 73 Projects in India and USA."

Addressing the gathering, Arjun Rampal said, "The first thing came in my mind was, am I the right person to advocate for child right? The answer was - Yes. Not only me - everyone. Together we can make the difference."

Urging people to support CRY America and make a difference in a child's life, Arjun, a



CRY America President Shefali Sunderlal (left) with celebrity guest Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal (right) at the annual CRY America Charity gala, June 9th

doting father of two daughters, further said, "Only when children are given the right opportunities do they realize their full potential, aim for their dreams and achieve them. Raising awareness and fund support to CRY is a step forward in ensuring that children get these opportunities and a chance at a healthy, successful life. I am honored to be involved with CRY."


Apart from raising awareness for this worthy cause, it was a memorable evening with a bit of everything - dinner, cocktails, Bollywood entertainment, Skype conversation with CRY India members, a trailer show of Arjun Rampal's upcoming movie "Daddy" which is scheduled to release on July 21, 2017. The highlight of the evening was a live auction of items to raise funds. The



Arjun Rampal poses with one of his fans, Ujjayini Moitra from Kolkata who was on a visit to the US to see her aunt Bidisha Roy and uncle Krish Sengupta

auction was worth watching as Arjun took it to a new height with his humor and wit. And it was memorable for Arjun fans, especially ladies, who got the rare chance to pose and click with their teenage crush.

(Watch at www.theindianpanorama.news, the video of Arjun Rampal's interview)



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- 5:00 PM Welcome Music
- 5:30 PM Consul General's welcome address
- 5:35 PM Shankh Dhvani, Yoga Mudras and Sun Salutations by Hindu Temple of North America
- 6:00 PM Yoga on the pole and pyramid formation by Mallakhamb Federation
- 6:20 PM Yoga demonstration by Eddie Stern and Urban Yogis
- 7:00 PM Desk-top yoga, pranayama and meditation by the Art of living Foundation
- 7:30 PM Yoga on ropes by Mallakhamb Federation
- 8:00 PM Musical performance by Butterthief

The logo of International Day of Yoga reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the essence of Yoga.

 Folding of both hands in the logo symbolizes Yoga, the union, which reflects the union of individual Consciousness with that of universal Consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind and body, man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being.

 The brown leaves symbolize the Earth element, while the green leaves the Nature. Blue color symbolizes the Water element, brightness the Fire element and the Sun the source of energy and inspiration.

SOUTH ASIAN SPELLING BEE ANNOUNCES CHICAGO & SEATTLE WINNERS

NEW YORK (TIP): Continuing its quest for the best speller in the community, the 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee (www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com) traveled to Illinois and Washington with stops in Chicago and Seattle.

With a huge turnout this year as well, the Bee attracted some top talent as well as young and new spellers that competed for the coveted prizes and titles.

In the Chicago Regional, Nilla Rajan (12) of Chillicothe, Ohio was the regional champ, Snehal Choudhury (12) of Massillon, Ohio, was the first runner up, and Jashun Paluru (12) of West Lafayette, Indiana, was second runner up.

In Seattle, Cameron Keith (11) from Longmont, Colorado was named regional champ, Zoe Keith (9) from Longmont, Colorado was first runner up, and Vithul Ravivarma (13) of Sammamish, Washington, was the second runner-up.

The event is open to children of South Asian descent up to 14 years of age. It will give South Asian children a chance to test their spelling skills in their core peer group. Interested spellers need their parent or guardian to register them online at www.southasianspellingbee.com.

Organized by Touchdown Media Inc., the South Asian Spelling Bee is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, with regionals being held in 8 locations across the United States. Apart from Chicago and Seattle, regional centers include Washington, D.C. Metro, Charlotte, Boston, New Jersey, the Bay Area, and Dallas. All events will be free to attend and open to the public. An international regional in Accra, Ghana was conducted earlier this year, from where spellers of South Asian descent will qualify for the finals.

"For the past nine years, the Bee has consistently provided a firm platform for the community to come together and hone



South Asian Spelling Bee Chicago winners



South Asian Spelling Bee Seattle winners

their craft. It's become a family activity that contributes towards the overall development of the child. We are proud to enter our Tenth consecutive year and look forward to engaging some of these wonderful spellers," said Rahul Walia, founder of the South Asian Spelling Bee and CEO of Touchdown Media Inc.

The top two spellers of each regional competition will advance to the finals to be held in New Jersey in August. Champion's grand prize of \$3,000 will be awarded to the winner at the finals.



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AAPI is all geared up for 35th annual convention from June 21 to 25, 2017



:"We look forward to seeing you in Atlantic City, New Jersey:
Dr. Ajay Lodha, AAPI President

Representing the interests of the over 100,000 physicians of Indian origin, leaders of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the largest ethnic organization of physicians, for 35 years, AAPI Convention provides a platform to the medical fraternity to discuss issues relating to their profession, including assessing their role in the ever evolving situations - medical, political and social.

The annual convention this year, from June 21 to 25 at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, is being organized by AAPI's New York Chapter. Those responsible for the big event are Convention Chair, Dr. Raj Bhayani, Co-chairs, Drs. Vinod Sanchetti, Kishen Kumar, Jayesh Kanuga, and Kusum Punjabi; Convention Advisory Committee Chair, Shashi Shah; and Drs. Hetal Gor, Jagdish Gupta, and Himanshu Pandya.

AAPI's new executive committee includes Dr. Gautam Samadder President, Dr. Naresh Parikh, Vice President; Dr. Suresh Reddy, Secretary; Dr. Manju Sachdev, Treasurer; Dr. Madhu Agarwal, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Aditya Desai, YPS president; and Atul Nakhasi, MSRF President.

The Indian Panorama is introducing here two of the incoming leaders of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. One is the Presidentelect Dr. Gautam Samadder, and the other, Dr. Ashok Jain Elected Chair, BOT of AAPI.

Dr. Gautam Samadder, President Elect of AAPI

"AAPI must be responsive to members, supportive of leadership and a true advocate for our mission"

"AAPI must be responsive to its members, supportive of the leadership and a true advocate for our mission," Dr. Gautam Samadder, President of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, says. "I am committed to unify AAPI by breaking down the barriers of various regions, languages, medical education within the organization and bringing everyone together as a whole organization rather than separate fragments of the organization," Dr. Samadder says.

At AAPI, where he will assume charge as the president of AAPI at the annual convention in Atlantic City on June 25th, Dr. Gautam Samadder rose through the ranks due to his hard work and dedication. He was a Regional Director for the AAPI NE Central-II Region, and had served as the Editor-in-Chief of AAPI Journal, a quarterly published by the American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI). He was instrumental in reviving the journal and turning it around to a 'sought-after' publication.

"My leadership involvement with the AAPI started during my Global Health Summit trip to India in Rajasthan in the year of 2010 although I have been a patron member of AAPI for more than 20 years. I had the opportunity to know Dr. Ajit Singhvi, who had encouraged me to take on a leadership role at AAPI and here I am seven years later." According to him, "One thing is clear, if you are a team player, hardworking, and willing to serve in the best interests of the organization. There is always a leadership opportunity for you in AAPI."

Dr. Samadder was elected as Secretary of AAPI in 2014. Prior to this, he served as the Regional Director in Ohio and Michigan for two consecutive years in 2010 and 2011. "I have been involved in the grass-root level to form all Ohio AAPI chapter which includes (AIPO) local chapters from Columbus Cleveland Cincinnati Dayton, Youngstown, and Toledo and served as the president in 2012. In addition, I have been the president of the local Chapter of AAPI Central Ohio (Columbus) from 2008-2010.

Working with his dedicated executive



The Incoming President Dr. Gautam Samadder and family L to R: Dr. Samadder, wife, son and daughter

committee, Dr. Gautam wants to "establish a strategic plan for AAPI that can sustain change in leadership. "AAPI members should be at the table during planning and implementation stages of the health care reforms," Dr. Samadder says. "I want to encourage medical students, residents, and fellows and all second-generation Indian American physicians to be actively involved in both local and national level. Efforts go to building a strong association focusing on leader development and strengthening our professional relations."

"In my capacity as the President of national AAPI, I want to support the growth of global and Indo-US relationship and to support and promote charitable activities through AAPI both in the US and India," Dr. Samadder says. "As I have shown over the past decades in my roles as a Regional Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President Elect of AAPI, and now as the President, I will continue to work to create advocacy and community services, escalating profitability,

productivity and popularity of AAPI.

"I will also promote globalization of education as well as work towards creating awareness and promote the level of involvement of the Indian American Medical Community and to foster the increasing strength and grown of our beloved Nation. While working in close cooperation with AAPI at all levels, we will together address the issues affecting the physicians at the state and national level. I envision promoting health care advocacy and community services, escalating profitability, productivity and popularity of AAPI," he adds.

Dr. Samadder wants to "amplify participation among young physicians and medical students, strengthen AAPI's financial security through profitable corporate sponsorships and facilitate collegial cooperation between local and state chapters, as this will increase AAPI's global stature and eminence, which will ultimately make healthcare more efficient and effective in USA and India."

His "work ethic, integrity and self-reliance will help propagate AAPI's mission and instill renewed energy and participation. My leadership experience demonstrates in the private and nonprofit sectors will be advantageous in increasing participation, chapter cooperation and awareness of exchange programs. I am dedicated to helping chart a course toward AAPI's true mission."

Under his leadership, Dr. Gautam will strive to make AAPI an organization where people feel proud to contribute their time and energy for the greater good of the members and the society. "AAPI is a platform to cherish their achievement and creating a platform to further enhance and provide opportunities to our budding physicians to be successful in academic medicine and to the rest of the world, and to India in particular. Leading a major organization like AAPI and providing a forum to its members to collectively work together to meet their diverse needs is a major challenge."

Dr. Samadder's presidency will start with AAPI's family trip to South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana from August 4-13, 2017, which will provide twelve hours CME credits and include a jungle safari at a world famous resort and extensive site seeing opportunities.

The AAPI Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) from December 28-31, 2017 in the beautiful city of joy, Kolkata (West Bengal, India), will continue to make progress on AAPI's past initiatives, including the traumatic brain injury (TBI) guidelines dissemination, training of first responders, and engaging local authorities to help address one of the major causes of road fatalities by pursuing four key aspects which are awareness, free hospital care, in hospital, and rehab.

According to him, the GHS will serve as a sounding board for many health care leaders to freely exchange ideas, and help resolve challenges that are addressed during the very effective CEO forums usually chaired by MOH officials and leading CEOs. This will help in attracting investments, advanced training, and setting up hospitals, medical institutions,

CONTD ON PAGE 19

CONTD FROM PAGE 18

etc. AAPI GHS will continue the International Research Competition, EP, Cardiology, Urology, and other workshops that will help in training several India based physicians. Finally, the women's forum under the banner of women's leadership forum will serve as an inspiration for aspiring female leaders to see and hear from their role models.

Gautam spends most of his life in the private sector and is presently the CEO and managing director of Columbus Sleep Consultants, which he has built up from the ground. He was instrumental in the formation of Indian Sleep Society, with the objective of promoting sleep research and publications within Asian Indian communities. He is a speaker for several pharmaceutical companies and the physician advisor to several medical technology companies and recently collaborated with Fisher and Paykel to establish diagnostic centers in several major cities in India.

Born and growing up in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, young Gautam was always eager to learn and develop the talents and skills, overcoming numerous obstacles and turning them into small town opportunities, he took on the challenge of pursuing his career in Medicine by competing in the medical admission process and graduated from Rani Durgawati Medical College, Jabalpur.

With his passion for knowledge, determination, perseverance, and success, Dr. Samadder came to the United States in 1985 for higher education. After completing his Residency in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai affiliate hospital-North General, New York, he did his Pulmonary Fellowship at SUNY affiliate-Brookdale Hospital, New York and Sleep Fellowship at Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Subsequently, he moved to Ohio in 1995.

"While doing pulmonary fellowship, I was very intrigued with obstructive sleep apnea - a very dangerous medical condition but an easily treatable condition," recalls Dr. Gautam Samadder, Founder and CEO of Columbus Sleep Consultants. "Also, this is one of the rare specialties, where patient satisfaction is enormous because of the successful outcome of the treatment."

With aspirations to develop and become an entrepreneur, he took on the challenge of opening an independent practice of Pulmonary and Sleep medicine in 1997. His hard work and dedication paid off. He was successful in expanding the practice to be one of the biggest networking of independent sleep labs in Ohio, employing more than 50 employees, including three physicians and two physician assistants. Currently, he serves as the Medical Director at a multi-locational and Multispecialty Sleep facility, Columbus Sleep Consultants.

Dr. Gautam Samadder built his career on hard and dedicated work in the private and public sectors. He spearheaded the formation of Indian Sleep Society (AAPIOS) and is actively involved in promoting Sleep Research and Awareness both nationally and Internationally including India. He recently collaborated with Fisher & Paykel to establish diagnostic centers in major Indian cities.

Even though working as an entrepreneur, owning a large sub-specialty involving community service, he had a deep desire to give back to the community. Having worked with the local and state medical society, being the regional director and local chapter president of AAPI he has a deep desire to give back to this extra ordinary organization (AAPI).

He is actively involved with the Indian community and member at large of the Asian Indian Alliance, which actively participates in a bipartisan way to support and fund electoral candidates. He is actively involved with the Bharatiya Hindu Temple and free health clinics. Serving as a core member of the Advisory Board of the Ohio State University Gateway Project, which supports Exchange programs between USA and India including student's scholarships, Dr. Samadder is also an active member of the Ohio State Medical Association and was the first counselor of the International Medical Graduates for the state of Ohio. Dr. Samadder was a Clinical Assistant Professor at Ohio State University.

"These experiences, along with others, have provided me with a strong foundation from which I can offer fresh ideas and responsible leadership," he says. For someone who in his own words is "always looking to strengthen AAPI", a set of more responsibilities would certainly be welcome. "Having worked with Dr. Narendra Kumar on the 9-city tour event, I would like to lead AAPI with my dream team to new heights," he says. "I am always looking for opportunities to help AAPI in making it powerful so that members get benefit they deserve, and spread awareness at local and state level and unite local chapters."

Among the many mentors, who had inspired him, Dr. Samadder has been impressed by Dr. Kumar and Dr. Ajit Singhvi, past Presidents of AAPI. "I have been especially fascinated by the commitment of Dr. Kumar. He is fortunately in the same specialty as me and I have had several interactions with him. When I see him working for AAPI, his unselfish commitment, time and family wise, I am so awestruck. If I can replicate that, I will be blessed," he says with modesty.

His wife is a practicing gastroenterologist in Columbus. The couple have been married for about 25 years now. They have a son who is in medical school and their daughter is in high school.

"AAPI has a mandate to help disseminate our medical knowledge, our expertise and technological advances to the entire world," Dr. Samadder says. Utilizing AAPI membership, AAPI, Dr. Samadder wants to create and lobby for the legislative agenda at the federal level, supporting the policies and programs benefitting AAPI members. He wants to bring in second generation Indian American members into AAPI leadership roles and positions, and thus "ushering in a new era of cooperation, stability, and sustained growth for AAPI."

Years of health care management experience: Dr. Ashok Jain Elected Chair, BOT of AAPI



Dr. Ashok Jain, Chairman elect of AAPI BOT

Dr. Ashok Jain, M.D., M.S., FACR, chief medical officer for Beaumont Hospital, Wayne, MI, has been elected Chairman of Board of Trustees, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin for the year 2017-18.

Soft spoken, caring, gentle, intelligent, and committed to give back to the society, and gentle in his approach, Dr. Jain has been associated with AAPI since its initial launch over 35 years ago. "I have been involved with AAPI since its inception in 1983 as a young physician who had just started practicing in Michigan." Ever since, he has been actively associated with AAPI and worked hard to the growth of this organization since its inception.

As a young physician filled with love and commitment, he had worked with Wayne County Medical Society and Michigan State Society for the establishment of first IMG section at state level in Michigan. One of his contributions, Dr. Jain feels very proud of today is that, "I worked for keeping same criteria for IMG's and AMG's for state medical licensure."

Dr. Jain was elected as MAPI President in 1994, and had served at the AAPI Executive Committee as the Regional Director in 1995-1996. His connections with the political leaders from India and the US made Dr. Jain more popular and much

sought after. Dr. Jain served as the Alumni Committee Chair, and AAPI's prestigious Legislative Affairs Committee Chair in 2004-2005.

All along his life, Dr. Jain was filled with passion for giving back to the society. He was elected to serve as the MAPI Board of Trustees Chair and the Foundation of MAPI (FOMAPI) Chair in 2015.

His visionary and leadership skills were seen all over as Dr. Jain, helped FOMAPI raise \$180,000 for MAPI free clinic, serving the less privileged. In the 1980's Dr. Jain raised \$500,000 in five years benefiting Nargis Dutt Foundation for cancer patients for different charities in India.

His love for his country of birth was seen in Dr. Jain building and running Girls High School in his village in Rajasthan in 1997, where 650 girls study year until they complete High School. Dr. Ashok Jain had also served as a member of the Board of Trustee of Jain Temple in Detroit.

Dr. Ashok Jain, who serves as the Senior Vice President at Beaumont Health and as the Chief Medical Officer at Beaumont Hospital in Wayne, MI, has a Master of Science Degree in Medical Practice Management. Dr. Jain has served as a member of Board of Trustee at Oakwood Health Care System and now at the Beaumont Health. Dr. Jain serves as Chief of Medical Staff of Beaumont Hospital, Wayne from 2011 onwards.

Dr. Jain is married to his beautiful wife, who is also involved with MAPI auxiliary. His son finishing medical school and his daughter has a degree in MHA, Masters in Healthcare Administration, and is Trinity Health in Ann Arbor, MI.

Beaumont Hospital, where Dr. Jain serves as the Chief Medical Officer, is a 185-bed teaching hospital that is part of Beaumont Health, Michigan's largest health care system, based on inpatient admissions and net patient revenue. Dr. Jain was appointed to this role at

Beaumont, Wayne in 2015. He closely collaborates with medical and hospital leadership, including its Medical Executive Committee, hospital president and elected chief of staff.

Dr. Jain is responsible for overall hospital performance and developing the vision and strategic plan for clinical activities. He also serves as the hospital's patient safety officer and oversees site-related patient safety and quality activities. A practicing radiologist, Dr. Jain joined Beaumont Hospital, Wayne in 1982 and was elected chief of staff in 2011. Dr. Jain is a graduate of the M.S. University of Baroda Medical College and completed a residency in radiology and fellowship in ultrasound/CT through the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Ashok Jain, M.D., M.S., FACR Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer Beaumont Hospital, Wayne Beaumont Health is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2014 by Beaumont Health System, Botsford Hospital and Oakwood Healthcare to provide patients and families with compassionate, extraordinary care, no matter where they live in Southeast Michigan. It consists of eight hospitals with 3,429 beds, 174 outpatient sites, nearly 5,000 physicians, 36,000 employees and 3,500 volunteers. In 2016, the organization had \$4.4 billion in net revenue with nearly 178,000 inpatient discharges, 568,000 emergency visits and more than 17,500 births.

"I bring years of health care management experience, organized medicine leadership experience to AAPI," Dr. Jain says the newly elected Chair of AAPI BOT. "My goal as the BOT, AAPI in the coming year is to formalize and create AAPI leadership academy working with American college of physician executives for development of leadership roles for all AAPI membership. I want to work hard to engage young physician and attract them to AAPI. They are the future of AAPI."



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Manmeet K Lamba - General Secretary: 516-554-2311 **Gurudwara Sahib: 516-609-3333**

Man with knife arrested outside UK parliament: Police

LONDON (TIP): A man with a knife has been arrested outside the British parliament on Friday, police said, adding that there were no reports of any casualties.

"The man, aged in his 30s, was arrested on suspicion of possession of a knife," London's Scotland Yard police headquarters said in a statement.

A parliamentary spokesman said: "We are aware of an incident outside the Palace of Westminster, which is being dealt with by the Metropolitan Police."

On March 22, knifeman Khalid Masood drove into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing four, and fatally stabbed a policeman guarding the gates of parliament before being shot dead by armed officers.

On April 27, a man was arrested across the street from parliament. Police said knives were recovered from him.

Khalid Mohammed Omar Ali, 27, of north London, was charged with the intention of committing acts of terrorism engaged in conduct in preparation for giving effect to that intention.

He was also charged with two counts relating to explosive substances in Afghanistan in 2012.

Friday's arrest comes on the first anniversary of the murder of MP Jo Cox, who was shot and stabbed to death in her constituency by a man with links to neo-Nazi organisations.

More than 110,000 events were to take place around Britain between Friday and Sunday for "The Great Get Together" in honour of Cox, celebrating her belief that "we have far more in common than that which divides us". (AP)

Helmut Kohl, father of German reunification, dies at 87

BERLIN (TIP): Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the architect of German reunification, died on Friday, the mass-selling newspaper Bild reported. He was 87.

Bild reported in its online edition that Kohl died in the morning at his home in Ludwigshafen, in western Germany.

"We mourn," Kohl's Christian Democratic Union party (CDU) tweeted with a picture of the former chancellor.

Germany's longest serving post-war chancellor from 1982 to 1998, Kohl was a driving force behind the introduction of the euro currency, convincing sceptical Germans to give up their cherished *deutschemark*.

An imposing figure who formed a close relationship with French President Francois Mitterrand in pushing for closer European integration, Kohl had been frail and wheelchair-bound since suffering a bad fall in 2008.

At home, he is celebrated above all as the father of German reunification, which he achieved after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall despite resistance from partners such as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He won voters in communist East Germany by promising them "flourishing landscapes".

Shortly after leaving office, Kohl's reputation was tarnished by a financing scandal in his centre-right party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), now led by Chancellor Angela Merkel. Kohl mentored Merkel early in her career, appointing her to her first ministerial post.

Until his death, Kohl refused to identify the donors, saying he had given them his word. (Reuters)

China court sentences fugitive tycoon's staff

BEIJING: A court in northern China has sentenced three employees working for fugitive real estate billionaire Guo Wengui, who has been locked in a high-stakes political feud with the ruling Communist Party.

The Dalian Xigang People's Court on Friday announced prison terms of less than three years for three employees who prosecutors said were ordered by Guo to falsify financial documents to obtain loans from a state bank. Guo's development firm Beijing Pangu Investment Co. was also fined \$36 million.

Guo fled China and now lives in a \$68 million apartment overlooking New York's Central Park. He has cultivated a vast social media following and vowed to expose sensitive information concerning top party officials unless the government frees his employees and family members held in China. (AP)

London inferno toll now 30, set to rise even further

LONDON (TIP): The death toll from the London fire stands at 30, and is still climbing. Some victims may never be identified, officials said.

The Metropolitan Police said on Friday that at least 30 people were known to have died in the Grenfell Tower blaze, including one person who died in hospital. The bodies of 12 people have been recovered. The other deceased remain inside the building.

The BBC estimates about 76 people are missing based on social media and missing posters, which could include some of the 30 confirmed dead.

London Police commander Stuart Cundy said that the conditions inside Grenfell Tower mean that the search operation to recover the victims was extremely challenging. "The sad reality is that this work will stretch into many weeks," he said.

A total of 24 people remain in hospital, with 12 in critical care. They have all been identified and their families informed. The majority of residents in the flat were Muslims and came from Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian, Afghanistan and Pakistan. A Bangladeshi family of five, who lived



on the 16th floor, is among those missing.

Al Manar, a mosque in North Kensington where Grenfell Tower is located, has cancelled its *tikaaf* (retreat in a mosque during Ramzan) so that victims can stay there. "We have cancelled the spiritual retreat so that we can offer bedding to people," said Tabassum Awan, who is volunteering at the mosque. "It's chaos - we have had restaurants phoning up all the time offering to deliver hot food here. One

rang up and offered to deliver 1,000 hot meals," she said.

One Moroccan woman in the mosque, Habiba, said she was looking for a 16-year-old Moroccan school girl Nur Huda El Wahabi who is missing, who is best friends with her son Abdul.

By Thursday night the fire in the 24-storey building was totally extinguished. What was left was a light grey ash coloured shell - towering in a ghostly fashion above the nearby pubs and houses. (PTI)

France and Britain announce anti-terror action plan

PARIS (TIP): The leaders of France and Britain on June 14 announced an anti-terror action plan to crack down on radicalisation through social media.

After talks with British Prime Minister Theresa May in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron said both countries agreed that social networks were not doing enough to stamp out terror propaganda.

Speaking after terror attacks in Manchester and London, Macron said the two countries had worked on a "very concrete" action plan.

He said one of the key measures would aim at preventing the incitement of "hate and terrorism" on the internet.

May said she and Macron agreed that "more should be done to tackle the terrorist threat online".

She said the British and French campaign was aimed to "ensure the internet cannot... be used to host the radicalizing material that leads to so much harm."

May said the British government was already working with social media companies "to halt the spread of extremist material and poisonous propaganda that warps young minds", adding: "But we know they need to do



more.

"Today we can announce that the UK and France will work together to encourage organisations to do more and abide by their social responsibility to step up their efforts to remove harmful content from their networks." The campaign includes exploring the possibility of legal penalties

against tech companies if they fail to take the necessary action to remove unacceptable content, May said.

Britain was rocked by a suicide bombing at a pop concert in Manchester on May 22 which killed 22 people, including children, followed two weeks later by a knife and van attack in

central London, which left eight dead.

France has been a constant target for jihadist attacks since 2015, with more than 230 people killed.

After their press conference the two leaders headed to the Stade de France to watch a friendly match between the French and English football teams. (AFP)

Western sanctions made Russia stronger: Putin

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia has climbed out of recession despite continuing Western sanctions, President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday, adding that the restrictions have forced the country to "switch on our brains" to reduce its dependence on energy exports.

Speaking in a live call-in show televised nationwide, Putin deplored the US Senate's decision yesterday to impose new sanctions on Russia as a reflection of Western efforts to "contain" Russia, but insisted that the measures only have made the country stronger.

The Republican-led Senate voted Wednesday to punish Moscow for interfering in the 2016 election by approving a wide-ranging package of sanctions that targets key sectors of Russia's economy and individuals who carried out cyberattacks.

The Senate bill follows up on several rounds of other sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union over Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support for pro-Russia insurgents in eastern Ukraine.

Putin argued that Russia has done nothing to warrant the Senate's move, saying it highlights the West's policy of containing Russia and also reflects domestic infighting in the United States.

"It's evidence of a continuing internal political struggle in the US," he said.

Putin said that the sanctions have given Russia an incentive to shed its dependence on oil and gas exports and "switch on our brains and talents" to develop other industries. He emphasised that electronics, aerospace industries and agriculture have all received a boost.

Russia has responded to the US and EU sanctions by halting most Western food imports, a move that has helped increase Russian agricultural output.

Russian farmers have pleaded with the Kremlin to keep the import ban even if the West lifts its sanctions, but Putin said



that if "our partners lift the sanctions against our economy, we will respond in kind."

The Russian leader claimed that the "crisis is over," pointing at modest economic growth over the past nine months, low inflation and rising currency reserves.

Putin said that a slump in oil prices had been a more important factor in Russia's economic slowdown than the sanctions.

He acknowledged that the Russian economy hasn't yet shed its dependence on exports of raw materials, but noted that non-energy exports have been growing. Putin recognised that people's incomes have fallen and 13.5 per cent of Russians now live below the poverty line currently equivalent to \$170.

Most of the questions during the tightly-choreographed show were about low salaries, decrepit housing, failing health care and other social problems.

Like in the past, Putin chided local officials for failing to provide due care for

people and ordered them to quickly fix the flaws.

Even before the show ended, local officials rushed to report that they are looking into the problems.

Putin also offered a glimpse into his closely guarded private life, saying he has two grandchildren whose privacy he wants to respect.

Putin, who in 2013 announced on state television that he was divorcing his wife, has two daughters in their early 30s who haven't been seen in public for years and became a subject of rumours. One of Putin's daughters was reported to be in charge of a lucrative project to build a Silicon Valley-like community under the auspices of Moscow State University.

Putin said during the show that both of his daughters live in Moscow and "work in science and education." He said one of his grandchildren goes to pre-school and the other, a boy, has just been born. He said he doesn't want to give details about his family for fear of hurting their privacy (AP)

Trump to announce plan to stop cash flow to Cuban military

WASHINGTON (TIP): Stopping short of a complete turnabout, President Donald Trump is expected today to announce a revised Cuba policy aimed at stopping the flow of US cash to the country's military and security services while maintaining diplomatic relations and allowing US airlines and cruise ships to continue service to the island.

In a speech today at a Miami theater associated with Cuban exiles, Trump will cast the policy moves as fulfillment of a promise he made during last year's presidential campaign to reverse then-President Barack Obama's diplomatic re-engagement with the island after decades of estrangement.

Senior White House officials who briefed reporters on Thursday on the coming announcement said Obama's overtures had enriched Cuba's military while repression increased on the island.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the policy before Trump announces it, despite the president's regular criticism of the use of anonymous sources.

The moves to be announced by Trump are only a partial reversal of Obama's policies, however. And they will saddle the US government with the complicated task of policing US travel to Cuba to make sure there are no transactions with the military-linked conglomerate that runs much of the Cuban economy.

By restricting individual US travel to Cuba, the new policy also risks cutting off a major source of income for Cuba's private business sector, which the policy is meant to support.

Under the expected changes, the US will ban American financial transactions with the dozens of enterprises run by the military-linked corporation GAESA, which operates dozens of hotels, tour buses, restaurants and other facilities.

Most US travelers to Cuba will again be required to visit the island as part of organized tour groups run by American companies.

The rules also require a daylong schedule of activities designed to expose the travelers to ordinary Cubans. But because Cuban rules requires tour groups to have government guides and use state-run tour buses, the requirement has given the Cuban government near-total control of travelers' itineraries and funneled much of their spending to state enterprises.

Obama eliminated the tour requirement, allowing tens of thousands of Americans to book solo trips and spend their money with individual bed-and-breakfast owners, restaurants and taxi drivers.

The US Embassy in Havana, which reopened in August 2015, will remain as a full-fledged diplomatic outpost. Trump isn't overturning Obama's decision to end the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that allowed most Cuban migrants who made it onto US soil to stay and eventually become legal permanent residents.

Also not expected are any changes to US regulations governing what items Americans can bring back from Cuba, including the rum and cigars produced by state-run enterprises. (AP)

Saudi-Qatar crisis puts Syria rebels in tricky position

BEIRUT (TIP): A diplomatic crisis pitting Saudi Arabia against Qatar has put Syrian rebels in a difficult position, analysts say, after rivalries between Gulf backers had already weakened the opposition.

Both Sunni-ruled monarchies sided with the protesters in March 2011, when the war started with the brutal repression of anti-government demonstrations.

They continued supporting the mostly Sunni rebels when unrest spiralled into conflict between the armed opposition and troops loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, who hails from the country's Alawite Shiite minority and is backed by Saudi Arabia's arch-rival Iran.

But six years later, the rebellion has been plagued by rivalries between Riyadh and Doha, as well as weakened by Russia's military intervention in support of Assad's forces.

Moscow's support for regime forces

led to a series of setbacks for the rebels, including their landmark loss in December of second city Aleppo.

Last week, Saudi Arabia and allies, including the United Arab Emirates, severed or reduced diplomatic ties with Qatar over accusations the emirate supports extremism, claims Doha has denied. "The current rupture puts the Syrian opposition in a very awkward position politically, as nobody wants to have to take sides publicly nor can afford to alienate either side," said Yezid Sayigh, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Centre. A rebel official in the opposition stronghold of Eastern Ghouta outside Damascus said he hoped the crisis between Doha and Riyadh was just "a temporary storm".

'SENSITIVE' ISSUE : "Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have supported the revolution of the Syrian people and shown solidarity throughout years of

tragedy," the rebel official said.

In a sign of the embarrassment the crisis is causing, several rebel groups approached by AFP refused to comment, saying it was a "sensitive" issue.

But Sayigh said the latest flare-up in relations between Qatar and Saudi Arabia will have a limited impact on the Syrian conflict. "It probably won't have a major financial impact, nor a military one since the US and Turkey have stepped up their support for factions that previously were close to Qatar or to Saudi Arabia," Sayigh said.

Riyadh "reduced its funding sharply starting" from the summer of 2015 "after it launched its intervention in Yemen" earlier in the year, he said.

Six years into the war, Syria's fractured rebellion controls just around 10 percent of the war-torn country, with backing from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Jordan and the United States. (AFP)

UK's longest serving police dog dies after 11 years in service

LONDON (TIP): Brewster, the longest serving police dog in the UK whose "incredible nose" detected drugs, cash and weapons across the country, has died after a brief illness following 11 years of service.

The 13-year-old, 91 in dog years, brown and white English Springer Spaniel, served with the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Dog Unit with his handler Police Constable Dave Pert.

But just months after formally hanging up his lead, the police pooch has passed away following a short illness, the Daily Express reported.

"We are so grateful that Brewster came into our lives. He was truly a legendary dog, renowned across the three counties for his incredible nose," Pert said while paying tributes to his long-term companion.

"Indeed, officers were still requesting his services long after he retired. He was a brilliant asset to the unit and I am glad he had time with us to enjoy his retirement," he said.

Pert said he loved coming with them in the caravan and particularly enjoyed people watching.

"Thankfully his illness was brief, but we will miss him terribly as he was a huge part of our lives," he said.

Brewster was gifted to the police after his previous owners from North Yorkshire realized he had too much energy for them.

Within three weeks of earning his stripes, the naturally inquisitive canine was fully trained and licensed as a drugs, cash and weapons detection dog. (AP)

WOMEN CAN REALLY READ YOUR MIND

Women are more likely to have a "mind-reading" gene mutation that gives them the ability to read a person's thoughts and emotions by looking at his or her eyes, scientists have found.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge in the UK conducted a test of cognitive empathy called the "Reading the Mind in the Eyes" Test on 89,000 people across the world. The study has earlier shown that people can rapidly interpret what another person is thinking or feeling by looking at their eyes alone.

Researchers found that women on average score better on this test and identified genetic variants in women that are linked to the ability to "read the mind in the eyes."

Previous studies have found that people with autism and anorexia tend to score lower on the Eyes Test. The team found that genetic variants that contribute to higher scores on the test also increase the risk for anorexia, but not autism.

They speculate that this may be because autism involves both social and non-social traits, and this test only measures a social trait.

"This is the largest ever study of this test of cognitive empathy in the world. This is also the first study to attempt to correlate performance on this test with variation in the human genome," said Varun Warriar, a PhD student at Cambridge. "This is an important step forward for the field of social neuroscience and adds one more piece to the puzzle of what may cause variation in cognitive empathy," said Warriar. "This new study demonstrates that empathy is partly genetic, but we should not lose sight of other important social factors such as early upbringing and postnatal experience," he said.



"We are excited by this new discovery, and are now testing if the results replicate, and exploring precisely what these genetic variants do in the brain, to give rise to individual differences in cognitive

empathy," said Simon Baron-Cohen, at the University of Cambridge in the UK. "This new study takes us one step closer in understanding such variation in the population," said Baron-Cohen.

Source: PTI

FOOD CORNER

MURGH MUSALLAM

INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms chicken, 1 inch cinnamon stick, 1/2 tablespoon cumin seeds, 2 tablespoon fresh cream, 2 tablespoon almonds, 1/2 tablespoon peppercorns, 1/2 cup tomato puree, 3 clove, 1 tablespoon coriander seeds, 3 tablespoon refined oil, 2 tablespoon coriander leaves, 1/2 tablespoon turmeric, 1 1/2 tablespoon red chilli powder, 3/4 cup onion paste, 3 green cardamom

For Marination

Salt as required, 1 tablespoon ginger paste, 1/2 tablespoon black pepper, 1 tablespoon garlic paste

Method

Cut the chicken in pieces and marinate with ginger-garlic paste, black pepper powder and salt for about 30 minutes. In the meantime, dry roast the spices one by one on low flame for about 4-5 minutes. Leave it to cool and make a fine powder.

Then, add oil in a heavy-bottomed cooking vessel and shallow fry the marinated chicken pieces in a single layer. Add up to 5-6 chicken pieces at a time depending on the size of the vessel. Fry for 6-8 minutes per side or until the pieces are nice light brown. Remove using tongs on to a plate and repeat the process until all the pieces are done.

Drain the oil and take 2 tablespoons of oil from the drained oil and add to a heavy-bottomed vessel. Add brown onion paste and tomato puree. Fry for 2 minutes and add red chili powder, turmeric powder and roasted spice powder. Fry on low till oil starts to leave from sides.

Now add, the shallow fried chicken pieces one by one. Using a spoon gently fold the chicken pieces into the masala. Add half cup of water and let it cook for 15-20 minutes.

Now prepare the almond paste for a thicker and yummy gravy for the dish. For the same, soak 10 almonds in lukewarm water and after 15 minutes, remove the skin. Grind to smooth paste by adding little water.

When the chicken pieces are cooked, now add almond paste and give the curry nice stir. Cook for another 2-3 minutes and add cream if using along with fresh minced coriander leaves. Stir and turn off the flame. Serve with roomali roti, rice or naan.



AGE DEFYING MAKEUP AND SKINCARE TIPS

While age sneaks up on you, it's best to have a few tricks up your sleeve to keep looking younger. Here are some tips that will conceal and even undo many of the signs of ageing from your face and body, so that you continue to look your youthful best.

Skip heavy foundation

A thick layer of foundation will end up into the cracks, revealing the fine lines you are trying to cover. Begin with a moisturiser followed by a primer and then a light liquid foundation or BB cream. You can also use skin plumping serum after the moisturiser for a youthful glow.

Moisturise the eyelids

While doing your moisturising regimen, include the eyelids. Dry eyelids will show fine lines and will crease your eyeshadow, making the signs of ageing more prominent. Priming your eyelids before applying eye makeup is another way to conceal signs of ageing.

Groom the brows

A good set of eyebrows can make you look young in a jiffy, so take care of them. Find the right brow shape that suits your face. If the eyebrows have become thin or grey, groom them with an eyebrow pencil.

Exfoliate and moisturise the lips

Well moisturised and soft lips not only look youthful, but also make your lipstick perform better. Ensure to exfoliate your lips every two weeks to get rid of loose skin and keep your lipstick from bleeding. Keep your lips moisturised at all times to avoid cracks showing on the lips.

Plum up those lips

Succulent, plum lips are associated with youthfulness. Before applying a lipstick, apply foundation lightly on the lips. Line and fill the lips with a lip liner. Now apply a lip-plumping lipstick or apply a layer of gloss over your regular lipstick for that plumping effect.

Work on tired eyes

Tired looking eyes instantly add years to the face. Get adequate rest and stay hydrated to keep the eyes from looking tired. Apart from that, use cucumber or raw potato slices to rejuvenate the eyes and reduce puffiness.

Diminish dark circles

Dark circles can make you look aged beyond years. Apart from getting enough sleep, use good quality under-eye cream or natural oils like sweet almond oil to dwindle those dark circles and pigmentation under the eyes.

Put volume back in the hair

You might experience hair thinning with age. Give more body to your hair by styling it to look more voluminous. Use rollers to boost the hair volume or give the hair a lift by using a large round brush.

Moisturise your hands and feet

Signs of ageing easily show on the hands and feet in the form of wrinkles. Do not forget to moisturise your hands and feet every day and avoid too much exposure to water and harsh detergents as they can dry out the skin easily.

MALE FERTILITY: MEN, AVOID THESE FOODS!

Infertility in men is increasing at an alarming rate. Medical reasons aside, even some foods can play havoc with a man's fertility. We list down some of the foods that men should avoid to improve their sperm quality.

Carbonated beverages

Sipping on carbonated beverages, like soft drinks or sports drink can impact your sperm count. A study published in Human Reproduction, regular drinking of carbonated beverages is linked to poor sperm motility.

Processed meat

Eating processed meat can compromise your sperm count. According to a Harvard study (2014), men who consumed processed meat in excess had 23 per cent lower sperm quality than guys who ate it in small quantities. In another study of journal of Epidemiology, it was found that processed meat was associated with lower sperm count.

Alcohol

This is another reason to ditch your glass of alcohol. The more you drink, the more it impacts your sperm count. In fact, according to some studies, even if you drink in moderation, you are compromising on your sperm quality.

Cheese and full cream milk

According to a study done in Human Reproduction in 2013, excess consumption of cheese and full fat milk may impact sperm count. Dairy products do add protein and essential nutrients required by the body but full



fat dairy products, especially cheese and full fat milk should be avoided.

FOODS THAT CAN INCREASE YOUR SPERM COUNT

Eating healthy and fresh foods are not only beneficial for overall health but also for the health of your sperm. Here are some superfoods that you should include in your diet to improve your sperm count.

Bananas

It has been found that bananas improve male libido and regulate sex hormones. As they are rich in vitamin C, A and B1, they boost fertility in men.

Broccoli

Broccoli is said to increase sperm count. It is rich in vitamin A, just as carrots, spinach, apricots, sweet potatoes and carrots.

Walnuts

Another nutrient important for healthy sperms is omega-3 fatty acids. Walnuts are packed with omega 3 fatty acids that boost blood flow to the genitals, which in turn increases male fertility.

Garlic

Garlic does wonders in boosting male fertility. The allicin and selenium present in garlic, protect sperms from damage and improve their quality.

Source: TOI

Soon, tech to detect heart attacks when one is at wheel

Scientists are developing a new system that can predict if a car driver is about to have a heart attack, a feature that would help avoid road accidents due to an unexpected cardiac event.

"A large number of traffic incidents are caused by (drivers suffering) medical conditions while driving, specifically cardiovascular events, such as myocardial infarction and myocardial ischemia," said Kayvan Najarian, from University of Michigan in the US.

To avoid such accidents, the researchers have teamed up with Japanese automotive manufacturer Toyota to develop technology that can monitor and analyse the physiology of the driver and predict if they are going to suffer adverse cardiac events. To this end, they are creating a system that can be placed in the vehicle. "We would like to test hardware we had previously identified, and improve and validate our algorithmic solutions to see what it will take to generate a system that could look at the physiology of a person, provided by high density electrocardiogram (ECG) measurements, as well as other medical measurements," Najarian said. Researchers are using machine-learning models to analyse data collected from in-hospital and in-vehicle subjects. The team plans to use heart monitors, which are patches placed on a driver's chest, to analyse physiological data in real time, and hopes to report results in 2020.

Source: PTI

REGULAR ASPIRIN USE INCREASES BLEEDING RISK IN ELDERLY STROKE PATIENTS

Long-term, daily use of aspirin to prevent blood clots in very elderly patients leads to an increased risk of serious or fatal internal bleeding, say researchers.

Heartburn medication allows people 75 years and older to keep the preventative benefits of aspirin while avoiding its dangerous side-effects, says the report in the medical journal The Lancet.

Even among people with no history of heart problems or stroke, the risk of gastrointestinal bleeding goes up with age for aspirin users, other research has shown.

Roughly half of all adults 75 (and over) in the US and Europe take small daily doses of aspirin – ranging from 75 to 150 milligrams – or other clot-inhibiting drugs. A normal dose for a headache is 325 to 600mg.

Eye care facts you must know

Don't blame the computer always

We live in an age when you cannot do with staring at the computer screen, or your smartphone. Ophthalmologists suggest the best way to avoid computer vision syndrome is to give your eyes a rest frequently. Constant staring can lead to eye strain and can blur your vision temporarily. Looking into the distance once in a while can help too. Doctors suggest that closing eyes for a few minutes after every 20-30 minutes, can help to lubricate and moisten your eyes.

Your glasses do not weaken eyesight

Just because your glasses need to be changed every few years does not mean that they are weakening your eyesight. Glasses only make you see better. The changes happen only as you age.

Make-up debris can injure eyes

You need to be careful when you are volumising your lashes or applying kajal in the waterline of your eyes. Experts say that the make-up debris that gets trapped under the outer layer of the eye can cause eye issues. There are remedies say doctors and you could also use antibiotic drops.

Smoking damages your vision

Quit smoking, because it simply increases your risk of macular degeneration. And that is one of the leading causes of blindness. The harmful after effects of smoking include damage to the small blood vessels of the retina and optic nerve. This kind of damage to internal parts of the eye can cause loss of eyesight.



Don't wear lenses overnight

Even if your lens pack states that it is good enough to be worn overnight, you should never do it, say eye doctors. Caring for your lens in the right way is crucial, or it might lead to loss of eyesight. One must soak lens in disinfectant solution overnight, touch them only with squeaky clean hands and store them in a clean case.

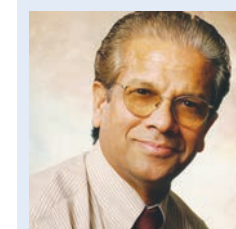
Vision loss is inevitable

At some point in your life you will definitely need to wear glasses, contact lenses or get an eye surgery done. Studies however have found that spending more time outdoors, among nature could help one to have better vision.

Source: TOI

Be healthy: Small price to pay for an extra 14 years

HEALTH TIPS



Dr. VK Raju, Eye Foundation of America

If you had the foresight during middle age to exercise, eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, drink alcohol in moderation, and not smoke, you may have added up to 14 years to your life. Writing in an online journal (PLoS Medicine), British researchers showed that people who didn't do any of these had the same chance of dying over a decade-long followed-up period and those 14 years older who did all of them. Much of the gain came from a reduction in deaths

from cardiovascular disease. Even if middle age is behind you, doing any or all of these can help you live better and maybe longer.

VK Raju would add: Eat Right, Exercise Right, and Don't take yourself too seriously (Ayurveda)

(Dr. Raju can be reached at Cell: 304-288-2080; Home: 304-599-0705; email; vkr@vkraju.com)

INSTAGRAM TO ADD LABEL FOR PAID PRODUCT ENDORSEMENTS

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Photo-sharing app Instagram plans to roll out a feature on Wednesday that will make it easier to label posts as paid promotions, taking what it called a step toward transparency in an area that has drawn attention from US authorities.



Product endorsements have become more common on Instagram, owned by Facebook Inc, as celebrities and others with large followings on the social network have struck deals to talk up clothing, food and other items.

Known inside the industry as "influencers," people promoting products are required under truth-in-advertising rules to tell fans about their compensation, according to the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC). It is not clear how many do. Instagram said in a statement that it would begin allowing people who are posting a picture to add a "paid partnership with" label that would appear above the picture. Users can already add such disclosures below a picture.

"As more and more partnerships form on Instagram, it's important to ensure the community is able to easily recognize when someone they follow is paid to post content," the company said.

Instagram 'Archive' feature moves out of testing phase

NEW DELHI (TIP): After testing its 'Archive' feature with limited number of users, Facebook-owned Instagram has started rolling out the functionality to all users across the world. The feature was under testing since last month.

With the new 'Archive' option, users can temporarily hide posted pictures/videos from their Instagram profiles. To do so, they simply have to click on the menu button on a photo and they'll see an 'Archive' button. Once tapped, the selected photo/video will be moved to the archive section and no longer show up on the profile.

Users can find the 'Archive' icon next to the Discover people option in their profile. Tapping on it will let users see all the posts they have archived. They'll also be able to choose an archived view allow them to see all the posts that have been archived. Users will further be able to choose an archived photo/video and share it on their profile.

JUPITER IS THE OLDEST PLANET IN SOLAR SYSTEM

WASHINGTON (TIP): Jupiter - the largest planet in our solar system - is also the oldest, say scientists who found that the gas giant formed within four million years after the formation of the Sun.

Knowing the age of Jupiter is key for understanding how the solar system evolved towards its present-day architecture.

Although models predict that Jupiter formed relatively early, until now, its formation has never been dated.

"We do not have any samples from Jupiter (in contrast to other bodies like the Earth, Mars, the moon and asteroids)," said Thomas Kruijer, from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in the US.

"In our study, we use isotope signatures of meteorites (which are derived from asteroids) to infer Jupiter's age," said Kruijer lead author of the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

By looking at tungsten and molybdenum isotopes on iron meteorites, scientists found that meteorites are made up from two genetically distinct nebular reservoirs that coexisted but remained separated between one million and 3-4 million years after the solar system formed.

"The most plausible mechanism for this efficient separation is the formation of Jupiter, opening a gap in the disc and preventing the exchange of material between the two reservoirs," said Kruijer.

"Jupiter is the oldest planet of the solar system, and its solid core formed well before the solar nebula gas dissipated, consistent with the core accretion model for giant planet formation," he said.

Jupiter is the most massive planet of the solar system and its presence had an immense effect on the dynamics of the solar accretion disk.

Scientists showed through isotope



analyses of meteorites that Jupiter's solid core formed within only about one million years after the start of the solar system history, making it the oldest planet.

Through its rapid formation, Jupiter acted as an effective barrier against inward transport of material across the disk, potentially explaining why our solar system lacks any super-Earths (an extrasolar planet with a mass higher than Earth's).

The team found that Jupiter's core grew to about 20 Earth masses within one million years, followed by a more prolonged growth to 50 Earth masses until at least 3-4 million years after the solar system formed.

The earlier theories proposed that gas-giant planets such as Jupiter and Saturn involved the growth of large solid cores of about 10 to 20 Earth

masses, followed by the accumulation of gas onto these cores.

So the conclusion was the gas-giant cores must have formed before dissipation of the solar nebula - the gaseous circumstellar disk surrounding the young sun - which likely occurred between 1 million years and 10 million years after the solar system formed.

"We're able to date Jupiter much more precisely within 1 million years using the isotopic signatures of meteorites," researchers said.

Although this rapid accretion of the cores has been modelled, it had not been possible to date their formation.

"Our measurements show that the growth of Jupiter can be dated using the distinct genetic heritage and formation times of meteorites," Kruijer said. *Source: PTI*

IIT Kharagpur develops wearable tech from silk

KOLKATA (TIP): Just imagine India-made smart textiles that can sense what goes on around you, store data and communicate for necessary action! Well, scientists have inched closer to indigenously built wearable electronic devices, thanks to unique properties of silk.

A team of experts at the Indian Institute of Technology - Kharagpur has fashioned a hybrid material based on silk protein called silk fibroin.

This novel material has the potential to spawn prototype textile-based smart electronic devices for soldiers and defence personnel as well as for biomedical applications.

"We have designed a hybrid photo detector using zinc oxide nanostructures on gold nanoparticle-embedded silk protein for applications that combine electronics and light," Samit K. Ray, currently officiating as the Director of S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata (on lien), told IANS.

A photo detector operates by converting light signals to a voltage or current.

"The hybrid material can store data and can

detect light, both in the ultraviolet and visible wavelength range, thereby offering greater sensitivity and scope of detection," Ray said.

The USP of the hybrid material is its flexibility, stretchability, biocompatibility and biodegradability.

"These properties are due to a combination of silk fibroin and semi-conducting zinc oxide in presence of gold nanoparticles," Ray noted.

"Bombyx mori silk worms are the main producers of silk fibroins worldwide in the form of cocoons. These fibroins are attractive due to their high mechanical strength, toughness, thermal stability and biocompatibility/ biodegradability," elaborated Ray. Although 95 per cent of commercial electronics and computing systems deploy silicon as the semi-conductor material, the team opted for zinc oxide instead, Ray said.

"Conventional silicon chip is usually considered to be rigid, as brittle and breakable as window glass. Zinc oxide nanorod array embedded in silk platform is flexible and can withstand mechanical stress and bending. *Source: IANS*

News, sports sites vulnerable to cyber attacks

LONDON (TIP): News and sports websites have some of the lowest levels of security adoption, making them vulnerable to cyber attacks, a new study has found.

Researchers looked at the security protocols used by the top 500 sites in various industries and online sectors.

They found that fewer than 10 per cent of news and sports websites used basic security protocols such as Transport Layer Security (TLS).

Even those that do are not always using the "latest or strongest protocols", researchers said.

"It is like news and sport content providers do not value the security of their content," said Professor Alan Woodward, a cyber-security expert at the University of Surrey in the UK.

"They are leaving themselves vulnerable to attacks like cross-site scripting, where an attacker can pretend something has come from a website when it has not," said Woodward. The study shows that some sectors seem much more security-



conscious than others, 'BBC News' reported. The websites of computer and technology companies and financial organisations showed a much higher level of adoption than shopping and gaming sites, for example.

A quarter of the shopping sites studied were using TLS, which offers tools including digital certificates, remote passwords, and a choice of ciphers to encrypt traffic between a website and its visitors.

The study was published in the Journal of Cyber Security Technology. *Source: PTI*

GOVT MAKES AADHAAR MUST FOR BANK A/CS, HIGH VALUE TRANSACTIONS

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has made the Aadhaar card mandatory for opening bank accounts and conducting financial transactions of Rs 50,000 and above.

Those with existing accounts will also have to submit their unique identification number by the end of December. Not disclosing it by December 31 will lead to suspension of the account.

While the income tax department had earlier announced the decision to make Aadhaar mandatory for banking and financial purposes, the new regulations were notified through amendments to rules related to maintenance of records under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The move came around the time the Supreme Court upheld the validity of an I-T Act provision, making Aadhaar a must for allotment of PAN cards and for filing income tax returns.

The apex court had granted "partial relief" to those who do not have an Aadhaar number or an Aadhaar enrolment ID, ruling that the PAN of such individuals will not be cancelled for the time being.

The notification mandated quoting of



HIGHLIGHTS

- Aadhaar card has been made mandatory for opening bank accounts and conducting financial transactions of Rs 50,000 and above.
- Those with existing accounts will also have to submit their unique identification number by the end of December.
- Not disclosing it by December 31 will lead to suspension of the account.

Aadhaar along with PAN or Form 60 by individuals, companies and partnership firms for all financial transactions of Rs 50,000 or above with effect from June 1.

After June 1, if a person does not have an Aadhaar number at the time of opening of account, then he has to furnish proof of application of enrolment for Aadhaar and submit the Aadhaar number to the bank within six months of opening of the bank account.

Till now, it was mandatory to provide PAN number or Form 60 to banks while

opening accounts or for high value transactions.

For companies opening bank accounts, Aadhaar number of managers or employees holding an attorney to transact on the company's behalf will have to be provided.

In all other cases, identity should be verified while carrying out transaction of an amount equal to or exceeding Rs 50,000, and in any international money transfer operation.

Source: TOI

BLACK MONEY

Switzerland ratifies auto info sharing

BERNE/NEW DELHI

(TIP): Switzerland today ratified automatic exchange of financial account information with India and 40 other jurisdictions to facilitate immediate sharing of details about suspected black money even as it sought strict adherence to confidentiality and data security.

As per the draft notification approved by the council in its meeting today, the decision is not subject to any referendum — which means there should be no further procedural delay in its implementation.

Today's decision follows hectic parleys between India and Switzerland for introduction of the AEOI (Automatic Exchange of Information) on tax matters under the guidance of G20, OECD and other global organisations.

The council said the proposal to introduce AEOI with India and others "met with widespread approval from the interested parties who voiced their opinions in the consultations".

"In concrete terms, the AEOI will be activated with each individual state or territory by means of a specific federal decree within the framework of this dispatch," it added.

The council said it will prepare a situation report before the first exchange of data, which is planned for autumn 2019. "In the process, it will be checked whether the states and territories concerned effectively meet the requirements under the standard, especially those concerning confidentiality and data security.

"It is important for the Federal Council that a level playing field be created among states and that all major financial centres, in particular, be included. This year, Switzerland has introduced the AEOI with 38 states and territories, including all EU member states, and data will start to be exchanged with them in 2018," it added.

Switzerland is satisfied with various regulations in India, including changes in the Information Technology Act, with respect to ensuring protection of privacy, according to a document released by the Swiss government. Source: PTI



First set of data in 2019

- Switzerland has been long perceived as one of the safest havens for the illicit wealth allegedly stashed abroad by Indians
- The exchange of information will be carried out based on the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information
- The Swiss Federal Council said the implementation is planned for 2018 and the first set of data should be exchanged in 2019

AMAZON BUYS WHOLE FOODS FOR \$13.7 BN

NEW YORK (TIP): Amazon.com Inc said on June 17 (Friday) it would buy US organic supermarket chain Whole Foods Market Inc for \$13.7 billion, including debt, marking the internet retailer's largest deal and biggest foray into the brick-and-mortar retail sector.

The deal, which puts a 27% premium on Whole Foods' closing share price on Thursday, could give the grocer a major competitive edge by allowing it to tap into Amazon's massive power to buy and sell goods at a lower cost. Source: Reuters



AIR BAG MAKER TAKATA TO FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY

NEW YORK (TIP): Takata Corp, the Japanese company facing billions in liabilities stemming from its defective air bag inflators, is preparing to file for bankruptcy as early as next week as it works toward a deal for financial backing from US auto parts maker Key Safety Systems Inc, sources said on Thursday.

Takata, one of the world's biggest automotive suppliers, has been working for months to complete a deal with Key Safety.

A person briefed on the matter told Reuters Key was expected to acquire Takata assets as part of a restructuring in bankruptcy. The Nikkei business daily reported that a new company created under Key will purchase Takata operations for about 180 billion yen (\$1.6 billion) and continue supplying air bags, seat belts and other products, leaving liabilities behind in a separate entity. Source: Reuters



Infosys president quits, top execs come under pressure

BENGALURU (TIP): Infosys president and head of Americas Sandeep Dadlani has resigned, a sudden development that some attributed to growing pressures on the company's top executives to deliver, following a series of unimpressive quarterly performances.

Dadlani, who has been with Infosys since 2001 and who was also the global head of its manufacturing, retail, CPG (consumer & packaged goods) and logistics vertical, posted on LinkedIn that an "out-of-the-world assignment" was awaiting him. Sources close to the development said he may be joining Virginia-based confectionery and pet food company Mars, makers of the brands Snickers, M&M's, Twix and Wrigley, in a digital transformation role. An email sent to Mars and Dadlani did not elicit a response.

Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO of US-based IT advisory Everest Group, believes Dadlani's departure is part of the increased

pressure on leadership combined with a market eager to hire Infosys talent which is highly regarded.

Brokerage firm Edelweiss said Dadlani's exit yet again raises the stability issue at Infosys, and portends the risk of more exits.

Infosys announced on Friday that Dadlani's responsibilities would be divided between Karmesh Vaswani, who will be global head of retail, CPG & logistics, and Nitesh Banga, who will be global head of manufacturing. Vaswani was previously the head of Europe for retail, CPG and logistics.

Infosys is expected to fill up the global sales head position that fell vacant in 2013 following the exit of Basab Pradhan. Sources said Infosys president and head of banking, financial services & insurance (BFSI), healthcare and life sciences Mohit Joshi is likely to be given the responsibility. Infosys declined to comment saying it is speculation.



Schedule of Events

Friday, July 21, 2017

11:00 AM— Registration and Lunch*

12:45 PM— Announcements and Rules

1:00 PM— Shotgun start
(Foursome Scramble)

5:00 PM— Awards Ceremony with
Food / Drink

> *Full lunch will be provided

> Drinks for sale from the roving
refreshment carts.

-Prizes and Contests

-Longest Drive, Longest Putt, Hole in One,
Closest to the pin skill prizes

-All players will receive a tournament gift
-50/50 drawing

-Mulligans will be available

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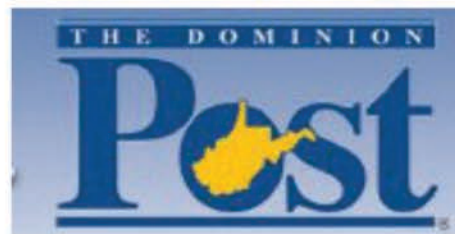
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Golf For Sight



Friday, July 21, 2017

Morgantown, WV

ASHTA VINAYAKA: EIGHT FORMS OF LORD GANESHA

Vakratunda

Ganesha's first avatara is of Vakratunda (twisted trunk) an embodiment of the Absolute Impersonal aspect of Godhood called Brahman in the form of Ganesha.

A demon named Matsara was born out of the Pramaada (Heedlessness) of Indra, the king of Gods.

This demon performed severe penance and invoked the grace of Lord Shiva and obtained the boon of fearlessness from Him.

Having obtained the boon he went about conquering all the three worlds," He was coronated as the king of Asuras by their preceptor Sukracharya. The defeated gods went to Kailasa and prayed to Lord Shiva for protection. On hearing the mission of gods, Matsara went to Kailas and vanquished Lord Shiva also.

When the gods were at their wit's end to know what to do next. Lord Dattatreya came there. He advised the gods to invoke the grace of Lord Vakratunda and imparted to them the secret of the monosyllable mantra Gam. All the gods including Shiva did penance accordingly and at last Lord Vakratunda appeared and assured them that he would subdue the demon. The demon was so terrified at the sight of Vakratunda that he surrendered to Him and sought refuge at His feet. The Lord forgave him, and restored the lost glory and kingdoms to the gods, and to the various kings on earth.

Ekadanta

The next incarnation was in the form of Ekadanta (single tusked) who defeated the demon Madasura. The famous sage Chyavana created Madasura.

The Asura sought his father's permission and went to Sukracharya, who was Chyavana's brother as well as the preceptor of the Asuras. He prostrated to the Guru and expressed his desire to become the ruler of the whole universe. Sukracharya was pleased with his nephew's submission and initiated him into the Shakti Mantra Hrim. Madasura did penance on this mantra for thousands of years.

At last the deity of Shakti, appeared, before him and blessed him with the fulfillment of all his desires. Thereafter the demon went about raging battles against all the kings and the gods, and was victorious everywhere. He thus became the ruler of all the three worlds. In his reign, all virtues and righteousness disappeared from the world. He married Saalasa the daughter of Pramada Asura and begot three children in her, viz. Vilasi, Lolupa and Dhanapriya. The worried gods approached Sanat kumara and sought his advice to overcome their plight Sanatkumara instructed them to propitiate Lord Ekadanta and seek his protection.

He also described the glory of Ekadanta thus "Eka stands for Maya the "embodied". and Danta for Truth (Satta). Thus Ekadanta represents the Supreme Truth which wields the Maya." The Devas then meditated upon the Lord Ekadanta for hundreds of years. Pleased by their devotion the Lord appeared before them and assured them that He would remove their miseries. Narada, the celestial saint, promptly informed Madasura of the boon given to the gods by the Lord and prompted him to wage war against Ekadanta The demon got ready for a battle with the Lord. But alas as



soon as he reached the battlefield and beheld the terrible form of Ekadanta, all his courage drained away and he surrendered to the Lord.

The demon then gave up the worlds held under his reign, and sought the Lord's protection. The Lord then told Madasura : "Don't stay in a place where I am worshipped in a Satwic manner. You are free to enjoy the fruits of all actions done with Asuric Bhava".

Mahodara

The third incarnation was of Mahodara who vanquished Mohasura, the demon of Delusion and Confusion. Once again the mouse was the mount of Ganesha.

The confused nature of this tale makes it difficult to understand exactly what was going on. It seems that once Shiva was sunk in meditation for ages and showing no signs of coming out of it. Meanwhile, the gods were in need of help. Parvati therefore assumed an alluring form and wandered round his meditating spot. Shiva was brought back to normal wakeful consciousness by this act and she abandoned the alluring 'cover' so as to speak. This abandoned energy form became a demon in its own right over the ages and Ganesha subdued it.

Gajanana

Equally perplexing in the tangled web of intergenerational sexuality is the next tale, of the avatar of Gajanana or Gajavakra who defeated the demon Lobhasura (Greed or Covetousness).

Gajanana means "the Lord with an elephant face", and Lobha was the demon of greed. Kubera, the Treasurer of the heavens, once visited Kailasa, the abode of Lord Shiva.

There he was blessed with the vision of the Lord and Goddess Parvati. Parvati was so beautiful that Kubera looked at Her with lustful eyes. The Mother became angry at this, and Kubera shivered with fear. From the fear of Kubera, there manifested a demon named Lobhasura. Lobhasura descended to the world of Asuras, where he received his education

from Sukracharya, the guru of Asuras.

Lambhodara

Once upon a time Lord Vishnu had assumed the form of Mohini, the enchantress, to delude the demons. When Lord Shiva beheld this seductive form. He was struck with passion.

Vishnu immediately gave up the Mohini form and assumed His usual form. Shiva became sad and angry. Out of the seeds of His disappointment was born a terrible demon Krodhasura.

This demon invoked the grace of the Lord Sun and became a powerful king. He married "Preeti" the beautiful daughter of Sambara and begot two sons in her— Harsha and Soka.

The gods undertook penance to invoke the grace of Lord Ganesha in the form of Lambodara. The Lord appeared before them and for the sake of the world, subdued Krodhasura.

Vikata

His next incarnation was of Vikata("The mishappen"), who subdued Kama, the demon of desire.

The demon named Kamasura, i.e. the embodiment of lust, was born out of the seeds of Lord Vishnu. Like all other demons he was accepted by the preceptor Sukracharya as his disciple. Kamasura performed penance on Lord Shiva and after long and arduous austerities he was blessed by the Lord.

He became the supreme ruler of the three worlds. He was ceremoniously married to Trishna, the daughter of Mahishasura, and begot two sons in her, viz. Soshana and Dushpoora.

The Devas, tormented by his rule, approached Mudgala Rishi for showing them a way out. The teacher advised them to meditate on the mantra OM at a place called Mayuresa Kshetra. Pleased by their devotion. Lord Ganesha appeared to them in the form of Vikata, and brought about their salvation.

Vighnaraja

The 7th incarnation of Ganesha Vighnaraja had a very unusual mode of conveyance - a Sheshnaag or Shasha. In this lifetime Ganesha managed to subdue the demon Mamasur (also known as Mamtasur or Mama), the demon of the ego.

This is His (Ganesha's) most popular incarnation, known as The Remover of Obstacles. Riding his vehicle called Sheshnag, a serpent, he strode into battle with Mamtasur, and overcame him." Parvati Devi, the daughter of Himavan, was married to Lord Shiva.

After the marriage, one day when She was relaxing in the company of Her friends. She burst out in laughter in a playful mood, and out of Her laughter was born a handsome male form He prostrated to the Mother She was surprised at this manifestation of the form and asked him who he was and what he wanted. He said that he was born from Her laughter and asked Her as to how he could serve Her. She named him Mama, as he was born out of her outburst, when She was swayed by "Maan", the sense of I-ness, Ego. She then instructed him to remember Lord Ganesha always, who would fulfill all his desires.

Dhoomravarna

Ganesha has a mouse as his mount here. His life mission this time around was to defeat the demon Ahamkarasur, the demon of self-infatuation.

Once, Brahmaji, the grandsire, bestowed on the Sun deity, the lordship over the 'world of activities'. One day, a thought dawned in the mind of Sun: "All the worlds are governed by Karma—activities; and by virtue of my being the Lord of Karma Rajya, I can consider myself to be the supreme governor of all the worlds.

As this thought passed his mind, he happened to sneeze and out of the sneeze there arose a demon. He went down to the world of Asuras and Sukracharya gave him the name "Aham" on account of his birth from the ego of Sun. He meditated on Lord Ganesha, who appeared before him in the form of Dhoomravarna and blessed him to be the sovereign ruler of all the three worlds. Aham married "Mamata", daughter of Pramadasura, and begot two sons in her named Garva and Sreshta.

Tired of the demonic rule of Aham, the Devas meditated upon Lord Ganesha for salvation, and the Lord descended to their rescue- Ere long, Lord Ganesha in the form of Dhoomravarna subdued the demon Aham.

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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? Indian alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."



TAAPSEE PANNU STARTS SHOOTING FOR 'JUDWAA 2' IN MUMBAI

Actress Taapsee Pannu on Wednesday started shooting the Mumbai schedule of 'Judwaa 2'. Last month, Taapsee had wrapped up the London schedule of the movie, in which she features with Varun Dhawan. Now she has started shooting at the Film City here.

"We will have a song and a few scenes to be shot here before we leave for Portugal next month. The song 'Tan tana tan' will be shot on a set. We are almost approaching the final leg of filming and can't wait for the fun to unfold on screen," Taapsee said in a statement.

The film marks the actress's second collaboration with director David Dhawan, who gave her a debut role in 'Chashme Baddoo'. With 'Judwaa 2', another entertaining side of Taapsee's acting skills will be seen after intense dramas like 'Baby', 'Pink' and 'Naam Shabana'.

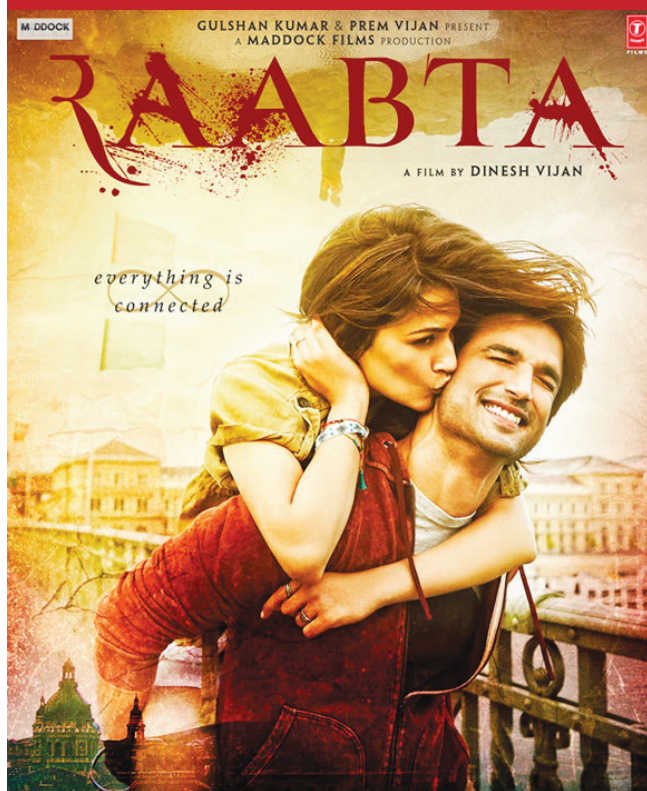
DIANA PENTY GETS CRACKING ON HER NEXT ROLE

It's always an actor's dream and endeavor to do different, challenging roles. Diana Penty is no exception. She is excited about her new film because she gets to kick and punch on screen for the first time. She began her prep by watching movies like 'Zero Dark Thirty', 'X-Files', 'Salt' and 'Sicario', in which women are performing stunts.

Apparently, she pauses and replays the action scenes to observe the actress' body language and makes her notes. Next, she will start training with a professional. While her regular workout involved weight training, she has now introduced kick-boxing to her workouts to achieve stance, agility, technique and speed which will be required of her when she performs her action scenes which will be fast-paced and gritty. *Source: TOI*



MOVIE REVIEW



RAABTA

CAST: Sushant Singh Rajput, Kriti Sanon, Jim Sarbh

DIRECTION: Dinesh Vijan

GENRE: Romance

DURATION: 2 hours 34 minutes

STORY

Shiv and Saira are drawn to each other like long lost lovers, mostly because they are. Their love dates back centuries, and the reason why they drifted apart, has drifted back into their lives.

REVIEW

The most common advice writers get is: "Show, don't tell." It means that a storyteller is expected to paint a picture as opposed to describing things mechanically. Raabta spends a lot of time telling you things, and not nearly enough in making them seem believable.

So we're told that Shiv (Singh Rajput) is a ladykiller. But the next girl he lays eyes on, Saira (Sanon), will kill his long streak. She talks to herself in the mirror and tells us, by its way, that she's been experiencing weird tribal nightmares. As they get infatuated and verbalize to each other that it's all

happening too soon, Saira starts feeling the same connection with Zakir (Sarbh) - another blast-from-way-past. We're then told that in a previous lifetime, Zakir and Saira were in love, until a savage warrior seduced her away.

Writers Siddharth-Garima and debut director Dinesh Vijan's conviction isn't questionable, but it doesn't quite translate to the screen. Even though the movie is technically sound and looks great, it is missing the raw passion required to sell a love story. Especially one that's been brewing for 800 years!

There are too many obvious influences: the saccharine first half is full of walk-and-talks in a beautifully shot European city (Before Sunset); the tribal past is right out of Game Of Thrones — Dothrakis are replaced by Murakis and astronomy is given similar importance; a scene towards the end is a forced throwback to Titanic.

As much as you can force influences into a love story, you can't force love itself. Neither with good-looking actors flirting with chocolates and flowers. Nor with an ambitious flashback that adds years as opposed to maturity to the plot. But Raabta relies on this kind of forced love rather than the force of love.

Sushant Singh Rajput is a fine actor but lacks the casual charm required to make the self-important Shiv lovable. Jim Sarbh's dialogue delivery is painfully awkward; he doesn't have the gravitas required for spouting those evil-genius kind of lines in Hindi. Kriti Sanon surprises. She looks good and seems to have honed her acting skills.



NICOLE KIDMAN READY TO EMBRACE HER 50S

Actress Nicole Kidman said she is enjoying every bit about ageing and is geared up to embrace turning 50.

The 49-year-old actress, who turns a year older on June 20, said she is taking life as it comes at this point of time.

"I'm absolutely embracing it. I try to embrace all parts of my life now because I think you just go 'wow. I'm so lucky, so blessed,'" said Kidman.

The 'Big Little Lies' actress adds she is looking forward to her birthday celebrations that will include a trip back to her native Australia.

"I'm making an effort to go back and see my mum in Australia and spend time with her. I've got the whole summer off so I'm just kind of relaxing," she adds.

She plans to celebrate her 50th birthday with her "divine" husband Keith Urban and children.

"(I want) to hang with my divine husband and my kids and my sister," Kidman said. Nicole and the country music star share two daughters: Sunday, 8, and Faith, 6. Her younger sister Antonia Kidman will be part of the celebrations too.

Nicole said, "I've already been to Australia and saw my mom and it's too far for her to travel but my sister is coming over with all her children. She has six kids."

The actress kept most details hush-hush though it seems she will most likely spend the day at home with friends and family. "That's it for me," the Oscar winner said.

"I don't need any big parties; I just need my family around me. If I have my family around me, I am happy."



CHARLIZE THERON'S KIDS FEEL SHE DOES HALLOWEEN FOR LIVING

Actress Charlize Theron's kids describe her career as "playing Halloween."

During her recent visit to the 'Jimmy Kimmel Live', the 41-year-old actress opened up about her children's perception of her career.

"At a very young age, someone asked my eldest, 'What does your mom do for a living? He just straight up was like, 'Uh, she does Halloween for a living'...I realise that they've just seen me do such crazy stuff," Theron said.

Later in the show the actress also embraced her South African roots using a korf ball to shoot some hoops for the Kimmel audience.

Source: PTI

MOVIE REVIEW



THE MUMMY

CAST: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Wallis, Jake Johnson, Courtney B. Vance, Russell Crowe

DIRECTION: Alex Kurtzman

GENRE: Action

DURATION: 1 hour 50 minutes

STORY

Millennia after being denied her fate, a betrayed Egyptian princess is back from the dead to take revenge. Determined to reclaim all that should have been hers, she unleashes terrors beyond human understanding.

REVIEW

Tom Cruise manages to stay fit at the age of 54 because he spends a lot of time running in his action movies. He also endures copious amounts of physical abuse, ranging from getting beaten up to thrown around; all for our viewing pleasure, while he gets a hefty paycheck in return. It's a fair trade for the most part - these are popcorn blockbusters that are mindless fun, and everyone is reasonably entertained. So it's hardly a shocker that Cruise ends up going through his tried and tested 'Mission Impossible' motions in 'The Mummy'.

Unfortunately, the entertainment value in this franchise-building reboot is thinly spread, leaving you feeling deprived if not cheated. This is a shoddy stab at merging action, mythology, horror and comedy resulting in conflicting tonality. Even the occasionally surprising, massive set pieces with elements flying at you in 3D, are interspersed between two-dimensional characters who exist merely to cater to movie tropes.

Cruise's protagonist is his version of a lovable rogue, in the same vein as Indiana Jones, making some seriously questionable decisions throughout the movie. Annabelle Wallis wanders around as the damsel-in-distress in need of constant rescuing. Russell Crowe hams it up as a Nick Fury-ish leader with ambiguous motives spewing campy exposition. There's even the sidekick (Jack Johnson) whose weary sense of humour brings out eye-rolls, amongst even more exposition. If there's one character your eyes will be glued to, it's Sophia Boutella. Adequately mesmerising as Ahmanet a.k.a. the mummy, she transitions from a creepy, violent monster to a seductive goddess with ease, but her impact is reduced by the screen time devoted to convincing us of Cruise and Wallis' love angle, even though that's devoid of any chemistry.

There's enough gruesome eye candy, and in-your-face action to enjoy in 'The Mummy' if you ignore the plot holes and frustrating characters. But the first entry in Universal Pictures' monster franchise comes across as a desperate attempt by the studio to capitalise on Hollywood's current world-building frenzy.

Indian American lawyer dies after being struck by a train in California

SAN MATEO, CA (TIP): Indian American lawyer Kirtee Kapoor, who was head of Davis Polk & Wardwell's India group and a partner at the firm in Menlo Park, California, died after being struck by a train in San Mateo, California, June 5, according to a belated report. He was killed by Caltrain at the Watkins Avenue crossing. "Early reports indicate this was an intentional act," Caltrain spokesperson Tasha Bartholomew said in a statement.



Kirtee Kapoor was killed by Caltrain at the Watkins Avenue crossing

"Kirtee was a truly wonderful man. His optimism, warmth, honesty and wisdom were inspiring. He will be remembered as a great partner of the firm, a beloved colleague and adviser, and a steadfast friend to so many", Davis Polk group said in a statement. Born in Bangalore, India, Kirtee earned his LL.B. from the University of Delhi Faculty of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Student's Law Review and Moot Court Society President. He received his B.C.L. from Balliol College, University of Oxford and was an Inlaks Scholar. He was a Hauser Global Scholar and Graduate Editor of the Journal of International Law and Politics at New York University School of Law, where he earned his LL.M.

Kirtee joined Davis Polk's New York office as an associate in 1999, and over the next 18 years spent time in several of their offices advising clients on significant M&A matters and in investments and other transactions around the world. He was elected to the partnership in 2007 and moved to Hong Kong later that year. In 2015, he joined the Northern California office.

Indian American Sanjeev Kulkarni appointed Dean of the faculty at Princeton University

PRINCETON, NJ (TIP): Sanjeev Kulkarni, dean of the Princeton University Graduate School and a professor of electrical engineering, has been appointed dean of the faculty effective July 1.

"Sanj Kulkarni has served with distinction as dean of the Graduate School, and I am delighted that he has agreed to take on this new role," President Christopher L. Eisgrube said. "His own interdisciplinary research, his wide-ranging service to the University and his leadership of the Graduate School have given him a deep appreciation for the values shared throughout our University and the scholarly practices that distinguish our departments. Sanj is a wise counselor and an effective administrator who is dedicated to ensuring our faculty's quality and well-being. I am confident that he will be an excellent dean of the faculty," Eisgrube said.

Kulkarni, who became dean of the Graduate School in April 2014, is an associated faculty member in the Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering (ORFE) and in the Department of Philosophy. "Faculty are the foundation of any great university, and it will be a pleasure and an honor to work with and support Princeton's outstanding faculty. I look forward to working with scholars, teachers, and researchers across the full range of academic departments and programs at the University," Kulkarni said. As dean of the Graduate School, Kulkarni led the strategic planning Task Force on the Future of the Graduate School, implemented a sixth-year funding program for graduate students in the humanities and social sciences, and with the dean for research implemented tuition matching funds for faculty who support fourth- and fifth-year graduate students on sponsored research.

Under Kulkarni's leadership, the Graduate School created an assistant dean position for professional development and developed a number of new programs including the University Administrative Fellows, opportunities for collaborative teaching between Princeton faculty and graduate students, and a partnership with Mercer County Community College to provide teaching opportunities and mentorship for Princeton graduate students.



Sanjeev Kulkarni, dean of the Princeton University Graduate School and a professor of electrical engineering, has been appointed dean of the faculty

contd from page 1

Mueller investigating Jared...

has shifted to Mueller. His investigation is still in a relatively early phase, and it is unclear if any criminal charges will be brought when it is complete, the Post pointed out. CNN, quoting sources said that there is no indication Kushner is currently a target of the probe and there are no allegations he committed any wrongdoing.

On Thursday, Kushner's lawyer said any such scrutiny of Kushner's business would be "standard practice."

Kushner has agreed to talk to the Senate Intelligence committee and is expected to discuss these matters with the Senate intelligence staff, though the timing is still being worked out.

In March, CNN reported Kushner had "relationship meetings" with Russia's ambassador Sergey Kislyak and with Russian banker Sergey Gorkov to discuss issues like sanctions. Last month, news surfaced that Kushner may have discussed creating a secret communications channel between the Trump transition team and the Kremlin with Kislyak.

The Justice Department's investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election is looking at Kushner's multiple roles in the Trump administration, including the Trump campaign's 2016 data analytics operation; his relationship with former national security adviser Michael Flynn; and Kushner's own contacts with Russians, according to US officials briefed on the probe.

The Post reported that FBI agents and federal prosecutors are also looking into the financial dealings of Flynn, former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and former campaign policy adviser Carter Page.

Mueller is also investigating Trump for obstruction of justice, the Post reported Wednesday. He is reportedly interviewing three top intelligence officials -- Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, National Security Agency Director Mike Rogers and retired deputy NSA director Richard Ledgett -- as part of the probe as early as this week.

In a tweet Thursday morning, Trump, who has been putting together his own team of outside lawyers to represent him, called the Post's report Wednesday that he is being investigated for collusion "phony."

"They made up a phony collusion with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they go for obstruction of justice on the phony story," he wrote on Twitter. "Nice."

Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday hired his own lawyer to represent him in the special counsel's Russia investigation.

IS chief may be dead, says...

the strike," the ministry said, according to the TASS news agency.

The leaders were discussing their exit from the city through the so-called southern corridor, the ministry said. The airstrike was carried out following drone footage confirmation of the council's meeting location, state-run Sputnik reported.

Other state media reported that more than 300 "terrorists" were killed in the strike.

Earlier, the Russian army, in a statement, said Sukhoi warplanes carried out a 10-minute night-time strike on May 28 at a location near Raqqa, where IS leaders had gathered to plan a pullout by militants from the group's stronghold.

There have been a number of previous reports of Baghdadi's death.

This is the first time, however, that Russia has said it may have killed the IS leader. Other media reports have previously claimed he had been killed or critically injured by US-led coalition air strikes.

Reacting to the report, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told journalists that there is no one-hundred-per cent confirmation yet that leader of the Islamic State terror group outlawed in Russia, al-Baghdadi, has been killed, "So far, I have no one-hundred-percent confirmation of this information," Lavrov said.

The Pentagon said on Friday, June 16, it did not have information to support Moscow's claims that its forces may have killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in an air strike near the Syrian city of Raqqa last month. "We have no information to corroborate those reports," Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis said, Reuters reported.

US defense officials said they were unable to confirm the reports. Col. Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the US-led coalition's operation against IS in Syria and Iraq, said the coalition "cannot confirm these reports at this time." There has been no official comment from Syria's government, the BBC reported.

So far, there has been minimal reaction from online supporters of IS to news of the reported death of the group's leader, it said.

One high-profile IS supporter on the messaging app Telegram shared a post denying the news and saying that when an IS leadership figure is killed, the group does not hide it.

He expected Baghdadi to come out soon with a message to prove he was still alive.

The IS has earned global notoriety for imposing a hardline form of Islam that has included stonings, beheadings and amputations.

(Source: PTI)

All Eyes on Modi-Trump Meeting...

Sources in the government said there should not be any expectations of any major agreements or outcomes being announced. Among the many issues that are likely to be discussed between the two leaders are the proposed changes in the H1B visa regime, defense cooperation and terrorism. Trump's anti-India tirade while withdrawing from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement will play out in the backdrop as that has left a bad taste with many in India.

It will be interesting to watch whether the PM can achieve the kind of personal rapport that existed between him and former US President Barack Obama. The talks between the two leaders are scheduled to be held on June 26. As of now, Washington DC is the only city on the PM's US itinerary.

Indian American community here is anxiously waiting to give a reception to PM Modi.

Modi's first stop, however, will be Portugal on June 24 where he will hold talks with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa in Lisbon. After wrapping his US tour, the PM will make a stopover in the Netherlands on June 27 where he will hold talks with Paul Rutte in The Hague, besides calling on the king of Netherlands.

Dr. Neeru Chadha is the first...

The Hamburg-based 21-member ITLOS (itlos.org), established in 1996, is one of dispute settlement mechanisms under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that entered into force in 1994.

Dr. Chadha was the only candidate from four candidates for the two seats in the Asia Pacific Group (APG) to be elected in the first round of voting itself. She also secured the highest ever votes obtained by an Indian candidate to the ITLOS. Elections for a total of seven seats were being held. The candidate from Thailand won the other APG seat in the second round.

Dr. Neeru Chadha is a distinguished lawyer and one of the leading experts on different aspects of international law in India. Dr. Chadha has the distinction of serving as the first woman Chief Legal Adviser to the Government of India. She has advised the Government on diverse issues relating to the law of sea involving interpretation of various provisions of UNCLOS. These range from determining the extent of coastal state's jurisdiction in different maritime zones, maritime delimitation with neighboring states, legal issues relating to submissions on extended continental shelf, baselines, applications for exploration of minerals in the seabed and piracy.

Dr. Chadha has extensive international arbitration and litigation experience, having served as Agent for the Government of India in its maritime delimitation case with Bangladesh and the case concerning the Enrica Lexie Incident - both Annex VII arbitrations under UNCLOS. She has served as Agent before the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament with Marshall Islands.

Dr. Chadha has also represented Government of India in various other multilateral meetings and conferences in the United Nations, AALCO (Asian African Legal Consultative Organization), UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law), UNCITRAL (UN Commission on International Trade Law), Hague Conference, SAARC and BIMSTEC on subjects relating to human rights, humanitarian law, international trade, international terrorism and international criminal law.

She has also represented India in numerous bilateral negotiations on issues relating to maritime delimitation, trans-boundary Rivers, international trade & investment protection, defense cooperation and disarmament.

Dr. Chadha's independent judgment and honed expertise is recognized at both home and abroad.

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INDIA MAUL BANGLADESH TO SET UP DREAM FINAL WITH PAKISTAN



Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma added an unbroken 178 for the second wicket, Bangladesh v India, Champions Trophy 2017, Edgbaston, June 15.

India and Pakistan will lock horns on Sunday for the title clash at The Oval. India are seeking to defend their crown while Pakistan, on the other side, are looking to win their first Champions Trophy.

BIRMINGHAM (TIP): Rohit Sharma stamped his class with an authoritative hundred in the company of magnificent Virat Kohli as India annihilated Bangladesh by nine wickets to set up a bumper summit showdown with arch-rivals Pakistan in the Champions Trophy, here on June 15 (Thursday).

The lazy elegance of Rohit (123 no off 129 balls) coupled with the unmatched swagger of skipper Kohli (96 no off 78 balls) ensured India treat Bangladesh's attack with utter disdain, knocking off a modest target of 265 in 40.1 overs.

This was after some inspired bowling changes from Kohli, including the introduction of part-time off-spinner Kedar Jadhav, which changed the complexion of the game with Bangladesh managing only 264 for seven in 50 overs.

A miracle was needed for the over-rated mediocre pace attack to stop the Indian line-up. That didn't happen as Rohit and Shikhar Dhawan (46) added 87 for the opening wicket.

And then came skipper Kohli, who treated the opposition attack as a bunch of net bowlers, adding 178 runs for the second wicket off 153 balls.

The Indian captain also reached a personal milestone of 8,000 ODI runs in his 183rd match.

Rohit's innings will be remembered for those pull shots and the amount of time he had to execute each one of them.

But Kohli's innings will be specifically remembered for two shots, or rather two pushes, off Mustafizur Rahaman—they were the best of the Indian innings.

One that went straight past the bowler and the other was pushed through the vacant mid-off area. It was the best way of showing who the boss is.

The gulf between the two teams was evident in the manner the Indian batsmen toyed with the Bangladesh attack.

Anything short outside the off-stump was cut with ferocity. If the short ball was on leg and middle, it was dutifully pulled by Rohit, Kohli or Dhawan.

They played all sorts of pull shots – Rohit primarily hit behind the square, Dhawan through the square and Virat in front of the

square.

Rohit, who is playing his first international tournament in six months, once again showed during his 11th ODI hundred as to why he is so highly rated.

There were 15 boundaries and a hooked six off Mustafizur brought up his hundred. Kohli, who finished the match with a boundary, hit 13 of them in all.

Earlier, Jadhav's 'golden arm' provided decisive twin blows, helping India restrict Bangladesh opting to bowl.

Jadhav's 2/22 in six overs brought India back in the game as he took the crucial wickets of Tamim Iqbal (70) and Mushfiqur Rahim (61) with his fastish off-breaks.

The two wickets proved to be the difference as Bangladesh only crossed the 260-mark instead of a projected 310 after Tamim and Rahim had added 123 runs for the second wicket in 21.1 overs.

Once Kedar was done with his job, Jasprit Bumrah (2/40 in 10 overs) played his regular part to perfection, stifling the opposition with as many as 40 dot balls.

The third powerplay (41-50) saw Bangladesh scoring only 62 runs, primarily due to a cameo from skipper Mashrafe Mortaza (30 no off 25 balls).

Bumrah's senior partner Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/53) complemented him well with a couple of dismissals first up. *Source: PTI*

Sohail accuses Pakistan of fixing their way into final

KARACHI (TIP): Just two days ahead of the high-octane Champions Trophy final against arch-rivals India, former Pakistan skipper Aamer Sohail has indirectly accused his national side of fixing matches in the ongoing eight-team marquee event. While speaking on a Pakistani news channel, Sohail created a storm by saying that skipper Sarfraz Ahmed and his boys have no reason to rejoice as they have made it to the finals with the help of "external factors", not by genuine performance.

"Sarfraz needs to be told that you have not done anything great. Someone has helped you to win these matches," said Sohail.

"There is no reason for you (Sarfraz) to rejoice. We all know what happens behind the scenes. I can't tell you who have won them the games. If asked, I will say that the prayers of the fans and God have won them the games. They have been brought to the final due to external factors and not on the basis of their performances."

The former opener warned the players to concentrate on their game



"Sarfraz needs to be told that you have not done anything great. Someone has helped you to win these matches...There is no reason for you (Sarfraz) to rejoice."

Former Pakistan skipper Aamer Sohail

and remain level-headed if they wanted to survive. "The boys now need to be level-headed and focussed on playing good cricket. We all are well aware of

everyone's calibre. If you do something wrong, then we will tell you about the same. If you do something correct, we will appreciate you. So, they should keep themselves level-headed, otherwise they would not be able to go much ahead."

U-Turn

After hinting that the side had made the final by fixing matches, Sohail issued a clarification wherein he said that he had lost his cool after learning that Sarfraz had refused to dedicate the victory against Sri Lanka to former captain Javed Miandad, who was celebrating his 60th birthday on that day.

"My comments were made after I heard of Sarfraz's refusal to dedicate the win to Miandad, and him saying that Miandad criticises the team too much," Sohail said. "The other thing I said was that the facilitators of the win cannot be named; however, I said nothing about match-fixing or any other foul play, my statement was misunderstood."

Source: Agencies

KUMBLE SET FOR BITTER EXIT AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY

MUMBAI (TIP): Anil Kumble appears to have decided to walk away as India coach at the end of the ICC Champions Trophy campaign when his one-year contract will come to an end.

With reports of major differences between Kumble and skipper Virat Kohli having marred the build-up to India's opening match against arch-rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston, Birmingham on Sunday, there were indications that efforts for any patch up had not borne fruit.

Although the BCCI has given Kumble direct entry while seeking applications for a new coach, it was learnt on Friday that the BCCI may not renew the contract of India's leading Test bowler despite his doing an excellent job since taking over as India coach in July 2016.

It is understood that given the current mood within the team, Kumble may even opt out of the race at the end of India's campaign in the tournament in UK. According to sources, after failing in the initial bid to bring about a patch up between Kohli and Kumble, effort currently is on by the BCCI officials in England and the Cricket Advisory Committee (Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman) to keep Kumble and skipper Kohli on the same page till the tournament is over, and ensure the two handle the issue in a professional manner.

Ramchandra Guha, who resigned from the COA on Thursday, was scathing in his remark with the way Kohli-Kumble issue was handled. The Indian coach-captain saga has been the talking point in the team's preparation for the crucial ICC Champions Trophy.



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