

**8** Modi at Astana: Apart from SCO membership, nothing much to come of summit

**9** Cattle ban BJP's route marker for 2019

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**12** KRITI SANON ON LINK-UP RUMOURS: IT IS LIKE A DAILY SOAP



## UK General Elections: It's all over for Theresa May

LONDON (TIP): With 646 of 650 results out, it is now clear no party has the majority to form the government. As things stood on Friday morning, the Conservatives had won 314 seats, a loss of 12, while Labour had won 261, a gain of 29.



Theresa May refuses to quit despite hung parliament

However, Theresa May is refusing to quit as Prime Minister despite her disastrous election night as the UK voted for a hung parliament.

Mrs. May's decision to call a snap election backfired in spectacular fashion as she lost the Conservatives' majority in the House of Commons as Labour made significant gains.

Mrs. May is now scrambling to try and form a government, potentially with the help of the Democratic Unionist Party and while the DUP has signaled a willingness to do a deal its leader Arlene Foster has expressed doubts that the Prime Minister can "survive". Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader, has urged Mrs. May to resign as he said she should "go

*contd on page 23*

## 'Lies, Plain and Simple': James Comey

"We are under Siege": President Trump

Trump's personal counsel accuses Comey of leaking "classified information"

I.S. Saluja

WASHINGTON (TIP): In the Atlantic season of hurricanes, one political hurricane could turn out to be historic- the Comey testimony. In his testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, June 8, former FBI Director James Comey affirmed his belief that President Trump fired him "because of the Russia investigation." He did not accuse the president of obstructing justice, leaving that question up to Robert Mueller, the appointed special counsel. In response, Trump's personal lawyer accused Comey-inaccurately though-of leaking "classified information", referring to the memos Comey had drafted regarding his conversations with the president.

Ousted FBI director James Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Thursday, June 8, and didn't pull any punches when discussing President Trump. Here are five takeaways from his blockbuster testimony.

"Lies, plain and simple": Throughout his testimony, Comey accused Mr. Trump of misleading Americans about the nature of his tenure at the Bureau and his

*contd on page 20*



Fired FBI Director James Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee, June 8, 2017. Seen to his right is Committee Chairman Richard Burr, Republican of North Carolina  
*CNN screenshot*

## Indus-American Bank will merge with BCB Community Bank

BCB Bancorp, Inc. to Acquire IA Bancorp, Inc.

The merger is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2017



Anil Bansal, Chairman of the Board of Directors of IAB, said, "We believe our loyal Indus-American Bank customers and shareholders will greatly benefit from this merger."

EDISON, NJ (TIP): BCB Bancorp, Inc., based in Bayonne, the holding company for BCB Community Bank, has announced it has entered into a definitive merger agreement, with IA Bancorp, Inc., pursuant to which the company will acquire IAB and its wholly owned subsidiary, Indus-American Bank.

Upon consummation of the merger, Indus-American

*contd on page 20*

## US to host PM Modi later this month: State Dept

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US is looking forward to host Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington later this month, the State Department has said.

"We look forward to having the (Indian) Prime Minister here in Washington- I believe it's later this month," State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert told reporters at her daily news conference, June 8.

Modi is expected to travel to Washington at the invitation of US President Donald Trump for a meeting at the White House later this month. Actual date of the meeting has not been announced yet.



India's PM Narendra Modi is expected to meet President Trump later this month

*contd on page 23*

## AAPI's 35th annual convention at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, June 21-25, 2017

DALLAS (TIP): "It's very great joy that I want to invite you all to be part of the 35th annual American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Convention 2017 to be held at brand new state of the art Convention Centre, the prestigious Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey from June 21 - 25, 2017," Dr. Ajay Lodha, President, AAPI, said here, June 7, 2017.

Dr. Lodha expressed his gratitude to AAPI's executive committee members, including Dr. Gautam Samadder President-Elect; Dr. Naresh Parikh, Vice President; Dr. Suresh Reddy, Secretary; Dr. Manju Sachdev, Treasurer; Dr. Madhu Agarwal, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Aditya Desai, YPS President; and Atul Nakhasi, MSRF President; AAPI's 2017 Convention committee chairs and members, volunteers and sponsors for their continued dedication and visionary leadership and efforts to make this convention truly a historic one for all.

*contd on page 3*



Dr. Ajay Lodha, President of AAPI addresses the gathering

## UK gets 1st female Sikh, 1st turbaned MP in General Election

LONDON (TIP): Britain on Friday, June 9, got its first female Sikh and first turban-wearing MP as the General Election results began pouring in with Indian-origin Labour Party candidates winning more seats than their rival Conservatives. Labour Party candidate Preet Kaur Gill won her Birmingham Edgbaston seat

*contd on page 23*



Preet Kaur Gill and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi. Photo / Twitter

## Fort Worth to Control Stop Lights by Remote Control

FORT WORTH, TX (TIP): The city of Fort Worth is spending millions of dollars to update its traffic lights so they can be programmed by remote control - and drivers will see less red.

The city council this week approved spending \$1.75 million on wireless devices that will send live traffic data to city engineers and allow them to control the timing of signal lights wirelessly and instantaneously.

The devices will be installed at all of the

city's 875 intersections over the next two years.

At many of the locations, the city also plans to install cameras that also act as traffic sensors.

Sam Werschky, assistant director of Fort Worth's Transportation and Public Works Department, said the new system adds high-tech to old-fashioned red lights. "I think that's going to be the biggest thing, is just having a more intelligent, smarter system that's data

*contd on Page 23*



## Indian American Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion suffers racially insensitive remarks

**Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi and Hindu Congressman Tulsi Gabbard lash out at the anchors for playing into stereotypes**



The latest Scripps National Spelling Bee Champ Ananya Vinay was subjected to a racial remark at a CNN interview

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Alisyn Camerota, host of CNN's New Day, made a racially insensitive remark to a 12-year-old guest who had just won a national spelling bee while interviewing her on-air on Friday.

Camerota was interviewing Ananya Vinay, a young girl of Indian origin, about her recent win Thursday at the Scripps National Spelling Bee competition, one of the most recognized spelling competitions in the U.S. Camerota and her co-host Chris Cuomo jokingly asked her to spell the word "covfefe."

"Covfefe" is the unintentional typo made by President Donald Trump during an unfinished tweet that was accidentally published on Twitter. The word had become an internet meme since then, spawning a seemingly endless amount of jokes, including one from Trump himself.

Vinay attempted to spell the word, but left out the "v." Camerota corrected her, calling it a "nonsense word," then remarked to Vinay about not being sure if the root of the word comes from Sanskrit, "which is probably what you're used to using."

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi and Hindu Congressman Tulsi Gabbard lashed out at the anchors for playing into stereotypes.

"It's disappointing that a segment which should have honored the accomplishments of Vinay instead other-ised her and the Indian-American community by playing into stereotypes," Indian American Congressman from Illinois Krishnamoorthi said.

"The hosts' treatment of Sanskrit is also insensitive to the language's rich, ongoing sacred tradition and continues a troubling trend in the network's treatment of Hinduism which was also evident on the network's program, Believer," Krishnamoorthi said.

This is "Further evidence of the need for America in general, and CNN in particular, to get educated about Hinduism and India," said Tulsi Gabbard, the Hindu Congresswoman from Hawaii.

Added to CNN slur was a comment by Roxanne Vaughan, a professor of biomedical sciences at the University of North Dakota, reportedly "under fire" over a misinterpreted Facebook comment about Ananya Vinay.

Professor has since clarified his comment about Indian American Spelling Bee Winner and apologized.

The Grand Forks Herald and WDAZ-ABC reported this week that Vaughan wrote of Vinay, who is of Indian descent, "I'm sure she's an immigrant, not worthy of interacting with our pure Americans. Send her back."

A campus spokesperson reportedly said Vaughan's comment was "certainly not in keeping with university statement core values," adding, "We know we have work to do in that area and this underscores the fact that we have a lot of work to do."

Vaughan said via email Tuesday that her remark -- as many might suspect -- was posted sarcastically, in response to current political rhetoric surrounding immigration. She attempted to clarify her point after someone misunderstood and removed the post within five minutes to avoid further confusion, she added.

"I was led to make a remark on my Facebook page that I phrased as sarcasm to convey my belief that our society is strengthened by the presence of diverse cultures and that exclusion of any group robs us of these benefits," Vaughan said. "I sincerely regret that I wrote this comment in a way that could be misinterpreted, and that it may have caused any pain or fear to [students], who above all else should trust their faculty."

(Source: Inside Higher Ed)

# Indian-American Raja Chari among 12 new astronauts chosen by NASA

NASA's Newest Astronaut Recruits to Conduct Research off the Earth, For the Earth and Deep Space Missions



Lt Col Raja "Grinder" Chari, 39, is a commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron and the director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Photo courtesy NASA

**HOUSTON (TIP):** American space agency Nasa has chosen 12 new astronauts, including an Indian-American, from a record number of over 18,000 applicants, who will be trained for missions into Earth orbit and to deep space.

The seven men and five women comprise the 22nd class of American spaceflight trainees since 1959. This is the largest group Nasa has selected in almost two decades.

It was selected from a record 18,300 applicants - more than Nasa has ever had during an open astronaut call.

To get picked, people had to meet some physical requirements as well as certain education and experience criteria - such as having a bachelor's degree in a STEM field or accumulating up to 1,000 hours of piloting jets.

But it's clear that this new class greatly surpasses all the minimum skills that Nasa requires.

After completing two years of training, the new astronaut candidates could be assigned to missions performing research on the International Space Station, launching from American soil on spacecraft built by commercial companies, and flying on deep space missions on Nasa's new Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket.

Vice President Mike Pence joined Nasa leaders, including acting administrator Robert Lightfoot and director of flight operations Brian Kelly, in Houston, Texas to announce the new astronaut candidates, or "ascans".

The event was set inside the Johnson Space Centre's Space Vehicle Mockup Facility in front of a full-scale engineering model of Nasa's Orion spacecraft, which the new astronauts might fly in the coming years on missions beyond low Earth orbit.

Pence said that President Donald Trump is "firmly committed" to Nasa's mission in space and that "America will lead the way in space once again."

He said that Nasa would continue to



Vice President Mike Pence speaks at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston following the introduction of NASA's 2017 astronaut candidate class on June 7, 2017. In the front row, from left to right, are Warren Hoburg, Bob Hines, Matthew Dominick, Raja Chari, Zena Cardman, Kayla Barron; back row, from left to right are Jessica Watkins, Frank Rubio, Loral O' Hara, Jasmin Moghbeli, Robb Kulin and Jonny Kim.

Photo courtesy NASA

have the resources it needs to "make history" - even though the president's budget request cuts funding and cancels certain programs at the agency.

He also mentioned that Nasa would continue to collaborate with the commercial space industry in the future.

While delivering the speech, Pence touted the merits of the new astronaut class.

"The courage of these men and women, and all the astronauts who have gone before, inspires me to this very day," he said.

The 12 new candidates include six military officers, three scientists, two medical doctors, a lead engineer at SpaceX and a Nasa research pilot.

Lt Col Raja "Grinder" Chari, 39, is a commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron and the director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Hailing from Waterloo, Iowa, Chari earned a Master's degree in aeronautics and astronautics from MIT and graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School. His father is from India.

Lt Kayla "Sax" Barron, 29, is a US Navy submarine officer from Richland, Washington. A member of the US Navy's first class of women commissioned into the submarine community, Barron comes to Nasa from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where she has been serving as the Flag Aide to the Superintendent.

Zena Cardman, a 29-year-old is a geobiologist who had done research at Penn State University in Pennsylvania. Her research was focused on microorganisms in subsurface environments, ranging from caves to deep sea sediments.

Lt Commander Matthew Dominick, the 35-year-old department is the head for the US Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron 115. Born and raised in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, Dominick was at sea on the USS Ronald Reagan when he got the call on May 25 saying he had been selected as an

astronaut candidate.

Bob Hines, a 42-year-old Nasa research pilot is based at Johnson Space Center since 2012. Hines hails from Harrisburg in Pennsylvania. He attended the Air Force Test Pilot School for his Master's degree in flight test engineering. He has served in the US Air Force and Air Force Reserves for 18 years.

Warren "Woody" Hoburg, a 31-year-old assistant professor of aeronautics and astronautics at MIT from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, has earned a doctorate in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Jonny Kim, a 33-year-old Navy lieutenant and SEAL, who has been on active duty reserve while completing his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Robb Kulin, the 33-year-old lead of the Launch Chief Engineering group at SpaceX in Hawthorne, California. He has previous experience as an ice driller in Antarctica on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and Taylor Glaciers and as a commercial fisherman in Chignik, Alaska.

Major Jasmin Moghbeli, 33, is a quality assurance and avionics officer for the Marine Corps' Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 in Yuma, Arizona.

Loral O'Hara, a 34-year-old research engineer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, who calls Sugar Land, Texas, home.

Francisco Rubio, is a 41-year-old major, serving as a surgeon for the 3rd Battalion of the Army's 10th Special Forces Group. He earned a Doctorate of Medicine from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Jessica Watkins, a 28-year-old postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where she collaborates on Nasa's Mars Science Laboratory for the Curiosity rover. She has worked at Nasa's Ames Research Center in northern California.

(Source: NASA)



# AAPI's 35th annual convention at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, June 21-25, 2017

contd from Page 1

The annual convention this year is being organized by AAPI's New York Chapter. Dr. Lodha expressed his gratitude to the organizers, various committee chairs and members, including Convention Chair, Dr. Raj Bhayani, Co-chairs, Drs. Vinod Sanchetti, Kishen Kumar, Jayesh Kanuga, and Kusum Punjabi; Convention Advisory Committee Chair, Shashi Shah; and Drs. Hetal Gor, Jagdish Gupta, and Himanshu Pandya.

According to Dr. Lodha, the convention will have Continuing Medical Education, National and India based Health Policy Forums, Youth Seminars, New Physician and Resident Student meetings, Fashion Show, Women's Forum, and mega Bollywood shows. Physicians attending this convention will benefit not only from cutting edge CMEs, but also the camaraderie of their alumni groups and share in our common heritage. Social events are being planned meticulously so that maximum benefit can be accomplished.

Attended by AAPI leadership, various committee members, community leaders, and media personnel from across the United States, the kickoff event was inaugurated by lighting of the traditional lamp by Ambassador Riva Ganaguly Das, Consul General of India in New York on Sunday, April 9, 2017. Ganguly Das lauded the achievements of AAPI and the leadership of Dr. Lodha. "We have watched how AAPI has grown over the years and how we want other NRI groups to emulate the success model of AAPI," Ganguly Das told the cheering audience. Stating that the government of India "values our relationship with AAPI and the many initiatives and contributions you have made for the people in India," the Indian envoy said.

At the kickoff event, Dr. Lodha highlighted the many accomplishments under his leadership, including the Leadership Seminar at Columbia University, the Cruise to Brazil, participation and leading the Independence Day Parade in New York, the successful organization of Global Healthcare Summit in Rajasthan and the many initiatives at the Summit, Crash Courses in India for police officers as first responders in accidents, EPS lab studies, AYUSH, raising AAPI's voice against hate crimes in the US and against violence against physicians in India and championing AAPI's role in healthcare policy and agenda through AAPI's legislative conference in Washington DC in April this year. Dr. Lodha has been successful in bringing in financial stability and carrying forward all the Chapters in a cohesive manner with visits and meetings with members and leaders of several Chapters. Dr. Lodha is ever grateful to the media for its continued support all along.

Many of the physicians who will attend this convention have excelled in different specialties and subspecialties and occupy high positions as faculty members of medical schools, heads of departments, and executives



AAPI leadership and committee members

of hospital staff. The AAPI Convention offers an opportunity to meet directly with these physicians who are leaders in their fields and play an integral part in the decision-making process regarding new products and services.

Alumni meetings for networking, match-making, also an AAPI-India Strategic Engagement Forum to showcase the AAPI initiatives in India like Trauma Brain Injury Guidelines, MoU on TB Eradication in India and recognition of AAPI award winners will make this Convention unique.

The Convention offers 8-10 credit hours of cutting edge CMEs as per AMA guidelines by well renowned thought leaders in their respective areas, being organized by Drs. Jagat Narula and Atul Prakash. Spiritual session is to be led by renowned Brahmakumari Shivani Didi. The Women's Forum will feature well renowned women leaders, politicians, academicians, artists, sports women, and is being coordinated by Drs. Purnima Kothari and Udaya Shivangi.

The CEO Forum, which is by invitation will have CEOs of leading healthcare firms, who will give their thought process on the development of medical science and current changes, especially with the ongoing national discussions on the repairing/repealing of the Healthcare delivery in the nation. Also, for the first time, AAPI is inviting CEOs preferably with their innovative technologies in the field of medicine. The AAPI Research Symposium is an exciting venue to learn about and present new and exciting research as well as case reports and discussions. The Convention 2017 will also offer special emphasis on Integrative Medicine (AYUSH) and Medical innovations.

The AAPI Research Symposium is an exciting venue to learn about and present new and exciting research as well as case reports and discussions. The Convention will also offer special emphasis on Integrative Medicine (AYUSH) and Medical innovations. AAPI Talent show at the Harrah's newly built elegant Theatre will provide a perfect setting for our AAPI delegates to display their talents. Being put together by Drs. Seema Arora and Amit Chakrabarty, the competitive session for the AAPI members will be judged by well

renowned artists and philanthropists, has attractive prizes.

The dazzling Fashion Show will be one of a kind by famous fashion designers from the nation. The extravaganza mouth-watering ethnic cuisine with every day "Theme Menus" with variety of display of best of the culinary will be a treat for the young and the old.

AAPI Talent show at the newly built elegant Harrah's Theatre will provide a perfect setting for our AAPI delegates to display their talents. Being put together by Drs. Seema Arora and Amit Chakrabarty, the competitive session for the AAPI members will be judged by well renowned artists and philanthropists, has attractive prizes.

In addition, the exhibition hall featuring large exhibit booth spaces in which the healthcare industry will have the opportunity to engage, inform and educate the physicians directly through one on one, hands on product demonstrations and discussions, there will be focused group and specialty Product Theater, Interactive Medical Device Trade Show, and special exhibition area for new innovations by young physicians.

AAPI members represent a variety of important medical specialties. Sponsors will be able to take advantage of the many sponsorship packages at the 35th annual convention, creating high-powered exposure to the highly coveted demographic of AAPI's membership.

Representing the interests of the over 100,000 physicians of Indian origin, leaders of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the largest ethnic organization of physicians, for 35 years, AAPI Convention has provided a venue for medical education programs and symposia with world renowned physicians on the cutting edge of medicine.

"Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country and internationally will convene and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you in Atlantic City, New Jersey!" said Dr. Ajay Lodha. For more details, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit: [www.aapiconvention.org](http://www.aapiconvention.org) and [www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org)



AAPI's 35th Convention kick off with the lighting of the traditional lamp. Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das lighted the lamp as also AAPI president Dr. Ajay Lodha and other officials of AAPI

## The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

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**Persons with experience in newspaper reporting will be preferred.**

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## Blast hits US embassy in Kiev, no casualties: Police

**KIEV (TIP):** An overnight blast hit the premises of the US embassy in Kiev but there were no casualties, the Ukrainian police said on June 8.

The blast hit the mission located in central Kiev shortly after midnight, a statement said.

"Investigators found that an unknown person threw an explosive device on the territory of the diplomatic mission," it said.

The US embassy was not immediately contactable for comment. (AFP)

## Obama has private dinner with Trudeau in Montreal

**MONTREAL (TIP):** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted his thanks to former US President Barack Obama after the two shared a private dinner at a Montreal restaurant.

Trudeau posted a picture of the pair talking in the eatery, with the caption "How do we get young leaders to take action in their communities? Thanks Barack Obama for your visit & insights tonight in my hometown."

A crowd cheered the two leaders as they left.

Last year, Obama hosted Trudeau for a state dinner at the White House, the first for Canada since 1997.

Obama spoke to the Montreal Board of Trade yesterday and decried what he called the lack of American leadership on climate change, a swipe at new President Donald Trump's administration (AP)

## US President Donald Trump taps Christopher Wray as new FBI director

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump announced June 6 that he is tapping lawyer and former Justice Department official Christopher Wray to serve as his new FBI director, on the eve of critical testimony by the intelligence agency chief he ousted.

Wray, a litigation attorney with law firm King & Spalding in Washington and Atlanta, previously served as assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's Criminal Division from 2003 to 2005.

"I will be nominating Christopher A. Wray, a man of impeccable credentials, to be the new Director of the FBI. Details to follow," Trump wrote on Twitter. (AFP)

## No date for Putin-Trump meeting, media likely to be excluded: Report

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Kremlin said there was still no firm date set for the first meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, but that if it did happen the media were likely to be excluded, the Izvestia newspaper said on June 6. It cited Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying that the meeting would probably happen at some point during the G20 summit in Germany in July, but that no firm arrangement had yet been reached.

Peskov said there were currently no plans for any media statement to be issued after the meeting.

"There will just be the meeting," Izvestia quoted Peskov as saying.

Putin and Trump agreed in a phone call last month to try to organise a face-to-face meeting around the time of the G20 summit in Hamburg.

# Accuser describes alleged Bill Cosby sex assault: 'I was frozen'

**NORRISTOWN (TIP):** Andrea Constand told a packed Pennsylvania courtroom on June 4 that she could feel Bill Cosby's hands on her body, but the drugs in her system would not let her stop him.

"In my head, I was trying to get my hands to move, my legs to move, but I was frozen," she testified at the entertainer's sexual assault trial. "I wanted it to stop."

Cosby, sitting across the courtroom, shook his head as Constand described an encounter at his Philadelphia-area home in 2004, after she accepted three blue pills that he promised would help her "relax."

Constand is among more than 50 women who have accused Cosby of sexual assaults dating to the 1960s, often after plying them with drugs. The 13-year-old incident is the only one that is recent enough to support criminal charges.

Cosby, 79, best known for playing a revered father figure in the 1980s television hit family comedy series "The Cosby Show," has denied all the allegations.

The outcome of his trial in the Philadelphia suburb of Norristown, Pennsylvania, largely hinges on whether jurors believe Constand's testimony, which came on the trial's second day. Defense lawyers began grilling Constand on the stand late on Tuesday about several discrepancies in her initial account to police in 2005. Their questioning will continue on Wednesday.

Constand said she first met Cosby in late 2002, when she was the newly hired



director of basketball operations for Temple University's women's basketball program and he was a university trustee and the Philadelphia school's most famous alumnus.

After a series of phone calls, Constand, who was then in her 30s, said the married Cosby began inviting her to dinner at his house and other events.

"He was a temple friend, somebody I trusted, a mentor and somewhat of an older figure to me," Constand testified.

On at least one occasion, Constand said she rebuffed his advances, telling him she had no interest.

In January 2004, Constand said, Cosby

invited her to his house again to discuss her career options. That night, he offered her the three blue pills, saying they were her "friends."

When she asked if they were herbal, he nodded, she told jurors.

Constand said she told Cosby she trusted him and swallowed the pills.

After the incident, Constand acknowledged under questioning from both sides that she maintained contact with Cosby but said she felt obligated to do so because of her job.

The defence has suggested that her repeated calls to him show the encounter was consensual. (Reuters)

## US military praises Qatar, despite Trump tweet

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Pentagon on June 3 renewed praise of Qatar for hosting a vital US air base and for its "enduring commitment to regional security," sticking to a message of reassurance even as President Donald Trump, via Twitter, applauded a decision by Arab powers to cut ties to the Gulf ally.

It was the latest example of the tightrope that US officials are walking as Trump's tweets raise questions about existing US policy and the carefully scripted talking points used to explain it.

In the case of Qatar, the stakes are high. More than 11,000 US and coalition forces are deployed to or assigned to al Udeid Air Base, from which more than 100 aircraft operate.

Of those 11,000, nearly 1,000 work in a combined air operations center that helps oversee missions for campaigns in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, the military says.

US officials had said on Monday that the United States would quietly try to calm the waters between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, arguing that the small Gulf state was too important to US military and diplomatic interests to be isolated.

But Trump, wading into the worst split between powerful Arab states in decades, said on Tuesday his trip to the Middle East was "already paying off" with leaders there taking a hard new line in accusing Qatar of funding of militant groups.

The Pentagon, which seeks to steer clear of political matters, was unable to reconcile Trump's support for Qatar's isolation with its



own praise for its commitment to regional security.

Asked directly about the disconnect, spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis told a news briefing: "I can't help you with that."

"We continue to be grateful to the Qataris for their longstanding support for our presence and their enduring commitment to regional security," Davis said, adding the United States had no plans to alter its presence in Qatar.

The US envoy to Qatar, Dana Shell Smith, retweeted on Monday a message from October in which she praised the US partnership with Qatar, citing "real progress

to counter terrorist financing."

US Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told a Senate committee on Tuesday she was not concerned about the US air base in Qatar and added that US operations continued without interruption.

The Pentagon also declined to answer a question about whether Qatar supported terrorism, the accusation made by Arab states who appeared to now have the political backing of the US president.

Davis, sticking to US military-related matters, said: "I'm not the right person to ask that. I consider them a host to our very important base at al Udeid." (Reuters)



# US doesn't need India, France, China telling it what to do: Nikki Haley



**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US does not need India, China and France telling it what to do on the issue of Paris Climate agreement, American Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said, strongly supporting the controversial decision of President Donald Trump to withdraw from the landmark accord.

Trump last week withdrew the US, the second largest polluter after China, from the Paris Agreement.

He said that India would get billions of dollars for meeting its commitment under the 2015 Paris Agreement along with China and gain a financial advantage over the US.

He had put the US in league with two other nations - Syria and Nicaragua - who have not signed onto the deal agreed by over 190 other nations.

"I think the rest of the world would like to tell us how to manage our own environment and I think that anybody in America can tell you that we're best to decide what America should do. We don't need India and France and China telling

us what they think we should do," Indian-American Haley was quoted as saying by CBS News.

Responding to a question on global reaction to Trump's decision, Haley said countries should continue doing what's in their best interest.

"They should continue doing what's in the best interest. And if the Paris agreement was something that works for them, that they can achieve, they should do that," Haley said.

Haley defended Trump's decision saying business could not be run under the kind of regulations imposed by the Paris Climate deal.

"There's a reason that President Obama didn't go through the Senate to get this cleared, because he couldn't. The regulations were unattainable. I mean you could not actually have a business run under the regulations that we had," she said.

She said that the US is conscious about the environment and it will continue to do its part in protecting climate change. "We know that there are

issues with the environment. We know that we have to be conscious of it. But we can't sit there and have Angela Merkel telling us to worry about Africa. She should continue doing her part. We're going to continue doing our part. We're going to continue encouraging other countries to do what they think is in the best interests of them. But American sovereignty matters," Haley said.

The top American diplomat said that Trump believes the climate is changing, and he does know that pollutants are a part of that equation.

"He believes that climate is changing and he believes pollutants are part of that equation. He is absolutely intent on making sure that we have clean air, clean water, that he makes sure that we're doing everything we can to keep America's moral compass in the world when it comes to the environment," she said.

"We've done that in the past. We'll do it in the future. It's what the US does. It's what we'll continue to do," she added. (PTI)

# ISNA's High Profile 54th Annual Convention to be Rolled Out in Chicago

**One of the Largest Gatherings of Muslim Americans in the US and Canada is All Set to Focus on Interfaith Unity and Turning to Faith to Inspire Social Change**



Azhar Azeez, President, ISNA

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) will be holding its 54th Annual Convention from June 30 - July 3, 2017, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

ISNA Convention is one of the largest Muslim gatherings in the United States and Canada, where Muslims and guests from other faith communities have a platform to network, exchange ideas and listen to renowned speakers. This year's theme, "Hope and Guidance through the Qur'an," will largely center on how faith can inspire the community to bring positive change in response to challenges and injustices of all forms.

The highlights of the Convention are: 200 Renowned Speakers, Round Table Discussion, Interfaith Reception, Qiraat Competition, Career Fair & Carnival, Community Recognition Luncheon, Young Professionals Luncheon, Meet the Author, Largest Bazaar in US with 550 booths, Film Festival, Enlightening Entertainment, Health Fair, Art & Photography Exhibit, Matrimonial Banquets, Basketball Tournament, Children's Program & Babysitting, etc.

The three-day Convention will unite both Muslim and interfaith individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations for a full schedule of lectures, discussions, debates and entertainment.

"ISNA's Annual Convention is more than simply a coming together of the Muslim community," said Azhar Azeez, ISNA President. "Our goal is to unite people across different faiths and backgrounds in the spirit of peace and better understanding. We hope the convention will be used as platform and catalyst for social change", he added.

ISNA has invited a rich list of speakers, scholars, community leaders and public servants to address Convention attendees. Linda Sarsour, co-chair of the National Women's March, will be the keynote speaker during the Community Service Recognition Luncheon which will honor Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed for his lifelong dedication to serving the community, building interfaith relationships and social justice advocacy.

Complementing the main ISNA offering of programs, there are conferences being hosted by the Muslim Students Association of the U.S. & Canada (MSA National) and the Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA).

ISNA is the largest and oldest Islamic umbrella organization in North America. Its mission is to foster the development of the Muslim community, interfaith relations, civic engagement, and better understanding of Islam.

Those who want to register their names to participate in the Convention and to have more details about it, are advised to visit its website: <http://www.isna.net/54th-annual-isna-convention/> CONTACT: Faryal M. Khatri, ISNA Communications Coordinator, (317) 373 - 0246, [fkhatri@isna.net](mailto:fkhatri@isna.net).

(Photograph and Press release by: Asian Media USA)

# US says China likely to build military base in Pakistan

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A Pentagon report released on June 3 singled out Pakistan as a possible location for a future Chinese military base, as it forecast that Beijing would likely build more bases overseas after establishing a facility in the African nation of Djibouti. The prediction came in a 97-page annual report to Congress that saw advances throughout the Chinese military in 2016, funded by robust defense spending that the Pentagon estimated exceeded \$180 billion.

That is higher than China's official defense budget figure of 954.35 billion yuan (\$140.4 billion). Chinese leaders, the US report said, appeared committed to defense spending hikes for the "foreseeable future," even as economic growth slows. The report repeatedly cited China's construction of its first

overseas naval base in Djibouti, which is already home to a key US military base and is strategically located at the southern entrance to the Red Sea on the route to the Suez Canal.

"China most likely will seek to establish additional military bases in countries+ with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship and similar strategic interests, such as Pakistan," the report said.

Djibouti's position on the northwestern edge of the Indian Ocean has fueled worries in India that it would become another of China's 'string of pearls' of military alliances and assets ringing India, including Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

The report did not address India's potential reaction to a Chinese base in Pakistan. But Pakistan, the US report

noted, was already the primary market in the Asian-Pacific region for Chinese arms exports. That region accounted for \$9 billion of the more than \$20 billion in Chinese arms exports from 2011 to 2015.

Last year, China signed an agreement with Pakistan for the sale of eight submarines+ .

**Quantum satellite, cyber hacks :** The Pentagon report flagged Chinese military advances, including in space and at sea. It cited China's 2016 launch of the first experimental quantum communications satellite, acknowledging that it represented a "notable advance in cryptography research." As in past years, the Pentagon renewed its concerns about cyber spying, saying US government-owned computers were again targeted by China-based intrusions through 2016. (AP)



## AFTER 'BAAHUBALI' ROCKET, INDIA TO GET 'EYE IN SKY' BY MONTH-END

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** After the historic lift-off of India's heaviest rocket GSLV-Mk III, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is gearing up to launch a Cartosat-series satellite, also called the 'eye in the sky' because of its surveillance capabilities, into the 505-km polar sun synchronous orbit by the end of this month.

The 550kg satellite, the fourth of the Cartosat-2 series, is to be launched by the PSLV-C38 rocket.

The Cartosat-series satellite is an advanced remote sensing satellite capable of providing scene-specific spot imagery. It carries a state-of-the-art panchromatic (PAN) camera that takes black and white pictures of the earth in the visible region of the electromagnetic spectrum. The swath covered by this high-resolution PAN camera is 9.6 km and their spatial resolution is less than 1 metre. The satellite, which can be steered up to 45 degrees along as well as across the track, covers the entire globe in 1867 orbits on a 126-day cycle.

The Cartosat-2C series satellite has added teeth to India's military surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, and has been providing high-resolution images of 0.65 metres, an improvement over the 0.8m resolution of the earlier missions.

The first major use of the Cartosat-2C satellite by the military was when the Army commandos counted on satellite images to hit terror launch pads across LoC during the surgical strike in September.

The imagery of Cartosat satellite is significantly used for cartographic applications, urban and rural applications, coastal land use and regulation, utility management like road network monitoring, water distribution, creation of land use maps, precision study, change detection to bring out geographical and manmade features and various other land information system (LIS) and geographical information system (GIS) applications.

## DIGITAL ID TO BE MUST FOR AIR TICKET BOOKINGS

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** In the next three to four months, air travellers in the country will have to mandatorily provide a unique identification (UID) like an Aadhaar card, passport or PAN at the time of booking tickets.

The government has constituted a technical committee that will prepare a white paper on this proposal in 30 days, said Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha at a press briefing. "There are various ways of securing that unique identification. Clearly, the best way of doing it is by using Aadhaar and other ways are by using a passport or PAN card," said Sinha. As an "incentive", passengers will be able to avail a paperless and seamless travel experience.

Once a passengers book their tickets, the unique ID, along with PNR, will provide all their information and will also serve as a digital boarding pass, explained Sinha.

Those who provide biometric identification through Aadhaar will have to do an iris or finger scan at the airport, while those who share other forms of ID will be provided a QR code on their mobile phones which can then be scanned at the airport. However, passengers who wish to collect their boarding passes and skip the digital system will still have the option to do so but won't enjoy the benefit of hassle-free travel. "If you are using the system, to potentially get through the entire airport you will be able to zip through in 10-15 min versus 20-30 minutes. We think that this will create an incentive for people," Sinha told reporters.

The ease of travel offered by opting for the digital system will serve as a "pull factor" for passengers as opposed to a "push factor", the minister hoped.

Once the technical committee presents its white paper, comments from stakeholders will be invited for a period of 30 days. Thereafter, the government will finalise the rules in 30 to 60 days.



## SCO SUMMIT

# PM Modi meets China's Xi Jinping to repair ties

**ASTANA (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met here on June 9 on the sidelines of the SCO summit, seen as an effort to repair ties hit by growing differences between the two countries over a host of issues, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and NSG.

It is the first between the two leaders after India boycotted the high-profile Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing last month in which 29 world leaders took part.

India abstained from the summit to highlight its concerns over the US\$ 50 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and passes through Gilgit and Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Prime Minister Modi and Xi are here to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). "PM @narendramodi meets President of China #XiJinping on margins of SCO Summit in Astana," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay tweeted.

China is vocal about its stand to block India's admission into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). It had also stalled India's move to list JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN. After Astana, Modi and Xi are also expected to cross paths at the G20 summit to be held next month in Hamburg, Germany followed by Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) summit to be held in Xiamen, China in September.

Modi also met Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the SCO.

"Taking forward #IndiaUzbekistan coop'n. PM @narendramodi meets President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan on the sidelines of SCO Summit," Baglay tweeted. *Source: PTI*



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit, in Astana, Kazakhstan on June 9, 2017. Pic courtesy: PIB

## Modi says hello to Sharif at SCO summit

**ASTANA (TIP):** PM Modi on June 8 met with his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif in Astana, capital city of Kazakhstan, ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Modi and Sharif attended a welcome banquet to the small grouping that comprises China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

India and Pakistan will be inducted as full members at the summit.

Sources said the two Prime Ministers exchanged pleasantries at the function, but no bilateral meeting was expected.

"Since it was the first occasion when the two leaders came across each other after Sharif's operation, Modi enquired about his health. He also enquired about Sharif's mother and family," an official source present there, said.

## Gujarat textbook calls Jesus a 'demon'

**AHMEDABAD (TIP):** An embarrassing error in Class 9 Hindi textbook of Gujarat State Board inadvertently referring to Jesus Christ as a demon, has put the state government in a vexed situation.

In chapter 16 of the book titled "Bharatiya Sanskriti Mein Guru-Shishya Sambandh" ("Relationship between a guru and his disciples in Indian culture") on page 70, the line refers to Jesus Christ as - "Iss sambandh mein haivan Isa ka ek kathan sadaa smaraniya hain." Translated, it means, "In the given context, words of demon Jesus shall always be remembered."

The officials of the state textbook board have attributed the faux pas to a typographical error. They claimed that instead of "haiva", who was a disciple of Jesus Christ along with 'Adam', word 'n' got inadvertently added to be misprinted as "haivan", meaning a

demon. The man who is stated to have first noticed the error, Advocate Subramaniam Iyer, said that it may be unintentional as claimed by state officials but it was "unacceptable" and attracts legal provisions relating to deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings. "This is a case that attracts section 295(a) of the IPC...the error may be unintentional but it can create a rift between communities and cause a law and order problem," he said.

The issue that has been raised by academicians and several Christian organisations in the state for over a month, forcing state education minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, to finally instruct the officials to rectify the 'misprint' at the earliest. Though no instructions or steps to punish the erring officials involved with the printing or checking the textbooks have been issued as yet.

## Army ready for wars on two-and-a-half fronts: Gen Rawat

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat has said the Indian Army is prepared to face external as well as internal threats to the country.

"The Indian Army is completely ready for a two-and-a-half front war," said Rawat.

The Army chief added that though India is ready for a multi-front war, there are effective mechanisms to defuse an adverse situation. "Even the Prime Minister has said that for the last forty years not even a single bullet has been fired on the Indo-China border," said General Rawat. He also said that a new strike unit, 17 Strike Corps, is being raised specifically for mountain warfare. When asked about the delay in its raising, the Army chief said a process as complex as this takes time. "It is being raised from scratch. The recruitment is going on."





RACE FOR RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

# THIS IS HOW INDIA'S NEXT PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** As President Pranab Mukherjee's term ends on July 24, the Election Commission today announced that voting for choosing India's next president will be held on July 17 while counting will be on July 20 if needed.

Although none of the political parties have come up with names of their candidates yet speculations are on the rife. Some Opposition leaders have been trying to come up with the name of a consensus candidate. The ruling BJP-led NDA is likely to announce their nominee in the next few days.

**WHO CAN VOTE**

Only members of the electoral college are eligible to vote in the presidential election. The electoral college comprises elected members of both Houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative Assemblies of all states including Delhi and the union territory of Puducherry. A total of 4896 voters including 4120 MLAs and 776 elected MPs are eligible to cast their ballot.

**WHO CANNOT VOTE**

All nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies do not have the right to vote. Members of the Legislative Councils also do not have voting rights.

**HOW THE VOTING WILL HAPPEN**

Unlike Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in India, the presidential elections do not have electronic voting system using EVMs. The Election Commission will supply a special pen to all voters to mark their choice of candidate on ballot papers.



**ELECTION SCHEDULE**

- June 14: Issue of notification
- June 28: Last date to make nomination
- June 29: Date for scrutiny of nomination
- July 1: Last day to withdraw nomination
- July 17: Date of Election (if needed)
- July 20: Counting of votes will be held in Delhi (if needed)

A principle of proportional representation is followed under which the elector has to mark preferences against the names of the candidates. The elector can mark as many preference as the number of candidates.

While the marking of the first preference is compulsory for the ballot paper to be valid, other preferences are optional.

**WHERE WILL VOTING BE HELD**

Polling for the election will take place in the Parliament House and in the premises of the legislative Assemblies.

**SECRET BALLOT**

The Constitution has expressly provided that election to the office of

President shall be by secret ballot. Voting procedure laid down in the 1974 Rules provides that after marking the vote in the voting compartment, the elector is required to fold the ballot paper and insert it in the ballot box.

**NO WHIP**

Political parties cannot issue any whip to their MPs and MLAs in the matter of voting in the Presidential election.

**NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

The nomination paper of a candidate has to be subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and by at least another 50 electors as seconders. A security deposit of Rs 15,000 is also needed.

**Presidents of India**

- Rajendra Prasad: 1950 to 1962
- Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan: 1962 to 1967
- Zakir Hussain: 1967 to 1969
- VV Giri (Acting President): 1969 to 1969
- Mohammad Hidayatullah (Acting President): 1969 to 1969
- V.V Giri: 1969 to 1974
- Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed: 1974 to 1977
- Basappa Danappa Jatti (Acting President): 1977 to 1977
- Neelam Sanjiva Reddy: 1977 to 1982
- Giani Zail Singh: 1982 to 1987
- R Venkataraman: 1987 to 1992
- Shankar Dayal Sharma: 1992 to 1997
- K R Narayanan: 1997 to 2002
- APJ Abdul Kalam: 2002 to 2007
- Pratibha Patil: 2007 to 2012
- Pranab Mukherjee: 2012 to present

## CHHOTA SHAKEEL'S AIDE ARRESTED, WAS PLANNING TO TARGET PAK-BORN WRITER

New Delhi, June 9

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested an aide of gangster Chhota Shakeel, who was planning to target Pakistan-born Canadian writer Tarek Fatah.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) P S Kushwah said Junaid Chowdhry was nabbed on the intervening night of June 8 and 7 from Wazirabad road in north-east Delhi.

Though the DCP refused to divulge details of the target, a senior police officer, on the condition of anonymity, said Chowdhry was planning to target the writer, known for his controversial remarks.

Even though Fatah was not in Delhi, the aide was here to carry out a recce, he said.

Chowdhry was arrested in June last year along with three others with arms and hawala money sent by Shakeel, but was released on bail within four months. They had been planning to kill Hindu Sabha chief Swami Chakrapani at that time. He contacted Shakeel again but after his bail was cancelled he was sent to Tihar. Later, he was again released on bail and once more got in touch with Shakeel.

Chowdhry then started carrying out the gangster's Delhi-based activities. He is currently being interrogated.

Source: PTI



Madhya Pradesh farmers burn vehicle after protest.

## UP may face Mandsaur-like situation, warn farmer bodies

**LUCKNOW: (TIP):** The resentment among Uttar Pradesh farmers, especially sugarcane growers and potato cultivators, may snowball into protests if timely steps are not taken to prevent the simmering agrarian distress from going the Madhya Pradesh way, farmer bodies have warned.

A faction of one of the organisations--the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU)--has even threatened to cut off supply of milk and vegetables to cities from Sunday if their demand for a CBI probe and an FIR into the police firing in Mandsaur, that claimed five lives, are not met.

Taking a cue from their Madhya Pradesh counterparts, farmers in western Uttar Pradesh are gearing up to raise their own issues, ranging from unpaid dues to poor procurement infrastructure, which, they claimed, have not been adequately addressed by the Yogi Adityanath government despite numerous promises and repeated assurances.

The activities of cow protection vigilantes in the recent times had added more trouble to the sector, they said.

The farmers in UP have been closely following the agitations of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, considering the stir as their roadmap for the future.

Under the banner of the BKU, a procession was taken out here on Wednesday to express solidarity with the agitating farmers of Madhya Pradesh and condemn the police action on them in Mandsaur.

"Now, with these agitations, there is renewed energy among us. There is no end to the problems we face. We will also join the fight," said Rakesh Tikait, president of the Bhartiya Kisan Union.

His views have been echoed by leaders of other farmer groups.

Another faction of the BKU submitted a memorandum addressed to the prime minister to the Lucknow district magistrate on Wednesday, demanding an FIR against officers responsible for the "unfortunate police firing" in Mandsaur and a CBI probe.

# Indian Leader Vijay Jolly leading 12 Member Int'l Delegation to Cambodia

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Vijay Jolly, Indian Leader & ICAPP Standing Committee Member is leading a 12-member International Poll Observers delegation to monitor Cambodia Parliamentary elections. Political leaders of Nepal, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, China, Russia, Myanmar & India have been invited as International Poll Observers.

The Election Commission of Cambodia has invited independent election observers from International Conference of Political Parties (ICAPP), Centric Democrat International (CDI) and the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI) to observe the Cambodia Parliamentary Elections to be held on 4th June 2017.

Indian BJP Leader Vijay Jolly leading ICAPP, launched in 2000, is a global political organization with members of 360 political parties drawn from 53 countries in Asia. They promote exchanges, cooperation & mutual understanding between citizens of Asia,



Vijay Jolly is leading a 12-member International Poll Observers Delegation to monitor Cambodian parliamentary polls

Europe, Africa & Central America.

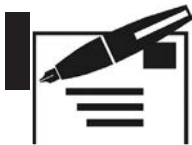
Former President of Colombia & President CDI Mr. Andres Pastrana Arango will lead team of 10 observers from 7 countries while Former Speaker of Indonesia & Vice Chairman CAPDI Mr.

Agunge Laksono shall lead 8 observers from 4 countries for Cambodia elections. These independent, international observers shall play a complimentary role to ensure free & fair Cambodian elections.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has dominated Cambodian politics since 2002 obtaining 60% of the total votes in 2002, won 61.1% in 2007 while in the last elections in 2012 it swept the polls winning 61.8% of total votes in Cambodia. The Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) is the top challenger to power in these elections.

Indian BJP leader Vijay Jolly shall pay a courtesy call to meet & greet the Prime Minister of Cambodia Hon'ble Hun Sen on Saturday, 3rd June 2017 at Phnom Penh. He shall be briefed by Indian Charge d'Affaires His Excellency Rajiv Kumar at Embassy of India in the Cambodian capital. Jolly shall specially visit the world famous "Angkor Wat" Hindu temple & Buddhist place of worship "Ta Prohm" temple.





## GUEST COMMENT

## Son of an Indian Immigrant is set to be Ireland's new leader

Leo Varadkar, the son of an Indian immigrant, is set to be Ireland's Prime Minister after he won an internal contest to lead the Centre-right Fine Gael, the senior coalition partner in the Republic's minority government. The outspoken Mr. Varadkar, the incumbent Social Protection Minister, is to take over the reins of the party and country from Enda Kenny, who is stepping down after heading the party for 15 years and the country for six. Mr. Varadkar will be Ireland's first-ever openly gay Prime Minister with minority and immigrant roots. He is just 38 years old, and thus in a club of young world leaders with France's Emmanuel Macron and Canada's Justin Trudeau. While it is indeed remarkable that a person of Mr. Varadkar's background has been elected to lead Ireland, what is even more striking is that during the ruling party's elections voters focused not on his background but on his policies. This speaks volumes for how far the country has come on its social attitudes. Ireland is deeply religious. Catholicism, the state religion, has a far-reaching influence on many aspects of Irish life, including birth, death and marriage. Abortions, except to save the mother's life, are illegal; divorce, legalized in the 1990s, requires a four-year separation; and gay marriage was legalized just recently.

As Prime Minister, Mr. Kenny steered Ireland out of the financial collapse of 2008-2010 and campaigned, successfully, for the European Union (EU) to recognize Ireland's unique position during the forthcoming Brexit negotiations between Brussels and London. The Republic of Ireland is contiguous with Northern Ireland, and therefore the only EU country that shares a land border with the U.K. Mr. Kenny leaves office having convinced the EU to address the fallout for Ireland during Brexit negotiations. He also leaves Mr. Varadkar a vastly improved economy, with an unemployment rate close to 7%, about half of what it was in 2012. Mr. Varadkar will now have to build on his predecessor's success and address his failures, including a severe housing shortage and a police service that has demonstrated an ability to collude with other public agencies to punish whistle-blowers and cover up corruption. As regards Brexit, Mr. Varadkar will have to ensure that the Common Travel Area, a mechanism by which British and Irish citizens can live and work in the two countries, is maintained, and that the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is not reinstated. He will also have to manage the economic impact of Brexit on trade and jobs in the event that the negotiations diminish Britain's access to the European single market. Finally, as Prime Minister, he will be expected to shepherd further reforms in laws relating to divorce and abortion if he wishes to further align the Republic's values with those of the EU and other liberal democracies.

(The Hindu)

## THE INDIAN PANORAMA

## PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Chitagam Saluja

**CHIEF EDITOR:** Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** Bidisha Roy

## GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

## DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION:

Gauri Biri

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Vijay Shah -Photo Journalist.

Gunjesh Desai/ Masala Junction

Mohammad Jaffer/ SnapsIndia

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Vaaho Photographers

Mohammad Shahzad, Zia Khan

**DISTRIBUTOR :** Sukhwinder Singh

## CORRESPONDENTS :

**SACRAMENTO:** Parminder S. Auja

**NEW YORK :** Chitagam

**FRESNO:** Tarlochan Singh

**DALLAS:** Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

## OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

## DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:

Ashishpal Singh

**CHANDIGARH:** Manjit Sidhu

**LUDHIANA:** A.S. Arora, R.P.Sharma

**PATRON :** Dr. Navin Mehta

**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

**Lovliien Kaurr,** VP & Bureau Chief

E-mail tipdallas01@gmail.com

Phone: 646-595-5026

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## AS I SEE IT

## Modi at Astana: Apart from SCO membership, nothing much to come of summit



By KC Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from May 29 to June 3, careened through Germany, Spain, Russia and France. The world has changed so dramatically in the three years he has held office that he was literally on a new pilgrimage. There is a law of diminishing returns in diplomacy. For instance, if you do not finalize a free trade agreement with the EU, the bilateral investment treaties having lapsed, their excitement about India begins to abate.

Putin seemed to toy with Modi, realizing that in a Trumpian world Indian strategic options had narrowed. He was not aligning against China and Pakistan. In fact, keeping Modi beside him during his interview with Megyn Kelly, whom Trump detests and who has traded CNN for NBC, Putin caused embarrassment to the Indian guest when questions on Trump campaign links to Russia were answered contemptuously.

PM Modi now heads to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan on June 8-9, where India and Pakistan are to be admitted as full members. Also attending are the Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif. India's diplomatic relations with both nations are currently strained. The media in Delhi enquired logically whether a meeting with Sharif was imminent. A follow-up question would be, what about an interaction with President Xi? External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, having recovered from renal transplant, definitively ruled out one with Sharif.

The reason is self-evident as a series of episodes have hardened national positions, thus narrowing the space for engagement with both neighbors, in closer concert today than ever before. Taking China first, it has persisted in opposing India's membership of the NSG and stymied Masood Azhar's listing by the UNSC committee. Even more provocatively, it finalized CPEC, traversing the disputed region of Gilgit-Baltistan, despite Indian objections. Then adding insult to injury, it included it in its OBOR meeting agenda in Beijing on May 14. It is an ambitious multi-trillion dollar connectivity initiative covering 68 countries, amounting to 40 per cent of global GDP. India declined to attend, citing breach of its sovereignty, besides casting doubts on its economic viability.

Almost predictably, two Chinese helicopters intruded into Indian airspace in the western sector and Chinese spokesman surmised that recent developments have made border resolution more difficult. India had earlier upped the ante by allowing the Dalai Lama to tour Arunachal Pradesh, with full fanfare, including a visit to the Tawang monastery.

**“Indo-Pak relations have a more complex pathology for their downward spiral. Modi came to power wanting to break the old cycle of talks and terror. He chose theatrical and personalized engagement with Sharif to leap over the complexities constricting a Pakistani leader, ranging from his relations with the army to pressure by jihadis with vote banks, and finally, his own credibility after the Panama Papers revelations”, says the author**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Astana

Henry Kissinger opines in his book, On China, that the Chinese stratagem for dispute resolution has been to escalate the issue first, and then seek resolution. China should, by that logic, be seeking to de-escalate as it needs the Indian market and Xi faces a vital party congress later this year, and thus should not want tension with India to worsen. On the other hand, China has managed to assuage Donald Trump and thus dodged a trade or currency war, at least for the moment. Perhaps Modi-Xi need to share a swing in Astana, like in Ahmedabad, for a frank exchange.

Indo-Pak relations have a more complex pathology for their downward spiral. Modi came to power wanting to break the old cycle of talks and terror. He chose theatrical and personalized engagement with Sharif to leap over the complexities constricting a Pakistani leader, ranging from his relations with the army to pressure by jihadis with vote banks, and finally, his own credibility after the Panama Papers revelations. When dealing with a leader with encumbrances, though keen to improve relations, a long game must be played, as in the short-run, he will be unable to deliver. Contrariwise, those opposed to normalization with India, except on their terms, will rush to sabotage engagement. By bringing the red-lines to the fences of army camps, breaching which triggers a stand-off with Pakistan, the control transfers to spoilers who can get a fidayeen to pull the trigger and disrupt engagement.

Simultaneously, the politics in the Valley has derailed. Adopting a militaristic and jingoistic approach,

including first backing the use of pellet guns, and now human shield, on the pretext of Army and security forces being above debate, may consolidate a domestic vote bank, but ignores domestic law and international humanitarian norms. At any rate, it even betrays ignorance of the counter-insurgency doctrine which rests on winning the confidence of the people to isolate mischief-makers.

Thus, as the Indian and Pakistani leaders descend on Astana, both have new constraints. Modi cannot engage Sharif unless the Kulbhushan Jadhav case can be resolved. Coincidentally, the next ICJ hearing is the day the SCO Summit opens, making it hardly conducive to political engagement. Pakistan would also be watching closely the latest Gulf developments where the 'Sunni allies' it hobnobbed with at the Riyadh summit are now pillorying Sunni Qatar simply because it rejected the anti-Iran tirade. Turkey has quietly thrown its weight behind Qatar. Iran, with which Qatar is bound by the joint ownership of the world's largest gas field that literally links them below the Gulf waters, would be keeping all options open. Pakistan is caught in the middle.

The joker in the pack, as occurring more and more frequently, is Trump. Not content to let events play out he tweeted: 'There can no longer be funding of Radical Ideology. Leaders pointed to Qatar- look!' As events in the western neighborhood of India and Pakistan increase tension, Modi needs to rebalance his domestic politics and neighborhood policy.

At home in the face of slowing economy, now that even government's figures show the debilitating effect of demonetization, social unrest and vigilantism, farmers' protests turning violent and jobless tepid growth, he needs to change the ways of his government. The unleashing of the CBI against a television channel does not indicate self-confidence. Similarly, abroad, many old assumptions are passé. He needs diplomacy, not militarism; genuine nationalism, not jingoism; social cohesion, not majoritarian rabble-rousing; contemporary vision, not mythological mumbo-jumbo.

(The author is a former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India)



## Cattle ban BJP's route marker for 2019



By Rajindar Sachar

“The new legislation has been deliberately brought up to further communalize the situation and also financially ruin the poor Muslims. And the government is not even attempting a sham of making suggestions to counter the perception that its actions are weakening the morale of minorities”, says the author.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, speaking of the achievements of the three years of the Modi government, proudly proclaimed: "We have by and large provided security to the country. India is the second largest country in the world as far as the Muslim population is concerned, and I can say with full responsibility that despite such a large population (of Muslims), the IS has not been able to set foot."

Frankly, it is not clear whether he meant it to be a compliment for the patriotism and nationalism of Indian Muslims or he was only praising his security agencies - that notwithstanding such a large population of Muslims, his intelligence agencies have been able to control it. I hope it was not the latter, because it would be uncalled for and unjustly maligning the Muslim community.

Rajnath Singh should openly say that the patriotism and nationalism of Indian Muslims is no less than any other community, including Hindus. And that anyone even remotely suggesting otherwise is talking treason, as some of the sickening communal Hindu bodies are doing.

Muslims do not have to carry their patriotism on the sleeve; to suggest that would be calumny. In fact, notwithstanding the provocation from RSS fanatics, the equanimity shown by Muslims is praiseworthy. If the Home Minister is really keen to keep peace in the country, he needs to persuade Modi to immediately withdraw the deliberately provocative animal slaughter legislation, which is being opposed by many states apart from being challenged in high courts.

The legislation purporting to be for the prevention of cruelty to animals is a ploy to snatch jurisdiction by the Centre on the subject of cattle trade, which is squarely the purview of the states. Even the BJP accepts this, as is clear from the Arunachal Pradesh state party president openly announcing that the Centre's ban on the sale of cattle for slaughter could not be binding on the states. The entire North-East is on the boil on this matter.



Activists protesting in Bengaluru last week against the Central government's notification banning sale and purchase of cattle for slaughter. Photo courtesy PTI

Minister of Environment Harsh Vardhan says diplomatically that the government is open to suggestions. This sounds hollow given that half the states are opposed to this legislation, which in reality is an attempt at pleasing the "gau rakshak" gang and to allow them to spread terror. This legislation has been deliberately brought up by the BJP to further communalize the situation and also financially ruin the poor Muslims who earn their livelihood through cattle sales.

The atmosphere was earlier vitiated by RSS Nagpur bosses installing Yogi Adityanath as Chief Minister of UP, who has already spread fear among Muslims in the state by praying at the makeshift Ram Temple near the Babri Masjid demolition site. This is blatant communalization of the situation in India, which is the strategy of the BJP for 2019 elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs to be reminded of how he addressed cow vigilantes in August 2016 saying: "It makes me angry that people are running shops in the name of cow protection.... Some people indulge in anti-

social activities at night and in the day masquerade as cow protectors."

The Modi government is not even attempting a sham of making suggestions to counter the perception that its actions are weakening the morale of minorities. In that regard, the way Modi has handled the naming of National Commission for Minorities members shows he only wants to retain the shell of it. The present members were appointed after the positions remained vacant for months. Of the five persons appointed, only one is a Muslim (Chairperson) and the remaining are one each from other minorities. This too was done after a high court asked the government for a response to a writ petition.

According to the 2011 Census, the Hindu population is 79.8 per cent and Muslim 14.2 per cent. The rest 6 per cent is constituted of Christians (2.3%), Sikhs (1.7%), Buddhists (0.7%), Jains (0.4%), and Parsis. It can't be denied that the object of the minorities panel is to create a mechanism that would give them confidence. To make the minorities feel that they have an equal stake in the running of the

State and are equal beneficiaries of its programs. It is hoped that the two more members yet to be appointed would be Muslims, either well-recognized academicians or public figures from the community, to give some reassurance to the community.

The report of the UN Human Rights Council Forum on Minority Issues, 2010, had made some significant recommendations on minorities and their effective participation in economic life, which each country is mandated to follow:

"...the right of minorities to participate effectively in economic life must be fully taken into account by governments seeking to promote equality at every level. From implementing non-discrimination in employment and enforcing protection laws in the private sector to developing national economic development and international development assistance schemes."

It is unfortunate that the Opposition has not come up with a concrete/specific program on which it intends to fight the 2019 election. In fact, the Opposition has been reduced to a debating/TV phenomenon. It has no specific program for action. The way the Congress and other political parties are letting wither away the opportunity that arose from the Dalit assertion in Saharanpur speaks ill of their commitment.

There is already a competition between the Chief Minister of UP and Prime Minister Modi as to who would be a greater favorite of the Sangh Parivar after the 2019 parliamentary elections, assuming the BJP wins the majority. Yogi Adityanath has given encouragement to the cow vigilante brigade, as indicated in the UP Director-General of Police issuing instructions to all police officers that those involved in cow slaughter or smuggling should be booked under the National Security Act - a legislation designed to handle terrorists. Has the BJP lost all sense of balance and proportion?

(The author is a retired Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court)

## Fighting Terrorism is at the Top of the Agenda at the SCO Summit

In the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana, a meeting of the defense ministers of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held on June 7. At the meeting, the members of the delegations made a number of statements concerning both the situation in Syria and the fight international terrorism in general.

First of all, all the representatives agreed that Indian and Pakistani membership that will become true tomorrow, June 8, will enhance SCO's security capabilities.

Referring to international problems, the SCO participants concurred that the terrorism in a short time turned into the biggest threat to the global security. At the same time, all the members of the delegations noticed that the situation is aggravating with every passing day by numerous local conflicts in the world and by inability of the Western countries to overcome differences, to form a common and united front against this evil and to work together to build a bastion against terrorism.

In this regard, the Syrian issue has become a key topic of the agenda during the meeting. The SCO-countries gave the highest priority to the question. A detailed briefing session was held for new Member States (India and Pakistan) on the common attitude of the participating countries to the key crisis in the

Middle East. As it was noted at the meeting, it is in the Syrian Arab Republic the main forces of the Islamic State are concentrated. It was also stated that the Syrian Arab army coordinating its activities in order to ensure the success operations undermined in the end the potential of the IS fighters and Syria has been "at the forefront of fighting international terrorism" for a long time.

Special attention was paid to the creation of de-escalation areas in Syria, which could contribute to ending the civil war and thus intensifying efforts to combat ISIS and Al-Nusra.

The representatives of SCO-Member countries also noticed that practical steps are being taken to implement the agreements reached at the moment. The priority tasks, namely ensuring the monitoring of all the commitments undertaken, as well as creating conditions for the restoration of the destroyed infrastructure were also highlighted.

The countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization agreed to provide support to each other in Syria and to exchange military experience in conducting counter-terrorism operations. Interaction within the SCO in the future was decided to focus on identifying and anticipating any terrorist activities.

Inside Syria Media Center' experts reasonably assume that the Member states will need to create joint effective managing tools to stop penetration of terrorism and radicalism into the SCO's area of responsibility. A fair guess would be that the special attention would be paid to an operative exchange of the information available on the activities of terrorist groups.

Such a summit is clearly useful for Syria from the point of view of practicality. People in Syria hope the talks will equip the SCO-members better to meet the challenges of terrorism. Syria needs support to be able to tackle the difficulties and to take the steps necessary for a just and lasting peace.

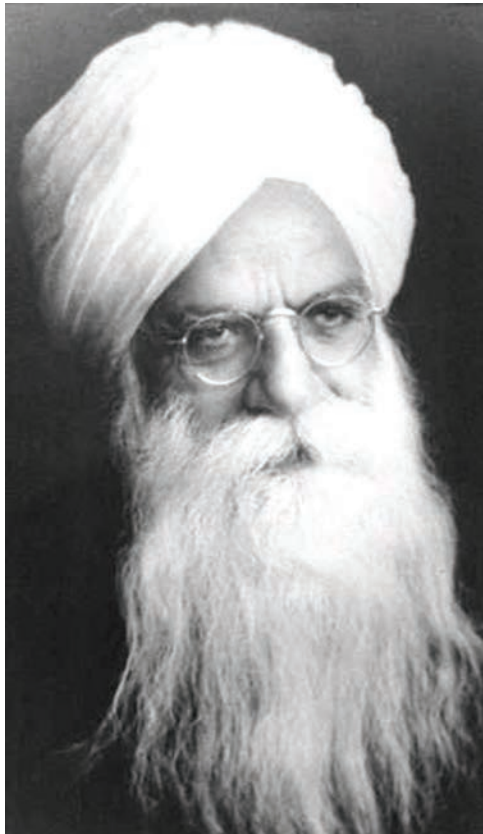
**SUMMARY:** To be noted is that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organization which was founded in 1996 in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. These countries, except Uzbekistan, had been members of the Shanghai Five, founded in 1996; after the inclusion of Uzbekistan in 2001, the members renamed the organization. On 10 July 2015, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members. India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations on 24 June 2016 at Tashkent, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as the full members. Now in Astana the countries are going to become full members.

The meeting of the SCO-defense ministers takes place once a year and the heads of the military departments have the opportunity both to share their views on the events taking place in the world and to work out a common strategy. In addition, it is possible to hold bilateral meetings to discuss in detail the plans of military cooperation on the margins of the meeting.



# Dr. Bhai Vir Singh- The Sixth River of Punjab

Remembering the poet, scholar, and theologian of the Sikh revival movement, Dr. Bhai Vir Singh on his 60th death anniversary



Dr. Bhai Vir Singh  
(5 December 1872 - 10 June 1957)

Bhai Vir Singh was a poet, scholar and exegete, a major figure in the Sikh renaissance and in the movement for the revival and renewal of Punjabi literary tradition. His identification with all the important concerns of modern Sikhism was so complete that he came to be canonized as Bhai, the Brother of the Sikh Order; very early in his career. For his pioneering work in its several different genres, he is acknowledged as the creator of modern Punjabi literature.

Born on 5 December 1872, in Amritsar, Bhai Vir Singh was the eldest of Dr Charan Singh's three sons. The family traces its ancestry back to Diwan Kaura Mall (d. 1752), who rose to the position of vice-governor of Multan, under Nawab Mir Mu'In ul-Mulk. With the title of Maharaja Bahadur Baba Kahn Singh (1788-1878) was perhaps the first in the family to be regularly sworn a Sikh. He turned a recluse when he was still in his early teens and spent his entire youth in monasteries at Haridvar and Amritsar acquiring training in traditional Sikh learning. His mother's affection ultimately reclaimed him to the life of a householder at the age of 40, when he got married. Adept in versification in Sanskrit and Braj as well as in the oriental system of medicine, Baba Kahn Singh passed on his interests to his only son, Dr Charan Singh. Apart from his sustained involvement in literary and scholarly pursuits, mainly as a Braj poet, Punjabi prose-writer, musicologist, prosodist and lexicographer, Dr Charan Singh took active interest in the affairs of the Sikh community, then experiencing a new urge for restoration as well as for change.

To this patrimony of Bhai Vir Singh was added from his mother's side a living kinship with another rich tradition of scholarship in exegesis of the Ckiani school, going back to the times of Guru Gobind Singh. His maternal grandfather Giani Hazara Singh compiled a lexicon of Guru Granth Sahib, and wrote a commentary on Bhai Gurdas Varan. As a schoolboy, Bhai Vir Singh used to spend a great deal of his time in the company of Giani Hazara Singh under whose guidance he not only learnt the classical and neo-classical languages, Sanskrit, Persian and Braj, but also received grounding, both theoretical and practical, in the science of Sikh exegesis.

Bhai Vir Singh was the child of an age in ferment. The extinction of Sikh sovereignty in the Punjab, the decline in the fortunes of Sikh

**Bhai Vir Singh wrote at a time when Sikh religion and politics and the Punjabi language were under such strong attack by the English and Hindus that the Sikhs had begun to doubt the value of their way of life. With his versatile pen, he extolled Sikh courage, philosophy, and ideals, gathering respect for the Punjabi language as a literary vehicle. The core of his philosophy is that man must overcome his pride or ego before he can realize God. Once the battle of self is won, man can then know God in all of his manifestations.**

aristocracy, the gradual emergence of urban middle classes, the dissipation of the "national intellectual life" of the Punjab owing to the neglect and decay of indigenous education of the local people from their political destiny aroused among the Sikhs concern for survival and for redefining the boundaries of their faith. Further challenges arose in the shape of modernization, of Christian, Muslim and Hindu movements of proselytization and the agnostic cults such as Brahma Samaj. Parallel to the developments foreboding gradual appropriation of Sikhism by the Hindu social order emerged a powerful end towards Braj classicism in the Sikh literary and scholarly tradition. Mythologization of the persons of Sikh Gurus, mixing of fiction with historical fact and interweaving of Vedantic and Vaisavite motifs into the essential Sikh teaching were its typical features. The response arose in Sikhism several movements- Nirankari (puritanism), Namdhari (militant Protestantism), Singh Sabha (revivalism and renaissance) and Panch Khalsa Diwan (aggressive fundamentalism).

Bhai Vir Singh had the benefit of both the traditional indigenous learning as well as of modern English education. He learnt Persian and Urdu from a Muslim Maulawi in a mosque and was apprenticed to Giani Harbhajan Singh, a leading classical scholar, for Sanskrit and Sikh literature. He then joined the Church Mission School, Amritsar and took his matriculation examination in 1891. At school, the conversion of some of the students proved a crucial experience which strengthened his own religious conviction. From the Christian missionaries' emphasis on literary resources, he learnt how efficacious the written word could be as a means of informing and influencing a person's innermost being. Through his English courses, he acquired familiarity with modern literary forms, especially short lyric. While still at school, Bhai Vir Singh was married at the age of 17 to Chatar Kaur daughter of Sardar Narain Singh of Amritsar.

Unlike the educated young men of his time, Bhai Vir Singh was not tempted by prospects of a career in government service. He chose for himself the calling of a writer and created material conditions for a single-minded pursuit of it. A year after his passing the matriculation examination, he set up a lithograph press in collaboration with Bhai Wazir Singh, a friend of his father's. As his first essays in the literary field, Bhai Vir Singh composed some Geography textbooks for schools.

Bhai Vir Singh began taking active interest in the affairs of Singh Sabha movement. To promote its aims and objects, he launched in 1894 the Khalsa Tract Society. In November 1899, he started a Punjabi weekly, the Khalsa Samachar. He was among the principal promoters of several of the Sikh institutions, such as Chief Khalsa Diwan, Sikh Educational Society (1908) and the Punjab and Sind Bank (1908). Interest in corporate activity directed towards community development remained Bhai Vir Singh's constant concern, simultaneously with his creative and scholarly pursuits. In this engagement and, at the same time, in his eschewal of political activity, the Christian missionary example was apparently his model.

In determining the basic parameters of the modern phase of Sikhism, Bhai Vir Singh stressed the autonomy of Sikh faith nourished and sustained by an awakening amongst the Sikhs of the awareness of their distinct theological and cultural identity. Secondly, he aimed at reorienting the Sikhs' understanding of their faith in such a manner as to help them assimilate the different modernizing influences on their historical

memory and cultural heritage. Education of the masses was the first requirement for the fulfilment of these objectives. In the meanwhile, the old educational system which had till then served as a channel for communication of the traditional knowledge to the youth of the race had broken down with the withdrawal, under British dispensation, of state patronage from the indigenous institutions. As if to fill the vacuum as well as to build new channels of intra-community communication, Bhai Vir Singh through his single-minded cultivation of Punjabi language as the medium of his theological, scholarly and creative work, resolved the cultural dilemma which the Sikhs faced at the turn of the century. On the one hand was the Sikh literary tradition in Braj language which had collected unmatched riches in multiple directions during the course of its three-centuries-long elitist career; on the other were the compulsions for mobilizing the common Sikhs through their own language. By drawing upon the Sikh tradition of Braj literature for his basic inspiration and cultural motivation and upon the Punjabi literary tradition for its linguistic components Bhai Vir Singh initiated a new literary idiom distinctly different from both. The tracts produced by the Khalsa Tract Society introduced a down to earth literary Punjabi remarkable for lightness of touch as well as for freshness of expression. In this writing lay the beginnings of modern Punjabi prose.

The Khalsa Tract Society periodically made available under the title Nirguniara low-cost publications on Sikh theology, history and philosophy and on social and religious reform. Through this journal Bhai Vir Singh established a living contact with an ever-expanding circle of readers. He used the Nirguniara as a vehicle for his own self-expression and some of his major creative works such as the epic Rana Surat Singh, the novel Baba Naudh Singh, and the lives of the Gurus Sri Guru Nanak Chamatkar and Sri Guru Kalgidhar Chamatkar were originally serialized in its columns.

In literature, Bhai Vir Singh started as a writer of romances which proved to be the forerunners of the Punjabi novel. His writings in this genre- Sundari (1898), Bijay Singh (1899), Satvant Kaur (published in two parts, I in 1900 and II in 1927)- were aimed at recreating the heroic period (eighteenth century) of Sikh history. Through these novels he made available to his readers typical models of courage, fortitude and human dignity.

Subhagi da Sudhar Hathin Baba Naudh Singh, popularly known as Baba Naudh Singh (serialized in Nirguniara from 1907 onwards and published in book form in 1921) shares with Rana Surat Singh (which he had started serializing two years earlier), Bhai Vir Singh's fascination with the theme of widow's desperate urge for a re-union with her dead husband. But in Baba Naudh Singh this search is situated in a more mundane setting. This makes all the difference. The narrative here is more realistic in tone, and almost contemporary in its appeal. Bhai Vir Singh weaves into the narrative numerous motifs of social reforms moral teaching and religious preaching and depicts several situations of intercommunal and urban-rural confrontation. In 1905, Bhai Vir Singh started serializing through tracts Rana Surat Singh, the first Punjabi epic, written in blank verse of Sirkhand, variety. This long narrative of over 14,000 lines is a striking imaginative evocation of the situation of the Sikhs through a symbolic tale of a widowed queen in quest of her lost paradise. The spiritual voyage of Rani Raj Kaur, the main protagonist of the poem, from external factuality to internal essence has been described by Bhai Vir Singh in the form of a

fantasy of spiritual ascension. Apart from living out her earthly destiny of suffering and pain, she symbolized the total ethos of the Sikh people at that historical moment when they were emerging out of their sense of defeat and despair into an era of a fresh beginning.

Bhai Vir Singh's quest for new forms of expression continued. Soon after the publication of Rana Surat Singh in book form in 1919, he turned to shorter poems and Lyrics. In quick succession came Dil Tarang (1920), Earel Tupke (1921), Lahiran de Har (1921), Matak Hulare (1922), and Bijlian de Har (1927). Following at some distance was Mere Salan Jio (1953). In this poetry, Bhai Vir Singh's concerns were more aesthetic than didactic, metaphysical or mystical. He refined the old verse forms and created new ones. The metrical patterns Kabir, Soratha, Baint, etc., which he inherited from classical Punjabi literature, were transformed into lights nimble measures. Bhai Vir Singh also naturalized in Punjabi the Rubai which he borrowed from Urdu. By grafting Soratha and Sirkhandv forms on English blank verse, he paved the way for the emergence of Punjabi poem.

As it happened, the first play written in Punjabi, Raja Lakhdata Singh (1910) also came from the pen of Bhai Vir Singh. Tentative in form, the 1. play did reveal the author's powers of constructing crisp and witty dialogues Change-over from Braj Bhasa to Punjabi 2. as the main medium of Sikh literary and 3. scholarly expression created the need for new materials such as glossaries, lexicons, encyclopedias and exegetical works. Bhai Vir Singh himself provided several of the tools. He revised and enlarged Giani Hazara Singh's dictionary, Sri Guru Granth Kosh, originally published in 1898. The revised version, published in 1927, gave evidence of Bhai Vir Singh's command of the science of etymology and of the classical and modern languages. He published critical editions of some of the old Sikh texts such as Sikhian di Bhagat Mala (1912), Prachin Panth Prakash (1914), Puratan Janam Sakhi (1926) and Sakhi Pothi (1950).

Monumental in size and scholarship was his annotation of Bhai Santokh Singh's magnum opus, Sri Gur Pratap Suraj Granth, published from 1927 to 1935 in fourteen volumes covering 6668 pages.

No sooner was the Sri Gur Pratap Suraj Grallth completed than Bhai Vir Singh launched on an even more arduous task. This was a detailed commentary on the Guru Granth Sahib. In a way, exegesis had been his lifelong occupation. Early in his career he had annotated selections from the Holy Book published in 1906 under the title Panj Granth Saiik, and, as he himself declared, all his writing was an exposition of the Sikh Scripture. He devoted himself unsparingly to the commentary, but it remained unfinished. A lifetime of unrelieved hard work and the weight of advancing years at last began to tell. In early 1957 signs of fatigue and weakness appeared. He was taken ill with a fever and died in his home in Amritsar on 10 June 1957. The portion of the commentary- nearly one half of the Holy Book- he had completed was published posthumously in seven large volumes.

**Article is based on extracts from the following books:** Encyclopedia of Sikhism edited by Harbans Singh, Bhai Vir Singh: Life, Times and Works by Gurbachan Singh Talib, and Attar Singh, ed., Chandigarh, 1973, Bhai Vir Singh by Harbans Singh, Delhi, 1972, Bhai Vir Singh: Poet of the Sikhs, by Harbans Singh and Gurbachan Singh Talib

(Source: Sikh-History.com)  
Encyclopedia Britannica



## No proof against RAW in missing ex-Col case: Pakistan minister tells Parliament

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** The "kidnapping" case of a retired Pakistan army officer in Nepal could not be taken to the ICJ or the UN on the basis of "assumptions" as there is no "concrete evidence" suggesting India's hand in it, a minister has told Parliament.

Minister for states and frontier regions Gen (retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch said it was yet to be established that Muhammad Habib Zahir had been picked up by the Indian forces, the Dawn reported.

"No final report suggesting that the Indian intelligence agency (RAW) or the Indian government was involved is available with the foreign office (FO) or the government," he said while winding up a discussion on an adjournment motion in the Senate on Wednesday.

Senate chairman Mian Raza Rabbani asked if the statement meant that the foreign office was exonerating India from the kidnapping of Habib as the minister had admitted "absence of concrete evidence". Baloch replied in negative, saying: "We are hundred per cent sure that Indian intelligence agency RAW is behind the kidnapping, but the evidence to this effect is not final". The issue appeared to have a link with the conviction of Kulbushan Jadhav, he said, but stressed that material was required to legally prove it.

Baloch told the Senate that the issue of "kidnapping" of Habib in Nepal some two months ago could not be taken to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or the United Nations "on the basis of assumptions", the report said.

The FO was trying to obtain solid evidence and the Nepalese government had been asked to get in touch with three Indians who had received Habib at the airport, Baloch said.

He said it was still not clear whether the three people were Indian government employees or civilians or working for a private firm. (PTI)

## 'Blackface' video in Malaysia blasted on social media

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** A viral video featuring a woman wearing "blackface" that caused an outcry on social media has been pulled by a popular retailer in Malaysia, with the firm apologising on June 8 for causing offence.

The 15-minute film on Watsons Malaysia's Facebook page shows a nobleman holding an audition to track down a woman with an enchanting voice who has been in his dreams.

A woman appears at the audition, singing beautifully but with her face covered.

He recoils in disgust when she exposes her jet black face. "Oh my gosh! She is actually dark?" he exclaims.

She later re-emerges with fair skin, explaining she was wearing black make-up to test his sincerity.

"I am not dark. In fact, I am flawless," she beams.

The promotional video was to celebrate the upcoming Muslim religious festival Eid al-Fitr, but it provoked an online backlash with many saying it was racist and sexist.

"Being dark skinned is not a badge of shame. Being stupid is," said one Twitter user.

Another said: "I am so shocked that Watsons crossed the line with blackface. This video is so racist, I am ashamed of buying face mask at Watsons."

The video, featuring local celebrities, was taken down by the company on Jun 7. (PTI)

## Sher Bahadur Deuba elected new Nepal PM

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Nepal's parliament on June 3 elected unopposed three-time former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to the top post once again. This is the tenth time in just over a decade the leadership has changed hands in the Himalayan nation. Deuba, a wily political veteran, stood unopposed in the parliamentary election having struck a deal with his predecessor that some criticised as being undemocratic. Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal- who resigned a fortnight ago after just ten months as prime minister- had agreed to stand aside for Deuba once long-awaited local polls had been held in Nepal. "I announce that respected member Sher Bahadur Deuba... has been elected to the post of Nepal's prime minister," said Parliament Speaker Onsari Gharti Magar, addressing parliament during a live television broadcast. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called up Nepal's Prime Minister-elect Sher Bahadur Deuba to congratulate him and convey his best wishes for the country's progress. (agencies)

# Islamic State claims it killed two Chinese in Pakistan

**CAIRO/QUETTA (TIP):** Islamic State has killed two Chinese teachers it kidnapped in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province last month, the militant group's Amaq news agency said on June 8, in a blow to Islamabad's efforts to safeguard Chinese workers.

China's foreign ministry said it was "gravely concerned" about the report and working to verify the information.

Armed men pretending to be policemen kidnapped the two language teachers in the provincial capital, Quetta, on May 24. The kidnapping was a rare security incident involving Chinese nationals in Pakistan, where Beijing has pledged \$57 billion for its "Belt and Road" plan.

"Islamic State fighters killed two Chinese people they had been holding in Balochistan province, southwest Pakistan," Amaq said.

A Balochistan government spokesman said officials were in the process of confirming "whether the report is true".

China's foreign ministry said it noted the report and expressed "grave concern".

"We have been trying to rescue the two kidnapped hostages over the past days," the ministry said in a short statement.

"The Chinese side is working to learn about and verify relevant information through various channels, including working with Pakistani authorities," it said.

"The Chinese side is firmly opposed to the acts of kidnapping civilians in any form, as well as terrorism and extreme violence in any form."

There was no immediate comment from Pakistan's interior ministry or its foreign office.

Islamic State, which controls some



territory in neighbouring Afghanistan, has struggled to establish a presence in Pakistan. But it has claimed several major attacks, including one on the deputy chairman of the Senate last month in Balochistan, in which 25 people were killed.

Earlier on Thursday, Pakistan's military published details of a three-day raid on a militant hideout in a cave not far from Quetta, saying it had killed 12 "hardcore terrorists" from a banned local Islamist group and prevented Islamic State from gaining a "foothold" in Balochistan.

China's ambassador to Pakistan and other officials have often urged Islamabad to improve security, especially in Balochistan, where China is building a new port and funding roads to link its western regions with the Arabian Sea.

The numbers of Pakistanis studying Mandarin has skyrocketed since 2014, when President Xi Jinping signed off on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, pledging to invest \$57 billion in Pakistani road, rail and power infrastructure.

Security in Balochistan has improved in recent years.

However, separatists, who view the project as a ruse to steal natural resources, killed 10 Pakistani workers building a road near the new port of Gwadar this month, a key part of the economic corridor.

China has also expressed concern about militants in Pakistan linking up with what China views as separatists in the far western Chinese region of Xinjiang, where hundreds have been killed in violence in recent years. (Reuters)

# US might take the hard option in Afghanistan

**KABUL (TIP):** The US official policy on supporting a "peace process" in Afghanistan may change.

In remarks at Canberra, US defence secretary James Mattis gave clear indication that the US may not give Taliban the space for a political "solution" in Afghanistan. The message from Rex Tillerson secretary of state and Mattis is the same - Taliban is a terror group, and they will be tackled militarily.

Mattis said, "we're up against an enemy that knows that they cannot win at the ballot box, and you think - we have to sometimes remind ourselves of that reality. That's why they use bombs because ballots would ensure they never had a role to play..."

Tillerson continued, "our commitment to Afghanistan is to ensure that it never becomes a safe haven for terrorists to launch attacks against the civilized world or against any other part of the world or any of their neighbors." Thus far, the US has been pushing the Afghan government to set up a peace process with the Taliban, as the only way to end the war.



Although the official US review of its Afghanistan policy is still pending, the remarks are a strong signal that the US may turn up the military heat on the Taliban. Certainly, there is no more the oft-repeated line that the US believes "there is no military solution" to the Afghan crisis.

This used to be the line used by both former secretaries of state Hillary Clinton and John Kerry. That gave the Pakistanis the opportunity to set up all manner of arrangements starting with the Qatar process run by Taliban leader Tayyab Agha, who was quickly discredited. This was followed by the ill-

fated QCG between the US, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan which ended with two things: the announcement that Taliban leader Mullah Omar had died over two years prior, and the elevation of Sirajuddin Haqqani as deputy chief of Taliban, effectively joining the ISI-supported Haqqani network with the Taliban. In more recent months, Russia and Iran have both joined the fray, this time using ISIS as a reason for bringing Taliban into the mainstream and power structure in Kabul. The US accuses Russia of supplying weapons to Taliban.

But the horrific attacks in recent weeks by the Haqqani network appears to have made up US minds on how not to look for peace in Afghanistan. While the dilemma in Washington about another troop surge remains, it's also clear that the US may step in to prevent Russia and Iran from becoming players in this particular conflict.

The recent US MOAB (mother-of-all-bombs)+ drop in Nangarhar has been widely seen as a signal for North Korea. But could there be a possibility of it being used again in Afghanistan, against the Taliban? (PTI)





## SHRADDHA KAPOOR SIGNALS THE START OF SAINA NEHWAL BIOPIC

It's raining biopics in Bollywood, and actress Shraddha Kapoor has already stepped into her second part. The actress, who is awaiting the release of the upcoming biopic 'Haseena: The Queen of Mumbai' alongside her brother Siddhanth Kapoor, has bagged yet another biographical flick. Yes, we're talking about the highly publicised film on badminton champion Saina Nehwal.

Shraddha, who is excited to step into Saina's shoes and hit the court, recently shared a picture of a badminton racket on her Instagram handle and captioned it, "Here we go #SAINA @nehwalsaina #AmoleGupte."

The yet-untitled biopic will be directed by Amole Gupte and produced by Bhushan Kumar. Shraddha was last seen in Mohit Suri's 'Half Girlfriend' opposite Arjun Kapoor.

# KRITI SANON ON LINK-UP RUMOURS: IT IS LIKE A DAILY SOAP

She may not be from the film industry but Kriti Sanon says she has learnt to deal with rumours surrounding her personal life.

Kriti, who has been linked with her 'Raabta' co-star Sushant Singh Rajput, says people forget that actors are also human beings.

"Link-up rumours don't bother me. It is part and parcel of the industry and I know it. I think people sort of forget that apart from being actors, we are human beings who have a normal life. We have our families and friends and go out with them. Whatever is happening my family knows about it.

"I have started laughing on things. I now enjoy the innovation of the stories which come everyday, it is like a daily soap," Kriti told PTI.

The actress says whatever is written about her equation with her co-stars, it does not change the bond they share.

"It doesn't affect my personal equation with my co-stars. I don't think I will stop going on a drive or dinner with people I like."

Three films old Kriti says she has understood the pros and cons of being blunt and is now more cautious about her choice of words.

"As a celebrity you are judged. But now I am getting used to being judged all the time. When I came to the industry, I was blunt. Now, I have realised I probably can't do that. Every word a celebrity speaks can be misconstrued and judged. Subconsciously, I have become a little more cautious but I still can't be a fake," she says. *Source: PTI*



## MOVIE REVIEW

### DEAR MAYA

**CAST:** Manisha Koirala, Madiha Imam, Shreya Chaudhary.

**DIRECTION:** Sunaina Bhatnagar

**GENRE:** Drama

**DURATION:** 2 hours 11 minutes

#### STORY

A lonely woman starts getting love letters from a long lost admirer. Little does she know that the letters are a silly teenage prank.

#### REVIEW

Remember Makdee: Vishal Bhardwaj's superbly crafted suspenseful debut, in which a ghoulish woman turns a teenager into her errand-girl? Dear Maya ditches the witchcraft element, but its first half has an unmissable similarity to the 2002 sleeper hit.

Here, Maya (Koirala) keeps to herself in her ancestral home packed with Rajputana antiques, her caged birds and her two dogs. Two schoolgirls from her neighbourhood, Anna (Imam) and Ira (Chaudhary), pity her sorry existence and decide to write love letters to her, to invoke a sense of hope in her life.

The plan works, and Maya Devi - in a literal and

metaphorical scene - starts opening doors and windows to let the sunshine in. Until one of the letters arrives with a return address, and Maya ups and leaves to find her mystery man. Anna is riddled with guilt and starts looking for Maya while her friendship with Ira collapses.

The movie has a lot of honesty at its core, but loses momentum because of logistic loopholes. There are continuity errors - the first letter that Anna writes isn't the first letter that Maya reads - and logical flaws. Why does Anna spend six years looking for Maya, without looking into that return address first? Why doesn't she file a missing person's report? Surely Maya's real-estate agent has some kind of a forwarding address?

In spite of the irregularities, director Sunaina Bhatnagar keeps the feeling from ebbing. She's good at extracting the right emotion even out of contrived situations. She super-sizes symbolism (red is the color of love; getting drenched in the rain is liberating; reclusive woman has caged birds, etc) and serves up a film that's sporadically sweet.

Like the times when Manisha Koirala is on screen. Her talent deserves far more than a movie that is this in-your-face. Debutantes Madiha and Shreya have a good energy about them, but their stories are too plain to give them a scope to perform.

Dear Maya works like a folded love-note slyly passed around a classroom: brief and heart-warming. But also obvious, in a sense that you see it coming your way.







## LYNDA CARTER CELEBRATES 'WONDER WOMAN'S SUCCESS

Actress Lynda Carter, who played Wonder Woman's role in the 1975 television show, has congratulated actress Gal Gadot and director Patty Jenkins on the success of the female superhero film at the box office.

'Wonder Woman', which is currently in cinema halls, had the highest opening numbers for a film directed by a woman.

"'Wonder Woman' is breaking box office records!!! Bravo, Patty Jenkins! Bravo, Gal Gadot! Bravo, Chris Pine!," Carter tweeted.

Jenkins was quick to respond, saying, "Bravo you Lynda. Come on. Let's admit what was major in starting all of this."

# NICOLE KIDMAN DONATING WEDDING DRESS TO ARTIST



Actress Nicole Kidman is donating her Balenciaga wedding dress to an Australian exhibit because it is in the name of love.

The 49-year-old adorned an elegant ivory-coloured lace dress created by fashion designer Nicolas Ghesquiere when she married husband Keith Urban in 2006, and she is giving the gown to an artist to feature it in an exhibition titled 'Love'.

"I'm giving my wedding dress, the Balenciaga one that Nicolas Ghesquiere did for me, to an Australian exhibit called 'Love.' I'll support anything that supports love. Truly. Isn't it the essence of everything? It can heal so many things. Good love, sweet love, kind love, gentle love, powerful love,"

"There are so many different forms of love, which then leads to loss, which then leads to all the primary emotions. We all know children who were raised with love. You can see them," she added.

Kidman believes "dreams" are attached to fashion, especially when they are presented in a format that takes your breath away.

"There are dreams attached to fashion. When it's presented in a way where you gasp, it just makes you feel good."

## MOVIE REVIEW



### WONDER WOMAN

**CAST:** Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Robin Wright, Danny Huston, David Thewlis, Connie Nielsen

**DIRECTION:** Patty Jenkins

**GENRE:** Fantasy

**DURATION:** 2 hours 21 minutes

#### STORY

Diana, princess of the Amazons, is raised on a sheltered island paradise and trained to be an unconquerable warrior. When an American pilot crashes on their shores and tells of a massive conflict raging in the outside world, Diana leaves her home, convinced she can stop the threat as she discovers her full powers as 'Wonder Woman'.

#### REVIEW

After decades of being lost in Hollywood developmental hell with a number of false starts and a host of A-list actresses slated to play the coveted role, this is the first bona fide, massive budget, female-led superhero movie to hit the big screen. By this definition itself, 'Wonder Woman' already had colossal expectations to meet, but with the added pressure of lifting the DC Extended Universe (DCEU) out of the murk of

its dreary sub-par films, Gal Gadot had a lot of weight to carry on her shoulders. Fortunately, her first appearance in 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' was well received, especially as Diana Prince a.k.a. Wonder Woman managed to stand her ground alongside two comic book behemoths. She continues to ride the wave in her own solo film, adding some much-needed confidence to the DCEU but more importantly doing justice (pun obviously intended) to the iconic female superhero.

This is largely credited to director Patty Jenkins whose familiarity with constructing strong female characters, as seen in the Oscar-winning 'Monster', pays off here. Jenkins' vision for this film is a blend of an uplifting and humorous outlook that has been sorely lacking in the DCEU till this point, infused with a strong sense of morale. Most importantly, it takes a distinctive stance on feminism – one that doesn't resort to male bashing to get its point across, as highlighted in the relationship shared by Diana Prince and Steve Trevor, played by the charismatic Chris Pine. Diana is far from the damsel in distress in need of a knight in shining armour to rescue her, and Trevor is well aware of that. As a result, their connection is built out of mutual respect that plays very well on screen. Speaking of which, if there were any lingering questions about Gadot's ability to embody the Amazon warrior princess, this film certainly erases them all beyond any shadow of a doubt. She is convincing as the naive yet steadfast fish-out-of-water, harking back to Christopher Reeve in the very first Superman film.



## 100,000 cholera cases, 789 deaths, in Yemen in past month: WHO

**GENEVA (TIP):** A cholera outbreak of more than 100,000 cases has erupted in war-ravaged Yemen, killing nearly 800 people, in just over a month, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on June 8.

The UN health agency said that since the end of April, 101,820 suspected cholera cases had been registered across 19 of the country's 21 governorates, including 789 deaths.

WHO has warned that a quarter of a million people could fall sick with cholera by the end of the year in Yemen, a country where two-thirds of the population are on the brink of famine.

British charity Oxfam also voiced alarm on Thursday at what it described as "a runaway cholera epidemic" in Yemen, pointing out that the disease is currently killing nearly one person every hour.

Cholera is a highly contagious bacterial infection spread through contaminated food or water.

Reining in the disease is particularly complicated in Yemen, where two years of devastating war between the Huthis and government forces backed by a Saudi-led Arab military coalition has left more than half the country's medical facilities out of service.

Yemen's conflict has killed more than 8,000 people and wounded around 45,000 since March 2015, according to the WHO.

"Yemen is on the edge of an abyss. Lives hang in the balance," Sajjad Mohammed Sajid, Oxfam's Yemen country director, said in a statement.

"Cholera is simple to treat and prevent but while the fighting continues the task is made doubly difficult," he said, insisting that "a massive aid effort is needed now." (AP)

## Government asks Indians in Qatar to 'stay alert'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** As the Gulf crisis deepened between Saudi Arabia-led allies and Qatar, India is beginning to worry about its over 630,000 nationals who live and work in Qatar.

An advisory by the Indian embassy in Doha has asked Indians to "stay alert". In addition, they said, "The Embassy of India is monitoring the situation closely and is in touch with Qatari authorities to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals in Qatar."

Qatar has only one land route to Saudi Arabia, which is used for transport of essential commodities, that route is now closed. There should be no immediate sense of panic or shortage, sources said, largely because Qatar is well stocked. Secondly, Qatar, as the richest per capita country in the world is likely to put its considerable resources to the task of maintaining its people.

"The Qatari authorities have conveyed that they will take all necessary steps to ensure that normal life, including supplies of food items, is not affected," said the advisory. Reports have also suggested that the Indian government has offered to send in supplies to Qatar. (PTI)

## Nearly 70 dead in al-Shabab attack on Somalia military base

**MOGADISHU, SOMALIA (TIP):** Heavily armed al-Shabab extremists have stormed a military base in Somalia's semiautonomous state of Puntland, killing close to 70 people and wounding dozens more, officials said on June 8. Residents said civilians, including women, were beheaded during the rampage.

Officials called it the region's deadliest attack in years, highlighting the twin challenges facing security forces from the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab and the growing presence of fighters linked to the Islamic State group.

The attack began with a blast at the remote Af-Urur camp, roughly 100 kilometers (62 miles) west of the commercial hub of Bossaso, before the extremists overran the base and killed soldiers at close range, said Ahmed Mohamed, a senior military official. Close to 70 people were killed, though an exact death toll was not yet available, Mohamed said. Abdi Hersi Ali, Puntland's interior minister, said troops suffered casualties but he declined to give further details.

Residents in the area reported chaotic scenes, with fighters beheading several civilians they encountered. One witness, Abdibasit Hassan, said women were among those beheaded.

"The situation is grim over there. This attack was an unexpected one," Mohamed said. (AP)

# Chinese military base likely in Pakistan: Beijing hits out at Pentagon report, says remarks 'irresponsible'

**BEIJING (TIP):** Beijing says it is "firmly opposed" to a Pentagon report that highlighted China's construction of military facilities on man-made islands in the disputed South China Sea and speculated that Beijing would likely build more bases overseas.

The annual report made "irresponsible remarks on China's national defence development and reasonable actions in defending our territorial sovereignty and security interests in disregard of the facts," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters on Wednesday.

"China is firmly opposed to that," Hua said, adding that her government was a force for safeguarding peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

While Hua declined to comment on possible overseas bases, she said China and Pakistan - one of the countries considered most likely to host a Chinese military presence - were close friends that conduct mutually beneficial cooperation in a variety of fields.

China is now building its first overseas base in Djibouti, which it says will help facilitate its participation in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden and UN peacekeeping operations in the region. The base is near Camp Lemonnier, the US base in the Horn of Africa nation, although American military leaders have said they don't see it as threatening US operations.

"China most likely will seek to establish additional military bases in countries with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship and similar strategic interests, such as Pakistan, and in which there is a precedent for hosting foreign militaries," the Pentagon report said. "This initiative, along with regular naval vessel visits to foreign ports, both



reflects and amplifies China's growing influence, extending the reach of its armed forces."

The assessment also focused on the military buildup in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

It said that as of late last year, China was building 24 fighter-sized hangars, fixed-weapons positions, barracks, administration buildings and communication facilities on each of the three largest outposts - Fiery Cross, Subi and Mischief Reefs. Each has runways that are at least 2,700 meters (8,800 feet) long.

China claims the bases are there to improve navigation safety and assistance for fishermen. But it also says they help reinforce China's sovereignty claims and that China is fully entitled to provide them with defensive capabilities.

"That we develop national defence is to

safeguard China's independent sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is a legitimate right of a sovereign state," Hua said, without mentioning the islands directly.

While China objects vocally to US naval operations in the South China Sea, it is eager not to be seen as a threat, and its criticism of the annual Pentagon assessment is part of a drive to avoid being perceived as attempting to seize the mantle as the region's dominant military force. It has also engaged in a series of dialogues and exchanges with the US military, although the two continue to view each other warily. "We hope the US side will put aside the Cold War mentality, view China's military development in an objective and rational manner, and take concrete actions to maintain steady growth of the military relationship between the two countries," Hua said. (AP)

## North Korea fires what appear to be land-to-ship missiles: South Korea

**SEOUL (TIP):** North Korea fired what appeared to be several land-to-ship missiles off its east coast on June 8, South Korea's military said, the latest in a fast-paced series of missile tests defying world pressure to rein in its weapons programme.

The launches come less than a week after the United Nations Security Council passed fresh sanctions on the reclusive state, which said it would continue to pursue its nuclear and missile programme without delay.

The missiles were launched on Thursday morning from the North Korean coastal city of Wonsan and flew about 200km (124 miles), South Korea's Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been briefed on the latest launch, the military said, declining to give further details.

"North Korea launched multiple

projectiles that appear to be short-range land-to-ship cruise missiles today morning off east coast from the region of Wonsan," the office said in a statement, adding that Seoul and Washington were analysing the launches for further information.

Thursday's launch is the fourth missile test by North Korea since Moon took office on May 10 pledging to engage in dialogue with Pyongyang, saying sanctions and pressure alone have failed to resolve the growing threat from the North's advancing nuclear and missile programme.

South Korea said on Wednesday it will hold off on installing remaining components of a controversial US anti-missile defense system until it completes an assessment of the system's impact on the environment.

Under third-generation leader Kim Jong Un, North Korea has been

conducting such tests at an unprecedented pace in an effort to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of hitting the mainland United States.

In the three earlier launches, North Korea tested different kinds of ballistic missiles, two medium-to-long range missiles as well as a short-range Scud class weapon.

The launches of the apparent anti-ship missiles on Thursday follow Kim's order to develop North Korea's own ballistic missile that precisely strikes targets such as enemy vessels, reported in its state media late last month.

The isolated country, which has conducted dozens of missile tests and tested two nuclear bombs since the beginning of 2016 in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions, says the programme is necessary to counter US aggression. (reuters)



# Vladimir Putin: I am not a woman, so I don't have bad days

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Film director Oliver Stone, whose series of conversations with Vladimir Putin air next week on Showtime, said he watched Megyn Kelly interview the Russian president on NBC and concluded that "he knew his stuff and she didn't."

Kelly's interview, which aired on the debut of her newsmagazine, "Sunday Night with Megan Kelly," on Sunday, "became machine-gun like," Stone said, and was an example of how American journalism frequently leaves little room for nuance.

"I think she was attractive and she asked hardball questions, but she wasn't in position to debate or counter him, because she didn't know a lot of things," he said.

NBC News President Noah Oppenheim shot back that "no one here is interested in Oliver Stone's unsolicited thoughts on Megyn Kelly's appearance or his ill-informed opinion of her journalism."

"But so long as we're offering each other professional feedback, please let him know I don't think he's made a decent movie since the early '90s," he said.

Putin was combative when asked in the NBC interview about hacking in the US presidential election and relations between Russia and President Donald Trump's team. He's more serene on Showtime, where more than a dozen interviews that Stone conducted with the Russian president between 2015 and early this year unfold one hour per night for four nights starting Monday.

As an example of where he believed Kelly was mistaken, Stone said the claim that 17 US intelligence agencies had concluded the Russians were behind election year hacking and used as a preface for a question had been "walked back." It was a reference to testimony from James Clapper, former director of national intelligence, about a hacking report by three specific agencies. The independent organization Politifact has produced a report that backs Kelly, however, because Clapper had earlier said that all 17 intelligence agencies he had supervised agreed about Russia's involvement.



Stone, a controversial figure who has interviewed Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez and produced a documentary backing Putin's version of events in the Ukraine, conducts a Putin interview far less confrontational than Kelly's, at least on the basis of two episodes provided for screening by Showtime. One critic, Marlow Stern in The Daily Beast, called in a "wildly irresponsible love letter" to Putin.

The filmmaker's style does include its share of ingratiating remarks. "You have a lot of discipline, sir," he says at one point. "You are an excellent CEO. Russia is your company," he says at another. Besides office sit-downs, Putin is interviewed driving a car, walking through horse stables at his home and after he played in a hockey game. When Putin makes a claim about a letter he received from the CIA and Stone asks him to produce it, the Russian president says, "My words are enough."

Yet Stone also challenges Putin on his authoritarian style and questions his claims of democratic reform. The filmmaker said in an interview that there are more direct questions about relations with the United States in the unseen third and fourth episodes.

He asks Putin about assassination attempts and, while it was inadvertent in one case, captures a couple of eye-opening moments. Asked if he ever has bad days, Putin replies that "I am not a

woman so I don't have bad days," adding a reference to "natural cycles" affecting behavior.

During a discussion about gay rights, Putin said about a homosexual male: "I prefer not to go in the shower with him. Why provoke him?"

Stone is aware that he'll receive criticism for not pushing Putin hard enough. "I'm not a journalist," he said. "I'm a filmmaker and I was taking a different approach."

The project's value comes in seeing Putin talking about his life and world view in an extended format, seeing the personal and political history that drives policy for the US's biggest adversary, and simply how his mind works. At one point Stone asks Putin about a 13 percent inflation rate, and is quickly corrected. "Twelve point nine," he said.

"It's crucial for the United States to understand another point of view," Stone said. "I'm interested in preventing a further deterioration in relations."

The film also features Stone screening a copy of the Cold War-era satire "Dr. Strangelove" for the stone-faced Russian leader.

"I pushed him where I felt he should be pushed," Stone said. "At a certain point, you know that that person is not going to change his approach. He's a leader. He thinks things through and he's made his point. I can't think of anything more that I could have said or done." (AP)

## Spanish man who fought off London attacker confirmed dead

**MADRID (TIP):** The family of a Spanish man who used his skateboard to try to defend a woman from one of the assailants during the London attack confirmed on Wednesday that he had died, after a wait of close to four days.

"Ignacio didn't survive the attacks," Ignacio Echeverria's sister Ana wrote on her Facebook page. His other sister Isabel also confirmed his death on her Facebook page.

"We want to see and be with Ignacio's body. It seems that we won't be able to be with his body until Friday at the earliest," she added.

Spain's foreign ministry also confirmed that Echeverria, a 39-year-old HSBC expert in the fight against money-laundering, had died in Saturday's attack that saw three assailants in a van mow down people on a bridge and then go on a stabbing spree.

"Ignacio Echeverria's exemplary attitude during the attacks is, for all, a model of solidarity," it said in a statement.

"His courage in defending a defenceless person helps to remember the necessity of remaining united in the face of the scourge of terrorism, faced with those who make violence and terror their only language."

Echeverria's friend said he spotted him during the short, panic-ridden rampage trying to defend a woman from one of the assailants with his skateboard.

He was last seen lying on the ground and had been missing since.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in which police have now confirmed that eight people were killed.

Echeverria's friend said he spotted him during the short, panic-ridden rampage trying to defend a woman from one of the assailants with his skateboard.

He was last seen lying on the ground and had been missing since.

Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido denounced what he called the sluggish pace of the British victim identification process, calling it "inhumane" for Echeverria's family. (AP)

## Saudi, allies issue Qatar-linked 'terrorism' list

**RIYADH (TIP):** Saudi Arabia and allies, which have cut ties with Doha, today issued a list of individuals and entities they say are linked to Qatar over "terrorism".

"This list is connected to Qatar and serves suspicious agendas in an indication of the duality of Qatar policies," said the statement from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain.

It shows that Qatar "announces fighting terrorism on one hand and finances and supports and hosts different terrorist organisations on the other hand," they said.

The list, however, contains at least two names already designated internationally as terrorist financiers, and against whom Qatar took action, according to a previous US department of state report.

Those two, Sa'd al-Ka'bi and Abd al-Latif al-Kawari, are among dozens of individuals and entities named Friday by Saudi Arabia and its three allies. (AFP)

# Israel advances settlement plans despite Donald Trump's plea

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israel has advanced plans for more than 3,000 homes in West Bank settlements this week, despite US President Donald Trump's call to hold back on such projects as he seeks ways to restart peace efforts.

Israel pushed forward with the plans as it also marked 50 years since the Six-Day War, fought from June 5-10, 1967 and which began its continuing occupation of the West Bank.

A total of 3,178 housing units were advanced in a number of different settlements, the Peace Now NGO that tracks settlement growth told AFP on Thursday.

They are the first new settlement announcements since Trump's visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories last month, when he tried to encourage both sides back to the negotiating table.

Trump has called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold back on settlement building for now, but the right-

wing Israeli leader has been under intense pressure from settler leaders.

The powerful settler movement wields heavy influence in Netanyahu's right-wing governing coalition.

On Tuesday, a defence ministry planning committee advanced 1,500 units, while more than 900 more were added on Wednesday, Peace Now said.

In a separate process, 688 homes were advanced by the committee late on Wednesday and will now go out for a 60-day public comment period during which objections can be filed.

The plans are at various stages in the process and the units are in a number of settlements across the West Bank.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas condemned the plan for the new housing units.

Israeli authorities did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

More than 600,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank, including in annexed east Jerusalem.

They live alongside some three million Palestinians.

Settlements are considered illegal under international law and are seen as a major obstacle to peace and the so-called two state solution -- the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Israel blames Palestinian incitement and intransigence for the ongoing conflict.

While the majority of the planned homes are in pre-existing settlements, some will be built in the first new official settlement in some 25 years, Peace Now said.

Last month, Trump visited Israel and the Palestinian territories, meeting both Netanyahu and Abbas as he seeks what he has called the "ultimate deal".

However, Trump has given no details about how he plans to restart talks, and there is deep

skepticism over whether such an effort would have any chance of success.

Netanyahu has said he still supports a two-state solution, but peace advocates say his actions show otherwise.

On Tuesday, the premier told settlers he would keep building across the West Bank.

"Netanyahu has been trying to hold back but he has been under very strong pressure from the settlement movement," Ofer Zalberg of the International Crisis Group think tank said.

"In the last two weeks there has been an all-out war and he caved in."

Abbas's spokesman called Netanyahu's statements a "challenge" to Trump and the international community.

"It is a challenge to Trump's efforts to create an appropriate atmosphere for a serious political process, and a blatant challenge to the international community as a whole," a statement said. (AFP)



# 97% GIRLS ARE FINE WITH MARRYING A YOUNGER GUY: SURVEY

A social media study 'Girls Are Ok, Are Guys,' conducted by the online matchmaking brand Bharat Matrimony, attempted to bust some myths about what is acceptable to girls when it comes to finding a life partner.

The survey witnessed over 2100 responses. Bharat Matrimony posed 10 "Are You Ok" questions to girls including "if the guy is a mamma's boy", "someone who doesn't like shopping, "someone who leaves stuff all over the house", "someone who's younger to you! Some of the key insights from the survey:

- A whopping 97 percent of girls said that they were ok to marry a guy younger than them.
- 80 percent of those surveyed said that they have no problem with a mamma's boy and it definitely does not mean they lack independence in life.
- 95 percent of the audience said that are fine with living in a joint family. Out of this, 60 percent were girls and 35 percent guys.
- 90 percent of the girls say that they would leave the room as it is until he cleans the room he has messed up!
- Lack of patience and boredom are main reasons why guys don't like to accompany girls for shopping.
- Women say that they would emotionally blackmail a guy or cook a nice meal for him when they wish to get the TV remote in their hands!
- Attitude and understanding are more important than looks while choosing a life partner.



- Guys don't need to sacrifice their hobbies and can continue to play cricket or pursue other games and arts even after marriage.
- Most girls feel that their individuality needs to be respected and that they should not be compared with the guy's mother.
- 85 percent girls prefer to find a life partner who lives close to their hometown since they can

continue to spend time with their parents even after marriage.

Kaushik Tiwari, VP - head of marketing at Matrimony.com said, "Our social media campaign was to dispel myths about what girls are okay with when it comes to marriage. The campaign offered a platform to build conversations around this and the results were surprising. It helps girls and guys understand each other better."

Source: ANI

## FOOD CORNER

### ANDHRA BRINJAL CURRY

#### INGREDIENTS

200 gm cubed eggplant/ brinjal, 1 chopped onion, 1 tablespoon refined oil, 1 dash mustard seeds, 1/2 teaspoon ground garlic, 1/2 teaspoon ground poppy seeds, 1 clove, 1/2 tablespoon powdered jaggery, 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, 1 pinch, powdered turmeric, 1/4 cup tamarind extract, 1/2 cup grated coconut, 1/2 teaspoon moong dal, 1/8 teaspoon asafoetida, 1/2 teaspoon coriander powder, 1/2 inch cinnamon stick, 1/2, teaspoon yoghurt (curd), 2 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon ground sesame seeds

#### Method

Heat oil in a pan over moderate flame. Fry the moong dal, mustard seeds, turmeric powder, coconut, chilli powder and cook for a few minutes. Now add tamarind pulp mixed with a little water. Simmer for 5 to 7 minutes with the lid on.

Now add coriander powder and brinjals. Fry till the brinjals change colour. Cover the pan with a lid and allow it to cook on low flame. Simmer till brinjals are soft. Add poppy seeds, cinnamon and cloves. Stir well.

After few minutes, add curd, jaggery and salt. Keep stirring. Add sesame seeds, turmeric powder, coconut, chilli powder and cook for a few minutes. Now add tamarind pulp mixed with a little water. Simmer for 5 to 7 minutes with the lid on.



Once the curry is ready, transfer it to a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves. This delicious main dish recipe goes well with naan and steamed rice. Serve hot.



## GROOM YOUR EYEBROWS AT HOME

How many times have you missed going to the salon right before an office party, only to dread partying with undone eyebrows? But worry not, we tell you ways you can do it yourself at home.

#### Get your tools

To flaunt a set of striking eyebrows you need the perfect tool for it. For example, gather tweezers, a spoolie brush, a pair of small eyebrow grooming scissors and a brow pencil. These tools will help you groom your eyebrows properly.

#### Map it well

Use the end of your tweezers or the end of your spoolie brush to line it vertically along the outer edge of the bottom of your nose. Then, use an eyebrow pencil to draw a line to mark the start of each eyebrow. But when you are doing this, make sure that the space above the bridge of your nose is centered in between and pluck the stray hairs in between this area.

#### Find the end lines

An excellent way to sport the perfect eyebrows is by lining the ends. Take the end of your tweezer or brush and line it up against your cheek with the top at the end of your nose and the other end at the corner of your eye. Take an eyebrow pencil and draw a line where your hair should end tweeze any hair outside the line.

#### Lift your brows

A great way to grooming your eyebrows well is to use your brush to brush your eyebrow hair upwards. By doing this, your brows will look fuller and your hairs trimmed. Also carefully snip any hairs that are longer than your natural brow line.

#### Shape your brows

No matter what your brow type is - bushy or thin, you can always shape them well. If you have bushy eyebrows, try tweezing the underside of your brows to open up the eye area. If you have thin brows, use an eyebrow pencil or brow powder to draw the shape over your brow before you start and then only tweeze or trim outside of the shape. Source: TOI

#### TIPS

- Start by brushing your brows into shape with a spoolie brush.
- Use your finger to pull out a little wax. Run your finger over your brow, going with the direction of the hair.
- Start with a slightly darker color at the arch. ...
- You can set the powder by running a brow gel over it, gently.



# NEW BLOOD TEST MAY PREDICT HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE: STUDY

The blood test may help identify new treatments for Huntington's disease, a genetic brain disorder, which is fatal and currently incurable. Huntington's disease is an inherited condition in which nerve cells in the brain break down over time. The study showed that measuring the levels of neurofilament -- a protein released from damaged brain cells -- may help predict the onset of the disease as well as its progression.

"This is the first time a potential blood biomarker has been identified to track Huntington's disease so strongly," said Edward Wild from the University College London. The results showed that the patients who were carriers of the genetic mutation of the disease had neurofilament concentrations that were 2.6 times that of the control participants.

Further, the level rose throughout the disease course from premanifest to stage 2 disease, the researchers said. "Neurofilament has the potential to serve as a speedometer in Huntington's disease, since a single blood test reflects how quickly the brain is changing," Wild added.

For the study, published in the journal *Lancet Neurology*, the team measured neurofilament levels in blood samples from 366 volunteers who were followed for three years. In the group who had no symptoms at the start of the study, the level of neurofilament predicted subsequent disease onset, as volunteers with high neurofilament levels in the blood at the start were more likely to



develop symptoms in the following three years. Scientists are presently in the process of testing a new generation of so-called 'gene silencing' drugs that may put brakes on the disease. "Measuring neurofilament levels could help us figure out whether those brakes are working," Wild noted.

Huntington's disease is an incurable, hereditary brain disorder. It is a devastating disease for which there is no currently "effective" treatment.

Nerve cells become damaged, causing various parts of the brain to deteriorate. The disease affects movement, behavior and cognition - the affected individuals' abilities to walk, think, reason and talk are gradually eroded to such a point that they eventually become entirely reliant on other people for their care.

Huntington's disease has a major emotional, mental, social and economic impact on the lives of patients, as well as their families.



## Most women don't have healthy weight during pregnancy

A vast majority of women are not achieving a healthy weight during pregnancy, an Australian study released on Wednesday has found.

Researchers from Monash University undertook a comprehensive study of 1.3 million pregnant women worldwide and found that more than half gained too much weight during pregnancy while a quarter did not gain enough weight, reports Xinhua news agency.

Helena Teede, the lead researcher, warned that women who did not gain enough weight faced an increased risk of premature birth while those who put on too much were more likely to require a caesarean birth.

Researchers analysed more than 5,300 international studies of pregnant women and found that at the beginning of pregnancy 38 percent of women were overweight or obese, 55 percent were "normal weight" and 7 percent were underweight.

Teede said women who started at a higher weight were more likely to gain weight quicker as the pregnancy progressed.

"You should not put on any weight in the first trimester, a little in the second trimester and just a little more in the third," Teede told Australian media on Wednesday.

"You should only increase your calorie intake by a small amount. You are not eating for two."

She said the study highlighted the need for strategies to monitor and optimize healthy weight among expected mothers.

"This latest study means - more than ever - that weight needs to be monitored in pregnancy and women provided with support to improve lifestyle," Teede said in a statement.

Health professionals need to be encouraged and trained in having "healthy conversations" introducing relatively simple effective lifestyle interventions to support women before, during and after pregnancy.

"We know what to do and now need to implement the available evidence into action to help women and the next generation be healthier."

## Make these lifestyle changes for a healthy thyroid

A few lifestyle changes can make a big difference if you have thyroid issues. A well maintained diet and exercise plan can maintain and regulate your thyroid to function well.

Choose from these foods to have a healthy thyroid

- To include iodine in your diet you can include sea vegetables and seafood apart from egg, spinach, garlic and sesame seeds.
- For a good selenium count include mushrooms, meat, sunflower seeds and soya bean.
- Zinc encourages a healthy thyroid so have peas, walnuts, whole grains, almonds.
- Iron plays an important role so have oysters, lentils, pumpkin seeds in good quantity.

### How to Know If You Are Hypothyroid

Identifying hypothyroidism and its cause is tricky business. Many of the symptoms of hypothyroidism are vague and overlap with other disorders. Physicians often miss a thyroid problem since they rely on just a few traditional



tests, leaving other clues undetected.

The most sensitive way to find out is to listen to your body. People with a sluggish thyroid usually experience:

- Lethargy - Fatigue and lack of energy are typical signs of thyroid dysfunction. Depression has also been linked to the condition. If you've been diagnosed with depression, make it a point that your physician checks your thyroid levels.
- It's essential to note that not all tiredness or lack of energy can be

blamed on a dysfunctional thyroid gland. Thyroid-related fatigue begins to appear when you cannot sustain energy long enough, especially when compared to a past level of fitness or ability. If your thyroid foundation is weak, sustaining energy output is going to be a challenge. You will notice you just don't seem to have the energy to do the things like you used to.

- Some of the obvious signs of thyroid fatigue include:
- Feeling like you don't have the energy to exercise, and typically not exercising on a consistent basis
- A heavy or tired head, especially in the afternoon; your head is a very sensitive indicator of thyroid hormone status
- Falling asleep as soon as you sit down when you don't have anything to do
- Weight gain - Easy weight gain or difficulty losing weight, despite an aggressive exercise program and watchful eating, is another indicator.



## HUBBLE CAPTURES UNIVERSE'S BRIGHTEST GALAXIES



**NEW YORK (TIP):** Using a cosmic magnifying-glass effect, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured unique close-up views of the brightest infrared galaxies in the universe that are as much as 10,000 times more luminous than the Milky Way.

The cosmic magnifying effect, a phenomenon called gravitational lensing, occurs when the intense gravity of a massive galaxy or cluster of galaxies magnifies the light of fainter, more distant background sources.

The galaxy images revealed a tangled web of misshapen objects punctuated by exotic patterns such as rings and arcs.

The odd shapes are due largely to the foreground lensing galaxies' powerful gravity distorting the images of the background galaxies.

The unusual forms also may have been produced by spectacular collisions between distant, massive galaxies in a sort of cosmic demolition derby, the researchers observed.

"We have hit the jackpot of gravitational lenses," said lead researcher James Lowenthal of Smith College in Massachusetts, US.

"These ultra-luminous galaxies are very rare. Gravitational lensing magnifies them so that you can see small details that otherwise are unimaginable. We want to understand what's powering these monsters, and gravitational lensing allows us to study them," he added.

The results were presented at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Austin, Texas.

The galaxies are ablaze with runaway star formation, pumping out more than 10,000 new stars a year. This unusually rapid star birth occurred at the peak of the universe's star-making boom more than 8 billion years ago, the light from which we are observing now.

The star-birth frenzy creates lots of dust, which enshrouds the galaxies, making them too faint to detect in visible light. But they glow fiercely in infrared light, shining with the brilliance of 10 trillion to 100 trillion suns, the researchers noted.

According to researchers, there are only a few dozen of these bright infrared galaxies exist in the universe, scattered across the sky, which may hold clues to how galaxies formed billions of years ago. *Source: IANS*

## ANTARCTICA ICEBERG AT BRINK OF BREAKING OFF

**LONDON (TIP):** A big rift on the Antarctic ice shelf has grown an additional 17 km in last six days, say scientists who suggest that a massive iceberg is now at the brink of breaking off.

The rift tip is now within 13 km of breaking all the way through to the ice front. The break off will produce one of the largest ever-recorded icebergs at the South Pole.

In the largest jump since January, the rift in the Larsen C Ice Shelf has grown an additional 17 km between May 25 and May 31.

The rift tip appears also to have turned significantly towards the ice front, indicating that the time of calving is probably very close.

The rift has now fully breached the zone of soft 'suture' ice originating at the Cole Peninsula and there appears to be very little to prevent the iceberg from breaking away completely, according to scientists of the Project MIDAS based at Swansea University and Aberystwyth University in the UK.

Larsen C Ice Shelf is about 350 metres thick and floats on the seas at the edge of West Antarctica, holding back the flow of glaciers that feed into it.

## 'MIRACLE MATERIAL' MAY LEAD TO UNBREAKABLE PHONES



**LONDON (TIP):** Scientists have discovered a new 'miracle material' with improved chemical stability, lightness and flexibility, which could potentially be used in smartphones and other devices that are less likely to break.

Currently, most parts of a smartphone are made of silicon and other compounds, which are expensive and break easily, but with almost 1.5 billion smartphones purchased worldwide last year, manufacturers are on the lookout for something more durable and less costly, researchers said.

Researchers, including those from Queen's University Belfast in the UK, found that by combining semiconducting molecules C60 with layered materials, such as graphene and hBN, they could produce a unique material technology, which could revolutionise the concept of smart devices.

The winning combination works because hBN provides stability, electronic compatibility and isolation charge to graphene while C60 can transform sunlight into electricity.

Any smart device made from this combination would benefit from the mix of unique features, which do not exist in

materials naturally.

This process, which is called van der Waals solids, allows compounds to be brought together and assembled in a pre-defined way.

"Our findings show that this new 'miracle material' has similar physical properties to Silicon but it has improved chemical stability, lightness and flexibility, which could potentially be used in smart devices and would be much less likely to break," said Elton Santos from Queen's University.

"The material also could mean that devices use less energy than before because of the device architecture so could have improved battery life and less electric shocks," said Santos.

One issue that still needs to be solved is that graphene and the new material architecture is lacking a 'band gap', which is the key to the on-off switching operations performed by electronic devices, researchers said. However, the team is already looking at a potential solution - transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs).

These are a hot topic at the moment as they are very chemically stable, have large sources for production and band gaps that rival Silicon. *Source: PTI*

## FACEBOOK TO LAUNCH MESSAGING APP FOR TEENS



**NEW YORK (TIP):** In a bid to protect vulnerable teenagers from online bullying and exploitation, Facebook is reportedly launching a new messaging app that will allow parents to monitor who their children are in contact with.

The app, called Talk, cannot be searched by general public but just by the teens who use it and will be closed to strangers who are looking to take advantage of teenagers on the internet.

According to the website The Information, a software code was found in the main app that revealed signs of new parental controls that would set the app apart from Facebook's Messenger app.

The code said, "Talk is a messaging app where you fully control the contacts and your child uses the Talk app to chat with you in Messenger."

The app is expected to be for those who are 13-year-old and above and will not require the user to have a Facebook profile.

Recently, The Australian newspaper reported that the social network can help advertisers target users as young as 14.

While the parental controls in the new messaging app may turn some teens off due to limitations on their freedom on the social media, the service may be helpful to parents who are worried about their inability to monitor to whom their kids talk to online. *Source: IANS*

## Apple's iOS 11 to restrict logging into apps using social media platforms

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Over the years Facebook has made it easier for its users to log into the third-party apps through its platform but not anymore as Apple has introduced a feature in iOS 11 that will prevent them to log into third-party apps using a social media account.

Apple announced this subtle change to the system settings at its Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in San Jose on Monday.

Without system-level integration, iOS may fall back on the mobile web, The Verge reported.

"Log into Facebook once in mobile Safari and when you go to log in to a third-party app using a social network, it should be able to remember you. But



that approach lacks the certainty and ease of setup, that system-level integrations afforded," the website noted. Apple might replace its system-level social account feature with a password autofill feature.

Software engineer at Apple, Ricky Mondello, tweeted: "I'm thrilled to introduce Password AutoFill for Apps. If your app has a login screen, I have information for you."

Apple CEO Tim Cook launched iOS 11 with over 10 new features.

He said iOS 10 had nearly 96 per cent satisfaction with 86 per cent iPhone users installing the update as compared to only seven per cent Android users who installed Android Nougat--the latest version of Google's operating system.

Apple also unveiled a bunch of refinements in its other platforms--tvOS, watchOS and macOS--with watchOS 4 and updates to its Mac line of desktops and notebooks. *Source: IANS*



# INDIA, 67 NATIONS SIGN PACT TO CHECK TAX EVASION BY MNCs

**PARIS/NEW DELHI (TIP):** India and 67 countries have put in place an agreement to plug loopholes in existing laws that allowed companies to evade taxes by artificially shifting their place of business.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley signed the multilateral convention, an outcome of the OECD/G20 Project, to tackle base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS). BEPS is resorted to by MNCs through tax planning strategies by exploiting gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

“The convention will modify India’s treaties in order to curb revenue loss through treaty abuse and base erosion and profit-shifting strategies by ensuring that profits are taxed where substantive economic activities generating the profits are carried out and where value is created,” a Finance Ministry statement had said yesterday.

Experts said MNCs doing businesses in India would find it difficult to evade taxes by artificially shifting their place of business.

Artificial avoidance of permanent establishment (PE) by MNCs is the key concern of each signatory country since this is the main source of base erosion. MNCs often resort to artificial shifting of profits to low or no-tax locations, resulting in little or no overall corporate tax being paid.

In the future, corporates will have to ensure the treaty provisions are not



## Wings clipped

- MNCs often resort to artificial shifting of profits to low or no-tax locations, resulting in little or no overall corporate tax being paid.
- “By signing this unique multi-lateral instrument (MLI), corporates have been given the final call that their game of funnelling income to low-tax or no-tax jurisdiction is up,” said Rakesh Nangia, Managing Partner, Nangia and Co.

read on a stand-alone basis, but with the corresponding provisions of the convention.

“Governments worldwide have been patient with cross-border aggressive tax planning till now, but by signing this unique multi-lateral instrument (MLI), corporates have been given the final call that their game of funnelling

income to low tax or no tax jurisdiction is up,” said Rakesh Nangia, Managing Partner, Nangia and Co. According to EY International Tax Services Partner Rajendra Nayak, 1,100 tax treaties would be modified worldwide as a result of 68 jurisdictions signing the MLI.

Source: PTI

## RBI keeps repo rate unchanged

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today left policy rates unchanged to watch the inflation trajectory further and warned that the risk of fiscal slippages has risen with the announcements of large farm loan waivers by state governments.

The warning on fiscal targets due to farm loan waivers was a part of the policy statement released by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI. “The risk of fiscal slippages, which by and large can entail inflationary spillovers, has risen with the announcements of large farm loan waivers,” it said.

RBI Governor Urjit Patel said that unless the state governments’ budgets allow fiscal space to go in for a loan waiver, it would be risky to tread on that path. Patel said that the risk of going down the “slippery path” of waiver could dissipate the important gains that the states made in fiscal rectitude over the past 2-3 years.

“Past episodes in our country had shown that when there are significant fiscal slippages, they do permeate to inflation sooner or later. So, it is a path that we need to tread very carefully and before it gets out of hand,” he said.

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh had waived farm loans worth Rs 36,000 crore and a loan waiver has been promised in Maharashtra which would cost the state exchequer an estimated Rs 30,000 crore.

Farmers in Madhya Pradesh too have been agitating since June 1 seeking loan waiver, higher minimum support prices and other benefits.

The Centre has clarified on several occasions that states can provide loan waivers from their own resources.

The RBI for the fourth straight time kept the repo rate — at which it lends to the banks — unchanged at 6.25 per cent. The reverse repo, at which RBI borrows, will be 6 per cent.

“The current state of the economy underscores the need to revive private investment, restore banking sector health and remove infrastructural bottlenecks. Monetary policy can play a more effective role only when these factors are in place. Premature action at this stage risks disruptive policy reversals later and the loss of credibility,” the statement said.

Bankers say that there would be room for cuts as the RBI has lowered inflation prospects and also welcomed the boost for home finance.

## Trump Organization launches new mid-range hotel chain ‘American Idea’

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Trump Organization, which for years focused on high-end, luxury real estate, on Tuesday announced a new foray into the domestic hotel market with a chain of middle-of-the-range hotels.

The venture was inspired by travels by the Trump children on father Donald Trump’s presidential election campaign last year, when they were introduced to lackluster hotels in the US hinterland, The New York Times reported.

The new line will be called American Idea and three agreements have been signed for properties in the Mississippi Delta area, announced Trump Hotels, which is part of The Trump Organization. “American Idea hotels will be an alternative, for both guests and hotel developers, looking for an answer to the run-of-the-mill offerings currently in the midscale space,” Trump Hotels announced. “Guests will enjoy local flavor and genuine service in an environment that pays respect to the unique culture of each destination,” it added.

The New York Times reported that during the campaign, the Trump children would report back about thousands of supporters attending rallies and what they saw as a chance to build a line of hotels standing out from standardized options.

## Fuel prices to change daily from June 16



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Come June 16 and petrol as well as diesel prices across the country will be revised on a daily basis in sync with international rates as happens in most advanced markets.

After the successful pilot in five cities, state-owned oil companies will from June 16 revise rates on a daily basis across all the 58,000 petrol pumps in the country.

Petrol and diesel price will change on a daily basis by a few paisa per litre depending on movement of oil prices in international market and variation in foreign exchange rates.

Rates will vary from city to city as well as from petrol pump to petrol pump with Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) deciding to follow a marginal differential pricing.

“We are moving into a dynamic pricing. Correction in prices now happen after a gap of a fortnight but from now on it will be on daily basis to reflect the cost,” IOC Chairman Sanjiv Singh said.

Daily price change will remove the big leaps in rates that need to be effected at the end of the fortnight and consumer will be more aligned to market dynamics.

The three firms in separate but identical statements said they implemented daily revision of retail selling price (RSP) of petrol and diesel on a pilot basis in Udaipur in Rajasthan, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, Puducherry, Chandigarh and Vizag in Andhra Pradesh from May 1.

“After its successful implementation, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have now decided to start daily revision in RSP of petrol and diesel in the entire country with effect from June 16, 2017,” the statement said.

State fuel retailers currently revise rates on 1st and 16th of every month based on average international price of the fuel in the preceding fortnight and currency exchange rate.

Instead of using fortnightly average, pump rates will reflect daily movement in international oil prices and rupee-US dollar fluctuations.

“Daily price revisions of petrol and diesel will make the retail prices more reflective of the current market conditions, minimising the volatility in the retail price,” the statements said. This, it said, would lead to increased transparency in the system. “This will also enable smoother flow of products from refinery/depots to retail outlets (petrol pumps),” the statement said. “Many developed countries are already revising the prices of petrol and diesel on a daily basis.” While petrol price was freed from government control in June 2010, diesel rates were deregulated in October 2014.

Technically, oil companies have freedom to revise rates but often they have been guided by political considerations.

Rates differ by only a few paise between pumps of the three state fuel retailers. Unbranded petrol at IOC pumps in Delhi costs Rs 66.91 per litre, while the same at BPCL pumps in the city is priced at Rs 66.99 a litre. HPCL pumps sell for Rs 67.12 per litre. Unbranded diesel at IOC pumps in Delhi costs Rs 55.94, Rs 55.99 at BPCL outlets and Rs 60.94 a litre at HPCL pumps.

With daily changes, which are unlikely to more than few paise per litre, the political pressures for not revising rates, particularly when they are to be hiked, will go, sources said.

Petrol price was last revised downward by Rs 1.23 a litre on June 1, and diesel rates were cut by Rs 89 paise.

“Public Sector OMCs are taking steps to establish an appropriate mechanism for conveying the prices to consumers every day, including daily publishing of the prices in newspaper on a daily basis, prominent displays of prices at the retail outlets, sending of price-related data/SMS from the centralised locations, mobile apps etc,” the statements said.

Source: PTI



contd from Page 1

**'Lies, Plain and Simple...**

firing in May. "The administration then chose to defame me and more importantly the FBI, by saying the organization was poorly led," Comey said at the onset of his testimony. "Those were lies, plain and simple."

Mr. Trump and his allies have criticized Comey's tenure numerous times since his firing. The president even reportedly called Comey a "real nut job" during his meeting with Russian diplomats. Last month, Deputy White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that Comey had "lost the confidence" of the FBI's rank-and-file agents, which Comey, among others, dispute.

**Why he was fired:** Comey told the committee that he does "take him at his word" on one thing -- that he was terminated over the Russia investigation.

Comey said the "shifting explanations" for his ouster "confused" and increasingly, "concerned" him, as the White House's official explanation for his firing contradicted that of the president's. Comey said he couldn't be sure of why the president fired him, but that he believes the president's public comments.

After firing Comey, Mr. Trump told NBC's Lester Holt he thought of the thought of "made-up" story of ties between Russia and the Trump campaign when he fired Comey, and he told Russian diplomats that firing Comey relieved "great pressure" on him from the FBI's Russia probe.

"I take the president at his word that I was fired because of the Russia investigation," Comey said in the hearing. And he went further, suggesting that the president hoped to "change" the way the Russia probe was being conducted.

"I was fired in some way to change the way the Russia investigation was being conducted," Comey said. "That is a big deal. On top of that, the Russia investigation itself is vital because of the threat. And if any American were part of that, that is a very big deal."

**Comey leaked:** How did the existence of Comey's memos make it to the press? He leaked them.

Comey says he believes the memos were his personal property and written in his capacity as a private citizen, although he has now turned them over to Special Counsel Robert Mueller. In fact, Comey says he hoped that by sharing what he had written in the memos with the news media, he could help trigger the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Comey, however, did not leak the memos to the press himself. Nor did he rely on his friend Benjamin Wittes, a legal blogger who frequently teases new revelations in the Russia investigation with his Twitter account. Instead, Comey said that he turned to a "good friend" who teaches at Columbia Law School to share what he had written with the memos. That friend, CBS News' Andres Triay reports, is Daniel Richman, a law professor at Columbia.

**"Lordy, I hope there are tapes" :** Mr. Trump tweeted after firing Comey last month that the ex-FBI chief "better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!" Comey says this tweet inspired him to leak the contents of his memos to the press, because he felt he "needed to get that out into the public square."

"Lordy, I hope there are tapes," Comey said during a back-and-forth with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, to laughter from the crowd. He later said that if Mr. Trump had indeed recorded any of their conversations that he hoped they would be released. He also disclosed that Special Counsel Robert Mueller has his memos.

**Loretta Lynch's strange request:** Comey said his reasoning behind his much-criticized

July 2016 announcement that the FBI would not recommend charges against Hillary Clinton over her private email server had a lot to do with then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch holding a private meeting with former President Bill Clinton on a Phoenix, Arizona tarmac.

But that wasn't the only reason he decided to make the announcement. "Probably the only other consideration that I guess I can talk about in open setting is that at one point the attorney general had directed me not to call it an investigation, but instead to call it a 'matter,' which confused me and concerned me, but that was one of the bricks in the load that led me to conclude I have to step away from the department if we're to close this case credibly," Comey said.

**Trump is not under investigation -- or, rather, he wasn't:** As Comey said in his written statement before the hearing, Comey did in fact inform Mr. Trump three times that he was not personally under investigation. Mr. Trump, Comey said, was frustrated that the FBI did not make this public, and asked Comey to make it so several times. But Comey had serious reservations about letting it be known that Mr. Trump wasn't under investigation, among them that if that information were to be made public, the FBI would then have to announce that Mr. Trump was under investigation if that ever became the case.

Of course, whether Mr. Trump is under investigation now is impossible to know, since Comey was fired on May 9, and the Russia investigation may have expanded since then.

Who all are the guys on Intelligence Committee who questioned James Comey?

**Richard Burr, Republican of North Carolina:** The chairman of the committee, which he joined in 2007, Mr. Burr embraced President Trump during the campaign. But he has earned praise from his peers in both parties in recent weeks for the seriousness with which he has taken his role in leading the Senate's investigation.

**Mark Warner, Democrat of Virginia:** Mr. Warner, the highest-ranking Democrat on the committee, has thrived in the spotlight that the investigation brings. He has in the past expressed presidential ambitions and has praised Mr. Burr, whom he calls a friend, for his leadership of the committee.

**Jim Risch, Republican of Idaho:** Mr. Risch was elected to the Senate in 2009 and has been a member of the committee since then. He is one of Mr. Trump's strongest supporters in Congress and has expressed significant concern about leaks to the news media. He is a former governor of Idaho.

**Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California:** Ms. Feinstein, who was once the head of the committee, has in the past criticized Mr. Comey for his actions in the investigation into Hillary Clinton's email server. But she expressed concern after he was fired in May and said then that she believed he should "absolutely" testify before the other committee on which she sits, the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida:** A candidate for president in 2016, Mr. Rubio joined the Intelligence Committee in 2011. Mr. Rubio has been willing to criticize Mr. Trump, his former campaign rival, and has been dismissive of the president's complaints that the Russia investigation is a "witch hunt."

"We are nation of laws, and we are going to follow those laws," Mr. Rubio said recently.

**Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon:** Mr. Wyden, who has been on the panel since 2001, has been a strong critic of the Trump administration and had early on called for Mr. Comey to appear in front of the committee.

**Susan Collins, Republican of Maine:** Ms. Collins, who has been on the committee since 2013, is known as one of the more moderate Republicans now serving in the Senate. She has been tougher on the president than many colleagues in her party. "I really want to know

the truth no matter who is implicated, no matter where the evidence leads," she told The Times last month.

**Martin Heinrich, Democrat of New Mexico:** Mr. Heinrich joined the committee when he arrived in the Senate in 2013. He pushed the F.B.I.'s acting director, Andrew McCabe, to assert that Mr. Comey still enjoyed "broad support" among the agency's rank and file.

**Roy Blunt, Republican of Missouri:** Mr. Blunt, along with Ms. Collins, has been a strong supporter of Congress's investigation into Russia's actions in the 2016 presidential election. A former acting house majority leader, he has been on the panel twice, leaving after 2012 and rejoining in 2015.

**Angus King, Independent of Maine (Caucuses with Democrats):** Mr. King, a former governor of Maine, has been on the committee since he joined the senate in 2013. One of the most steadfast members of the committee, he caused a stir on Wednesday when he pressed Mr. McCabe and other intelligence officials on why they could not elaborate on earlier conversations they had with Mr. Comey.

**James Lankford, Republican of Oklahoma:** Mr. Lankford, who was once a Baptist youth minister, joined the committee in 2015. He has insisted on the seriousness of its investigation into Russia's alleged interference and has said that he hopes that Mr. Comey's hearing will "hopefully end speculation and lead us to facts."

**Joe Manchin, Democrat of West Virginia:** Mr. Manchin, a moderate Democrat and a former governor of West Virginia, is known for crossing the aisle. He joined the Senate in 2011 and was assigned to the committee this year. He told the news media that Mr. Comey, shortly before his firing, had sought more resources for the Russia investigation.

**Tom Cotton, Republican of Arkansas:** A former member of the U.S. Army and the youngest U.S. senator, Mr. Cotton has expressed skepticism of Mr. Comey's accounts of his interactions with Mr. Trump. He joined the committee in 2015.

**Kamala Harris, Democrat of California:** Ms. Harris was ferocious in her calls for a special prosecutor to supervise the F.B.I.'s Russia investigation. Often named as a potential presidential candidate, Ms. Harris, a former attorney general of California, was assigned to the committee this year when she joined the Senate. She has expressed impatience with the Senate's probe, saying that she thinks it needs to be sped up.

**John Cornyn, Republican of Texas:** Mr. Cornyn, the majority whip, only recently joined the panel. He is one of Mr. Trump's stronger allies in Congress and was reportedly being considered to replace Mr. Comey before taking himself out of the running last month.

Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island, and John McCain, Republican of Arizona, also questioned Mr. Comey on Thursday. As the leaders of the Armed Services Committee, they are "ex officio" members of the Intelligence Committee, as are the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, and the Senate minority leader, Chuck Schumer.

**Indus-American Bank...**

Bank will merge with BCB Community Bank and will operate as a division of BCB Community Bank. Following the closing of the merger, BCB will form an advisory board which will consist of current members of the IAB board of directors and other prominent community members.

Indus-American Bank, which has its headquarters in Edison, operates full-service branches in Edison, Jersey City, Parsippany and Plainsboro, and Hicksville, New York. Indus-American Bank was founded primarily to meet the banking needs of the South Asian

American community. Indus-American Bank specializes in core business banking products for small- to medium-sized companies, with an emphasis on real estate-based lending.

Mark D. Hogan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, stated, "We are extremely excited and pleased to welcome Indus-American customers and employees to BCB. Our partnership with Indus-American is consistent with BCB's strategic plan of executing smart growth via expansions and organic branching. This transaction will allow the combined entities to further develop our existing markets in Jersey City and Edison, and will provide further opportunities in Parsippany, Plainsboro and Hicksville, New York, three new, attractive markets for BCB."

The total transaction value is approximately \$20 million, including the assumption by BCB of approximately \$7.5 million of IAB preferred stock, outstanding shares of IAB common stock of approximately 4.18 million and based on a 10-day volume weighted average price of BCB common stock. Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, which both boards of directors have approved, IAB shareholders shall be entitled to elect to receive either 0.189 shares of BCB common stock or \$3.05 in cash for each share of IAB common stock, subject to an overall allocation of exchanged IAB shares into 80% BCB common stock and 20% cash. The closing and the systems' conversion is anticipated to occur in the fourth quarter of 2017, subject to approval by IAB shareholders, regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions. On a pro forma basis, the transaction is expected to be accretive to the Company's 2018 earnings by approximately 10% per share, with tangible book value per share dilution of approximately 1.3% and an earn-back period of approximately 1.2 years.

Anil Bansal, Chairman of the Board of Directors of IAB, said, "We believe our loyal Indus-American Bank customers and shareholders will greatly benefit from this merger. BCB is a true community bank, with a history of a very strong commitment to its customers and the communities it serves. This merger will bring expanded lending capacity, supplementary retail and business products and added capital, which should enable our combined organizations to better serve our customers, to continue growing in our marketplaces, and to further enhance shareholder value."

Thomas Coughlin, President and Chief Executive Officer of the company and the Bank, added, "BCB is excited to be partnering with IAB and Indus-American Bank. Indus-American Bank's branch locations complement BCB's current locations. BCB will continue Indus-American Bank's commitment of service to its customers and its communities. The existing Indus-American branches will operate and be known as "BCB-Indus-American Bank, a division of BCB Community Bank," in recognition of the strong identity forged over the years by Indus-American Bank."

The merger will add approximately \$235 million to the Company's asset base, based on IAB's assets as of March 31, 2017. Following completion of the merger, the Company will have total assets of over \$2 billion, based on IAB's and BCB's respective assets as of March 31, 2017.

The merger is subject to customary closing conditions, including the receipt of regulatory approvals and IAB shareholder approval. The merger is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2017.

FinPro Capital Advisors, Inc. acted as financial advisor to BCB Bancorp, Inc., and its legal counsel was Covington & Burling LLP. Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. acted as financial advisor to IA Bancorp, Inc., and its legal counsel was Windels, Marx, Lane & Mittendorf, LLP.

(Based on a press release)



### Schedule of Events

Friday, July 21, 2017

11:00 AM— Registration and Lunch\*

12:45 PM— Announcements and Rules

1:00 PM— Shotgun start  
(Foursome Scramble)

5:00 PM— Awards Ceremony with  
Food / Drink

> \*Full lunch will be provided

> Drinks for sale from the roving  
refreshment carts.

-Prizes and Contests

-Longest Drive, Longest Putt, Hole in One,  
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-Mulligans will be available

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### Golf For Sight



Friday, July 21, 2017

Morgantown, WV



# SRI LANKA STUN INDIA, STAY IN HUNT FOR SEMIFINALS



Angelo Mathews led Sri Lanka home, India v Sri Lanka, Champions Trophy 2017, The Oval, London, June 8, 2017. Pic courtesy Getty Images

**Chasing 322 to stay alive in ICC Champions Trophy 2017, Sri Lanka gunned down the target with seven wickets in hand. The win over India makes the Group B very interesting now. Winner of India vs South Africa, Pakistan vs Sri Lanka to enter semis.**

**LONDON (TIP):** Sri Lanka have pulled off a stunning run chase to upset defending champions India by seven wickets and force the two remaining Group B matches into virtual quarter-finals.

Set 322 to win after Shikhar Dhawan blazed a brilliant century, Sri Lanka – through significant contributions from their middle-order – reached the victory target and their equal-highest ODI pursuit ever with eight balls to spare. The win means all four teams in Group B have one win and one loss next to their name following Pakistan's upset win over South Africa yesterday in Birmingham.

Sunday will see reigning champions India and world No.1 South Africa square off at The Oval while on Monday Sri Lanka and Pakistan will do battle in Cardiff, with the winners advancing to the semi-finals and the losers eliminated. The run chase was set up by a 159-run second-wicket stand between Danushka Gunathilaka (76) and Kusal Mendis (89) before returning captain Angelo Mathews (52no) and Asela Gunaratne (34no) iced the game. Mathews won the toss and sent India in under gloomy London skies, but as it has refused to do all tournament, the white Kookaburra ball didn't swing for Sri Lanka's new ball bowlers. Taking full advantage of the

lack of shape in the air, Dhawan and Rohit Sharma picked up where they left off against Pakistan and found the boundary at will. The pair brought up their 10th century opening stand in ODIs and their fourth in Champions Trophies to extend their lead as the most prolific first-wicket combination in the tournament's history.

Rohit was the aggressor and the first to go having survived a dropped catch that fell over the rope to bring up his half-century. On 78, and after top-edging Lastith Malinga for six the ball before, Rohit's luck ran out when he skied a catch to the fine-leg fielder and end his partnership with Dhawan on 138 in the 25th over. Six balls later India's first-drop and captain Virat Kohli was back in the dressing room sitting next to Rohit after edging Nuwan Pradeep behind looking to get off the mark with a dab to third man for one.

Unfazed, Dhawan marched towards his 10th

ODI century, reaching the milestone in the 40th over and the 77th innings of his career, three knocks faster than India's 50-over benchmark Kohli. The swashbuckling left-hander left the field dismissed on 125 in the 45th to a standing ovation from the healthy Indian supporter base at The Oval, who still had one champion to cheer on.

MS Dhoni was busy during his 52-ball stay at the crease, scampering hard between the wickets and finding the rope – either on the bounce or over it – seven times before he was dismissed for 63 in the final over. Kedar Jadav added the finishing touches with 14 runs after Dhoni's departure to lift India to 6-321 and the highest score of the tournament to date.

In reply, Sri Lanka lost Niroshan Dickwella early to bring Gunathilaka and Mendis together in the fifth over. The dynamic pair batted 23 overs and put on 159 for the second wicket, a partnership that looked untroubled by

India's diverse bowling attack. Seemingly out of ideas, captain Kohli turned to himself to try and conjure a wicket, and it worked to some degree. While Kohli didn't strike with the ball, his over did produce a wicket when a risky two proved fatal – Gunathilaka run out as Dhoni whipped off the bails in a flash.

A run out was the only plausible mode of dismissal on a fine batting track and sure enough it took another brilliant piece of fielding to remove a Sri Lankan from the middle. Gathering the ball in his follow through, Bhuvneshwar Kumar fired down the stumps at the striker's end to catch Mendis desperately short of his ground and 11 runs shy of a classy century. At 3-196 in the 33rd over the match was up for grabs, but a 61-ball 75-run stand between Kusal Perera and Mathews dramatically swung the match back towards the Sri Lankans.

Perera played magnificently for 47 before he was forced to leave the field – not from being dismissed but retired hurt with what appeared to be a hamstring injury. His replacement, Gunaratne, shrugged off a shaky start to poleaxe India's death bowlers with a rapid cameo that sealed the upset win. One audacious sweep shot, which was described by former England captain Mike Atherton as "unbelievable" on commentary, sailed over the leg-side boundary for a huge six off the bowling of paceman Jasprit Bumrah. Mathews calmly reached his half-century, albeit hobbling in the closing stages, and the victory target to set up two mouth-watering clashes and keep his side's Champions Trophy hopes alive.

## Kohli says 'we are not invincible'; lauds Sri Lanka's gutsy batting

**LONDON (TIP):** India captain Virat Kohli has lauded Sri Lanka's gutsy batting performance and said that his team was not "invincible" despite setting up a big target of 322, which he personally thought was enough to win the match.

"I personally thought that we had enough on the board at the halfway stage. And I think our bowlers also bowled decently well. If the Lankan batsmen come out and play like that and everyone plays well, you have to give credit to the opposition as well. We are not invincible. We are playing against other sides who are also champion sides (in their own rights)," Kohli said at the post-match media conference here last night.

Kohli said that rather than criticising his colleagues, he would like to compliment the kind of batsmanship displayed by Sri Lanka yesterday.

**May be, we will have to push harder now in the next few games to give us a 20-run cushion after a result like this.**

**Virat Kohli, India captain**

"If a side comes out there and plays cricket with that kind of mindset and executes their shots so well, then you have to take your hat off sometimes and say 'very well played'."

Defending champions India are now in a do-or-die situation and will now have to beat South Africa in the virtual quarter-final to progress to the last four round.

"Yes, it's become very exciting. Virtually every game is a quarter-final now. In our group especially, all teams are on two points, and you have to win your next game to go through, which

is, I think, an exciting position to be in for all teams," Kohli said.

"And for everyone involved in the tournament and the fans as well, I think, it's a great scenario where you literally have two quarter-finals now which is going to be even more competitive cricket. So we are pretty clear about the whole situation, and, it certainly has opened up the whole table for sure," the Indian skipper added.

Kohli said the "bowling collapse" last night would make him push harder for 20 runs extra when they take on South Africa at the same ground on Sunday.

"From the batting point of view, as I said, I thought we paced it well. I thought we had enough on the board. In hindsight, when you look back, maybe you think of phases that we could have accelerated, but I don't see that as a major issue. Source: PTI

## HIGHEST PAID ATHLETES: RONALDO RICHEST, VIRAT KOHLI RANKED 89TH

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli is the sole sportsperson from India to feature among the world's 100 highest paid athletes in the latest Forbes list topped by soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo. Kohli, 28, has been ranked 89th on the 2017 Forbes list of 'The World's highest paid athletes' with a total pay of \$22 million

Serena Williams, who comes in at the 51 spot with \$27 million, Tiger Woods comes in at the 17th spot. The list also includes tennis greats Novak Djokovic (16) and Rafael Nadal (33), basketball player Anthony Davis (44) and soccer star Wayne Rooney (70).

Forbes said the 100 highest-paid sports stars earned a cumulative \$3.11 billion over the past 12 months, down a per cent from last year. But the threshold to make the list rose \$600,000 to \$21.4m. The earnings figures include salaries, prize money and bonuses earned between June 2016 and June 2017.

Athletes from 21 countries are represented among the top 100, but Americans dominate the list with 63 entries thanks to soaring salaries in the professional Americans leagues like the National Basketball Association, National Football League and Major League Baseball.

Virat Kohli, 28, has been ranked 89th on the 2017 Forbes list of 'The World's highest paid athletes' with a total pay of \$22m that includes \$3m from salary and winnings and another \$19m from endorsements.



## Peacock takes out \$500 in wine after crashing liquor store

ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA (TIP): A female peacock has ruffled more than just feathers at a Los Angeles-area liquor store.

Without a peep, the peahen strutted into the open door of the Royal Oaks Liquor Store in Arcadia on Monday. Store manager and college senior Rani Ghanem said he didn't even know it was there until a customer walked in and asked him about "el pollo," Spanish for "the chicken."

Ghanem, a 21-year-old San Bernardino resident whose family owns the store, said he then tried to guide the sharp-clawed bird outside but that she spooked, at one point flying directly toward him and then up onto a top shelf of the store. And that spooked Ghanem.

An animal-control officer responded after Ghanem called 911, approaching the peahen with gloves and a fishing net. That's when the hilarity ensued, Ghanem said.

"He was trying to get it with the fishing net, and (the bird) jumped on the first wine bottle. When that happened, I was like, 'Aw, this is about to be a big mess,'" Ghanem said. "He tried to get it again with the net ... It just went straight diving into all the bottles. The more he kept on trying to use the net, the more it kept on flapping its wings and knocking everything over."

At one point, cellphone video taken by Ghanem shows the officer catching a wine bottle in the net as the bird crashes through a shelf and a dozen bottles shatter to the ground.

Unable to watch more destruction, Ghanem puts on a sweatshirt to protect himself from the bird's claws and helps the officer ensnare it.

He said they took the bird outside and that it was unharmed. In all, Ghanem said the peahen was in the store for 90 minutes and broke \$500 worth of the family store's best bottles, including champagne. (AP)

# New Jersey Hindu temple consecrating unique Krishna statue with 19-day rituals

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Shri Krishna Vrundavana Hindu temple in Edison is organizing "Shri Krishna Pratishtapana and Brahma Kalashothsava" from May 28 to June 15; involving ancient rituals, philosophical symposiums and festivities around the consecration of uniquely created Saligrama Krishna statue.

It took six months to sculpt this Lord Krishna statue from the Saligrama rock brought from the banks of Gandaki River in Nepal after months of search. This sacred statue has visited over one hundred homes of devotees in New Jersey in May after its arrival from India and before installation in the specially constructed Garbha Griham in the temple to become its main deity.

History of this Hindu temple, which now stands on the location which was earlier Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, goes back to 2002, when it was established in Iselin (New

Jersey). Temple renovation began on May one and included importing about 3,000 cubic feet of teakwood from Burma for the Garba Gudi, besides other materials from India.

Rituals-events-festivities-symposiums during this period include Sapta Shudhi, Homas, Veda Paarayanas, Japas, Balis, Samkeertanas, Saligrama Krishna Pratishtapana, various Poojas, Kalasha Pratishta, Avabhruta, Mantrakshate, discourse, music-dance performances, knowledge conference on Moksha and Karma, etc. Free lunch and dinner (Maha Prasada) is being served every day. Sri Sugunendra Teertha, the current pontiff of Shri Puthige Matha in Udupi (India), is participating.

Commending the temple leaders and area community for realizing this Hindu temple complex and organizing the ancient rituals, Rajan Zed, in a statement, pointed out that it was important to pass on Hindu spirituality, concepts and traditions to

coming generations amidst so many distractions in the consumerist society and hoped that this temple would help in this direction.

This temple, on a 3.5 acres plot and built area of about 15,000 square feet in South Edison, opens daily at 06-30 am and conducts daily morning-evening Poojas. Besides worship services, it also celebrates many Hindu festivals and conducts various free classes on Sthotra, Geetha, Sanskrit, Sandhya Vandana, Slokas, Bhajan, etc. Its "Spiritual Sundays" programming includes "sessions focused on personal growth and development" and interactive session on "Dharma Tradition".

Dress code in temple's Pooja Hall includes covering "shoulders and knees", and dhoti is compulsory "while reciting Veda mantras". It also runs a Hindu matrimonial site called Dampathi.com, which states: "Marriage is not just living the outer life but the inner life as well."

contd from Page 1

## US to host PM Modi...

This would be Modi's first trip to the US under the Trump administration. The two leaders have spoken over phone for at least three times.

Under the previous Obama Administration, Modi had a record number of eight meetings with Barack Obama. Modi traveled to Washington three times and Obama made a historic trip to India to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in 2015.

(Source: PTI)

## UK gets 1st female Sikh...

by polling 24,124 votes, defeating ruling Conservative party rival Caroline Squire by 6,917 votes.

"I am delighted I have been given the opportunity to become the next MP for Edgbaston where I was born and raised.

I want to engage with the people of Edgbaston and with hard work, passion and determination I think we can achieve great things together," she said.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese, known as Tan, won his Slough seat decisively polling 34,170 votes, to become Labour's first turban-wearing MP.

He defeated his Conservative party rival by a whopping 16,998 votes.

Dhese said he was "humbled" and wanted to serve the town where he was born and raised.

"Credit to the Labour Party leadership for taking the bold step of giving Sikhs the opportunity to fight for winnable seats. Labour now needs to turn its attention to having visible Sikh representation in the House of Lords at the first opportunity so Sikhs are better represented and can bring fresh thinking and ideas," Sikh Federation UK said in a statement.

"Although it is early in terms of results declared this appears to be a disastrous night for the Conservatives and Theresa May given what she had hoped to achieve and a good night for the Labour Party. Labour is taking

some important Conservative scalps," it added. A second turban-wearing Sikh of the Labour Party Kuldip Sahota lost out to his Conservative rival by just 720 votes.

Among some of the other Indian-origin contestants' results declared so far, Conservative party's Priti Patel has held on to her stronghold of Witham in Essex with a solid majority of 18,646 votes.

Alok Sharma has held on to Reading West by 2,876 votes and Shailesh Vara has won in Cambridgeshire North West by 18,008 votes.

The 2015 General Election first-timers for the Tories Rishi Sunak and Suella Fernandes have also held on to their seats decisively with a margin of 23,108 and 21,555 votes respectively.

For the Labour party, the longest serving Indian-origin MP Keith Vaz held on to his Leicester East seat attracting 35,116 votes and his sister Valerie Vaz also won a solid 25,286 votes to hold on to her Walsall South seat.

Lisa Nandy won in Wigan for Labour with 29,575 votes, Seema Malhotra held on to Feltham & Heston with 32,462 votes and Virendra Sharma polled 31,720 in his safe seat of Ealing Southall.

Among some of the prominent losses, Labour's Neeraj Patil - the former mayor of the London Borough of Lambeth - lost to Justine Greening, the UK's Education Minister.

He lost by a margin of 1,554 votes to Greening, who was defending her Conservative party stronghold.

Paul Uppal, who was expected to regain Wolverhampton South West for the Tories, also lost out to his Labour rival.

The Labour Party had selected 14 Indians and Conservative Party 13 as their parliamentary candidates. So far, the tally looks stronger for the Labour Party with seven Indian-origin MPs to Tory's five.

The ruling Conservative party is on course to be the single largest party in the UK general election as many of the results and leads become clear in the ongoing count.

The projections indicate that the party remains shy of an overall majority, expected to win around 322 seats, down from the 2015 General Election's 331 and short of the magic

326 figure for an overall majority in the House of Commons. (Source: PTI)

## Fort Worth to Control...

driven," he said. "The citizens' frustrations, I understand it. I drive it every day. So, anything we can do to help that would be beneficial for the city."

Shaunta Birdwell, who works at a pizza restaurant and drives on congested West Seventh Street every day, said she welcomes the change. "The lights, they all turn green and red at the same time," she said. "You just

have to be patient. And you have to have patience, because if you don't you're going to get yourself in some trouble."

(Source: NBC 5)

## UK General Elections...

and make way for a government that is truly representative of this country".

He also claimed it is "pretty clear who won this election" and that "the party that has lost in this election is the Conservative Party".

Meanwhile, even senior Tory figures have suggested she should consider her position.

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