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We wish our readers a Happy 4th of July

**30** Taapsee Pannu to play a lawyer in Abhinay Deo's next



## Former Oyster Bay Supervisor Venditto and six others Indicted for Official Misconduct

**Nassau County DA Singas announces the indictment of seven individuals related to corruption in Oyster Bay**

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas announced, June 29 that former Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, former Parks Commissioner Frank Nocerino and Richard Porcelli, the deputy executive leader of a political club, were arraigned, June 29, on charges related to the illegal hiring and firing of a town employee.

John Venditto, 68, of Massapequa, was arraigned today, June 29 before Supreme Court Justice Charles Wood

contd on Page 10



Venditto pleaded not guilty to several charges, including conspiracy, official misconduct, corrupt use of position or authority, and defrauding government  
Photo courtesy NCSA

## United States and India View Prosperity through Partnership

President Trump accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi resolved to expand and deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries and advance common objectives. Above all, these objectives include combating terrorist threats, promoting stability across the Indo-Pacific region, increasing free and fair trade, and strengthening energy linkages. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that, together, the United States and India will provide strong leadership to address global challenges and build prosperity for their citizens in the decades to come.

contd on Page 32



President Donald J. Trump hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India at the White House on June 26

## USCIS Resumes H-1B Premium Processing for Physicians under Conrad 30 Waiver Program

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** From Monday, June 26, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has resumed premium processing for all H-1B petitions filed for medical doctors under the Conrad 30 Waiver program, as well as interested government agency waivers. The Conrad 30 program

contd on Page 32



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has resumed premium processing for all H-1B petitions filed for medical doctors under the Conrad 30 Waiver program

## FIA kicks off India Day Parade celebrations in NY

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut kicked off its India Day Parade celebrations with an evening of music, cocktails and dinner at the Indian Consulate June 28.

The 37th India Day Parade in New York this year is scheduled for Sunday, Aug 20. The gala banquet is set for Aug 21 at the Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ.

The India Day Parade on Aug 20 begins at noon on 38th street and Madison Avenue, ending at 26th street. Food court and sponsor booths will be on 26th street, between Park and Madison Avenues while the cultural programs will continue

contd on Page 10



India's Consul General in New York, Riva Ganguly Das (center right) with FIA office bearers, at the India Day Parade kickoff at the Indian Consulate in New York June 28. Photo Courtesy FIA

## Trump's Travel Ban Returns

**President's executive order targeting travelers from six Muslim-majority countries and refugees went into partial effect on Thursday, June 29 night.**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Trump's controversial executive order went into partial effect on Thursday night for the first time since January 2017. The ban imposes broad restrictions on visa travel from six Muslim-majority countries and temporarily suspends U.S. refugee admissions worldwide. But the new barriers already

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## Indian American Judge Sabita Singh to join Massachusetts Appeals Court

**BOSTON (TIP):** On June 21, Sabita Singh, the first Indian American judge in Massachusetts, was unanimously confirmed as Appeals Court judge. On May 31, 2017 Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker nominated District Court Judge Sabita Singh to the Appeals Court. Singh was appointed to the District Court in 2006 by Governor Mitt Romney.



*Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, On May 31, 2017 nominated District Court Judge Sabita Singh to the Appeals Court*

Sabita Singh is First Justice of Concord District Court. She is also a member of the District Court's Appellate Division where she hears appeals from District Court civil matters. She began her career as a law clerk to the justices in the Superior Court Department of the Trial Court. She then went on to serve as an Assistant District Attorney in the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, writing appellate briefs and arguing before the Appeals Court and the Supreme Judicial Court. Thereafter, Judge Singh spent seven years in the private sector with Bingham McCutchen LLP before returning to the public sector as Special Counsel for Criminal Civil Rights Enforcement at the United States Attorney Office in Boston.

She received her Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in 1990 and her Bachelor of Arts in the Administration of Justice from Pennsylvania State University in 1987. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at Northeastern University School of Law and Instructor at Harvard University. She has also served as President of the South Asian Bar Association of North America and the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston. Justice Singh was born in India and now resides with her family in Lincoln.

## Indian American man from Queens confesses killing cousin: Lovedeep Singh was arraigned June 24 night

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The 24-year-old Indian American man from Richmond Hill in Queens, New York, who brutally stabbed his cousin to death Monday, June 24 has confessed the crime to police.

Lovedeep Singh was arraigned Monday night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Eugene Guarino on counts of second-degree murder and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

The charges were slapped on Singh after he confessed to fatally stabbing his 26-year-old cousin Sharanjit Singh inside an apartment they shared in Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown said in a press release.

Lovedeep is said to have admitted that he stabbed Sharanjit in the neck and torso while they were inside their third-floor apartment at 117th St, near 91st Ave. sometime between 2.20 a.m. and 2.30 a.m.

Though the victim was rushed to nearby Jamaica Hospital, he was later pronounced dead. Investigators who visit the crime scene discovered the knife which was used at the time of the incident, New York Police Department said.

The New York Daily News quoted Barjinder Singh - brother-in-law is the victim's cousin, saying both Lovedeep and Sharanjit were good friends.

Sharanjit, who is livery car driver, moved to the US from India in 2013 for better opportunities and a better life. His parents still live in India.

The incident was reported by a third cousin who was living in the same apartment who found Sharanjit Singh in a pool of blood and called 911. "The defendant is accused of senselessly stabbing to death his cousin and roommate. This is a family tragedy for all concerned," District Attorney Brown said in his statement. Lovedeep Singh was ordered to be held without bail and his next court date is on Friday. If convicted for the brutal parricide, he will face up to 25 years to life in prison.



*Sharanjit Singh*

*Photo /Twitter*

# Indian American Executive Naveen Chopra named Interim CEO of Pandora

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Pandora - a powerful music discovery platform - has announced that Indian-American executive and current chief financial officer (CFO) Naveen Chopra has been made the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the company since co-founder and CEO Tim Westergren is stepping down from the company board.

"Over the past several weeks, the board has taken a number of steps to refocus and reinforce Pandora," Pandora board member Roger Faxon said in a press release. "As listeners continue to move from traditional terrestrial radio to more dynamic and flexible offerings, it is the board's belief that this transition continues to present a massive opportunity, and that Pandora is in an ideal position to capture an increasing share of the audience."

Naveen Chopra joined the company as chief financial officer on February



*Naveen Chopra joined the company as chief financial officer on February 28, 2017*

28, 2017. Prior to joining Pandora, Chopra served as interim CEO of TiVo Inc. Chopra has extensive experience advising companies on financial planning, investor relations, corporate

development and strategic growth. He joined TiVo in 2003 and most recently served as the company's interim chief executive officer from January 2016 until its acquisition by Rovi Corporation in September 2016. During his tenure at TiVo, Chopra guided the company through a critical financial and strategic transformation while building respected relationships with employees, investors, analysts and strategic business partners. From 2012 to 2016, Chopra served as chief financial officer and senior vice president of corporate development and strategy and was responsible for overseeing numerous strategic initiatives in addition to TiVo's accounting, financial reporting, planning, tax and treasury functions.

A graduate of Stanford in computer science and economics, he also earned an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

## Indian-American Doctor, Wife to Pay \$1.2 Million to Settle Fraud Charges

**JOHNSON CITY (TIP):** A prominent Indian-American doctor and his wife have agreed to pay USD 1.2 million to settle allegations of prescribing unapproved drugs in the US.

Anindya Sen, 68, owns two cancer centers in Greeneville and Johnson City in Tennessee. His wife Patricia Posey Sen, 69, managed his medical practice from 2009 through 2012.

The couple allegedly profited by administering cheaper unapproved drugs, Department of Justice said. They will pay USD 1.2 million to resolve state and federal False Claims Act allegations that their medical practice billed Medicare and Tennessee Medicaid for anti-cancer and infusion drugs that were produced for sale in foreign countries and not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for marketing in the US, it said.

"Billing for foreign drugs that are not approved by the FDA undermines federal healthcare programs and could potentially risk patient safety," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad Readler of the Justice Department's Civil Division. The government alleged that the unapproved drugs that the Sens provided to patients and billed to Medicare were not reimbursable under those programs.

It is further alleged that the Sens purchased unapproved drugs because they were less expensive than the drugs approved by FDA for marketing in the US.

Claims settled by this agreement are allegations only and there has been no determination of liability, the Justice Department added.

## Indian Immigrant arrested by ICE Newark after New Jersey County declines detainers

**ISELIN, NJ (TIP):** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers arrested an Indian immigrant after he was released from the custody of Middlesex County. ICE previously lodged detainers on him while he was in the county's custody, but the county failed to honor the requests.

On May 22, ICE lodged an immigration detainer on Maulik Gajjar, an Indian citizen, with the facility. On May 22, the correctional facility released him from custody without notification to ICE. Gajjar is currently facing state criminal charges.

On June 7, ERO Newark officers arrested Gajjar outside his residence in Iselin.

Gajjar does not have lawful status in the United States, and will remain in ICE custody pending removal proceedings.



*Dr. Anindya Sen and his wife allegedly profited by administering cheaper unapproved drugs, Department of Justice said.*

## Indian American to embark on solo flight around the world



*The mission of this round the world flight is to raise \$750,000 to buy an urgently needed MRI machine for Rotary Ambala Cancer and General Hospital in Ambala*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** On July 4, Ravinder K. Bansal, a retired entrepreneur of Indian origin, will embark on a solo flight around the world in a single-engine Cessna 400 to raise money for a hospital in Haryana. He hopes to raise \$750,000 to purchase an MRI machine for a hospital in his hometown Ambala.

The 100-bed hospital Rotary Ambala Cancer and General Hospital has been built with donations from philanthropists both in the US and India. The contribution is also a tribute to his elder brother Subhash Bansal's wife, Sneha Bansal, who died of cancer in India, in 2005.

"I am excited to start my round the world trip from Buffalo Niagara International Airport on July the 4th. This mission for me is very personal as it not only is an adventure that I have been dreaming about for a while, but will also get the hospital a needed piece of MRI equipment now and help bring awareness about cancer in rural community around Ambala. Above all, it will generate publicity for the hospital that will hopefully continue to bring donations/support from the local and international community and Rotarians to keep the hospital operating and growing in future", Bansal wrote in his blog.

Ravi Bansal, a resident of Buffalo, New York, is the pilot/owner of Cessna 400. The Cessna 400 is the fastest FAA-certified fixed-gear, single-engine piston aircraft in production today, reaching a speed of 235 knots (435 km/h) true air speed at 25,000 feet (7,600 m). The 19,878-mile trip will have several stops in different countries including England, France, Italy, Greece, Jordan, UAE, Oman, and India while going; and while returning Bansal would come via Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, Russia, and Canada.

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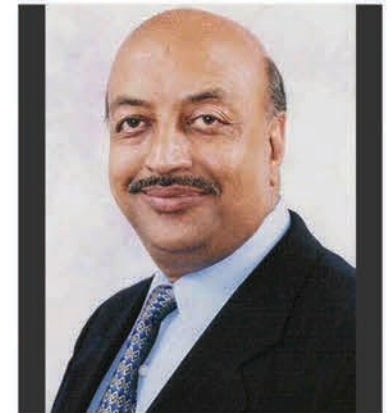
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# Indian American Night 2017 Celebrated



**Honorees All:** Surinder Rametra Trustee IAF, Mohinder Singh Taneja Trustee IAF, Mrs. Chhabra, Dr Inderpal Chhabra Honoree, Bina Advani Honoree, Dr Rajendra Modi Honoree, Indu Jaiswal Chair IAF, Maureen O'Connell, Nassau County Clerk, Bina Sabapathy Honoree, Gita Setia Honoree, Bobby Kumar Kalotee Founding Member IAF, Dr Tarun Wasil, Past President AAPIQLI

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** Indian American Forum on Sunday June 25, 2017, organized an evening of music and dances at Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. This program is part of the 2017 summer concert series sponsored by Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums.

The program started with Yoga sessions conducted by Ranju Narang and Group.

Health awareness services were organized by Nassau County Department of Health and Dr Bhavani Srinivasan of AAPIQLI. Indian American Night is a showcase of Classical Indian Music and folk dances from all regions of India.

Nassau County Executive Edward P Mangano was represented by Nassau County Clerk Maureen O'Connell. Nassau County Clerk welcomed everyone and presented the honorees with Citations from Nassau County.

Each Year members from Indian America Community are recognized for their outstanding services and contributions. Also present were several other dignitaries and elected officials.

Honorees for the evening included Ms Gita Setia is a trained vocalist. Gita has performed at Indian Consulate, fundraising of Hope Global Project, AIA, LIA and several other programs. She has released two albums composed by her. Currently she is affiliated with ITV Gold a host of a show and music programs.

Dr Rakesh Dua, President of AAPI QLI, largest chapter of National AAPI is actively involved in organizing Health Fairs and Charitable work. Dr Dua is also a passionate Singer and well known for his community services.

Ms Bina Sabapathy, President of India Association of Long Island, Currently



**Bollywood Dances by Jyotika Patel and group**

employed with Nassau County Department of Social Services, helping people to find employment. Bina is actively involved with Indian America Forum, AWB Food Bank, India Day Parade South Asian Political Action Committee and several other groups.

Ms. Bina Adjani, President of the Rotary Club of Jericho Sunrise, Bina is a true humanitarian, involved in charitable activities and providing help to the needy. Her mantra is has always been Helping People should be to find out what's actually valuable to someone. Make an effort to ask them where they need help and keep in mind when you see an opportunity to help.

Dr Inderpal Chhabra is the Medical Director of NSLU Care Health Insurance Plan and also Director of Physician CDI Education, NSLIJ Health System. Dr Chhabra is well known for his philanthropic and volunteer services New York and also in all the Gurudwaras...

Dr Rajendra Modi is a well-known ophthalmologist in Queens for the past 35 years... He is active in many social and

charitable organizations. He goes to India for free eye camps for poor people since past 30 years. Dr Modi is a Board Member of SANKARA NERTALAYA. And works with SANKAE EYE FOUNDATION

Indu Jaiswal Chairperson of Indian American Forum welcomed every one and thanked all the sponsors and supporters for their participation.

A Cultural program, organized by Jaya Bahadkar, was emceed by Dr Bhavani Srinivasan, Several music and dance performances lent color and charm to the celebrations. Students of Sadhna Pranji, Jyotika Patel, and several other schools took part. And presented vocal and dance performances.

Mast Group from YICG Group presented patriotic Medley enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Jyoti Gupta, Sheetal Talati, Mohinder Singh Taneja, Indu Gajwani, Nilima Madan Vijay Goswamy and several Volunteers and Sponsors who helped. Program was well attended by leaders of several organizations.

## Nritya Dhara: A dance Journey through the Golden Era of Bollywood Classics

Nartan Rang Dance Academy's Annual Extravaganza



**Delightful performances**



**GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP):** On Sunday, June 18th, 2017, the Nartan Rang Dance Academy of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan presented its annual dance showcase, Nritya Ranjani (now in its 16th year) at the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center on Long Island.

A grand tribute to Bollywood's golden oldies, fusion and



**Swati Vaishnav with performers and organizers**

classical dances. These dances were showcased in grand style with glittering eye-catching costumes. Nritya Dhara (Stream of Dances) was truly a spectacular extravaganza. Over 75 students participated ranging in ages from 4 to 60!

Choreographed by Swati Vaishnav & Siddhi Vaishnav. The school, which works under the umbrella of renowned non-profit organization Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Opening the show was a prayer dance Bappa performed by dancer choreographer Siddhi Vaishnav and Senior/Alumni group from the movie Banjo.

The show was well appreciated by a full house audience encouraging their children and grandchildren said artistic director Swati Vaishnav, "We wanted to have a little bit of

something for everyone this year & we wanted to make sure our students learn various forms of dance, while still being enriched by the traditional styles from our South Asian heritage & culture." The show was ably emceed by Monty Kataria and Shiv Vaishnav. A well-known community leader and Philanthropist Mr. Amit Doshi was honored and recognized for his services to the community by a proclamation from Nassau County by Mr. Dilip Chauhan, Senior Advisor, with Nassau County Comptroller Mr. George Maragos.

Information about classes for the 2017-2018 year can be found at [www.nartanrang.com](http://www.nartanrang.com) or by E-Mailing [vaishnavswati7@gmail.com](mailto:vaishnavswati7@gmail.com).

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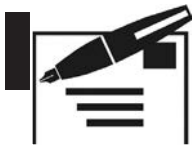
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## GUEST COMMENT

A WELCOME SALE: AIR INDIA  
DISINVESTMENT

**The Centre should sell its entire stake in Air India, even if in stages**

With the Union Cabinet's 'in-principle' approval for the sale of Air India and five of its subsidiaries, a long-standing demand on the reform checklist has been ticked. The rationale for the government to shovel in huge sums of money to keep the loss-making airline afloat was weakening by the year. Today, such life support, as Finance Minister Arun Jaitley recently noted, was being given when competing private airlines already cater to well over 85% of the air travel demand in the country. Government money that keeps Air India from going bankrupt would be much better used to fund important social and infrastructure programs that are starved of precious capital each year. Air India has been surviving on a ₹30,000-crore bailout package put together by the United Progressive Alliance government in 2012 to help its turnaround, and the debt relief provided by public sector banks. The airline has a debt load of over ₹50,000 crore on its books, and it is estimated that even a well-executed asset sale may not fully cover its present liabilities. So in the event of a sale, taxpayers may have to foot at least some part of the loss - either directly in case the government pays off the airline's creditors, or indirectly if the public sector banks write off their loans to the airline. However, it is more likely that the government may divest its three profit-making subsidiaries separately, with the proceeds going to Air India to help deal with its liabilities.

It is not yet clear whether the airline will be fully privatized or how its eventual sale will be executed. A ministerial panel under Mr. Jaitley is expected to begin working on the details soon. But having taken the politically courageous decision to privatize Air India, the government would do well to go for the sale of its entire stake, even if it is done in a gradual manner. Eventually, the aim of the sale should be to get the best price for the airline. One good way to achieve this would be to allow both domestic and foreign buyers to bid freely for stakes. For this, the government will have to re-tune its FDI policy to allow foreign investors to buy a stake in Air India. The Civil Aviation Ministry has made a case for the sale of non-core assets first to pay off existing creditors, so that the airline becomes more attractive to private buyers. But this assumes that private buyers would not otherwise see the value in Air India's assets. IndiGo has already expressed interest in buying a stake in Air India, with other domestic airlines reported to be serious about making a bid too. Finding a way to deal with Air India's debt load will be the main challenge for Mr. Jaitley's panel. How this process goes will be vital not just for Air India. If it goes relatively smoothly, that would make the task of moving forward on the disinvestment of other public sector units that much easier. *(The Hindu)*

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## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Vijay Shah -Photo Journalist.

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## CORRESPONDENTS :

SACRAMENTO: Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK : Chitagam

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## The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond

Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.com

## DALLAS EDITION

P.O. BOX 121695,

ARLINGTON, TX 76012

Lovllien Kaurr, VP &amp; Bureau Chief

E-mail tipdallas01@gmail.com

Phone: 646-595-5026

www.theindianpanorama.com

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## AS I SEE IT

## Trump sticks to Obama line on India



By Sandeep Dikshit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three top-level interactions in Washington would have provided a fair understanding of India's position in Donald Trump's scheme of rearranging international relations in Asia.

Trump is forthright, some would say non-statesmanlike, in conducting state business, making it easier for the side at the other end of the negotiating table to understand the underlying motives and expectations. His chief consiglieres, the ministers for Defense and Foreign Affairs, have a similarly unvarnished approach of laying out their cards.

These three policy-marker meetings have made it clear that the White House retains the Obama era policy of encouraging India to concentrate on its eastern approach. This means American help for building trade bridges with the four US allies - ASEAN, Australia, South Korea and Japan - as well as in positioning India as a neutralizer of China's increasing maritime presence. The Trump era disinterest in the US "Pivot to Asia" does not yet translate into India losing its usefulness as a major naval force in the Indo-Pacific. With Japan and Australia also stepping up their maritime presence, the US Deep State believes this quadrilateral should be kept in readiness as a formidable armada off China's southern and eastern coasts.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor that would cut a road link across Bangladesh/Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam not just reopens a route for India that has remained closed ever since the Europeans initiated hostilities with the Japanese, it also fits in with the American plan to checkmate transport corridors descending from China into these countries. This battle of corridors - west-east (India to Vietnam) pitted against China's north-south (Myanmar, Bangladesh and Thailand) - and the contest of the seas will ensure India remains embedded in American economic-military strategy despite waxing and waning of this concept's importance among successive White House Administrations. This realization explains India's alignment with the US position on the North Korean missile tests. It also pleases South Korea, emerging as a prominent supplier of defense equipment.

But on the west, especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan, India has to strike alliances on its own. The MEA spokesperson's choice of phraseology after the PM met US Secretary of Defense John Mattis indicated that the CIA/Pentagon would prefer to do business in Afghanistan without the India-Pakistan zero-sum contest. Another reason for US opposition to a dust-up is it plans to push a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to permanently kill any prospects of Iranian gas finding a market in the region. This US disinclination to hostilities brought about a softened Modi. He did touch upon the surgical strikes during a town

“ Narendra Modi has realized that India will not get a free pass from the dealmaker in the White House. India must make its markets and commercial laws US-friendly to upgrade bilateral ties. Till then, the existing approach suits both sides fine”, says the author.



Donald Trump greets Narendra Modi during their joint news conference in Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, US, on June 26.

hall with the Indian diaspora, but unlike at the previous G-20 and SCO summits, there was no laundering of neighborhood animosities from the pulpit. Instead, the PM spoke of a peaceful neighborhood and the sharing of India's growth spoils with the world.

India earned two endorsements of its position on regional security. The Trump-Modi joint statement threw Pakistan down the stairs for fostering violent militant groups. It was burnished with the US naming a Pakistan based Kashmiri militant leader as a global terrorist. But too much is being read into the joint statement's suspicions about the OBOR. The businessman in Trump would have to balance the multi-billion dollar contracts being won by American companies with the US military-intelligence establishment's suspicions of the strategic game plan wrapped in China's OBOR trade-only claims. Clearly opportunities from the \$1 trillion OBOR infrastructure development pie do not put US opposition on the same footing as that of India, which is also suffering the anxiety of encirclement.

Trump has suggested in no uncertain terms that the US needs more Indian business to get it more interested in Indian strategic priorities. With a \$ 500 billion trade deficit, Trump is looking at Indian efforts to reduce its trade surplus with America. These mean creating the right tariff environment for its capital goods and opening up the Indian market for American IT and agricultural

products. It also means killing all Indian expectations of a liberal visa regime and if possible handing Westinghouse with a \$ 50 billion contract for six nuclear reactors. Trump also explained that India was not getting access to sensitive and closely held technology because its intellectual property regime does not measure up to Pentagon's expectations.

Without this to-do list, India's aspiration to ride on American technology to sharpen its military edge and backing to enter NSG may have to remain on hold. The US has given that indication by slowing down work on an ambitious military co-production project of building an aircraft carrier. The official explanation could not be weaker: the US Navy team earmarked for the project is busy de-commissioning USS Enterprise. The implication is India's attempt to reach aircraft carrier parity with China gets delayed.

On the eve of his departure to the US, PM Modi had signaled India's willingness to qualitatively improve its surveillance of the Indian Ocean - which primarily means keeping an eye on Chinese vessels - with products bought from American companies. His \$ 2 billion order pales in comparison to Qatar's \$ 13 billion and Saudi Arabia's \$ 110 contracts for US military equipment. Clearly, Indian foreign policy will have to keep its multi-vector approach alive. It will be too expensive to have Trump as the sole ally.

*(The author can be reached at sandeep4731@gmail.com)*



# Reining in China: India must collaborate with Japan, US & EU to counter Chinese influence



By G Parthasarathy

China has got accustomed to violating India's territorial integrity in J&K and Arunachal Pradesh. It transgresses international norms by supplying Pakistan with knowhow and designs of nuclear weapons and missiles. Its provocative behavior includes protests over visits by Indian dignitaries to Arunachal Pradesh. China, meanwhile, welcomes political figures from POK and Gilgit-Baltistan on official visits. Beijing also seeks to undermine India's relations with South Asian neighbors like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh, backing politicians and political parties known to be less than friendly to India. New Delhi is, however, now reacting in a more measured manner to China's policy of "strategic containment".

Ignoring warnings from China, India reinforced its claims to Arunachal Pradesh by encouraging a high-profile visit to the state by the Dalai Lama, who acknowledges it is an integral part of India. The Dalai Lama pointedly visited Tawang, which has special spiritual significance for Tibetans. But the proverbial last straw on the Indian camel's back is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), involving an investment of around \$51 billion. CPEC challenges Indian sovereignty by traversing through Gilgit-Baltistan, as part of Beijing's larger Eurasian OBOR project.

India cannot ignore the security threat that this project poses as an integral part of a China-Pakistan axis to contain India across the Indian Ocean region. Accompanying this project, has been the laying of a fiber-optic cable connecting China's PLA in Kashgar in its Xinjiang province and the Pakistan army's GHQ in Rawalpindi. CPEC enhances the communications between the armies of China and Pakistan. It provides Beijing the road link to the Port of Gwadar, which has been handed over to it by Pakistan. China has also agreed to provide Pakistan with a large number of frigates and submarines. Gwadar is significantly located alongside the maritime routes for oil supplies to India from the Persian Gulf. China's Maritime Silk Route, which complements OBOR, traverses across India's shores in the Indian Ocean from the Straits of Malacca to the Gulf of Aden. China is evidently seeking to surround India with a "string of pearls" comprising base facilities at Kyaukpadaung in Myanmar, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pakistan, Mombasa in Kenya and Djibouti in the Gulf of Aden. The

**“It is now time for India to work with Japan, the US and the EU to coordinate their efforts to actively promote alternatives to Chinese economic exploitation in Asia and Africa. Moreover, Russia needs to be coopted bilaterally and through funding by institutions like the BRICS Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, for constructing transport corridors through Iran to Afghanistan, the Caspian and Central Asia”, says the author.**



NOT ALL ROSY: Only 20 countries attended the OBOR Summit

Chinese modus operandi is clear from what transpired in Sri Lanka. China undertook financially unviable projects in President Rajapakse's constituency and pushed Sri Lanka into a debt trap. Unable to repay the debt, Sri Lanka was compelled to hand over both the port and neighboring industrial area to China in a debt/equity swap. Despite this having triggered protest riots in Sri Lanka, China sought to berth a submarine in Colombo when Mr Modi was visiting the island.

After carefully graduating its response to CPEC, India finally came out publicly with a statement which objected to not just the fact that CPEC violates our territorial integrity, but also appears to be a project whose exploitative terms would render the recipients bankrupt. The External Affairs Ministry's spokesman suggested, just prior to the OBOR Summit in Beijing, that the project was not based on "universally recognized international norms", adding that it appeared to violate international norms of "openness, transparency and equality". The statement also suggested that the project does not meet principles of financial responsibility which require avoidance of creating unsustainable debt in recipient countries. India noted that

connectivity projects should involve transfer of skills and technology and respect "sovereignty and territorial integrity". Like its decision on taking the Kulbhushan Jadhav case to the ICJ, the government's decision to not attend the OBOR Summit in Beijing was predictably criticized by the same critics. Ominous warnings were voiced that India would now find itself "isolated" by taking on an all-powerful China.

What transpired was somewhat different. Only 20 countries, mostly from South and Southeast Asia and Africa, attended the conference at the summit level. Given his dependence on China, President Putin was the only major world leader present. This, despite the fact that Russian academics and others had expressed serious reservations on the OBOR traversing through the Eurasian belt, major portions of which have historically been regarded by the Russians as their backyard. Chinese pettiness and petulance was evident when they expressed their displeasure by not inviting the respected PM of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, who had the courage to say that territorial disputes in the South China Sea should be settled according to international law. The navies of India and

Singapore held joint exercises in the South China Sea shortly thereafter. Moreover, within the OBOR conference, the Europeans and some others were quite vociferous.

The EU has strongly criticized China's international trade and economic assistance policies. Senior EU leaders have made it clear that they believe that the OBOR project lacks a formal structure and that China has shown lack of transparency. The EU is skeptical about China's motivations and its terms of trade and economic cooperation. EU functionaries feel Chinese policies are mercantilist. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific has, meanwhile, warned of high financial risks in several OBOR projects. There are now voices even in Pakistan, warning that CPEC is going to result in Pakistan being confronted with an unsustainable debt burden, with apprehensions that it will be forced to go the Sri Lanka way. More importantly, there is growing realization internationally that China is not a 21st century Santa Claus and that the OBOR project is predominantly an effort by China to rebalance its economy and provide jobs for the vast labor and construction industry that it has developed which are now running out of opportunities and business within the country.

It is now time for India to work with Japan, the US and the EU to coordinate their efforts to actively promote alternatives to Chinese economic exploitation in Asia and Africa. Moreover, Russia needs to be coopted bilaterally and through funding by institutions like the BRICS Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, for constructing transport corridors through Iran to Afghanistan, the Caspian and Central Asia. The US has renewed its proposal for a "New Silk Route" across Asia, which India had welcomed. Finally, India and Japan should jointly build a transportation and industrial corridor to the shores of East Africa, where Mr Modi's visits have set the stage for expanding economic, industrial and energy cooperation across the Indian Ocean. China will have to learn that true economic development comes from transparent multilateral cooperation and not bilateral economic exploitation.

*(The author is an Indian career diplomat)*

## Sino-India border flap: Increasing risk of a spillover

Scrimmages between the Indian and Chinese border troops on YouTube make for an amusing viewing. With rifles strapped securely on their backs, the soldiers carefully calibrate their firmness to ensure it does not deteriorate into aggression. It is this restraint, built up by patient diplomatic footwork over decades, that has led Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reiterate his predecessor's observation of not a single shot having been fired on the Sino-Indian border in the last 40 years. Twice recently the Chinese troops have squatted for

days on territory claimed by India. In both cases, India and China ensured the disagreement did not impact bilateral ties in other spheres. But it is for the first time that China has retaliated by closing one of the routes to the revered Mansarovar Lake that passes close to the ongoing site of confrontation.

Over the past three years, Sino-Indian ties have developed new frictions. Chinese suspicions about India acting as the US' cat's paw have deepened. South Block in turn believes that the Chinese 'String of Pearls'

strategy of encircling India, once dismissed as the work of a fevered intern, is becoming a reality. The fall in the frequency of high-level interactions suggests bilateral strategic disagreements are hardening. India feels the intensive Chinese dalliance with Pakistan has reached the point of no return. China sees a reverse String of Pearls of getting encircled from the emerging India-US-Japan partnership with Australia and South Korea as partly interested players.

The easier task in foreign affairs is to manage relationships with countries at a

distance. The challenge is to keep ties with neighbors on an even keel. The Modi government has tripped on that count. China and Pakistan are not the only irritants in the mix. Bangladesh has opted for Chinese weapons and Nepal wants to join the OBOR. Fresh from the US, the PM has his task cut out. The first priority is to ensure China's block on Mansarovar Yatra should not deteriorate into a series of retaliatory actions. The second, and the longer haul, is to overhaul the current emphasis on militarism in current policy.

## Nassau County Comptroller Maragos Orders Audit of MTA/LIRR Station Operation and Maintenance



*"The litany of service delays, train cancellations, derailments and overcrowding appears to represent a failure of management, inadequate maintenance, poor planning and lack of investment in the LIRR": Comptroller Maragos*

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** Commuters across Nassau County are suffering on a daily basis from an endless array of problems with the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) including broken rails, derailments, and signal problems causing service delays, and train cancellations. The public is entitled to answers regarding whether the approximately \$28.5 million in taxpayer money paid annually to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for LIRR station operations and maintenance is well spent. With this objective, Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos sent an audit engagement letter to the MTA, on June 19, 2017. A start date of July 12, 2017 was recently mutually agreed. The \$28.5 million annual payment is only a portion of the \$143.3 million paid in 2016 to the MTA by Nassau County taxpayers excluding train fares.

"The litany of service delays, train cancellations, derailments and overcrowding appears to represent a failure of management, inadequate maintenance, poor planning and lack of investment in the LIRR," said Comptroller George Maragos. The inadequate service is affecting our local economy by reducing productivity, and increasing traffic congestion and pollution. The economy will continue to be adversely affected unless we restore reliable LIRR service. Our audit will attempt to look at how well taxpayer money is spent by the LIRR in operating and maintaining the Nassau County system and by extension all of the LIRR system."

The intent of the audit is to specifically examine how effectively Nassau County taxpayer money is spent by the MTA in providing the County's LIRR rail operations and its associated management practices. The audit is expected to be completed in about 3-4 months assuming the MTA and LIRR cooperate.

Under New York State County Law § 577, a County Comptroller is granted the authority to "have general superintendence over the fiscal affairs of the county" as well as the authority to "audit all claims, accounts and demands that are lawful county charges". Nassau County makes millions of dollars of payments to the MTA for the operation, maintenance and use of LIRR Stations located in Nassau County, as well as millions for the County's matching portion for its State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) program for MTA's commuter rail operations. This limited review will examine whether certain funds are being utilized in accordance with the law.

## MTA in 'State of Emergency': Cuomo to fund \$1B



**ALBANY, NY (TIP):** Gov. Andrew Cuomo is declaring a "state of emergency" for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to expedite repairs on what he called the "circulatory system" of New York, which he acknowledged Thursday, June 29, has experienced a "heart attack."

At a Genius Transit Conference across the street from Penn Station - where an Amtrak train stalled due to a power outage Thursday morning - Cuomo said he will send \$1 billion to the MTA, and he ordered new MTA chairman Joe Lhota to reorganize the agency.

A reorganization plan is due in 30 days, Cuomo said. A second plan from Lhota, detailing what equipment is needed, how much it'll cost and how it can be acquired quickly, is due in 60 days, Cuomo said.

A third report, due in 90 days, will be conducted by the Public Service Commission and it will examine the related power failures at Penn Station. Cuomo said Con Edison, which delivers the power, and the MTA, which distributes it at the station, have been blaming each other in a "finger-pointing game."

Cuomo said the PSC review will "identify the equipment, identify the responsibility," for the outages. He warned: "If there is a power outage and if Con Ed is responsible, they are going to be fined heavily for the delay they have been causing New Yorkers and we're going to do that immediately."

The remarks come amid growing criticism of Cuomo's oversight of the MTA. At Thursday's conference, on a stage inside the Hammerstein Ballroom, Cuomo rattled off facts about the MTA

and cast its current woes as the result of decisions that predate his arrival in the governor's office in 2011.

Cuomo did not say where the \$1 billion in additional money for the MTA would come from, and a spokesman for his office did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

"We know the system is decaying and we know the system is decaying rapidly," Cuomo said. "I think of it as a heart attack. It happens all of a

sudden, and the temptation is to say 'well, something must have just caused it.' No, a lifetime caused it; bad habits caused it; lack of exercise caused it; smoking caused it; cholesterol caused it. This has been caused over decades, we understand that."

Lhota said he had no details about the source of Cuomo's \$1 billion funding commitment. "I heard it a few seconds before you heard it," he said. But he brushed aside a question about whether that money will "offset" funds already earmarked for the MTA. "I don't think the \$1 billion is going to offset anything. The governor said he's going to give us an additional billion dollars, an additional amount. That's not an offset. That's additional money."

Lhota left open the possibility of reducing the subway's 24-hour service, or instituting longer-term shutdowns in order to make repairs. "I am open to anything to get the system in a state of good repair and into the 21st Century," he said. Lhota went on to say that the public may support moves like that if they were told of the benefits. "Let's talk about what the benefits are going to be. Let's show them what it is. And hold me and hold all of us accountable."

*(Source: Politico New York)*

contd from Page 1

## Former Oyster Bay Supervisor...

and charged with Corrupt Use of Position or Authority (an E felony), three counts of Official Misconduct (an A misdemeanor) and Conspiracy in the Sixth Degree (a B misdemeanor). If convicted of the top count, the defendant faces up to 1-1/3 years to four years in prison.

Richard Porcelli, 70, of Ronkonkoma, the deputy executive leader of the North Massapequa Republican Club was arraigned today before Supreme Court Justice Charles Wood and charged with two counts of Official Misconduct (an A misdemeanor) and Conspiracy in the Sixth Degree (a B misdemeanor). If convicted of the top count, Porcelli faces up to a year in prison.

Frank Nocerino, 65, of Massapequa, was arraigned today before Supreme Court Justice Charles Wood and charged with Official Misconduct (an A misdemeanor). If convicted, Nocerino faces up to a year in prison.

The defendants pleaded not guilty and are due back in court on September 26. They were released on their own recognizance.

"Former Supervisor Venditto and his associates are charged with corruptly orchestrating the hiring of a town employee at an inflated salary and firing him months later at Frederick Ippolito's self-serving request," said DA Singas. "Taxpayers are victimized when public employment is abused to advance the personal interests of the powerful."

DA Singas said after the federal conviction of Town of Oyster Bay Commissioner of Planning Development Frederick Ippolito on tax evasion, Ippolito continued to exercise influence over town matters.

According to the indictment, Supervisor Venditto directed Parks Commissioner Nocerino to hire Individual B to work in the town Parks Department at the behest of Ippolito. Venditto directed the hiring of Individual B even though the town was not hiring new employees and openly discussing laying off existing employees because of a financial crisis. Nocerino knew that hiring Individual B was wrong for the above reasons, as well as others, including that Individual B was to be paid more than twice the appropriate salary for his position. Months later, Ippolito directed that Individual B be fired. Venditto and Richard Porcelli - deputy executive leader of the North Massapequa Republican Club and close associate of the supervisor - agreed to fire Individual B and that the Town of Oyster Bay would fire

other employees to divert attention from the firing of Individual B.

Individual B was paid more than other employees and was instructed not to discuss his terms of employment. Months later, Ippolito directed that Individual B be fired. Venditto and Richard Porcelli - deputy executive leader of the North Massapequa Republican Club and close associate of the supervisor - agreed to fire Individual B and that the Town of Oyster Bay would fire other employees to divert attention from the firing of Individual B.

Venditto is represented by Mark Agnifilo, Esq., Porcelli is represented by Frank Casale, Esq. and Nocerino is represented by Christopher Devane, Esq. The charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless found guilty. *(Source: NCUA website)*

## FIA kicks off India Day Parade...

through 6 pm on Madison Avenue, between 24th and 26th streets. More than 125 members of the community were in attendance at the Indian Consulate, including FIA office-bearers, sponsors and patrons. FIA chairman Ramesh Patel and president Andy Bhatia, along with more than 25 former and current FIA executive committee members, welcomed guests and took turns to announce India Day Parade program and agenda.

Patel announced that the dashing Rana Daggubati and beautiful Tamannaah Bhatia, both stars of the recent massive Bollywood hit "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion," had confirmed participation in India Day Parade this year, courtesy India's Times Media Group. The grand marshal, usually a mainstream Bollywood star and also the biggest draw at the parade, Patel said, was yet undecided and should be confirmed in the next few weeks.

The evening kicked off with a welcome dance by Shiv Kala Dance Academy in the Consulate's grand ballroom, following by ceremonial lighting of lamp by India's Consul General in New York, Riva Ganguly Das and FIA officials Ramesh Patel, Andy Bhatia, Srujal Parikh, Alok Kumar, Chhavi Singh, Himanshu Bhatia, Anand Patel, Dr Sudhir Parikh, Dr Raj Bhayani, Shobna and Dinesh Patel, Yash Pal Soi, Nitin Vohra, Chandrakant Trivedi, Kanu Chauhan, Ankur Vaidya, Bipin Patel, Jagdish Patel and Deepak Patel.

Consul General Das said the parade kickoff at the Indian Consulate was among the key annual events at the Consulate,

primarily because of what it signified. "The India Day Parade is hugely symbolic because it brings communities from different Indian associations and emboldens the fabric of Indian togetherness." She also announced that in a first the Indian Consulate was sponsoring a float this year to showcase India's Northeast, its different cultures, tea gardens and investment opportunities.

Perhaps, the underlying theme of the parade each year is showcasing Indian culture to mainstream communities in New York, aiding in better understanding of immigrants. The semblance of two vastly different cultures was amply demonstrated at the Indian Consulate through a soulful performance by Paula and Richard Bennett, both trained jazz musicians, who sang on North Indian classical piano music.

Many speakers recalled the years in the 1980s when FIA initiated the India Day Parade with barely any Indian businesses in the New York area that could sponsor the parade. "Still, we managed to pull through such a massive undertaking for 31 years," said Ramesh Patel. "There is an ongoing emotional connect of identity with India Day Parade and therefore I request you to stay involved." Shobna Patel, the FIA banquet committee chair, announced that the Aug 21 gala at Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ, was being planned as the grandest to date. "We will have sit-down family-style dinner, with high cocktails and an evening of exciting entertainment."

In his closing remarks, FIA's Yash Pal Soi, thanked New York City mayor Bill De Blasio and Councilman Daniel Dromm, in aiding FIA to secure timely permits and permissions for India Day Parade this year.

Representatives of FIA's partner associations in attendance, included Jackson Heights Merchants Association, Global Haryana Chamber of Commerce and FOKANA (Federation of Kerala Associations in North America). Among the supporting sponsors of the parade are, Air India, HAKS Group, TV Asia, State Bank of India, New York Daily News, MoneyGram, Sling TV, India Tourism, Royal Albert's Palace, Indus American Bank and Parikh Media Worldwide.

The FIA of NY-NJ-CT was formed in 1970 and is among the largest umbrella organizations representing over 500,000 Indian Americans in the tristate region. The centerpiece of its efforts culminates in the India Day Parade in New York each year.

For information about floats, booths and marching groups, call 732.325.7891, 848.248.0707, 732.387.5107 or email sponsorship@fianynjct.org

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## Do not Take Away Health Care from Millions, Civil and Human Rights Coalition warns Senate

WASHINGTON (TIP): Civil and Human Rights Coalition demanded that Senate must listen to the people and not take away health care from millions. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States.

Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, issued the following statement following the announcement that the Senate is delaying consideration of legislation to take health care away from millions of Americans:

"Across the country, the people Congress serves are speaking out and demanding their elected officials protect their access to affordable health care. It's high time for Congress to listen.

Republicans in Congress have no real plan to improve our nation's health care. A massive tax cut for wealthy Americans, while conforming to the GOP playbook, does not help keep Americans healthy. No amount of delay will change that fact.

The Senate bill was drafted in secret and kept from public view for good reason - if passed, it would kick tens of millions of people off their health care plans and cause costs to skyrocket for many, including seniors and the most vulnerable, and destroy Medicaid. This bill cannot be fixed. If Republicans are serious about making our health care system work better, they must end their partisan approach and work across the aisle to achieve that goal."

## Civil rights organization objects to US Supreme Court's partial reinstatement of 'Muslim Ban'

NEW YORK (TIP): South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national South Asian racial justice and civil rights organization, strongly criticized Supreme Court's decision to reinstate part of President Trump's "Muslim Ban".

"It is disappointing that the highest court in our land will hear the federal government's appeal despite federal appellate courts repeatedly striking down and staying key parts of the "Muslim Ban" as unquestionably unconstitutional", SAALT said in a statement.

"Reinstating any part of this administration's patently discriminatory 'Muslim Ban' is contrary to the values of the United States and the ideals this country was founded on," stated Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of SAALT. "The President's executive orders, and the Supreme Court's decision to partially reinstate the ban, amounts to government sanctioned discrimination. It does not make America safe, it makes America afraid."

Individuals from the six majority-Muslim countries identified in the President's executive orders who do not have a "bona fide" relationship with a person or organization in the United States will be barred from entering the country. This administration's dogged pursuit of a "Muslim Ban" has provided a prominent platform for white supremacists and anti-immigrant voices.

SAALT feels that the "Muslim ban" discriminates against travelers as well as any Muslim or individual perceived as Muslim in the United States. These individuals have the right to walk down the street without fear of harassment or violence by virtue of how they pray, what language they speak, or their nation of origin.

## Trump launches 'sexist' attack on female journalist

WASHINGTON (TIP): Donald Trump unleashed a brutal personal attack on Thursday on respected female television host Mika Brzezinski in the latest, stunning salvo in the president's ongoing war with the media.

Trump's Twitter outburst, in which he describes the journalist "bleeding badly from a facelift", appears to have been triggered by Brzezinski's sharp comments during the morning show she co-hosts with Joe Scarborough on the left-leaning MSNBC network.

"I heard poorly rated @Morning\_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore)," wrote Trump, an avid cable news watcher.

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/880408582310776832> (AFP)

## Vice President Mike Pence Speaks on Growing U.S.-India Partnership at USIBC Summit

WASHINGTON (TIP): Celebrating its 42nd year, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce U.S.-India Business Council's (USIBC) Annual Leadership Summit on June 27 featured Vice President of the United States Mike Pence and other high-ranking government and private sector leaders to address USIBC members and guests.

The Leadership Summit focused on the important role of the private sector in advancing the ties between the two countries, the future of the U.S.-India economic relationship, as well as strengthening and deepening the U.S.-India defense partnership.

"The partnership between the U.S. and India has never been more important," said John Chambers, USIBC chairman and executive chairman of Cisco. "Both governments are deeply committed to creating greater economic opportunity for their citizens. The USIBC does just that by advancing bilateral cooperation between the two nations. I'm incredibly proud of the impact we've had so far in driving economic growth, job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship in both nations, and we look forward to shaping the future of both countries by doubling down on our efforts in the years to come."

The summit welcomed addresses from the Ambassador of India to the United States Navtej Sarna and Congressman Pete Sessions, chairman of the House Committee on Rules. USIBC presented its prestigious annual "Global Leadership Awards" to Andrew Liveris, chairman and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company, and Adi Godrej, chairman of the Godrej



The Leadership Summit focused on the important role of the private sector in advancing the ties between the two countries

Group. Both were honored for creating inclusive business environments, integrating India in the global supply chain and advancing core values such as manufacturing, innovation and scale in tough market conditions.

"I would like to thank the U.S.-India Business Council for honoring me with the Global Leadership Award. The United States and India enjoy a strong economic relationship, both in terms of trade and investment. With India's strong expected growth over the next few years, this relationship will grow multifold and will be helped by the excellent work by the U.S.-India Business Council," said Godrej on receiving the award.

"It is our pleasure honoring these two industry leaders that have made tremendous strides in their businesses. They are indicative of the power of private enterprise in building strong ties between India and the U.S. As both governments prioritize their domestic and foreign trade policies, we encourage fostering environments that grow businesses and advance economic opportunity in both India and the United States. We also congratulate President Trump and Prime Minister Modi on having completed a successful first round of talks and look forward to future engagements," stated USIBC President Mukesh Aghi.

## Leading Members of Government and Civil Society Join Hindu Leaders at Advocacy Forum

WASHINGTON (TIP): With a delegation of over 60, the Hindu American Foundation hosted its second annual Advocacy Forum in Washington, DC, complete with a full day long policy conference, an evening reception, as well as an advocacy on the Hill day consisting of meetings with elected officials.

Monday, June 19, brought together leading members of government and civil society to discuss the protection of civil rights, ways to combat the rise of hate crimes in the US, and the spread of terrorism and violent extremism across South Asia.

Panelists included: Tom Wheeler, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, US Department of Justice; Michael Lieberman, Anti-Defamation League & Convener of the Hate Crimes Coalition Taskforce; Ron Mori, Japanese American Citizens League; Sushil Pandit, CEO of Hive Communication & Co-Founder of Roots in Kashmir; Seth Oldmixon, Founder of Liberty South Asia; and Anita Wadhvani, India Country Director, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Asian & Pacific Security Affairs.

"In 2015 the number of anti-religious hate crimes was the largest percentage of hate crimes in the 25 year history of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act," Michael Lieberman told the audience. "This year was the first year ever that the FBI collected anti-Hindu hate crimes. The reason they did this was because of your



With a delegation of over 60, the Hindu American Foundation hosted its second annual Advocacy Forum in Washington, DC

advocacy."

On how to prevent extremist terrorism at the broadest level, Seth Oldmixon concluded, "We [in the United States] have to be a city on the hill. We have to be a shining example of demonstrating that religious freedom and tolerance and inclusivity work. That is the biggest threat to these extremist groups."

During HAF's annual DC advocacy day, on June 20th, delegates met with 50 members of Congress to discuss community concerns about rising hate crimes, the spread of terrorism, and the lack of transparency and accountability

at the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. The delegation also addressed the need to generate greater awareness of heart health among South Asian Americans.

The Advocacy Forum concluded with HAF's Capitol Hill Reception, which garnered more than 200 attendees including members of Congress such as Raja Krishnamoorthi. In addition, Charles Haynes, founder of the Religious Freedom Center and a vice-president at the Newseum Institute, was honored with the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism.

# 'Spreading the Message of health, happiness and peace across the Globe through Yoga': Consul General Neeta Bhushan

Third International Yoga Day, organized by Consulate General of India in Chicago, attracted thousands of Indian-Americans and people belonging to other nationalities



Steve Chirico, Mayor, Naperville, Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India in Chicago, Congressman Peter Roskam, Gopal Lalimalani, Mayor, Oakbrook, Gaur Gopal Das, William Sands, Dean, College of Maharishi Vedic Science, Sanjeev Singh President ASAR America Inc Iftekhar Shareef, President, National Bankcard, Rita Singh, CEO & President, S R International Inc Inaugurating the 3rd Yoga Day.

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** Consulate General of India in Chicago, in collaboration with the City of Naperville, rolled out the third edition of International Yoga Day on June 24th, 2017 at Naperville Yard, 1603 Legacy Circle, Naperville, IL 60563.

The high-profile event was inaugurated with lighting of the lamp and singing of the National Anthems of Republic of India and United States of America. The purpose of the event was to create a broad-based awareness about the benefits of yoga for all sections of society, irrespective of their age group, and also to introduce the ancient mind-body practice to a generation of technology-loving kids and to reintroduce it to an older generation of high-strung adults. Video messages of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, and Ayush Health Minister Shri Shripad were played during the official opening ceremony.

City of Naperville issued a Proclamation and declared June

24th, 2017 as International Yoga Day in the City of Naperville. It was one of the mega events in Chicago in which about 100 community organizations and over 3000 Indian Americans and people belonging to other nationalities participated, along with their family and friends.

The event started at 10 am with Yoga demonstration by volunteers from the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago. After this, the event shifted to its main official opening ceremony which included lighting of the lamp which was followed by demonstration of common asanas (postures), breathing techniques and shanti mantra. There were breakout sessions of chair yoga for people who have mobility challenges, kids' yoga, women's yoga, and age-based yoga for different generational groups.

Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India in Chicago extended warm welcome and greetings to everyone present on the occasion. In her remarks, she said; "June 21st was declared as day of International Yoga Day through UN resolution supported by a whopping

177 countries, a unique record in its own right". She conveyed that yoga was a great way to connect to oneself and achieve a healthy balance between the mind and body. "People are losing their health consciousness, but yoga is one way to get it back", Ms. Neeta Bhushan said and added that yoga helps people in attaining harmony within themselves as well with other members of the community. She also mentioned that Yoga helps people in maintaining balance among their thoughts, emotions, and feelings, and thereby improving their effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity.

Ms. Neeta Bhushan expressed her gratitude to the city of Naperville, its India-friendly Mayor Steve Chirico, the dignitaries, participating organizations, media and community members for taking an active part in the celebration of the Third International Yoga Day. She thanked leaders of other communities such as the Muslim community who had come to participate in the Yoga day in large numbers despite Ramzan.

Mayor of Naperville Hon. Steve Chirico said that the contemporary world of work brings in its wake a highly stressful life for people. "Yoga is a great way to destress and relax, especially for those who are having tough jobs and juggle a lot of things", said Mr. Steve Chirico and added that in the present-day busy life, everyone should take care of his health and well-being.

Congressman Mr. Peter Roskam and Mr. Gaur Gopal Das, and other eminent motivational speaker, also spoke on the occasion and underscored the multifarious health benefits of yoga. Other eminent persons who participated in the inaugural ceremony and other related events included Mayor of Oakbrook Hon. Gopal Lalimalani, Swami Vishwangji, Mr. William Sands, Dean of the College of Maharishi Vedic Science, etc.



Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India in Chicago with Indian Americans and people belonging to other nationalities participating in the 3rd International Yoga Day along with their family and friends.



Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India, Chicago with Community Leaders, Sponsors and Volunteers at 3rd International Yoga Day.

Lectures on Yoga, Nutrition, and Weight Loss were delivered by Abhijit Joshi, Anu Malhotra, Kusum Patel, Hiral Vyas, Dr. Harpreet Singh, Prasad Palacharla, and experts representing such well-known organizations as Isha Foundation, Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple, Sewa International, Brahma Kumaris, Kriya Vedanta Gurukulam, Heartfulness, Science of Spirituality, Sahaja Yoga Meditation, etc.

Cultural Programs, Games, Family, and Kids' Activities were presented by Prachi, Alokita Dhar, Sabrina, Maddy Singh, and artists representing such eminent

organizations as Desi Junction, Soorya Dance School, SR International, Jhankaar Dance Group, SNM & UPA Teams, etc.

"The yoga event, featuring about 60 food booths, music, dance, and cultural entertainment made the day a pleasant, enriching, and memorable experience of our lifetime", opined many a participant unanimously.

Jassi Parmar, Sanjeev Singh, and Mohan Rawat, who were the Emcees, conducted the program in a professional fashion and added great value to the event.

(Photographs and report by Asian Media USA)

## Donald Trump to press South Korea leader on trade as North Korea looms

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump will press South Korean President Moon Jae-in to solve trade differences over cars and steel in meetings in Washington focusing on the nuclear threat from North Korea.

Concerns about the US military's THAAD missile defense system and China's role in the region also are likely to come up in talks between Trump and Moon at the White House.

Moon, making his first trip to the United States since becoming his country's president in May, joined Trump and his wife, Melania, for dinner in the White House State Dining Room on Thursday evening ahead of further talks on Friday.

"I know you've been discussing with our people some of the complexities of North Korea and trade and other things, and we'll be discussing them all as we progress, and it could be very well late into the evening," Trump told Moon. "I'd like to also congratulate you upon your election victory. It was a great victory, and you did a fantastic job. A lot of people didn't expect that, and I did expect it. I thought that was going to happen."

Both men have an interest in building a strong relationship but tensions could puncture that effort.

Trump has spoken harshly about US trade imbalances with South Korea and threatened to tear up a trade agreement with the country.

Moon has taken a wary stance on the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system that the United States deployed in South Korea in March.

"I think they'll have a friendly and frank discussion about the trade relationship," a White House official told reporters on Wednesday, noting concerns about barriers to US auto sales and surplus Chinese steel that arrives in the United States via South Korea.

After the dinner, Trump tweeted that he had a "very good meeting" with Moon and that "many subjects (were) discussed including North Korea and new trade deal!"

The US goods trade deficit with South Korea has more than doubled since the

KORUS pact took effect in 2012, from \$13.2 billion in 2011 to \$27.7 billion in 2016. It was forecast to boost US exports by \$10 billion a year but they were \$3 billion lower in 2016 than in 2011.

In an interview with Reuters in April, Trump called the 5-year-old trade deal "horrible" and said he would either renegotiate or terminate it.

During remarks at the US Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Moon said unfair trade practices would be eradicated and factors that limited competition, such as market entry barriers and price regulations, would be re-evaluated under his administration. (Reuters)

# Indo-China border tension intensifies

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The ongoing troop face-off between India and China on the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction has emerged as the biggest such confrontation in the region in decades, with both sides continuing to pump in reinforcements to the remote border region.

Even as Army chief General Bipin Rawat reviewed the ground situation by visiting the headquarters of the 17 Mountain Division in Gangtok and 27 Mountain Division in Kalimpong on June 29 (Thursday), sources said the two rival armies had strengthened their positions at the tri-junction by deploying around 3,000 troops each in a virtually eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation.

The Indian Army, on its part, refused to say anything. But sources said though there had been other troop standoffs at the tri-junction over the years, the latest one at the Doka La general area was clearly the most serious.

"Both sides are as yet not willing to budge from their positions. Flag meetings and other talks between the rival commanders have not worked till now," a source said.

During his visit, General Rawat especially concentrated on the deployments of the 17 Division, which is responsible for the defense of eastern Sikkim with four brigades (each with over 3,000 soldiers) under its command.

"All top officers, including the 33 Corps and 17 Division commanders, were present during the extensive discussions.

Undeterred by Beijing's aggressive posturing, India has made it clear that it will not allow China to construct a motorable road till the tri-junction through the Bhutanese territory of Doklam plateau.

Bhutan, too, has issued a demarche to China over the construction of the road towards its army camp at Zomplri in the Doklam plateau, asking Beijing to restore status quo by stopping work immediately.

"China is trying to build a 'Class-40 road' in the Doklam plateau that can take the weight of military vehicles weighing up to 40 tonnes, which include light battle tanks, artillery



## FACE-OFF

- Two rival armies deployed around 3,000 troops each in a virtually eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation
- Bhutan, too, has issued a demarche to China over the construction of the road
- Flag meetings and other talks between the rival commanders have not worked till now

guns and the like," the source said.

Interestingly, the People's Liberation Army declared in Beijing on Thursday that it had conducted trials of a new 35-tonne tank in the plains of Tibet, though it added that "it was not targeted against any country". The Indian defense establishment is concerned at the "creeping territorial aggression" by China, which aims to progressively swallow the 269 sq km Doklam plateau to add "strategic width" to its adjoining but narrow Chumbi Valley, which juts in between Sikkim and Bhutan.

China has also been pushing Bhutan hard for the last two decades to go in for a "package deal".

Under it, Beijing wants Thimphu to cede control over Doklam plateau, while it

**Both sides are not willing to budge from their positions. Flag meetings between the rival commanders have not worked. India has made it clear that it will not allow China to construct a motorable road till the tri-junction through the Bhutanese territory**

surrenders claims to the 495 sq km of territory in Jakurlung and Pasamlung valleys in northern Bhutan.

But India is militarily "very sensitive" about the Doklam plateau, especially the Zomplri Ridge area because it overlooks the strategically-vulnerable Siliguri corridor or the 'Chicken's Neck' area.

India has progressively strengthened its defenses in the Siliguri corridor, the narrow strip of land that connects the rest of India with its north-eastern states, to stem any Chinese ingress. "But it remains a geographical vulnerability. China has constructed several feeder roads from Tibet to the border with Bhutan, and is also trying to extend its railway line in the region," the source said.

Source: TOI

## CHINA REFERS TO 1962, ASKS INDIA TO 'LEARN LESSONS'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Beijing on July 29 hardened its stance on the standoff with Indian troops, with the Chinese foreign ministry asking India to withdraw its troops from the Donglong area in Sikkim sector as a precondition for a "meaningful dialogue".

China went a step further and in a reference to the 1962 war said India should learn "historical lessons". The Chinese defence ministry joined ranks with the foreign ministry and dismissed the protests by Bhutan that People's Liberation Army soldiers violated its territory in Donglong, saying its troops operated on "Chinese territory" and also asked India to "correct" its "wrongdoing".

In effect, this also means that the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar, which China has put off given the tensions, is unlikely to resume anytime soon. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang displayed a photograph of the Indian "incursion" into Donglong area.

Later, the ministry uploaded two photographs on its website. "The diplomatic channel for communication remains unimpeded. We urged the Indian side to withdraw troops back to the Indian side of the boundary immediately. This is the precondition for the settlement of this incident and also the basis for any meaningful dialogue," Lu said.

In a parallel briefing, Chinese defence ministry spokesperson Col Wu Qian dismissed Bhutan's protests and said, "I have to correct when you say Chinese personnel entered Bhutan's territory. Chinese troops operated on Chinese territory." Source: The Tribune

## Mallya never intended to repay loans: CBI

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Liquor baron Vijay Mallya never intended to repay the loans he took for Kingfisher Airlines, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) claimed in its supplementary charge sheet, which it filed against the embattled businessman and 10 others earlier this month.

In the supplementary charge sheet, the CBI alleged that Kingfisher Airlines Ltd, its corporate guarantor United Breweries (Holding) Ltd and personal Guarantor Vijay Mallya misled banks and obtained loans with the intention of cheating. The agency claimed that evidence it had gathered showed that "Mallya and UBHL had dishonest intention not to repay the dues of the bank from the inception".

By 2009, Kingfisher had taken loans totalling Rs 4998.5 crore from various banks and needed another Rs 2,500 crore, of which a consortium of 17 banks sanctioned a loan of Rs 2,000 crore. The charge sheet lists number of allegedly false claims made by Mallya while



obtaining these loans.

The CBI said the first thing KFA lied about was how the money would be invested in KFA. According to the CBI, while obtaining a loan of Rs 950 crore from IDBI Bank, KFA they would infuse Rs 200 crore of this in the company in three years. "It was repeatedly conveyed by KFA that additional equity of \$ 400 million would be infused through strategic investors," CBI claimed in the charge sheet.

"Investigation further revealed that KFA were making such false promises of equity infusion to various banks from as early as January 2006, without any real

intentions of fulfilling such promises," read the charge sheet. The second lie was about inflated value of the Kingfisher Airlines brand.

The airline claimed to have obtained brand valuation reports from two firms, Grant Thornton and Brand Finance. CBI claimed that Grand Thornton had assigned a "highly exaggerated and inflated" value of Rs 3406.3 crore to KFA while Brand Finance said it was worth Rs 1,911 crore.

The CBI alleged that Mallya quoted Grant Thornton's figure when he used KFA's brand value as collateral against a loan from SBI and "deliberately concealed" Brand Finance's valuation.

The charge sheet read, "Mallya and KFA, with a view to induce the bank to sanction a higher loan, used the said inflated and exaggerated valuation report of Grant Thornton, while a report based on more realistic projections prepared by Brand Finance was deliberately concealed from the bank."

## INDIANS' MONEY IN SWISS BANKS HIT RECORD LOW OF 676 MILLION FRANCS

**ZURICH/NEW DELHI (TIP):** Money parked by Indians in Switzerland's banks nearly halved to 676 Swiss francs (about Rs 4,500 crore) in 2016 to hit a record low amid a continuing clampdown on the suspected black money stashed behind their famed secrecy walls.

In comparison, the total funds held by all foreign clients of Swiss banks somewhat rose to CHF 1.42 trillion or about Rs 96 lakh crore (from CHF 1.41 trillion a year ago).

The total funds held by Indians directly with Swiss banks stood at CHF 664.8 million at the end of 2016, while the same held through fiduciaries was nearly \$11 million, as per the latest data published on Thursday by the country's central banking authority SNB (Swiss National Bank).

The total money of Indians fell by 45% during 2016 to CHF 675.75 million, marking the biggest ever yearly decline in such funds.

This included nearly CHF 377 million in form of customer deposits, about CHF 98 million owed to Indians through other banks and CHF 190 million in form of other 'liabilities'.

The figures fell sharply across all categories last year, the SNB data showed.

This is the lowest amount of funds held by Indians in the Swiss banks ever since the



**The total funds held by Indians directly with Swiss banks stood at CHF 664.8 million at the end of 2016, as per the latest data**

Alpine nation began making the data public in 1987 and marks the third straight year of decline.

The funds held through fiduciaries or wealth managers alone used to be in billions till 2007 but has been falling amid fears of regulatory crackdown.

The funds held by Indians with Swiss banks stood at a record high of CHF 6.5 billion (Rs 23,000 crore) at 2006-end, but has now come down to nearly one-tenth of that level in about a decade.

The quantum of these funds has been falling since then, except for in 2011 and in 2013 when Indians' money had risen by over 12 per cent and 42 per cent, respectively.

Source: PTI

# After Israel, PM heads to Germany for G20

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will head to Hamburg, Germany, to attend the G20 Summit after wrapping up his highly-anticipated Israel visit next week.

The Prime Minister will be in Israel from July 4 to 6 and then he heads to Germany for a two-day visit starting July 7. The G20 Summit will see a 'leaders retreat' on the morning of July 7 where the agenda on discussion will be fighting terrorism. However, while India will put forth its concerns on terrorism, the background will be the larger canvass and that of Europe which has been badly hit by terror attacks of late.

Modi met Chancellor Merkel two months ago. The two leaders were able to agree on the need to continue with their commitments to the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement, despite the US retracting from it.

The G20 Summit will see the attendance of Merkel and US President Donald Trump. Germany has indicated that it will make climate change, free trade and the management of forced mass global migration the key themes of the G20 summit in Hamburg next week, putting the two leaders on a collision course.

## ISRAELI PM'S RECIPROCAL VISIT LIKELY BY YEAR-END

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to pay a reciprocal visit to India by the year-end, a senior External Affairs Ministry official said on Thursday.

Netanyahu's India visit will follow PM Narendra Modi's three-day tour of the Jewish state from July 4. Modi's visit will be the first by an Indian premier to Israel.

Source: *The Tribune*

## KILLING PEOPLE IN NAME OF PROTECTING COWS UNACCEPTABLE, SAYS PM MODI



PM Narendra Modi at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat.

**AHMEDABAD (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the killing of people by cow vigilantes is unacceptable; hours later, a man was killed in Jharkhand for allegedly carrying beef and his van was set on fire.

"Killing people in the name of Gau Bhakti is not acceptable," said PM Modi. "No person in this nation has the right to take the law in his or her own hands in this country." While saying that protecting cows, sacred for Hindus, is needed - "No one spoke about protecting cows more than Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave," he said - "this (violence) is not something Mahatma Gandhi would approve of."

Today's mob attack in Jharkhand comes two days after a Muslim man was attacked in the same state after a dead cow was found near his house, parts of which were set on fire by a mob.

PM Modi last admonished cow vigilantes nearly a year ago in August.

His remarks today were made at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat, his home state, which votes soon, and a day after people across the country protested against mob attacks. Last week, a group of people on a train killed 16-year-old Junaid Khan, who was travelling home to his village in Haryana with his brother and two cousins after a shopping excursion to Delhi ahead of Eid.

## '84 riots: Hearing to continue on convict Capt Bhagmal's bail plea

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The hearing will continue on the bail plea filed by 1984 anti-Sikh riots convict retired naval officer Captain Bhagmal, who was held guilty in a case relating to the murder of a family of five in Raj Nagar area of Delhi Cantonment on November 1, 1984 after the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Earlier on May 11, the Delhi High Court granted bail for a week to a convict serving life term in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case to enable him look after his wife, who underwent an operation last month.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Anu Malhotra released former Congress councillor Balwan Khokhar on bail as his wife is slated to undergo an operation at the AIIMS. Khokhar, Captain Bhagmal, Girdhari Lal and two others were held guilty in a case relating to the murder of five members of a family.

They had challenged their conviction and the award of life sentence by the trial court in May 2013. The trial court had acquitted Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, but awarded life term to Khokhar, Bhagmal and Girdhari Lal and three-year jail term to two others-former MLA Mahender Yadav and Kishan Khokhar.

The convicts had filed appeals before the High Court, while the CBI too had filed an appeal alleging that they were engaged in "a planned communal riot" and "religious cleansing". The agency has also appealed against acquittal of Sajjan Kumar.

Source: ANI

## VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTION, RESULT ON AUGUST 5



Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi, along with Election Commissioners A K Joti and O P Rawat, addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday.

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** With incumbent Vice-President Hamid Ansari's term ending on August 10, the Election Commission today announced the election to the post on August 5 and the counting of votes the same day.

Members of both the Houses of Parliament constitute the electoral college to elect the Vice-President, where nominated members — Rajya Sabha (12) and Lok Sabha (2) also have the right to vote. Altogether, 790 MPs will exercise their right to vote.

The NDA, which has a majority in the Lok Sabha and received support of parties such as AIADMK and BJD in the presidential polls, will find it easy to place its candidate as the Vice-President. Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi said the notification for the election would be issued on July 4 and nominations could be submitted by July 18.

The scrutiny will take place on July 19 and the last date for withdrawing is July 21.

He said polling, if required, would take place on August 5. A candidate requires 20 proposers and 20 seconders from the members of the electoral college. As the method of electing the Vice-President is done through proportional representation by means of single transferable votes, the legitimate electorate would be required to mark their preferences on the ballot paper using special pens designated by the EC. No whip can be issued by parties as the poll is through a secret ballot, the CEC said.

## PREZ POLL

### Only Kovind, Meira left in the fray

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** NDA nominee Ram Nath Kovind and Opposition candidate Meira Kumar are the only two contestants in the race for the President's post, with the nomination of around 90-plus other hopefuls being rejected today on the day of scrutiny.

Former Bihar Governor Kovind will face former Lok Sabha Speaker Kumar in the July 17 elections to the top post.

The final scrutiny led to the rejection of a majority of hopefuls because they did not fulfil the basic requirements.

# Tabu is 'single' because of Ajay Devgn

**Tabu said that when they were young, Ajay Devgn and her cousin 'spied' on her and 'threatened to beat up any boys who are caught talking to me'**

**MUMBAI (TIP):** Actress Tabu told Mumbai Mirror that the reason why she is single today is because of Ajay Devgn, her co-star of several films like *Drishyam* (2015) and *Vijaypath* (1994).

Tabu said that when they were young, her cousin and Ajay Devgn (who were neighbors and close friends) 'spied' on her and "threatened to beat up any boys who are caught talking to me," reports Mumbai Mirror.

"They were the big bullies and if I am single today, it is because of Ajay. I hope he repents and regrets what he did," she said. "I told him the other day to please find me a boy to marry," she added. Tabu and Ajay Devgn will feature in Rohit Shetty's upcoming comedy *Golmaal 4*.

In the last few years, Tabu has given exceptional and dramatic performances in films like *Haider*, *Fitoor* and *Drishyam*. Of her return to the comedy genre, Tabu told Mumbai Mirror: "I've wanted to do a light-hearted film for a long time, more so because my mother



Tabu will be soon seen in *Golmaal 4*. Photo courtesy: Tabu

was fed up of me doing rona-dhona roles. A lot of people too have been saying that they wanted to see me in a comedy like *Biwi No 1* and *Hera Pheri*."

Tabu also shared her experience of filming *Golmaal 4*, co-starring Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Kunal Khemu, Tusshar Kapoor, Shreyas Talpade and Neil Nitin Mukesh. "I'm working with Rohit for the first time and I'm really

happy. There is an unexplained familiarity when I'm on the sets with him. He's completely focused on the action but at the same time, he makes his actors comfortable," she told Mumbai Mirror.

Tabu was last seen in Abhishek Kapoor's *Fitoor* (2016), co-starring Katrina Kaif and Aditya Roy Kapur. Ajay Devgn had a cameo in *Fitoor*.

We wish our readers a happy 4th of July

# Fourth of July: Celebration of birth of American Independence



BY BIDISHA ROY

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution.

On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually led to the formation of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston comprised the committee that drafted the Declaration. Jefferson, regarded as the strongest and most eloquent writer, wrote most of the document. The committee and Congress as a whole made a total of 86 changes to Jefferson's draft.

## First two paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence read:

*"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*



*That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its*



*powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."*

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

- In 1777, thirteen gunshots were fired in salute, once at morning and once again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships in port were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.
- In 1778, from his headquarters at Ross Hall, near New Brunswick, New Jersey, General George Washington marked July 4 with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute (feu de joie). Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.
- In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration. In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina, held a celebration of July 4 with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich

Peter. This work was titled The Psalm of Joy. This is recognized as the first recorded celebration and is still celebrated there today.

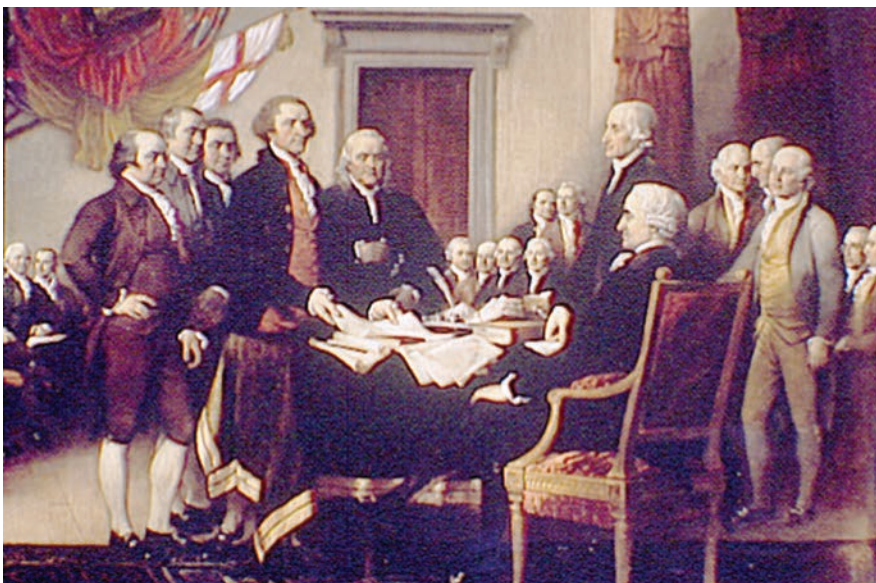
- In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.

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performances from world-famous artists such as Beyoncé and Katy Perry. Macy's has up to six fireworks barges detonating simultaneously from either one or several locations around New York City. In addition to 3,000 invited guests seated in the Macy's VIP Grandstands, 15 million viewers tune into NBC's telecast and nearly 3 million spectators view the live show from positions along the river.







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12:45 PM— Announcements and Rules

1:00 PM— Shotgun start  
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5:00 PM— Awards Ceremony with  
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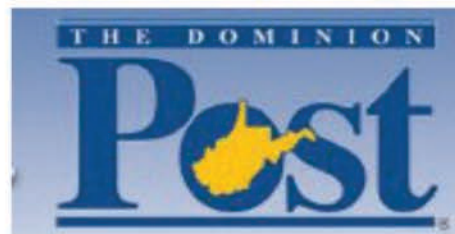
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## Indian Origin Sikh woman to be first turbaned judge in Supreme Court of BC, Canada

**VICTORIA, CANADA (TIP):** Indian-origin Sikh human rights advocate Palbinder Kaur Shergill has been appointed a judge at the Supreme Court of British Columbia in New Westminster. Ms Shergill is the first turbaned Sikh to be appointed to the judiciary in Canada.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, announced the appointment on Friday, June 22 under the new judicial application process announced on October 20 last year.

Welcoming the decision, World Sikh Organization President Mukhbir Singh said: "The appointment of Justice Shergill is another milestone for the Sikh community in Canada. It is a matter of great pride that today we have the first turbaned Sikh appointed to the judiciary in Canada."

The appointment was made with immediate effect as Justice Shergill replaces Justice EA Arnold-Bailey, who retired on May 31, a report by news portal Voice Online said.

Regarded as a leading human rights advocate, she has been instrumental in helping shape human rights and religious accommodation law in Canada through her work as general legal counsel for the WSO since 1991.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Ms Shergill practiced as a lawyer and mediator with her law firm, Shergill & Company.

She has extensive trial and appellate experience and has appeared before courts



*Palbinder Kaur Shergill is the first turbaned Sikh to be appointed to the judiciary in Canada.*

and tribunals across the country, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

Shergill was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2012 and is a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for Community Service. She lives in Surrey with her husband, daughter and twin sons.

She was born in Punjab and immigrated to Canada with her family at the age of four. She grew up in Williams Lake, British Columbia, and received her law degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

Called to the British Columbia Bar in 1991, she has held leadership positions both within and outside the legal community. She has been involved with the Cabinet of Canadians, the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia, and the Canadian Bar Association.

## Indian American Krishna R Urs nominated as US Ambassador to Peru

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Indian-American diplomat Krishna R Urs has been nominated as the new US Ambassador to Peru by President Trump.

A 31-year veteran of the Foreign Service, Krishna "Kris" R. Urs assumed duties as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain in June 2014, and Chargé d'Affaires in January 2017. Previously, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Affairs and Chief U.S. Government Aviation Negotiator at the Department of State from November 2010 until June 2014.

He also served as Director in the Office of Aviation Negotiations in the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs in the Department of State (September 2009 until October 2010), Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia (from September 2008 until June 2009), Deputy Chief of Mission at the same embassy (from July 2006 until September 2008), Director of the Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the Department of State (from 2003 until 2006). Mr. Urs served overseas as an economic officer in the Dominican Republic (2000-2003), Peru (1996-2000), Nicaragua (1990-1993), Bangladesh (1988-1990) and Mexico (1987-1988). He served in the Department of State as the senior Pakistan Desk Officer (1994-1996) and on detail to Department of Treasury (1993-



*Indian-American diplomat Krishna R Urs has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to Peru by President Trump*

1994), working in the Office of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs.

Mr. Urs is a 1980 graduate of Georgetown University, where he studied Latin American politics and economics at the Walsh School of Foreign Service. He earned a Masters Degree at the University of Texas in economics (1985). He has completed all coursework and preliminary examinations required for a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Wisconsin. He speaks Spanish and Hindi.

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## Death toll in Pakistan oil tanker inferno rises to 174

**MULTAN (TIP):** The death toll from an oil tanker explosion in central Pakistan has risen to 174, officials said on June 29, including the driver who warned people scooping up spilled fuel to stay away but was ignored.

The tanker overturned early Sunday on a main highway from Karachi to Lahore while carrying some 40,000 litres of fuel.

It exploded minutes later as crowds from a nearby village gathered to scavenge for fuel, despite admonitions by the driver as well as motorway police to stay away.

"According to our information, 174 people have died of their wounds to date," Bahawalpur police chief Akhtar Abbas told AFP. A medical official confirmed the toll.

Abbas said tanker driver Khyam Muhammad, who sustained burns, also died of his wounds in nearby Multan city on Wednesday.

Motorway police spokesman Imran Shah said a government inquiry into the incident had found at least five police officials guilty of hiding information -- though he did not give further details.

"These officials have been suspended with immediate effect as the inquiry continues," he added.

The tragedy marked a grim start to Eid, the celebrations closing the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Pakistan has a poor record of fatal traffic accidents due to poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving. (AFP)

## Islamabad faces challenges in building economic corridor with China: Pak minister

**DALIAN (TIP):** Pakistan faces some challenges in steering an ambitious plan to build an economic corridor with China despite the economic benefits for the country, planning minister Ahsan Iqbal said on June 28.

China has promised \$57 billion in investment in projects along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, part of its ambitious Belt and Road plan linking China with the Middle East and Europe.

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road project in 2013, but it is still short on specifics.

"There are a number of challenges which have to be addressed," Iqbal, the Islamabad lead on the project, told the World Economic Forum in the northeastern city of Dalian.

"There are actually many gaps that we have to correctly address. First and foremost is the coordination gap," he said.

Iqbal said he had chaired many ministerial meetings over the past two years to push through the red-tape and coordinate policies among government ministries, he said.

"There are also challenges in terms of different regions," he said, adding that provinces are competing for greater opportunities in the project.

The government has built a mechanism to coordinate with "internal and external stakeholders" in the scheme, he said without elaborating.

Pakistan and China aim to build a network of rail, road and energy infrastructure as part of the Belt and Road initiative.

Pakistan has been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the initiative, in part because many projects are for power plants to alleviate the country's decade-long energy shortage that sees frequent blackouts. (AFP)

## Myanmar forces kill 3 in raid on 'terrorist training camps': State media

**YANGON (TIP):** Myanmar security forces have killed three people in raids on "terrorist" training camps run by Rohingya Muslim militants in the north of Rakhine state, state media reported on June 29.

Guns, ammunition and gunpowder were found at the camps in the Mayu Mountains, part of a remote strip of land on the northwest border that is mainly home to the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority.

More than 70,000 Rohingyas have fled the area to nearby Bangladesh since October, when Myanmar security forces launched a brutal crackdown in response to militant attacks on police posts.

Rohingya escapees have told harrowing accounts of security officers slaughtering babies, burning people alive and staging gang rapes and abuses, which UN investigators said may amount to crimes against humanity.

Myanmar denies the claims and says troops were conducting valid clearance operations to crush a Rohingya insurgency. (AP)

# China urges Afghans, Pakistan to form crisis-management mechanism

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** China's foreign minister has urged leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan to improve relations and establish a crisis prevention and management mechanism during visits to both countries, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Foreign minister Wang Yi was scheduled to speak in Islamabad on Sunday, a day after meeting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul.

Wang said a three-way conference mechanism involving the two countries and China could promote dialogue and cooperation, the Chinese ministry said in a statement.

"China sincerely wishes for Afghanistan and Pakistan to improve relations, rebuild mutual trust strengthen cooperation, achieve mutual safety and mutually development," Wang said, according to the statement.

"As Afghanistan and Pakistan's mutual friend, China encourages them to establish a crisis prevention and management mechanism as soon as possible, to properly deal with any kind of sudden occurrence."

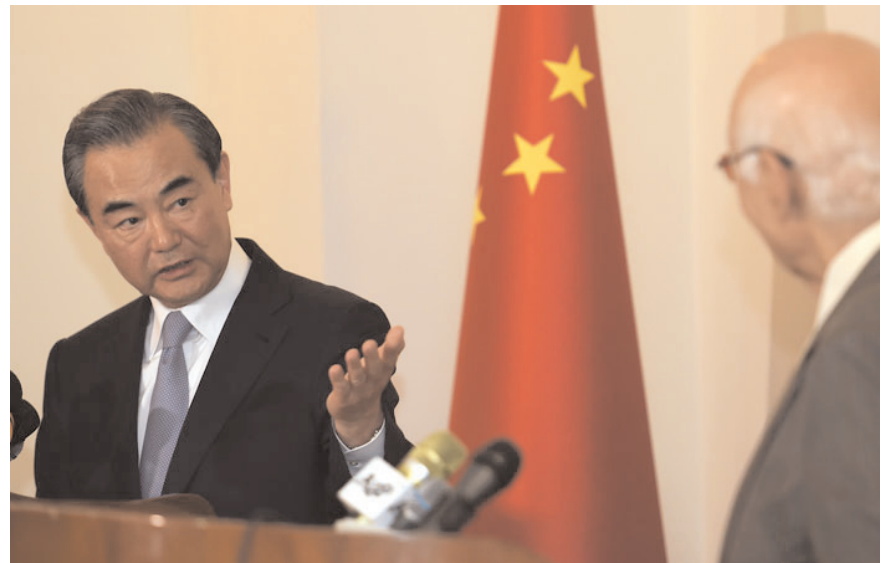
In Pakistan, Wang "held wide-ranging discussions" on bilateral relations, regional security and the situation in Afghanistan, the Pakistani foreign ministry said in a tweet.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have been uneasy neighbours ever since Pakistan's independence in 1947.

Their ties have been poisoned in recent years by Afghan accusations that Pakistan is supporting Taliban insurgents fighting the US-backed Kabul in order to limit the influence of its old rival, India, in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies that and says it wants to see a peaceful, stable Afghanistan.

Several people were killed when



Afghanistan and Pakistan border troops exchanged fire for hours in early May. As a result, a major border crossing was closed for more than three weeks.

'China's fight'

In his annual Eid al-Fitr message, Afghanistan's Ghani said he had met Wang and the two had discussed peace and stability and the joint fight against terrorism.

Ghani used the message, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, to call on armed opposition groups including the Taliban to join the peace process, if they were genuine Afghans concerned about the loss of innocent lives.

China is also worried about the spread of Islamist militancy from lawless ethnic Pashtun lands along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, in particular the danger of members of its Uighur Muslim minority being radicalised there.

In Pakistan on Saturday, Wang said

counter-terrorism was an important part of China's relations with Pakistan and he thanked Pakistan "for its firm support for China's fight against the violent terrorist group the 'East Turkistan Islamic Movement'," China's Xinhua news agency reported.

China says the East Turkistan Islamic Movement is a violent Uighur group, with links to militants in South Asia, who want to make the far western region of Xinjiang a separate state.

Uighur exiles and rights groups though say unrest in Xinjiang is more a reaction to repressive government policies than the plotting of any cohesive militant group. Beijing denies abusing rights in Xinjiang.

China is also investing heavily in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It has promised \$57 billion in investment in projects along a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, part of its ambitious Belt and Road plan linking China with the Middle East and Europe. (Reuters)

## Taliban attack checkpoint near India-made dam in Afghanistan, kill 10 policemen

**KABUL (TIP):** At least 10 policemen were killed and four others injured on Saturday night when Taliban militants attacked a checkpoint near India-made Salma dam in Afghanistan's Herat province.

"A group of Taliban militants attacked the checkpoint near Salma dam in Chasht district and fled after killing the policemen," a security official said.

Jelani Farhad, spokesman for the governor of the western Herat province, said the Taliban attacked late Saturday, setting off a gunbattle in which five insurgents were killed.

The Taliban have steadily expanded their reach across Afghanistan since US and international forces formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014, switching to a support and counterterrorism role.

In an address on Sunday marking the start of Eid al-Fitr, a major Muslim holiday, President Ashraf Ghani reiterated his call for the Taliban to return to peace talks.

**AFGHAN-INDIA FRIENDSHIP**



**DAM:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in June 2016 jointly inaugurated the Salma dam, a Rs 1,700 crore showpiece infrastructure project by India in strategically important Herat province, reflecting India's strong commitment to reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

The Afghan-India Friendship Dam,

earlier known as Salma Dam, on the river Chist-e-Sharif in western Herat neighbouring Iran, irrigates 75,000 hectares of land and will generate 42MW of power.

Touted as a "landmark" infrastructure project, the dam located 165km east of Herat town, is expected to significantly boost the agricultural economy of the province. (Agencies)

# British PM Theresa May wins confidence vote in parliament

**LONDON (TIP):** British Prime Minister Theresa May narrowly won a confidence vote in parliament on June 29, showing her weakness after her Conservative Party lost its majority in a shock general election result earlier this month.

With support from the small ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), May's legislative programme -- known as the Queen's Speech -- was approved by 323 votes in favour and 309 against in the 650-seat parliament.

Her minority government earlier announced it would change abortion rights for Northern Irish women ahead of a threatened revolt by MPs in a separate vote, exposing her vulnerable state following the disastrous election showing on June 8.

The announcement led the opposition Labour Party to withdraw an amendment to the Queen's Speech demanding the state-run National Health Service (NHS) in England stop charging women coming from the province, where abortion is illegal except when the life of the mother is in danger.

Just hours before it went to a vote, ministers wrote to MPs promising to stop the charges.

May's personal authority is deeply damaged after calling the election three years early, hoping to go into Brexit negotiations with a strengthened mandate. But instead of the expected landslide she has found herself hanging on by a thread. She cut short a trip to Berlin on Thursday with European allies ahead of next week's G20 summit, to ensure she was present for the vote.

The majority of the bills in the Queen's Speech concerned Britain's departure from the European Union, on which the first formal negotiations took place last week.

May's Brexit plan to quit the single union and customs union is under severe scrutiny as pro-EU members of her government sense an opportunity to



use her weakened position to force concessions.

Calls to prioritise jobs over immigration controls are growing, particularly from finance minister Philip Hammond.

He criticised eurosceptic Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson this week over his claim that Britain could "have its cake and eat it" in the negotiations.

"I try to discourage talk of 'cake' amongst my colleagues," Hammond said during a speech in Berlin, where he emphasised the need for transitional deals to avoid a damaging "cliff-edge" when Britain leaves the EU.

At the same time in London, Brexit minister David Davis appeared to slap down Hammond, saying his views were "not quite consistent".

May's spokeswoman insisted that "everybody is on the same page" and that nothing had changed.

But Charles Grant of the Centre for European Reform said: "Whatever May and Davis are saying in public, Brexit policy is in fact in flux."

Labour, which won 262 seats in the election, officially accepts that Britain will be leaving the single market but wants "full tariff-free access" to protect jobs. Some Labour MPs tabled an amendment to the Queen's Speech on

Thursday calling for the government to consider staying in Europe's single market.

It was defeated by 322 votes to 101 but dozens of Labour MPs voted in favour, threatening to re-open divisions in the party after Corbyn ordered them to abstain.

May announced a deal with the DUP on Monday where they agreed to back her minority government in confidence and budget votes, in return for an extra £1.0 billion (1.1 billion euros, \$1.3 billion) in state aid for Northern Ireland.

The DUP's 10 MPs will vote with the 317 Conservatives on key issues.

The two parties together defeated a Labour amendment to the Queen's Speech late Wednesday calling for an end to a six-year cap on public sector pay.

But government officials had earlier indicated they may review the policy, reflecting concern among Conservative MPs about continued austerity.

The DUP deal has also caused disquiet among Conservative ranks because of the ultra-conservative Northern Irish party's strident views on abortion and gay marriage. Many commentators question how long the alliance will last, while May's future is widely discussed in terms of when, not if, she will stand down. (AFP)

# Merkel issues warning to Trump ahead of G20 summit

**BERLIN/WASHINGTON (TIP):** German Chancellor Angela Merkel promised to fight for free trade and press on with multilateral efforts to combat climate change at the G20 summit next week, challenging the "America First" policies of US President Donald Trump.

In a defiant speech to parliament a week before she will host a summit of the world's top economic powers in Hamburg, the northern port city where she was born, Merkel did not mention Trump by name but said global problems could not be solved with protectionism and isolation.

Her remarks raised the prospect of an open clash with Trump at the summit. She later met with European G20 leaders who promised to present a united front in Hamburg, while making clear they preferred compromise to conflict.

"These will not be easy talks," Merkel said. "The differences are obvious and it would be wrong to pretend they aren't



there. I simply won't do this."

The G20 summit will be held a little over a month after a G7 summit in Sicily exposed deep divisions between other western countries and Trump on climate change, trade and migration.

A short while later, Trump announced he was pulling the United States out of a landmark agreement to combat climate change reached in 2015 in Paris.

Ahead of the G20 summit, Trump's administration has threatened to take

punitive trade measures against China, including introducing tariffs on steel imports.

This has made for an unusually tense atmosphere before the summit and German officials acknowledge they have little idea what the final communique will look like.

Asked about Merkel's comments, Trump's national security adviser, HR McMaster, said the US relationship with Germany was "as strong as ever" and played down the discord.

"Of course there are going to be differences in relations with any country, and we'll talk frankly about those differences. The president enjoys those conversations," McMaster told reporters.

The German hosts face a difficult challenge. Along with Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan will be attending. All have strained relations with Merkel and other European leaders. (Reuters)

# Iraq declares end of caliphate after capture of Mosul mosque

**BAGHDAD (TIP):** After eight months of grinding urban warfare, Iraqi government troops on Thursday, June 29, captured the ruined mosque at the heart of Islamic State's de facto capital Mosul, and the prime minister declared the group's self-styled caliphate at an end, according to a Reuters report, June 29.

Iraqi authorities expect the long battle for Mosul to end in coming days as remaining Islamic State fighters are bottled up in just a handful of neighborhoods of the Old City.

The seizure of the nearly 850-year-old Grand al-Nuri Mosque -- from where Islamic State proclaimed the caliphate nearly three years ago to the day -- is a huge symbolic victory.

"The return of al-Nuri Mosque and al-Hadba minaret to the fold of the nation marks the end of the Daesh state of falsehood," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a statement, referring to the hardline Sunni Mulsim group by an Arabic acronym.

The fall of Mosul would in effect mark the end of the Iraqi half of the IS caliphate, although the group still controls territory west and south of the city, ruling over hundreds of thousands of people.

Its stronghold in Syria, Raqqa, is also close to falling.

A U.S.-backed Kurdish-led coalition besieging Raqqa on Thursday fully encircled it after closing the militants' last way out from the south, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

These setbacks have reduced Islamic State's territory by 60 percent from its peak two years ago and its revenue by 80 percent, to just \$16 million a month, said IHS Markit.

"Their fictitious state has fallen," an Iraqi military spokesman, Brigadier General Yahya Rasool, told state TV.

However, it still occupies an area as big as Belgium, across Iraq and Syria, according to IHS Markit, an analytics firm.

Islamic State fighters blew up the medieval mosque and its famed leaning minaret a week ago as U.S.-backed Iraqi forces started a push in its direction. Their black flag had been flying from al-Hadba (The Hunchback) minaret since June 2014.

Much of the mosque and brickwork minaret was reduced to rubble, said a Reuters TV reporter who went to the site with the elite units that captured it.

# Xi Jinping asserts authority over Hong Kong

**HONG KONG (TIP):** President Xi Jinping inspected troops based in Hong Kong on June 30 as he asserts Chinese authority over the former British colony China took control of 20 years ago.

Xi rode in an open-top jeep past rows of soldiers lined up on an airstrip on his visit to the People's Liberation Army garrison. He called out "Salute all the comrades" and "Salute to your dedication" as he rode by each of the 20 troop formations.

Armored personnel carriers, combat vehicles, helicopters and other pieces of military hardware were arrayed behind the troops.

It was a rare display of the Chinese military's might in Hong Kong, where it normally maintains a low-key presence.

Xi, wearing a buttoned-up black jacket in the steamy heat, spent about 10 minutes reviewing the troops at the Shek Kong base in Hong Kong's suburban New Territories. It's part of a visit to mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover, when Britain gave up control of the Asian financial hub to China on July 1, 1997. Authorities have ramped up security as they brace for protests. Police arrested 26 pro-democracy activists for staging a sit-in on Wednesday evening at a giant flower sculpture given as a present by Beijing near the hotel complex where Xi is staying. The activists were all later released on bail but without being charged, local broadcaster RTHK said, with some not freed until early on Friday, more than 30 hours after they were detained. (AP)

# Mexico: 20 gunmen killed in shootouts in Veracruz

**XALAPA, MEXICO:** Twenty suspected criminals were killed in a series of shootouts with police and troops in recent days in Mexico's troubled Gulf coast state of Veracruz, authorities said on June 27. The state's joint security agency had previously announced that 14 presumed gang gunmen died in a shootout Monday in Veracruz, which is a smuggling corridor and a hotspot for drug cartel violence.

On Tuesday, the agency updated the death toll, saying that six other suspected criminals had been killed in shootouts with military units in the same area over the weekend and Monday, putting the three-day death toll at 20. (AP)

# THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF OILY SKIN

**O**ily skin is a result of excess oil on the outer layer of the skin. This skin condition is a result of overproduction of sebum—a substance made of fats. Your skin and hair need this sebum to maintain a healthy balance of moisture. However, too much sebum on your skin leads to clogged pores, acne, blackheads and skin irritation. To battle this skin condition, we have listed 5 easy ways to treat that shiny layer on your face.

## The right cleanser matters

If you notice excess oil on your face and nothing seems to change even after washing your face, then you need to find the one for your skin type. Look for a cleanser which is more transparent and not has a creamy formula. Ingredients like benzoyl peroxide, tea tree oil, neem and salicylic acid work great for oily skin.

## Use blotting papers

Don't wash your face repeatedly to get rid of excess oil. If you deal with oily skin, keep blotting papers handy. These thin papers available at beauty stores can help to soak up excess oil from your face and minimise that greasy shine.

## Don't skip the moisturiser

Many avoid using a moisturiser to avoid that greasy shine. By skipping this step, your skin will get dry and then eventually produce more oil. To avoid this cycle, many skin experts advice using a moisturiser to keep the skin hydrated. Look for the right cream that contains hyaluronic acid, aloe vera, and glycerine. Also, avoid these: coconut oil, petroleum, and cocoa butter.

## Keep your make-up light

If you apply a pancake of make-up, then you will only clog your pores. Look for make-up options that are not heavy and are oil-free. Choose your make-up

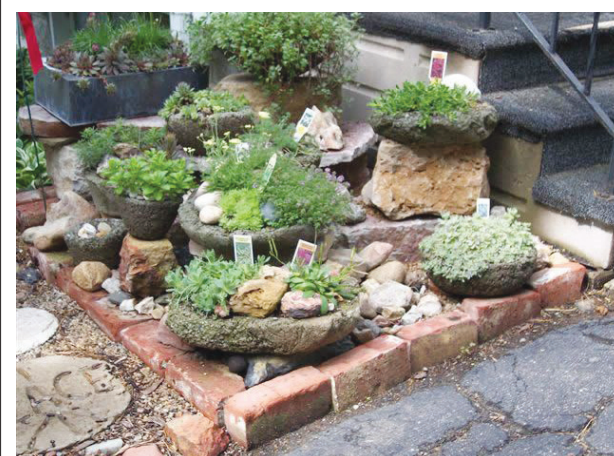


wisely like a mousse foundation over liquid one. And for light coverage, rely on compact powders over creams. Lastly, make sure you wash off the make-up and let your skin breathe.

## Avoid scrubbing

A lot of home remedies may indicate

you to scrub, but this will only lead to excess production of oil. For oily skin, you should avoid excessive exfoliation. Also, one should stay away from steaming and hot water, as it will strip away the fatty acids which your skin needs. Look for a clay mask instead that can help to dissolve oil. *Source: TOI*



## CREATE YOUR ROCK GARDEN AT HOME

**L**ittle comes close to being as peaceful as a rock garden. It exudes serenity and is a visual landscape, too. It's also not tough to make your own one at home. Here are tips on how to do so:

### Choose the area

The foundation matters so choose a spot, maybe on your patio or terrace for the rock garden space. You will also need it to have depth (around one foot).

### Arranging rocks, plants

The next step is to arrange the layout of the garden. You will need to get rocks in different sizes and shades. Large slabs of rock make for a staircase and flat, coloured stones can be used for the walkway. Place the flowers and plants around this.

### Water effect

You can also create an artificially flowing fountain or water path through the garden.

### Furniture

Use cane furniture around your rock garden. It looks good all year through.

### Use old bottles to add greenery to your home

This time, let the popular adage read, 'new idea in an old bottle'. For, the unused bottles you might have wanted to throw away can actually be used to enhance the green quotient in your home. Simply place a plant or long-stemmed flowers in a bright coloured bottle on your desk or by the window to add a vibrant look to the place. You can also do a vertical garden that makes for a solution to a space-challenged home.

### Make a bottle wall garden

Got a wall that's blank? This time, instead of hanging the usual photo frames on it, opt for some horizontal greenery via a plant bottle wall. Choose the herbs like thyme, rosemary and cilantro for this. To start, cut out the mid-section of the bottle and place the soil and plant inside. You can also have a vertical design, where you cut the bottle in half and turn them upside down so that the water from the open neck of the bottle drips onto another bottle. It's nifty and aesthetic, too! *Source: TOI*



## FOOD CORNER

### CHICKEN CURRY WITH CHICKPEAS

#### INGREDIENTS

1 pounds chicken thighs, salt as required, 1/2 teaspoon, coriander powder, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 1/2 teaspoon dried fenugreek leaves, 2 cloves garlic, 1 1/2 cup tomato, 1 cup chick peas, 1 tablespoon parsley, 1 tablespoon mint, 1 tablespoon butter, 4 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, 1 onion, 1/2 inch ginger, 1 tablespoon almonds, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon coriander leaves, 1 tablespoon dill leaves

#### METHOD

- Use soaked chickpeas overnight or for about 6 hours. Preheat oven to 420 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a baking tray with parchment. Cut chicken into small bite-sized pieces and place in large mixing bowl.
- Add 2 tbsp oil, salt to taste and 1/4 tsp of all the spices. Mix well and then spread chicken in single layer on the parchment-lined tray. Bake for 20 minutes. Take it out from the oven and reserve chicken with all of its juices.
- Warm the remaining 2 tbsp oil in a deep non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onions, ginger and garlic. Saute for about 5 minutes until it softens. Reduce the



heat to medium and add tomatoes, salt to taste, remaining 1/4 tsp of all the spices and ground almonds.

- Cook for 5 minutes until the mixture thickens slightly. Add chickpeas, water and reserved chicken with juices. Mix well, cover skillet and cook for 20 minutes on medium-low heat. Fold in chopped herbs and butter. Serve hot.



# IS PULLING OUT THE RIGHT WAY TO PREVENT PREGNANCY?

60 per cent of the US teen have been reported to rely on the pull-out method during sex! It has become the second most common form of contraception among them, only after condoms. Pulling out, or withdrawing the penis just before ejaculation, is a method that is gaining ground more and more. This is happening besides the fact that experts dismiss the method as only better than nothing. Are you also thinking of trying the pull-out way? Then you must know the following facts before you give it a go-ahead.

## It isn't as effective as you think it is

Pulling out is studied to be effective in 96 of 100 cases in preventing pregnancy but only when it is done correctly. However, when it isn't done correctly, the number of failed cases rise to 27 in every 100, that is, more than one in every four cases. Except, in both the cases, the numbers could actually be much higher.

Pre-ejaculate DOES have sperms in it. Many women, or even men, think that pre-cum, or pre-ejaculate, does not contain sperms. Newsflash: Pre-cum can get you pregnant. It has the potency to make a baby. So, if you think that pulling just before the moment can let you keep pregnancy at bay, you are wrong.

## Multiple sessions, huh?

So, if you are one of those who are not satisfied by just one round in the sheets and go for multiple rounds, you may have come across the argument that because it is the second/third/nth session, the sperm count is lesser and so are the chances of pregnancy. On the contrary, the chances of getting pregnant through the pre-ejaculate in



multiple sessions only increase. This is because some sperms get retained in the urethra during the previous ejaculation. So, now, the next pre-ejaculate might contain them. If the guy pees before the next round, the chances decrease but are still existent.

## You may still catch STDs

Pulling-out may sure decrease the chances of impregnating a woman, however, it can transfer sexually transmitted diseases.

## Pulling-out is messy

Despite the fact that sperms are super healthy for your skin (30 times better than vitamin E), you may not like the idea of your man's spurt on your face, or anywhere for that matter.

It is thick, sticky and slimy.

## Pulling-out is difficult

It needs a lot of practice, trust and communication to be able to successfully pull off a pull-out plan. Know if the guy has a conscious control of his orgasm. Know your STI status and that of your man. And always, always, have a back-up plan, like contraceptive pills, handy in case of accidents.

## Avoid it when you are ovulating

If at all you choose to opt for the withdrawal method, do not go for it when you are ovulating. Around that time, the chances of getting pregnant are fairly high. Don't know what your ovulation period is?



## Best sources of protein for vegans

While vegans eliminate meat, eggs, and all animal-based products (including milk) from their diet, it may seem that with limited options available, it would be next to impossible for them to fulfill their daily protein requirement. This essential nutrient is important for body functioning as protein deficiency can lead to serious health conditions. Below are some food types that are protein rich and 'vegan'.

### Lentils

Lentils are packed with high-quantity of protein and fibre. Our body requires at least 0.8 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight daily. For example, if you are 60 kgs, your body requires 48 grams of protein everyday, until and unless specified otherwise. One cup of lentil provides about 18 grams of dietary protein. Try to include one bowl of lentil in your daily diet to meet your protein requirement.

### Beans

Be it red kidney beans or black beans, they are enriched with protein. One bowl of kidney or black beans fulfills 13-15 grams of your protein requirement and also contains heart-healthy fiber.

### Veggies

Green vegetables are packed with protein. Adding spinach, beans, kale, broccoli and green peas in a vegan diet can fulfill the desired protein requirement.

### Tofu

Tofu is prepared by coagulating soy milk and then pressing the resulting curd into soft white blocks. This is another best-protein source for vegans as about 100 grams of tofu provides 9 grams of protein.

### Soy-milk

Soy milk is a healthy option for vegan diet. One cup of soy milk provides 8 grams of protein, 4 grams of heart-healthy fats, and phytosterols which aid good heart health.

### Hemp seeds

Hemp seeds are enriched with protein and are packed with 13 grams of protein in just 3 tablespoons. You can add hemp seeds in your food to get their healthy benefits.

## WHAT YOUR YAWN MEANS

If you think yawning is a mere indication from your tired body to take a nap or a relaxing break, you need to give it a thought again! You might have experienced that despite being vigilant, you still yawn. If facts are to be believed, yawns are contagious, more so if it's a friend who is yawning. What could be the other possible causes? We decode.

Many of us have this misconception that yawning indicates low levels of oxygen or high levels of carbon dioxide levels. But in a few experiments, it was found that no matter how much oxygen or carbon dioxide is available, subjects tend to yawn in all the conditions. Some researches have also proved that people do not yawn less after being exposed to high oxygen levels and do not yawn more after being exposed to high levels of carbon dioxide.

Our lungs are full of tiny little air sacs and not all the sacs are always filled with air. When an air sac lacks air, it could collapse. Our yawning helps in getting the required air to that air sac, preventing it from damaging. When we yawn, we inhale more air than normal which in turn fills the air sacs. This could explain why yawning seems to occur when your breathing is shallow.

Yawning is also an indication of boredom. According to an experiment, some students were shown music videos and a few were shown colour bar test patterns. Those who were involved in colour bar test patterns yawned more and their yawn lasted longer than those who watched videos. *Source: TOI*

## Now painless flu patch for people scared of injections

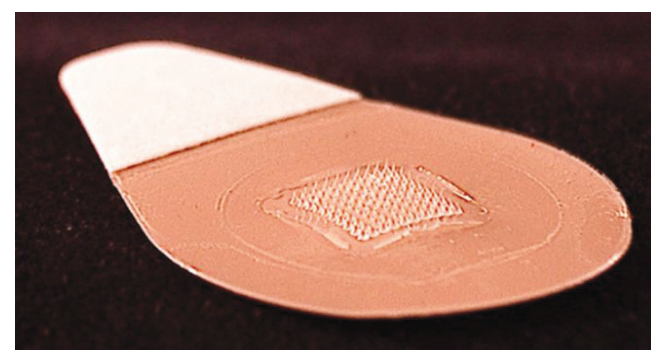
A disposable skin patch with micro needles can safely deliver influenza vaccines to the body, eliminating the need for painful injections, scientists said on Wednesday after successfully completing human trials. The skin patch can be self-administered and stored without refrigeration, making it significantly cheaper than traditional vaccines, researchers said. It can also be easily transported and disposed after use.

Researchers, including those from Georgia Institute of Technology in the US, conducted a clinical trial and found that influenza vaccination using Band-Aid-like patches with dissolvable micro needles was safe and well tolerated by participants.

The study, published in 'The Lancet' journal, showed that it was just as effective in generating immunity against influenza, and was strongly preferred by study participants over vaccination with a hypodermic needle and syringe, researchers said.

"Despite the recommendation of universal flu vaccination, influenza continues to be a major cause of illness leading to significant morbidity and mortality," said Nadine Rouphael, associate professor at Emory University in the US.

"Having the option of a flu vaccine that can be easily and painlessly self administered could increase coverage and



## A painless sticking plaster flu jab that delivers vaccine into the skin has passed important safety tests in the first trial in people

protection by this important vaccine," Rouphael said. Researchers found that vaccination with the micro needle patches was safe, with no adverse events reported. Local skin reactions to the patches were mostly faint redness and mild itching that lasted two to three days. *Source: PTI*

## NASA: NO PENDING ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT DISCOVERY OF ALIEN LIFE

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** NASA has no announcements to make about the discovery of alien life, a spokesperson said, dismissing media reports which claimed that the US space agency was about to discover extraterrestrial life.

Last week, the hacking group Anonymous posted a video on YouTube suggesting that NASA is about to announce the discovery of life beyond Earth.

"Contrary to some reports, there's no pending announcement from NASA regarding extraterrestrial life," NASA science chief Thomas Zurbuchen said in a Twitter post.

"Are we alone in the universe? While we do not know yet, we have missions moving forward that may help answer that fundamental question," Zurbuchen added in tweet.

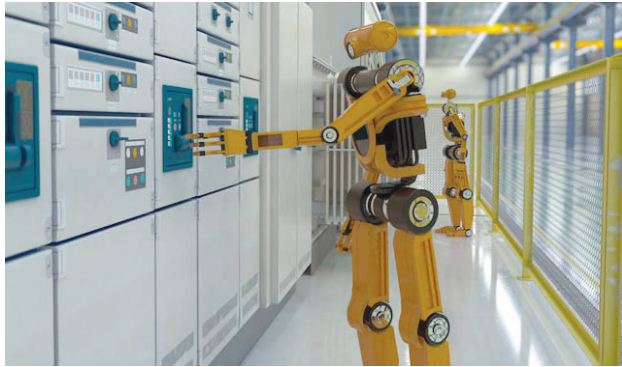
Anonymous' video focused on a testimony Zurbuchen gave in April during a hearing of the House of Representatives' Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

During the hearing, called "Advances in the Search for Life," Zurbuchen laid out the progress NASA has been making in the hunt for life in the cosmos.

He cited thousands of exoplanets spotted by the Kepler space telescope, the recent discovery of hydrogen in the geysers blasting from the south pole of Saturn's moon Enceladus, and the possible detection of water-vapour plumes emanating from the Jovian satellite Europa, 'Space.com' reported.

"Taking into account all of the different activities and missions that are specifically searching for evidence of alien life, we are on the verge of making one of the most profound, unprecedented discoveries in history," Zurbuchen said during the hearing.

In the recent video, Anonymous highlighted just the second half of this sentence. *Source: PTI*



## New foldable, walking robot could aid future space missions

**SEOUL (TIP):** Scientists have built the first foldable walking robot that pops up when deployed, and could be used for future space missions as well as seabed exploration on Earth.

The robot, which the researchers call DeployBot, is assembled from eight modules: four for the body and one for each of the four legs.

In their folded state, the modules lie flat, and after they are deployed they pop up into roughly a square shape.

The modules are made of both rigid and flexible materials and contain embedded magnets that connect and lock multiple modules together.

A shape memory alloy wire running through the square frame of each module is responsible for deploying and folding the modules, which takes several seconds but can be done repeatedly. "The main advantage of this modular robot is robustness in various environments due to lack of mechanical systems such as motors and gears," said Sung-Hoon Ahn from Seoul National University in South Korea.

"Thus, problems facing motor-based robots, such as sealing and lubrication of mechanical systems in water or space environments, are not a problem for the smart actuator," Ahn was quoted as saying by 'Phys.org'.

The robot walks when an electric current is applied to shape-memory alloy wires embedded in its frame. The current heats the wires, causing the robot's flexible segments to contract and bend.

Sequentially controlling the current to various segments in different ways results in different walking gaits.

No motors are required for the robot to move, researcher said. *Source: PTI*

# ORBITING SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES DISCOVERED FOR FIRST TIME

**NEW YORK (TIP):** In a major breakthrough, astronomers including one of Indian origin have discovered two supermassive black holes orbiting each other 750 million light years away from Earth — a finding that may help better understand how gravitational waves are formed.

Last year, an international team of researchers detected the existence of gravitational waves, confirming German physicist Albert Einstein's 100-year-old prediction and astonishing the scientific community.

These gravitational waves were the result two stellar mass black holes of about 30 solar masses colliding in space.

Scientists will now be able to start to understand what leads up to the merger of supermassive black holes that creates ripples in the fabric of space-time and begin to learn more about the evolution of galaxies and the role these black holes play in it.

"For a long time, we've been looking into space to try and find a pair of these supermassive black holes orbiting as a result of two galaxies merging," said Professor Greg Taylor from University of New Mexico in the US.

"Even though we've theorised that this should be happening, nobody had ever seen it until now," said Taylor.

Researchers have been studying the interaction between these black holes for 12 years.

"When Dr Taylor gave me this data I was at the very beginning of learning how to image and understand it," said Karishma Bansal, first-author of the study published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.



"As I learned there was data going back to 2003, we plotted it and determined they are orbiting one another. It's very exciting," said Bansal.

Using the Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA), a system made up of 10 radio telescopes across the US, researchers have been able to observe several frequencies of radio signals emitted by these supermassive black holes (SMBH).

Over time, astronomers have essentially been able to plot their trajectory and confirm that these black holes are in orbit with one another.

At roughly 750 million light years from Earth, the galaxy named 0402+379 and the supermassive black holes within it, are incredibly far away, but are also at the perfect distance from Earth and each other to be observed.

Bansal said these supermassive black holes have a combined mass of 15 billion times that of our Sun, or 15 billion solar masses.

The unbelievable size of these black holes means their orbital period is around 24,000 years, so while the team has been observing them for over a decade, they have yet to see even the slightest curvature in their orbit.

Continuing to observe the orbit and interaction of these two supermassive black holes could also help us gain a better understanding of what the future of our own galaxy might look like.

Right now, the Andromeda galaxy, which also has a SMBH at its centre, is on a path to collide with our Milky Way. The event that the researchers are studying may occur in our galaxy in a few billion years. *Source: PTI*

# Facebook, Microsoft partner to fight hate content online

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube has announced the launch of an anti-terror partnership aimed at thwarting the spread of extremist content online.

The "Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism" intends to share engineering, research and knowledge to help "continue to make our hosted consumer services hostile to terrorists and violent extremists," the companies said yesterday.

Each of the technology giants has been working individually to prevent its platforms or services from being used to promote or spread extremist views.

"The spread of terrorism and violent extremism is a pressing global problem and a critical challenge for us all," said a joint statement posted on Twitter's policy blog.

"We believe that by working together, sharing the best technological and operational elements of our individual



efforts, we can have a greater impact on the threat of terrorist content online."

The new forum built on discussions in Europe and conclusions of recent G7 and European Council, according to the companies.

The forum planned to work with smaller tech firms as well as civil groups, academics and governmental bodies.

"The scope of our work will evolve over time as we will need to be responsive to the ever-evolving terrorist and extremist tactics," the founding

companies said.

US social media titan Facebook last week launched a campaign in Britain to counter the spread of online extremism after warnings from Prime Minister Theresa May that followed four attacks in three months.

Facebook said it would seek to educate charities and other organizations on how to fight hate speech, in the wake of the terror attacks in Britain as well as in Belgium and France.

The Online Civil Courage Initiative (OCCI) will act as a forum for charities and other nonprofit organizations to share their experiences of extremism and develop "best practices" to tackle the issue, both on and offline.

There are already OCCI schemes in France and Germany.

Earlier this year, Group of Seven (G7) leaders had urged companies like Facebook and Google to do more to curb extremist content online.

# How GST will affect businesses that don't pay tax?

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST), set to come into effect on Saturday, has faced criticism for its complex design. But the country's biggest tax reform since independence is promising to bring millions of firms like Sachdeva's into the tax net, boosting government revenues and India's sovereign credit profile.

The new tax will require firms to upload their invoices every month to a portal that will match them with those of their suppliers or vendors.

Because a tax number is needed for a firm to claim a credit on the cost of its inputs, many companies are refusing to buy from unregistered businesses. Those who don't sign up risk losing any customer who has.

## Boosting the coffers

Improved tax compliance should shore up public finances, augmenting resources for welfare and development spending and giving a lift to the \$2 trillion economy.

India currently has one of the worst tax-to-GDP ratios among major economies at 16.6%, less than half the 34 percent average for the members of the OECD and also below many emerging economies.

While there is no official estimate of the potential fiscal gain, some tax experts say the measure, after the initial teething trouble, would lift the tax-to-GDP ratio by as much as 4 percentage points as the number of tax filers is estimated to more than treble to 30 million.

In future, compliance is going to be extremely crucial," Rajiv Nair, chief executive officer at Kaya Ltd., told Reuters. "Since we are also responsible for compliance across the supply chain, we have to ensure that the suppliers we have are in a position to work with us in a compliant manner."

Nair's company, which makes beauty and personal care products, has just streamlined its supply chain, dropping vendors that were not going to be GST-compliant.

Other companies are doing the same. Elixir Group, a French catering and food service company, said it has mandated GST-compliance as one of the eligibility criteria for its orders.

## Winners and losers

The unorganised sector of India's economy is vast, employing an estimated nine out of 10 workers.

While staying outside the GST regime risks losing business, joining it will necessitate an overhaul of firms'



## What will cost more

- Services, including banking and telecom, will get more expensive, as will flats, ready-made garments, monthly mobile bills and tuition fees.
- From July 1, when you visit an air-conditioned restaurant, be ready to shell out 18% as taxes. In case you prefer a non-air-conditioned food joint, then you will save 6% as such restaurants will attract 12% GST.
- Mobile bills, tuition fees and salon visits will also get costlier by 3%, as GST at the rate of 18% will be applicable on all services as compared to the current service tax rate of 15%.
- Apparels above Rs 1,000 will attract 12% tax as compared to the current 6% state VAT. It may be noted that apparels below 1,000 will attract GST at the rate of 5%.
- Buying a flat or shop will attract GST of 12% as compared to current 6% approximately.

## What gets cheaper

- With 81% of items falling under below 18% tax rate, salad dressings, mayonnaise, weighing machinery, static converters (UPS), electric transformers, winding wires, transformers industrial electronics and walkie talkies will become cheaper
- Postage or revenue stamps will also become cheaper as GST on these has been reduced to 5%
- Tax rate on cutlery, ketchup, sauces and pickle under GST will likely become cheaper as they will be taxed at 12%
- Salt, children's picture, drawing or colouring books and cereal grains have been exempted under GST
- Playing cards, chess board, carrom board and other board games have been reduced to 12% GST rate
- Rough precious and semi-precious stones have been kept at a special rate of 0.25%

accounting systems and an investment in technology.

The new tax system requires three filing a month plus an annual return - a total of 37 filings - for each of India's 29 states in which a firm operates. For smaller companies operating on wafer thin margins, hiring accountants and technical staff could substantially dent their bottom line.

Sanjiv Mehra, head of a traders' body in Delhi, reckons a "prohibitive" cost could prove to be counterproductive.

"Compliance is needed for input tax credit," he said. "But what if you are in a business where margins are strong and allows you to forsake credit?"

But despite its flaws, many analysts think the new tax will be good news for bigger established businesses, because it will sweep away an array of federal

and state sales taxes, levied at different stages of the supply chain, that often result in double taxation.

The government estimates the GST will save companies around \$14 billion because it will allow them to organise their warehouses and supply chains more efficiently.

Firms can now move to demand-based "hub-and-spoke" models used globally, rather than operating state-by-state.

"Those companies which can wring out the maximum cost efficiency are the ones investors should bet on," said Ajay Bodke, head of portfolio management services at financial firm Prabhudas Lilladher in Mumbai. "All consumer-facing industries will be big beneficiaries of the GST."

Source: Reuters

## AIR INDIA STAKE SALE: GOVT TO LOOK FOR DOMESTIC PLAYER

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** After clearing the decks for the disinvestment in Air India yesterday, the government is expected to look for a domestic player while diluting its share rather than a foreign entity.

Sources said while giving its nod for the disinvestment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had insisted that no foreign investor be allowed to buy a stake in Air India. The committee of ministers' headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley would keep in mind while working out the modalities of the disinvestment.

An official statement yesterday had said the Cabinet approved the constitution of an Air India-specific Alternative Mechanism headed by Minister of Finance including Minister for Civil Aviation and such other Minister(s) to guide the process on strategic disinvestment from time to time and decide on the treatment of unsustainable debt of Air India, hiving off of certain assets to a shell company, demerger and strategic disinvestment of three profit-making subsidiaries, the quantum of disinvestment and the universe of bidders.

The committee would also deliberate upon deal with the issue of the airline's lenders' willingness to convert debt into equity, and whether to sell its subsidiaries separately — Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), Air India Transport Services Limited and Hotel Corporation of India (owner of Centaur Hotels).

Reports emerging from the market said besides Tatas, who had initially floated the Tata Airline in 1932 and which was later named as Air India, InterGlobe Aviation, owner of IndiGo airline, has shown interest in buying a stake in state-owned carrier.

Tatas have been quiet on the issue, but reports said with the company already operating Vistara Airline in collaboration with Singapore Airlines, it had shown interest when the talk of disinvestment in Air India started.

IndiGo's spokesperson had declined to comment on the reports.

Air India has been afloat on a Rs 30,231-crore bailout package originally approved by the previous government in 2012.

Air India has warned its former employees with severe consequences such as withdrawal of post-retirement benefits if they speak out against the airline on social media.

An internal order brought out last week with the approval of Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani said, "It is unacceptable that a person who is availing post-retirement facilities like passage, medical etc from Air India talks against the company. Retired personnel who make such negative comments with the intention of tarnishing the image of the company will themselves be responsible for the cessation of their post-retirement facilities".

## Maharaja to fly into private hands

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday accorded in-principle approval to divest the government stake in debt-ridden national carrier.

The airline has accumulated losses of more than Rs 50,000 crore, besides a debt of around Rs 55,000 crore.

The panel set up to look after disinvestment will deliberate upon issue of the

airline's lenders' willingness to convert debt into equity, and whether to sell its subsidiaries separately.

Source: The Tribune



# SEBI allows NRIs to hedge currency risk

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Markets regulator SEBI today allowed NRIs to access the exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) market to hedge currency risk arising out of their investments in India, a move aimed at providing them additional hedging option.

At present, NRIs (non-resident Indians) are permitted to hedge their rupee currency risk through over-the-counter

(OTC) transactions with banks. The SEBI said NRIs are now permitted to trade in the currency derivatives segment of stock exchanges, subject to certain terms and conditions. These included NRIs would have to designate bank for the purpose of monitoring and reporting their combined positions in the OTC and ETCD segments. The SEBI has asked stock exchanges to take steps to put in place necessary systems.

## Can trade in derivatives

- At present, NRIs are permitted to hedge their rupee currency risk through over-the-counter transactions with banks
- They are now permitted to trade in the currency derivatives segment of stock exchanges, subject to certain terms and conditions

## FOREIGN TRADE POLICY IN SEPT

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The release of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) has been delayed to September to factor in exporters' feedback after the rollout of GST. At the time of the release of the FTP, April 2015-March 2020, it was mentioned that the policy would be reviewed mid-term with the objective of making a mid-course assessment and modification where required. According to a Commerce Ministry statement, during one of the stakeholder consultations, it was announced that an effort will be made to release the mid-term review before July 1 to align this with the rollout of GST.

## "|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



## BEJAN DARUWALLA

Email- [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) | Phone : +91-9825470377 | [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)

## Predictions for the month of JULY, 2017

Today there is computerized voice type analysis. My observation is you, Scorpio, Taurus and Libra are blessed with the baritone which persuades people to do your bidding. This is certainly yoga time or yoke time or partnerships of all possible sorts. I suggest yoga and partnership with God will be exceptionally fruitful. Enjoy it. Life is sweet but short.

### Aries

Ganesha says - A larger canvas for you this month. You reach out in every way you can - from meetings and rendezvous to fax, email, voice-mail, the works, in short. Not just to people, please remember, but places. The environment, eco-concerns, wider issues also keep you busy. And how: A huge level of awareness and commitment is to be seen in you this week. You are the world, now. Not in confrontation but in fine accord.

### Taurus

The growing awareness of last month develops further. After the pleasures and pain of the material plane, your mind is irresistibly drawn to a higher level. You set your sights on a higher and superior consciousness, spirituality, the cosmic cycle of karma. Also, research, higher studies and imbibing knowledge for its own sake. Travel of the mind, and perhaps actual journeys, too, not just spiritual ones, keep you firmly anchored in this world even while you seek another. Conference, business meets, seminars, study tours, pilgrimages.

### Gemini

A somewhat taxing and certainly demanding month lies ahead. A little stress may develop. You could be over-wrought perhaps about unfairness in your work / business and somewhat depleted in health. At the same time, there are useful discussions, meaningful dialogues with those to whom you can reveal your innermost thoughts. Perhaps a mystery could be revealed. The possibility is there, says Ganesha.

### Cancer

A strengthening of commitment comes now - and it's really needed, too. Money will be easy, though not wonderful. Nor will your health. More rest will be very desirable to you as once again, all kinds of pulls could level you feeling as if your batteries are running low and you just can't cope with all that you're required to do. Your faith will energize you, as will your warm interactions with loved ones. Once again you focus very definitely on home, family, property, in several ways.

### Leo

A time when Ganesha endows you with a large measure of satisfaction, the belief that you're going the right way to a better life. Harmony and contentment are your goals now. All that the preceding forecast was about is now sought to be put into action, or motion, by you. You get off to a dramatic, stylish start in the work arena. You are redefining your attitudes to home and career, refocusing on fresh goals in terms of advancement.

### Virgo

A truly fine period, again, in which you find satisfaction in all spheres - work, family, love and marriage. You gain in effortless ways both at home and at work. Understanding and rapport with people who are part of your personal "think-tank" lends to an energizing effect on both money matters and affairs of the heart. You work with equal zest and energy as you play.

### Libra

Energy, inspiration, enthusiasm all comes to you in a torrent with this new moon. The operative word here is new - most definitely. It's ideal for creating a new product / project / venture / piece of art / book / a symphony / poem. Creativity manifests itself even in getting a new job or a new addition to the family. Also, a wonderful time for those in the media, publicity, writing, copywriting, the e-world (and that in itself is really a universe, isn't it?)

### Scorpio

A typical Scorpio with its emphasis on faith, religion, spirituality. You feel an urge to live less in the material world and more in the spiritual, but it is material concerns that will force themselves on your attention. Finances, joint-funds, debts and loans will all have to be dealt with or handled in some form or the other. If not your own, they could pertain to the family interactions of the last week.

### Sagittarius

Much comes to you now, and in easy, harmonious ways; you don't have to struggle to achieve. Your efforts produce effects far beyond your expectations. Fun and games are embraced joyfully in a spirit of celebration. Don't let go of the cleanliness of communication and sharing you've established with those around you - friends as well as workmates. You realize and appreciate the role of good people in your life.

### Capricorn

Solid gains - in this world and the higher one too make it a week of progress. You ponder on deeper questions, undertake further study / training / orientation and gain much in terms of ultimate wisdom and maturity. Good ideas at work, solid interaction with friends, family, mate or lover, all add to the creation of deeper ties. So, travel and ties with a whole new connotation. Not armchair travelling, but travel of the spirit.

### Aquarius

Right now, you're really a fine person to know and this will continue, since it's a trend for the month. You are full of grace in your public position, and exercise authority with affection and charm. And that is probably the least of your gains, though it brings mind-bogglingly good results at work and in the family scene. You feel a little more internal, more reflective, more introspective.

### Pisces

Your spiritual and emotional growth has been steady and sustained. It's a much larger canvas that you are painting on, once again, leaving your own individual imprint. You function as a part of a group or social organization, see your place in the world order and open up the vistas of your mind. Original studies, research, higher learning, these, hypothesis - even the media, and particularly television - are all part of your sphere.

Bejan Daruwalla is world's most famous astrologer today. He appears regularly on world wide TV shows. Bejan who has been a professor in English, has authored a number of books on astrology. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 29, 2012, lunched one of Bejan's books, '2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and

newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama ( New York and Texas). Bejan's predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone 011-91-9825470377 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)

# WHY LORD SHIVA IS ALSO KNOWN AS GANGADHAR

Hinduism teaches us the intricate realities of life through various stories. These stories high on moral values have profound meaning. One such story is that of Shiva and how he held the mighty Ganga in his matted locks.

There are many legends associated with Shiva and Ganga. Here's taking a look at one of them:

King Bhagiratha succeeded in pleasing Brahma after his great-grandfather Sagara angered Sage Kapila by accusing him of stealing the sacrificial horse meant for performing the Ashwamedha Yagya. The horse was actually stolen by Indra who feared Sagara would grow more powerful than him after performing the Yagya.

Sage Kapila cursed Sagara and his descendants by saying they will never be able to attain Moksha until they bring the divine Ganga to earth from the heavens.

Brahma, who gets pleased by Bhagiratha's prayers, asks Ganga to descend to the earth. But Ganga takes offense to this and decides to destroy the earth with her mighty force. Brahma who knew of Ganga's fury, asked Bhagiratha to seek Lord Shiva's help to combat Ganga's rage.

Lord Shiva agrees to help Bhagiratha. Ganga, who is oblivious of Shiva's power, descended with tremendous force thinking she would wash him away. But Shiva, the lord of the lords that he is, held her tightly in his matted hair. Ganga realised Shiva was no ordinary being and calmed down.

## The underlying meaning

Only a stable, strong and an invincible mind can control the temptations of the materialistic world. Nothing can lure him. Hence to attain the truth, one needs to be unshakable. Stability alone can bring in peace and happiness.

To defeat arrogance, pride and ego, one needs to have strong mind. In this case, (Ganga's force) is arrogance and Shiva symbolises strong mind. Since Shiva held Ganga, he is known as Gangadhar.

Why Lord Shiva has crescent on his head?

Have you ever wondered why there is a crescent on Shiva's locks of hair? What does the crescent signify and why isn't the moon in its full shape on the Lord's head? Here's the answer.

According to one of the legends, King Daksha, son of Lord Brahma, got his 27 daughters (Nakshatras) married to Chandra (Moon). But Chandra was only smitten by Rohini. This didn't go well with the rest of the 26 wives of Chandra, who approached their father Daksha to complain about their husband.

Deeply disappointed and angered by Chandra's behaviour, Daksha cursed his son-in-law by saying that his body would perish. And as a result, Chandra gradually started losing his form. Fearing he would cease to exist, Chandra rushed to Lord Shiva for help.

To save Chandra from perishing, Lord Shiva asked him to take refuge in his locks to protect him from Daksha's curse. Hence Shiva is also known as Chandrashekhar. The Lord is also known as Somnath (or protector of Som).

The moon wanes and waxes time and again owing to Daksha's curse and Shiva's blessings.

Among the many powerful names of Lord Shiva - Neelkantha - finds a special mention. A legend associated with this name of the mighty God is inspiring.



As we know, Hinduism is a philosophy explained by using metaphors to describe the fundamental values and principles of life, the Samudra Manthan episode will establish the reason why Shiva is also known as Neelkantha.

When the Asuras and the Devas were eager to get hold of Amrit, the divine nectar to become immortal, a contest of one-upmanship was organised so that one of the two could reap benefits. The samudra/kshirasagara (ocean) needed to be churned in order to derive the nectar. And to execute this daunting task, the Mandara Parvat (a might mountain named Mandara) was used as a churning rod and Vasuki (the king of Snakes) was turned into a rope.

The Devas and the Asuras started pulling the rope from either side so that the nectar from the bottom of the Kshirasagara could be obtained but while churning, even harmful things started surfacing. Halahala was a poison that gradually started spreading all over. According to another legend, Halahala

was the poison that dripped from Vasuki's mouth as he was pulled to and fro by the Devas and the Asuras.

This Halahala was so poisonous that it could ruin creation. Fearing the end, the Devas and the Asuras pleaded to Lord Shiva to save the creation. A compassionate being that he is, Shiva agreed to drink the Halahala.

Shiva arrested it in his throat to prevent it from seeping into his body. And according to another legend, Mata Parvati on learning that Shiva had consumed the Halahala, held his throat so as to stop the poison from running down to his stomach.

The impact of the poison was such that it turned Shiva's neck blue and hence the name Neelkantha.

Symbolism: Both the good and the bad exist. One needs to learn the art of stopping negative energy from affecting us.

## 'Mahamrityunjaya Mantra' for conquering death

Lord Shiva is one of the widely worshipped

Hindu gods. Also, known as Mahadeva—Shiva forms one of the important pillars of the Hindu trinity—Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. Bhole Nath cures all the illnesses and fears residing in any of his devotees. In order to overcome and conquer fear of death, Shiva bhakts can chant the ever powerful 'Mahamrityunjaya Mantra'.

This mantra, also known as the 'Triyambakam Mantra' is taken from the Rigveda, and is attributed to Lord Shiva—the three-eyed lord.

Mahamrityunjaya Mantra:  
*Om tryambakam yajamahe sugandhim pivardhanam |  
urvarukam-iva bandhanan mtyormukiya mamitat*

Also, you will find many a times, this mantra is preceded by:

*aum hrau ju sa/aum bhurbhuva sva and followed by aum sva bhuva? bhur / aum sa ju hrau aum, which is its Tantric version.*

## Symbolism behind Lord Shiva's Ardhanarishwara form

We have heard and seen images of the Ardhanarishwar form of Lord Shiva which presents him as half-man and half-woman. The right side represents the male while the left is female.

There are many legends associated with the Ardhanarishwar form of Lord Shiva. According to one of the legends, Goddess Parvati was jealous of the fact that Shiva held Ganga on his matted locks. So she wanted to be inseparable from him. Thus to please the Goddess, Shiva merged a part of her with a part of his body.

According to another legend from the Shiva Purana, it is believed that Brahma, the creator of the universe forgot to create the female form. So he sought help from Lord Shiva who then appeared as half-man and half-woman to allow creations to happen.

But what is more important is to understand the symbolism hidden underneath.

The male part of Ardhanarishwar represents the passive force of the universe which is called Purusha while the female part is Prakriti or the active force. The two opposite forces must unite and work in tandem to allow creations to exist. It also means that both the male and the female powers are indispensable for creation.

The universe will cease to exist if either of the two fails to participate in the creation. It also means that the male and female are equals and cannot exist without each other.

Creation can happen and sustain only when the Purusha and Prakriti unite.

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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."



## AYESHA TAKIA MISSED ACTING IN FILMS

Ayesha Takia has worked with some of the biggest names in the industry including Salman Khan, Imtiaz Ali and the actress said she did miss being in front of the camera during her sabbatical. Ayesha, who married businessman Farhan Azmi in 2009, took a break from acting after she delivered a baby boy in 2013.

She romanced Salman in the hit 'Wanted' and featured in films like 'Salaam-E-Ishq', Imtiaz's directorial debut 'Socha Na Tha' and was last seen in Nagesh Kukunoor's 2011 drama 'Mod'.

"No matter how long a break you take, an actor does feel comfortable in front of the camera. I have been acting since I was four years old, so I am at ease with it (camera). I do miss the moment between action and cut sometimes," Ayesha told.

The 31-year-old actress will be seen on the big screen with her upcoming movie 'Borivali Ka Bruce Lee', which will mark her comeback to the silver screen. "I am currently shooting for 'Borivali Ka Bruce Lee'. It is really a cute, action comedy with Kung Fu elements in it and I am in love with my role. I think for a comeback, the audience will love it too. We are hoping it releases this year, 70 per cent of it (film) has already been shot. We are aiming to finish the rest soon," said Ayesha.

As Ayesha is back to work, she said she isn't keen to do run-of-the-mill roles in her second innings in Bollywood. "Last year there were a few things which I had to turn down because of lack of time. But the content has to be good enough to make me feel it is going to have some impact."

Source: PTI

# TAAPSEE PANNU TO PLAY A LAWYER IN ABHINAY DEO'S NEXT

The actress is set to play a lawyer in Abhinay Deo's next film, which kicks off in October. After Shoojit Sircar's gritty court room-drama *Pink* last year, which sparked a dialogue on consent across the country, Taapsee Pannu opted for some comic relief through David Dhawan's caper *Judwaa 2*, in which she anchors Varun Dhawan's twin act with Jacqueline Fernandez.

While shooting for the film is currently under way, *Mirror* has learnt that the 29-year-old actress has signed her next film, a drama to be directed by Abhinay Deo, in which she will return to the courtroom but as a lawyer. The film goes on the floors in early October in Mumbai. A source associated with the film revealed to *Mirror*, "Taapsee is expected to kick off prep at least a month before the shoot commences. At the moment, the team is looking for the lead actor to be paired opposite her.

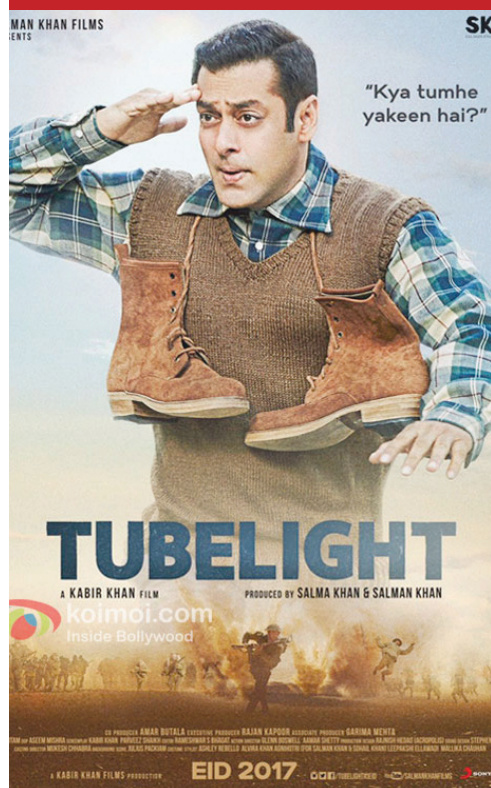
Abhinay's last directorial was the John Abraham and Sonakshi Sinha-starrer *Force 2* that released last November. The filmmaker just completed filming the Irrfan Khan and Kirti Kulhari film, *Raita*.

Meanwhile, Taapsee, who wrapped up the recreated version of the song 'Tan Tana Tan' with Varun and Jacqueline recently, has taken off to Norway for a 12-day vacation after which she will be Portugalbound on July 18 for a 12-day schedule of another song shoot for *Judwaa 2*.

Source: TOI



## MOVIE REVIEW



### TUBELIGHT

**CAST:** Salman Khan, Sohail Khan, Om Puri, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Matin Rey Tangu, Zhu Zhu

**DIRECTION:** Kabir Khan

**GENRE:** Drama

**DURATION:** 2 hours 16 minutes

#### STORY

Laxman Singh Bisht (Salman) is nicknamed tube light by his neighbours because he is feeble-minded. Despite being special, Laxman lives by one life-lesson; keep the faith alive and you can do almost anything, even stop a war.

#### REVIEW

At the outset, one must warn people that *Tubelight* is a departure from your regular Salman Khan mass entertainer. Here Bollywood's darling-star plays a child-man who doesn't take off his shirt or flex his biceps. So the audience going in for this one should invest belief (or should that be disbelief?) in this age of innocence offering from Kabir Khan, whose past outings *Ek Tha Tiger* and *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* were more commercially-wired.

*Tubelight* inspired by the Hollywood film *Little Boy* directed by

Alejandro Monteverde, is told with a fable-like simplicity. Set in Jagatpur, a pretty North-Indian town, during the Indo-China war, the locals are mostly hangers on, who have little to do except laugh at Laxman's antics or berate him. Banne Chacha (Om Puri) mentors him, imparting Gandhian gyaan at every given opportunity. Narayan (Mohd Zeeshan) is the local bully who slaps the hero around without provocation, making the slaps sting less and irritate more. Things brighten up a bit when the drop-dead gorgeous Liling (Zhu Zhu) and her perky son Guo (Matin), who are Chinese immigrants, move to Jagatpur. But even this track seems like a ploy to play up the Hindi-Chini bhai bhai sentiment.

The war sequences are poorly mounted because the filmmaker hasn't invested in them either through evocative writing or mind-numbing montages.

The film that propagates the values of family, faith and patriotism doesn't manage to take a complete leap of faith because often the emotions barely scratch the surface. Everything is so cloyingly sweet that you start feeling you've strolled into a sermon rather than a Salman movie. Pritam's Naach Meri Jaan and Sajan Radio are magical, as is Shah Rukh Khan's cameo as magician, Go-Go Pasha. Aseem Mishra's camera work is largely-breathtaking.

When it comes to performances--Salman laughs and cries unselfconsciously, showing his audience the less-seen side of his macho screen image. He cannot move mountains with his performance but he tries hard to keep the faith alive. Sohail is sincere. Zhu Zhu shows spunk and young Matin entertains. And, Om Puri reminds you of the mettle unsung heroes are made of.



## MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ THREATENS TO LEAVE 'FAST & FURIOUS' FILMS

Michelle Rodriguez has said she is ready to leave her role in the 'Fast & Furious' franchise if the next installment does not bring women more into the spotlight. For six 'Fast & Furious' films, Rodriguez has starred as Letty Ortiz, Dominic Toretto's (Vin Diesel) badass, ride-or-die love interest.

"F8 is out digitally today, I hope they decide to show some love to the women of the franchise on the next one." "Or I just might have to say goodbye to a loved franchise. It's been a good ride & I'm grateful for the opportunity the fans & studio have provided over the years... One Love," she wrote on Instagram along with pictures of her with Diesel and co-star Nathalie Emmanuel.

Loss of Rodriguez would be a major blow for the franchise. With the late Paul Walker being written into retirement following his November 2013 fatal car accident and Jordana Brewster sitting out the last film, Rodriguez and Diesel are the last original cast members left.

The co-produces and distributors of the 'Fast and the Furious' movies have not responded yet.

Source: PTI

# ALICIA SILVERSTONE 'CONFUSED' BY 'WONDER WOMAN' HYPE

Wonder Woman keeps breaking box office records, but Alicia Silverstone wants to remind you that Gal Gadot isn't the first female lead of a blockbuster.

The "Clueless" star said she's "confused" about the acclaim of "Wonder Woman" because "there have been many movies with female leads."

"What about all those wonderful comedians who are females who have had massive hits?" the 40-year-old actress told Variety, specifically naming "Bridesmaids," "Mean Girls" and "Clueless."

"Over the time we have had so many movies that have been female-driven."

Silverstone, who played her own superhero as Batgirl in the 1997 "Batman & Robin," also said she doesn't understand why superhero movies have to be so intense.

"It has to be 'Wonder Woman.' It has to have tons of flash, right? Like when you're looking at children's films now, as a mom, I don't want my kid to see all that loud effects, all the stuff that's like stimulate, stimulate," she told Variety.

"But that's what audiences want, so it's a tricky thing. Sometimes it's just the quieter more interesting things sometimes get seen because they touch someone enough."

Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" has brought in an estimated \$652.9 million since debuting on June 2, making it the highest-grossing live-action film directed by a woman — it beat out Phyllida Lloyd's "Mamma Mia!," which brought in \$609.8 million. Source: Daily News



## MOVIE REVIEW



# BABY DRIVER

**CAST:** Ansel Elgort, Kevin Spacey, John Hamm, Lily James, Jamie Foxx

**DIRECTION:** Edgar Wright

**GENRE:** Action

**DURATION:** 1 hour 55 minutes

### STORY

Baby is the designated driver for a heist orchestrator called Doctor. But while his foot is on the gas, his conscience wants him to hit the brakes.

### REVIEW

It is a simple sign of cinematic triumph if, throughout a movie, you are bobbing your head and tapping your foot to the rhythms of the scenes.

Baby Driver is just that. A triumph. For its sheer originality in execution and a cast of cool-cats capable of charming your socks off.

An unexpectedly delicious cocktail of two genres, musical and heist-movie, it starts with Baby (Elgort) in a high-speed

chase, skidding between trucks and swerving in and out of tunnels to save bank robber Buddy (Hamm) and his friends from the police. They're all puppets in the hands of Doctor (Spacey), who never uses the same crew twice except for his lucky Baby.

But little does Doc know that his good luck charm has started getting some bad feelings about the business, especially after meeting Debora (James). Doctor plans one last loot but this is where Baby shifts gears and goes off-track.

This is a musical unlike any other: People are neither dressed in costume, nor do they break out in song. The music comes from lyrical lines in the dialogue; it comes from the rhythm of machine guns firing bullets; it comes from a bundle of cash as someone brushes its edges. Steven Price's smartly produced score and Bill Pope's captivating camerawork result in a movie that is no less than a new car: slick, sexy and smooth.

And this car backfires very few times. The dialogue-heavy second act tries to keep up the momentum with repartee instead of revving engines, but fails. Kevin Spacey delivers a performance that is just too reminiscent of his Frank Underwood from House Of Cards.

Spacey stays in familiar territory but Elgort, as Baby, takes the leap from teen-movie Romeo to action-movie Rambo effortlessly. It's a riot to watch Foxx and Hamm as tough guys with tattoos who are constantly bickering. James's inherent niceness is almost essential to a movie this morally skewed.

contd from Page 1

## United States and India View...

**DEMOCRATIC STALWARTS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION:** As responsible stewards in the Indo-Pacific region, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi agreed that a close partnership between the United States and India is central to peace and stability in the region. Recognizing the significant progress achieved in these endeavors, the leaders agreed to take further measures to strengthen their partnership. In accordance with the tenets outlined in the U.N. Charter, they committed to a set of common principles for the region, according to which sovereignty and international law are respected and every country can prosper. To this end, the leaders:

reiterate the importance of respecting freedom of navigation, overflight, and commerce throughout the region;

call upon all nations to resolve territorial and maritime disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law;

support bolstering regional economic connectivity through the transparent development of infrastructure and the use of responsible debt financing practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment; and

**CALL ON OTHER NATIONS IN THE REGION TO ADHERE TO THESE PRINCIPLES:** President Trump welcomed further Indian contributions to promote Afghanistan's democracy, stability, prosperity, and security. Recognizing the importance of their respective strategic partnerships with Afghanistan, the leaders committed to continue close consultations and cooperation in support of Afghanistan's future.

In accord with India's Think West policy, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi resolved to increase cooperation, enhance diplomatic consultations, and increase tangible collaboration with partners in the Middle East.

The leaders strongly condemned continued provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), emphasizing that its destabilizing pursuit of nuclear and ballistic missile programs poses a grave threat to regional security and global peace. The leaders called on DPRK to strictly abide by its international obligations and commitments. The leaders pledged to work together to counter the DPRK's weapons of mass destruction programs, including by holding accountable all parties that support these programs.

**SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER AGAINST TERRORISM :** The Leaders stressed that terrorism is a global scourge that must be fought and terrorist safe havens rooted out in every part of the world. They resolved that India and the United States will fight together against this grave challenge to humanity. They committed to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats from groups including Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, D-Company, and their affiliates. India appreciated the United States designation of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist as evidence of the commitment of the United States to end terror in all its forms. In this spirit, the leaders welcomed a new consultation mechanism on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals.

The leaders called on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries. They further called on Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot, and other cross-border terrorist attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based groups.

The leaders announced increased cooperation to prevent terrorist travel and to disrupt global recruitment efforts by expanding intelligence-sharing and operational-level counterterrorism cooperation. They welcomed commencement of the exchange of information on known and suspected terrorists for travel screening. They further resolved to strengthen information exchange on plans, movements and linkages of terrorist groups and their leaders, as well as on raising and moving of funds by terrorist groups.

The leaders also affirmed their support for a U.N. Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will advance and strengthen the framework for global cooperation and reinforce the message that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism. They also pledged to work together to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to deny access to such weapons by terrorists and non-state actors.

**GROWING STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE:** President Trump and Prime Minister Modi pledged to deepen defense and security cooperation, building on the United States' recognition of India as a Major Defense Partner. The United States and India look forward to working together on advanced defense equipment and technology at a level commensurate with that of the closest allies and partners of the United States. Reflecting the partnership, the United States has offered for India's consideration the sale of Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Systems, which would enhance India's capabilities and promote shared security interests.

Resolving to expand their maritime security cooperation, the leaders announced their intention to build on the implementation of their "White Shipping" data sharing arrangement, which

enhances collaboration on maritime domain awareness. President Trump welcomed Prime Minister Modi's strong support for the United States to join as an Observer in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium. Noting the importance of the upcoming MALABAR naval exercise, the leaders determined to expand their engagements on shared maritime objectives and to explore new exercises.

As global nonproliferation partners, the United States expressed strong support for India's early membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Australia Group. President Trump reaffirmed the support of the United States for India's permanent membership on a reformed U.N. Security Council.

**INCREASING FREE AND FAIR TRADE:** The leaders committed that the United States and India -- leading engines of growth in the global economy -- should intensify their economic cooperation to make their nations stronger and their citizens more prosperous. Noting that extensive economic and tax reforms launched in their respective countries will unlock immense economic opportunities for both countries, the leaders committed to further expanding and balancing the trade relationship and to removing obstacles to growth and jobs creation. They also resolved to pursue increased commercial engagement in a manner that advances the principles of free and fair trade. To this end, the United States and India plan to undertake a comprehensive review of trade relations with the goal of expediting regulatory processes; ensuring that technology and innovation are appropriately fostered, valued, and protected; and increasing market access in areas such as agriculture, information technology, and manufactured goods and services. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi further committed to strengthening cooperation to address excess capacity in industrial sectors. They called on their teams to find creative ways to improve bilateral trade.

Surveying United States-India energy ties and the two countries' respective energy strategies, the leaders affirmed the continued importance of their Strategic Energy Partnership and of leveraging new opportunities to elevate cooperation to enhance global energy security. The leaders called for a rational approach that balances environment and climate policy, global economic development, and energy security needs.

President Trump affirmed that the United States continues to remove barriers to energy development and investment in the United States and to U.S. energy exports so that more natural gas, clean coal, and renewable resources and technologies are available to fuel India's economic growth and inclusive development. Prime Minister Modi and President Trump looked forward to conclusion of contractual agreements between Westinghouse Electric Company and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India for six nuclear reactors in India and also related project financing. Both leaders welcomed upcoming visits between India and the United States that will expand energy and innovation linkages across the energy sector and deepen cooperation, including on more efficient fossil fuel technologies, smart grids, and energy storage. They supported financing of energy projects, including clean coal projects, by Multilateral Development Banks to promote universal access to affordable and reliable energy.

Recognizing that we are in an increasingly digital world, the leaders agreed to intensify the mutually beneficial partnership to fully harness their innovation capabilities to solve global developmental challenges. As global partners, the United States and India resolved to further strengthen their collaboration in health, space, oceans, and other areas of science and technology. The leaders also agreed to strengthen their cooperation to address the growing threats and challenges from malicious cyber activity and committed to work together to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable cyberspace environment that supports innovation, economic growth, and commerce.

Applauding the entrepreneurship and innovation of Indians and Indian-Americans that have directly benefitted both nations, President Trump welcomed India's formal entry into the International Expedited Traveler Initiative (Global Entry program) in order to facilitate closer business and educational ties between the citizens of India and the United States.

President Trump gladly accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India. They look forward to working together in a spirit of friendship in the years to come.

## USCIS Resumes H-1B Premium...

allows certain medical doctors to stay in the United States on a temporary visa after completing their medical training to work in rural and urban areas that have shortage of physicians.

"This program improves health care access for Americans living in underserved areas, and we are pleased to resume premium processing for these petitions," said USCIS Acting Director James McCament.

Now eligible petitioners for medical doctors seeking H-1B status under the Conrad 30 program, or through an interested government agency waiver, can file Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service for Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker. Form I-907 can be filed together with an

H-1B petition or separately for a pending H-1B petition.

USCIS in March had announced that it has temporarily stopped the processing of premium processing of H-1B visa until further notice. USCIS plans to resume premium processing of other H-1B petitions as workloads permit. They will make additional announcements with specific details related to when they will begin accepting premium processing for those petitions.

Until then, premium processing remains temporarily suspended for all other H-1B petitions. USCIS will reject any Form I-907 filed for those petitions, and if the petitioner submitted one check combining the Form I-907 and Form I 129 fees, USCIS will have to reject both forms.

## Trump's Travel Ban Returns

drew legal challenges shortly before going into force. The Trump administration announced Thursday morning it would begin enforcing the ban at 8 p.m. Eastern Time that night. The move came less than a week after the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed a series of injunctions by lower federal courts blocking the government from imposing the ban's two key provisions: a 90-day freeze on visa applications from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, and a 120-day suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

The Court said Monday that the government can enforce the restrictions on travelers unless they have a "bona fide relationship" with a "person or entity" inside the United States. The justices noted that a family member, employer, or educational institution inside the country would qualify. But they also warned that relationships formed for the purpose of evading the ban would not suffice to gain entry.

"The students from the designated countries who have been admitted to the University of Hawaii have such a relationship with an American entity," the Court explained in an unsigned order, referring to the lawsuit filed by that institution against the government. "So too would a worker who accepted an offer of employment from an American company or a lecturer invited to address an American audience."

What will qualify as a "bona fide relationship" in practice is unclear. The State Department, which oversees the visa-application process at embassies and consulates throughout the world, is interpreting the Court's language narrowly. According to a diplomatic cable obtained by multiple news outlets, applicable relationships will be defined as "a parent (including parent-in-law), spouse, child, adult son or daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sibling, whether whole or half. This includes step relationships."

Other family ties will not qualify, even if they fall within what the Court described as a "close familial relationship." The cable explicitly ruled out entry based on connections inside the United States if those relationships were with "grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-laws and sisters-in-law, fiancés and any other 'extended' family members."

Shortly before the ban went into effect on Thursday, the state of Hawaii, which filed one of the original lawsuits on behalf of its higher-education system, filed an emergency motion asking a federal district court in Hawaii to clarify the Supreme Court's order. Among the issues the state asked the court to resolve is whether close family members like grandparents and fiancés fell under the justices' exception. Neither the court nor the Justice Department has yet responded to the motion.

Human-rights organizations quickly criticized the department's guidelines as inadequate. "This guidance shows a cruel indifference to families, some already torn apart by war and horrifying levels of violence," Naureen Shah, a senior director at Amnesty International USA, said in a statement. "It also defines close family relationships in a way that The ACLU, which is among the groups challenging the order at the Supreme Court, suggested the State Department's interpretation did not conform to the justices' standard. "The reported guidance does not comport with the Supreme Court's order, is arbitrary, and is not tied to any legitimate government purpose," Omar Jadwat, the director of the organization's Immigrants' Rights Project, said in a statement.

The Supreme Court's modifications will remain in force until at least October, when the justices return from their summer recess and hear oral arguments in the case. Because the visa-application freeze is set to last 90 days, it's possible those restrictions could lapse before the Court has an opportunity to consider them.

Trump claimed victory earlier this week after the Court announced its decision, saying on Twitter that he was "very grateful" for the justices' move. The president has struggled to implement a version of the ban since he signed its first iteration on January 27. That version went far beyond what the Court sanctioned on Monday, suspending tens of thousands of visas from the six targeted countries and Iraq with virtually no exceptions. ignores the reality in many cultures, where grandparents, cousins, and in-laws are often extremely close."

(Source: *The Atlantic*)



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## WILL GIVE OPINION ON NEXT INDIA COACH ONLY IF ASKED BY BCCI: VIRAT KOHLI



**ANTIGUA (TIP):** With the Indian cricket board's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) deciding on the new coach, skipper Virat Kohli has made it clear he and the rest of the team will give suggestions only when they are asked and would not like to go beyond the brief.

The India skipper was asked on Thursday about the kind of coach he would prefer. However, Virat Kohli left the delivery alone, saying the onus is on the Indian board to make a choice.

"Contrary to popular perception, we as a team only voice our opinions when asked by the BCCI to give suggestions, so that is something we've always done, going through it as a process.

"That's something we respect as a team. It is not like segregation of anything. We respect that process and procedure and if and when it takes place then we'll give our suggestions to the BCCI," said the India skipper ahead of the third ODI here.

Former India skipper Anil Kumble step down as coach after the ICC Champions Trophy, saying his relationship with Virat Kohli had become 'untenable'.

Asked if the team or he has been kept in the loop and whether they'd prefer to be kept in the loop, the India skipper said, "Right now we have a series at hand and this is what we are focused on right now. The process has always been in place. We as a team are focusing on this series right now and are not focused on anything else. We are focused on coming here and winning this series and preparing for the game that lies ahead of us," he said.

The India team players have been guarded while expressing their preferences. On Wednesday, Shikhar Dhawan was asked about their preference. He said pretty much the same although he added that he doesn't really care much about who becomes the coach. *Source: HT*

## INDIA VS WEST INDIES

# FIELDING KEEPS TEAM INDIA'S SENIORS ON THEIR TOES

**ANTIGUA (TIP):** The Indian fielding coach R Sridhar sums up his mantra for training his wards: "You give what they want till the time they begin to take what you want to give them," he says in an informal chat following a presser.

He has been pretty vocal that players must be given more freedom and time. Sridhar doesn't want to rush into things and his three-year stay shows that.

The former Hyderabad player cites the example of working with pace bowler Mohammed Shami for six months before he got comfortable with picking the ball on the field with both hands. "We have made progress, but sometimes he still picks and throws with one hand," Sridhar tells journalists here.

### Fitness, agility

Skipper Virat Kohli insisting on players' fitness and agility is well known.

In the Champions Trophy in England, while India effected seven run outs and were quite good in the field, there were some weak links. Kedar Jadhav probably got unnerved, especially in the initial matches, and failed to grab the chances. That irked skipper Virat Kohli, who made his displeasure known.

Yuvraj Singh isn't getting any younger. The man who pioneered the fielding revolution in India, especially plucking catches out of nowhere at cover point, is being banished to the deep, mostly third man region. It's a climb down.



In fact, the MS Dhoni biopic shows the former skipper stressing on taking a harsh call to drop some seniors. It wasn't just fiction, but a fact. The sudden departure of VVS Laxman from Tests in 2012 and Virender Sehwag after a while shows how much importance fielding is given these days.

### Fitness for longevity

Dhoni, 35, is still fit, and besides keeping wicket, is brilliant between the wickets. He probably knows that his best chance to stay in the team is by staying fit. Batting coach Sanjay Bangar had said if the seniors stay fit, then they have a chance.

Sridhar says, "It is very important for us to understand his body and what he needs. So, we have to be very careful with his workload monitoring, what he brings, and make sure what he needs and is as fit and fresh as possible when he takes the field for 50 overs. Yuvraj has been through a lot."

Of late, Virat has been handling Yuvraj rather carefully. "Virat knows where exactly he wants to have Yuvraj," Sridhar told the presser.

The senior pro has been made to field even at long on and long off, positions usually reserved for fast bowlers who may not be that agile. Virat ensures Yuvi gets the best position possible. *Source: HT*

## ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

# Smriti guides India to easy victory over West Indies

**TAUNTON (TIP):** Opener Smriti Mandhana made amends for missing out on a hundred against England with a scintillating unbeaten 106 guiding India to a comfortable seven-wicket victory against West Indies in the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Thursday. Chasing a modest target of 184, Indian eves won with as many as 45 balls to spare, courtesy another superlative performance from the left-handed opener Mandhana.

After her 90 against hosts England, Mandhana started from where she had left the other day, hitting 13 fours and two sixes—both pull shots. Along with the ever-dependable skipper Mithali Raj (46), Mandhana added 108 runs for the third wicket virtually shutting the World T20 champions out of contest.

Mithali was unlucky not to score her eighth consecutive half-century in ODIs missing by a mere four runs. She would rue the chance as a loopy full toss from off-break bowler Hayley Mathews was hit straight to Afy Fletcher at mid-off. But young Mandhana did not let the second chance go begging, hitting some delightful strokes all-round the park.

When Shanilia Connell dug one short, she rocked to the back foot pulling it over mid-wicket. She repeatedly found the gaps on the off-side and also hit some glorious shots on the on-side. India could have been in a spot of bother at 33 for 2 but with a



Smriti Mandhana celebrates her century with Mona Meshram, India v West Indies, Women's World Cup, Taunton, June 29.

seasoned campaigner like Mithali at the other end, Mandhana went for her shots without much pressure.

The century—her 2nd in ODIs, came when she charged down the track to loft Stafanie Taylor inside out. The hundred came off only 105 balls. Fittingly, she finished the match with her 13th boundary to get a deserving second 'Player of the Match' award. Earlier, India's spin troika of left-arm spinners Poonam Yadav, Deepti Sharma and off-spinner Harmanpreet Kaur restricted the West Indies to a lowly 183 for 8 in 50 overs.

Mithali Raj opted to field and West Indies were comfortably placed at 69 for one in the 19th over before things fell apart and the current World T20 champions were tottering at 91 for 6. Deepti (2/27 in 10 overs), Poonam (2/19 in 10 overs) and Harmanpreet (2/42 in 10 overs) shared bulk of the spoils with opener Hayley Mathews being the top-scorer with 43.

Shanel Daley (33) and Afy Fletcher (36) showed some defiance down the order taking the score to plus 180, which at one point in time was looking improbable. Apart from the trio, the other impressive performer was another left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht (1/23 in 10 overs).

The Caribbean batters found it difficult to hit leg-break bowler Poonam and the tight bowling from Deepti and Ekta. *Source: PTI*

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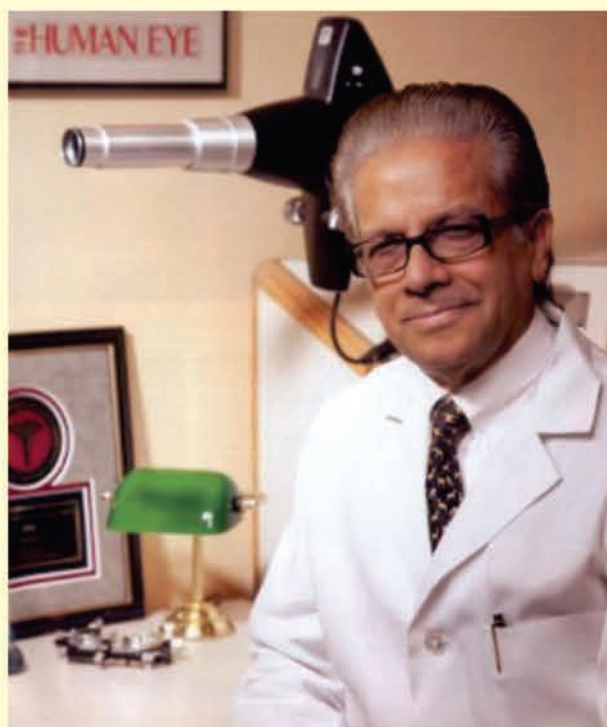


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