

**08** The wheeling-dealing world of lobbying

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**23** The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference - 2017 in Durban, from 16th to 19th November 2017

**18** Radhika Apte's 'Phobia' to get sequel



## Tillerson in focus as ExxonMobil investigation intensifies

**New York Attorney-General probing if company misled investors on impact of climate change when Secretary of State was its chief executive**



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson may be questioned in ExxonMobil probe being handled by New York State Attorney General

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, may be questioned as New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman expands his sweeping probe into whether Mr. Tillerson's former employer, ExxonMobil, misled investors about the impact of climate change.

contd on page 32

## Israel backs India's fight on terror

CEOs hope to take bilateral trade to \$20 billion in 5 years

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrapped up a three-day visit to Israel with a meeting with CEOs of various companies who reportedly signed agreements worth about \$4.3 billion.

Businessmen attending the first meeting of the "CEO forum" for India-Israel cooperation, which also met Mr. Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, said the focus was on building ties currently overshadowed by one-way defense trade between the countries. A document of "joint intentions" issued by the forum, organized by FICCI, said that it hoped to take current bilateral trade of about \$4-5 billion to \$20 billion in five years "if untapped potential is fully harnessed." The document listed the biggest problems as restrictive "laws for investors" in India, and Indian business

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned from a "successful visit" to Israel where he and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu found themselves on the same page on many issues, in particular, terrorism

## CBP Announces Expansion of Global Entry to Indian Citizens



Ambassador Navtej Sarna, India's Ambassador to the U.S., was the first Indian citizen to enroll in Global Entry

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on July 3 announced the expansion of Global Entry eligibility to citizens of India. Global Entry, a CBP Trusted Traveler Program, allows for expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travelers. Indian citizens can begin applying for Global Entry through the Global Online Enrollment System (GOES) website. India becomes the 11th country overall whose citizens are eligible to enroll in Global Entry. Ambassador Navtej Sarna, India's Ambassador to the U.S., was the first Indian citizen to enroll in Global Entry.

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## Kohli surpasses Tendulkar for most tons while chasing

India's Captain Virat Kohli (L) celebrates his century with teammate Dinesh Karthik (R) during the fifth One Day International (ODI) match between West Indies and India at the Sabina Park Cricket Ground in Kingston, Jamaica, on July 6, 2017

**KINGSTON (TIP):** India skipper Virat Kohli has broken Sachin Tendulkar's record for most centuries in One-day Internationals while chasing. Kohli led from the front with a fluent century as India yesterday wrapped up the five-match series 3-1 with a convincing eight-wicket win over the West Indies. This was Kohli's 28th hundred in One-day cricket, 18 of which have come while chasing. Tendulkar took 232 innings to reach 17, while Kohli has reached the milestone in only 102 innings.

## 67-year-old Sikh postmaster stabbed; turban ripped off by robber in UK

**LONDON (TIP):** A 67-year-old Sikh postmaster in the UK was stabbed in the neck and head and his turban ripped off by a robber during a violent knife attack. Tarsem Singh Thethy was left with stab



The victim-Tarsem Singh Thethy

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# Glen Cove Annual Vaisakhi Mela draws thousands

**Vaisakhi spirit of celebration and service to the fore**



*A scintillating Bhangra performance*

**GLEN COVE, NY (TIP):** Vaisakhi commemorates the beginning of Sikhism. It is a festival celebrated by 25 million Sikhs around the world. Gurdwara Glen Cove celebrated their annual event joyously on June 25th, 2017.

Whether or not one believes number 13th to be

inauspicious or otherwise, for the organizers the number turned out to be auspicious as it was the 13th year of Vaisakhi Mela and the organizers told The Indian Panorama they were overwhelmed by joy with the turnout of 12,000 visitors and many dignitaries from Nassau County.

Surely, it was a matter of pleasure and pride for them to welcome such a large crowd and a number of dignitaries who included Judge Richard McCord, Congressman Thomas Suozzi, Ms. Barbara Peebles, Deputy Mayor of City of Glen Cove, George Maragos, Nassau County Comptroller, Dilip Chauhan, Director of Southeast Asian Affairs for Nassau County Comptroller.

"We welcomed all faiths, beliefs to enjoy, learn and celebrate together through a diverse range of colorful displays, engaging activities, entertainment and a lavish layout of free food (Langar). A shuttle service and parking was arranged for our visitors. All arrangements were organized and planned by a selfless and dedicated mela team which consisted of families from the Glen Cove Gurdwara and volunteers from all over who gave selflessly their valuable time to make the mela a memorable one", said Manmeet Kaur Lamba, General Secretary, Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur.



*The architect of Vaisakhi Mela Manmeet Kaur Lamba, General Secretary of Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur poses for a photograph with Neeta Bhasin, creator of Diwali at Times Square (right) and Harvinder Bhatia, Mela committee member (left)*



*A view of the appreciative crowd*



*Vaisakhi Mela committee members with Gurdwara Glen Cove head priest Bhai Paramjit Singh (Right)*

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# Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand honored by Nassau County

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** Nassau County Comptroller Hon. George Maragos welcomed Dr. Avadhoot Shivanand to Nassau County at a ceremony hosted by the Shiv Yog Foundation at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, June 13.

Dr. Avadhoot Shivanand is a celebrated humanitarian and spiritual leader of the global Indian community with followers in over 100 countries. His teaching of self-empowerment, sharing unconditional love, and accepting everyone in their originality is believed by his followers to have cured many psychosomatic diseases. His followers, who lovingly call him Baba Ji, felt like they were in the presence of divinity.

The honoring ceremony was attended by a standing room only audience of Nassau County followers. Comptroller George Maragos in his remarks welcomed Dr. Avadhoot Shivanand as "an inspirational spiritual leader" and presented Baba Ji with a Proclamation to commemorate the honor of his visit.

Dilip Chauhan, Prominent South Asian



*Honoring Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand. From L to R: Senior Advisor to Comptroller George Maragos, Dilip Chauhan, Shaurya Srivastava, Chief Deputy Comptroller Mayor James Garner, Guru Maa, Honoree Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand Comptroller George Maragos, Angela Maragos and Ragini Srivastava, Ashish Srivastava*

Community leaders said the uplifting presence of Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand which could draw over 600 people in New York for such an intense spiritual ten day event is commendable. He said he was elated as an Indian American and lover of Indian culture for the official recognition extended to Dr. Shivanand. Shiv Yog Foundation has undertaken many projects to serve the humanity such as feeding the hungry, helping farmers, providing education for the poor, distributing free school uniforms, serving the disowned animals and providing free ration to the needy villagers, Chauhan added.

In his remarks, Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand expressed his happiness and praised the Shiv Yogis for their hard work in making the event a grand success. In his remarks, Shivanand Ji noted the success of the Indian community in Nassau County but reminded his followers that "one cannot achieve happiness and success without first health and family. If those two conditions are met, then the attainment of happiness is possible."

# The 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee Boston & New Jersey winners announced



*2017 South Asian Spelling Bee Boston winners*

**METUCHEN, NJ (TIP):** Continuing its quest for the best speller in the community, the 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee ([www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com](http://www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com)) traveled to Massachusetts and New Jersey this past weekend with stops in the Boston and New Brunswick.

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

In the Boston Regional, Sravanth Malla (13) of Haverstraw, New York was the regional champ, Anmol Dash (12) of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, was the first runner up, and Richa Juvekar (13) of Westford, Massachusetts, was second runner up.

In New Jersey, Sujata Choudhury (10) from Cherry Hill, New Jersey was named regional champ, Abhilash Patel (9) from Harriman, New York was first runner up, and Agranya Ketha (13) of Montville, New Jersey, was the second runner-up.

The event is open to children of South Asian descent up to 14 years of age. It gives South Asian children a chance to test their spelling skills in their core peer group. Interested spellers need their parent or guardian to register them online at [www.southasianspellingbee.com](http://www.southasianspellingbee.com).

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

"For the past nine years, the Bee has consistently provided a firm platform for the community to come together and hone their craft. It's become a family activity that contributes towards the overall development of the child. We are proud to enter our Tenth consecutive year and look forward to engaging some of these wonderful spellers," said Rahul Walia, founder of the South Asian Spelling Bee and CEO of Touchdown Media Inc.

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

This year, the Bee is proudly powered by Kawan- the world's most popular Roti paratha brand returns as the powered by sponsor and as always, SONY Entertainment Television Asia is the exclusive broadcast partner for the South Asian Spelling Bee



*2017 South Asian Spelling Bee New Jersey winners*

and will be airing the series across 120 countries.

"Kawan is proud to return as a sponsor and we have tremendous faith in contributing towards crucial family time for the community. We look forward to getting to know the spellers and their families through this wonderful journey," said Tim Tan, Managing Director Kawan Food.

"Year over year, the South Asian Spelling Bee has made for great programming that gels with our ethos of compete family entertainment. We are all about family values and encourage platforms such as these that highlight the talent of our community," said Jaideep Janakiram, Head of North America,

Sony Entertainment Television-Asia.

For a complete schedule, registration and any other information, please visit: [www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com](http://www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com).

Find us on Facebook at South Asian Spelling Bee and you can follow us on our Twitter handle at Spell South Asian.

### About Sony Entertainment Television Asia:

Since its launch on the Indian subcontinent in 1995, Sony Entertainment Television (SET) has enjoyed rapid success, leading to the establishment of European, North American and African feeds known as SET Asia. SET and SET Asia are now available in over 150 countries. The channels offer their viewers a distinctive blend of entertainment programs twenty-four hours a day, including, soap operas, dramas, sitcoms, concerts, movies, and game shows. For more information, visit [www.setasia.tv](http://www.setasia.tv).

### About Touchdown Media Inc.:

Touchdown Media Inc. is a specialized South Asian advertising and promotions firm based in New Jersey. Now in its 11th successful year, Touchdown has helped clients- both mainstream and otherwise, reach out to the lucrative South Asian market. Touchdown Media represents more than 35 years of collective experience in this niche market. As a full service ad firm, Touchdown has helped many clients achieve their media and marketing goals within the South Asian Diaspora in the US.

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## Carnegie Names Indian American Milan Vaishnav as New Director for South Asia Program

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace announced that Senior Fellow Milan Vaishnav will serve as the director of the South Asia Program in Washington.



*Milan Vaishnav will serve as the director of the South Asia Program in Washington*

The author of the widely acclaimed new book, *When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics* (Yale University Press and HarperCollins India, 2017) and co-editor of the recent *Rethinking Public Institutions in India* (Oxford University Press, 2017), Vaishnav is an expert on India's political economy and examines issues such as corruption, ethnic politics, governance and state capacity, election finance, and voter behavior. He joined Carnegie in 2012 after serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Global Development. He holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University.

"This is a critical moment in the internal and external trajectory of South Asia," said Vaishnav. "I am excited about what my colleagues and I can accomplish together and honored to take on this new role at an institution I care so much about."

Carnegie President William J. Burns said, "Milan offers a vivid demonstration of Carnegie at its very best. He is a first-rate scholar with uncanny policy savvy and a deep-seated commitment to offer real world solutions to some daunting governance challenges. He has more than earned his reputation as one of the most thoughtful analysts of his generation and one of the most admired members of the Carnegie Endowment family."

## Indian Americans charged in \$4 million fraud scheme



*Nandu Thondavadi (Right) and Dhru Desai were charged with wire fraud*

**CHICAGO (TIP):** The Securities and Exchange Commission has charged two top Indian-American former executives in greater Chicago area in the accounting fraud scheme, alleging that they siphoned off more than \$4 million from the company over nearly five-year period. A criminal information filed in federal court in Chicago charged Quadrant 4 executives Nandu Thondavadi 63, of North Barrington, and Dhru Desai, 55, of Barrington, with wire fraud. Nandu Thondavadi was CEO of Schaumburg-based Quadrant 4 System, and Dhru Desai was its chief financial officer and chairman.

Quadrant 4 provides software products, platforms and consulting services to customers in the healthcare and education sectors. In 2015 the SEC launched an investigation of Quadrant 4 based on indications that the firm may have violated federal securities laws. The FBI initiated an investigation of Quadrant 4 in 2016. As set forth in the information against Thondavadi and Desai, the investigation revealed that Thondavadi and Desai engaged in a wide-ranging scheme to defraud Quadrant 4's shareholders by misappropriating more than \$3 million from the company, fraudulently inflating Quadrant 4's revenue, and regularly concealing Quadrant 4's liabilities. The information charges that Thondavadi and Desai certified false SEC reports.

The fraud scheme also involved numerous misrepresentations related to Quadrant 4's acquisitions, including misrepresentations about the terms of Quadrant 4's purchase of Momentum Mobile in 2013. As set forth in the charges, the investigation further revealed that Thondavadi and Desai attempted to obstruct the SEC's investigation of Quadrant 4 as it related to the Momentum Mobile acquisition.

## Carnegie Corporation honors two Indian Americans with Great Immigrants tribute

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Carnegie Corporation of New York honored 38 immigrants, including two Indian Americans with their annual Great Immigrants tribute on July 4. Chairman, president, and CEO of Adobe Systems Incorporated Shantanu Narayen and former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy were honored with the prestigious awards.

Every year, Carnegie Corporation of New York, established by Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie, recognizes naturalized citizens who make America strong. Each year since 2006, the Corporation has recognized the contributions of naturalized citizens, and for 2017, the honorees represent more than 30 different countries of origin, a wide range of personal immigration stories, and a high level of professional leadership in numerous fields.

"Our annual tribute to Great Immigrants demonstrates the richness of talent, skills, and achievements that immigrants from around the world bring to every sphere of American society," said Vartan Gregorian, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York. "This campaign reminds us of the debt the United States owes to generations of immigrants who



*Chairman, president, and CEO of Adobe Systems Incorporated Shantanu Narayen and former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy were honored with the prestigious awards*



become citizens and contribute to the progress of this country. Today, we celebrate and thank them."

Originally from Hyderabad, India, Shantanu has an undergraduate degree in electronics engineering, a master's degree in computer science, and an MBA from UC Berkeley. He is a board member of Pfizer and U.S.-India Business Council, and was named one of the world's best CEOs by Barron's magazine in 2016 and 2017.

Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy was confirmed on December 15, 2014, as the 19th United States Surgeon General. Dr. Murthy has devoted himself to improving public health through the lens of service, clinical care, research, education and entrepreneurship. As a clinician-educator, Dr. Murthy has cared for thousands of patients and trained hundreds of residents and medical students.

## Indian American and an Indian receive California's premier air quality award

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** The California Air Resources Board on June 21 honored recipients of the 2016 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Awards, California's premier award recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improving air quality. Two Indians- Dr V. "Ram" Ramanathan, Distinguished Professor, Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego and Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment, India were among the recipients.

"The Haagen-Smit Award is our way of honoring individuals who have championed public health with extraordinary contributions to air pollution research, science and clean air technology," CARB Chair Mary D. Nichols said. "From shaping our understanding of air pollutants and informing policy on climate health, to advocating for the right to clean air in severely polluted cities, their long and distinguished careers have changed how we address climate change and fight air pollution around the world."

Considered the "Nobel Prize" in air quality achievement, the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Awards are given annually to individuals who have made significant lifetime contributions toward improving air quality and climate change science, technology and policy, furthering the protection of public health.



### 2016 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award Winners

*Dr V. "Ram" Ramanathan, Distinguished Professor, Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego (second from right) and Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment, India (third from right) were among the recipients.*

Dr. Veerabhadran "Ram" Ramanathan is being recognized for his sustained and innovative contributions to understanding complex linkages between manmade emissions and climate change, especially the need for simultaneous and deep reductions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of global warming. Dr. Ramanathan's historic research on climate and atmospheric science has been widely recognized around the world. Because of his research, atmospheric physics was linked to atmospheric chemistry, leading to a

paradigm shift in the way climate scientists approached the problem of global warming.

Anumita Roychowdhury is being recognized for her notable work on a suite of emission control strategies to mitigate severe air pollution. Ms. Roychowdhury has a long list of success stories for clean air and public health in India. Her most recent policy victory was the national adoption of sweeping new emission standards for cars, trucks, buses, two-wheelers and three-wheelers. Anumita remains a central force in air pollution control in India and throughout the developing world.

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## BAPS hosts Annual Blood Drive in Parsippany, NJ

PARSIPPANY, NJ (TIP):

Dozens of members of the local community committed its focus to the annual BAPS Charities Blood Drive in Parsippany, NJ. With a continuous need for blood donors from a diversity of backgrounds, the blood drive, held on Sunday 25th June 2017, gave community members an opportunity to save lives and close the gap on supply shortages faced by blood banks.

A total of 26 pints of blood were collected, which has the potential to save up to 78 lives in the community. Through a local partnership with Red Cross, all of the collections were donated to local blood banks to serve nearby communities.

The Blood Drive organized by BAPS Charities is a crucial part of national efforts to address shortages. Statistics suggest that every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. According to the American Red Cross, the majority of blood donations come from local, community-based drives such as this.

"We are happy for the opportunity to do this service on a regular basis and assist area agencies through our community's contribution," said Shailesh Patel referring to the event.

BAPS Charities also used the event as a platform to raise awareness around the need for regular blood donations and the significant impact they have, especially during demanding periods. Punit Patel from Parsippany, a blood drive participant, remarked, "I am glad to have come out today and participated in the blood drive. It is empowering to know that my donation could potentially save someone's life and I look forward to sharing what I have learned with my friends and colleagues at work, so they will hopefully do the same."

The Blood Drive event is one of several service events held by BAPS Charities each year. Health fairs, walkathons, children's health and safety events, and bone marrow drives are also held annually and in multiple locations across the country. Through these activities, BAPS Charities aims to develop a broader spirit of volunteerism to enable individuals of all ages to make meaningful contributions to society. (SOURCE: BAPS Charities)

## MTA finalizes Glen Cove ferry plan for displaced LIRR commuters

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The MTA has finalized one of the last pieces of its plan to transport displaced Long Island Rail Road commuters this summer, and on Wednesday, July 5 announced the names of the two companies that will operate ferries to and from Glen Cove. Five days from the beginning of what Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has dubbed "the summer of hell," the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said National Ferry, of Washington D.C., and Manhattan-based New York Cruise Lines will operate the ferry services to be provided from Glen Cove beginning Monday and lasting through around Labor Day.

"The capacity of New York Cruise Lines' vessel is 149 passengers, and it will go to Wall Street/Pier 11," MTA spokesman Aaron Donovan said in a statement. "National Ferry's vessel, the Patriot II, has a capacity of 225, and will go to 34th Street."

The Wall Street-bound ferry will depart at 6:10 a.m. and arrive at 7:30 a.m. The 34th Street ferry will leave at 6:35 a.m. and arrive at 7:45 a.m. For the return trips, the Wall Street ferry will depart at 4:30 p.m. and arrive at Glen Cove at 5:50 p.m., and the 34th Street ferry will leave at 6:20 p.m. and arrive at 7:30 p.m.

The ferries are one of the options being provided to commuters as an Amtrak infrastructure renewal plan at Penn Station is forcing the LIRR to reduce rush-hour service to and from the station by about 20 percent. The LIRR will also provide express buses to and from Manhattan and eight locations on Long Island, and will bolster service at its other New York City terminals, Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn and Hunterspoint Avenue in Queens.

**Flaws at Penn will take years to fix:** To encourage commuters to avoid Penn Station in July and August, the MTA is reducing fares to the alternative terminals for July and August. And, addressing one concern raised by riders since the discount was announced, the MTA confirmed Wednesday that, because the service disruptions have not yet begun, the reduced-fare tickets to the alternative terminals will be honored at Penn Station until Sunday. "They can go into Penn or they can go to Hunterspoint without any additional cost," MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota said.

Beginning Monday, customers wanting to use a ticket to or from Atlantic Terminal or Hunterspoint Avenue will have to pay the difference between a Zone 1 fare and a Zone 3 fare. Once Amtrak's work begins, Lhota said he would encourage commuters to avoid Penn Station, even if they miss the last train out of Hunterspoint Avenue in the evening. "I'd like as many people as possible to avoid Penn Station, which is why we've come up with this whole array of options for them," Lhota said.



A donor at the Blood donation camp

# Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka appointed to a second term as Executive Director of UN Women

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, on July 5, appointed Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for a second term as Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for a period of four years.

"This renewed term is our opportunity to reflect constructively, build our momentum, and surge ahead. In these years we are going to be putting our new Strategic Plan 2018-2021 into practice, supporting Member States and our diverse partners to accelerate their implementation of the 2030 Agenda with gender equality and women's empowerment and full realization of their rights at its heart; we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of our establishment; and we will drive hard towards this and the other key milestones of 2020 as a firm platform for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030," said Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka.

The Secretary-General's decision came following consultations with Member States and the Executive Board of UN Women. The two-day annual session of the Executive Board had met earlier the previous week to fine-tune the strategic planning for the next four years, expressing its confidence in UN Women's vital mandate and strong leadership.

Commenting on progress to date, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasized the high caliber and commitment of UN Women's staff: "Their energy and dedication keep us going through all the challenges, and make our organization what it is. Together with Member States and all our partners, we are fiercely ambitious



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has been reappointed for a period of four years.

for the women and girls of this world, and positive that greater equality bears fruit for all," she said.

Under Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women has played a significant role in ensuring that women were put front and center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the responsibility of ending gender inequality became everyone's responsibility. She established game-changing movements such as HeForShe that engages men and boys.

She has been influential in transforming conversations and knowledge on the most important issues affecting women's lives such as discriminatory laws, unequal pay and unpaid care work, violence against women, disenfranchisement, and conflict and humanitarian crises through flagship programming that coordinates response through the UN system. Through this she has broadened

the base of both state and non-state actors that influence transformative and irreversible change.

Before joining UN Women, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka worked with women and girls in different capacities in civil society and as a public representative. Her work has focused on political and economic rights as well as girls' education; her experience includes promoting gender equality for women in both the private and the public sectors. She was involved in her country's struggle against Apartheid. As World YWCA coordinator for young women's programs, she worked with young women all over the world.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008. She initially became a Member of Parliament in 1994, chairing the Public Service Portfolio Committee. She was Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry (1996-1999), Minister of Minerals and Energy (1999-2005), and briefly served as acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 2004. In all her portfolios she was actively involved in policy and legislation that impacted positively on the lives of women and girls. She holds a PhD in technology-based education.

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. For more information, visit [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org). UN Women, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, New York. Tel: +1 646 781-4400. Fax: +1 646 781-4496.

# INOC USA expresses serious concern over the growing mob violence and lawlessness in India

NEW YORK (TIP): "The government of India appears to be failing big time from its constitutional and solemn duty of protecting the lives and property of its citizens." "The mob rule and vigilante justice currently taking over the country are posing a direct threat to its revered institutions and the rule of law" said George Abraham, Chairman of the Indian National Overseas Congress, USA.

We fully support Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's observation that the culture of violence that is on the rise is being actively supported by those supposed to enforce the law. According to her, the country's inclusive rule is under attack, and the domestic misrule is one of the big challenges facing the country.

Mrs. Gandhi said, "The tried and tested idea of India has been thrown fundamentally into question by

rising intolerance, by malevolent forces that tell Indians what they cannot eat, who they cannot love, what they can say, indeed, what thoughts they cannot hold".

The Congress President urged people to speak against the wrongs committed, asserting that "if we do not raise our voices, if we do not speak up, our silence will be taken as consent".

She cautioned "let us not forget that though their language is modern, they seek to take India backward to further their narrow sectarian vision, their modern jargon conceals pre-modern beliefs."

In the latest incident, 16-year-old Junaid Khan was lynched to death in a train by cow vigilantes who accused him of killing cows and eating beef. In Jharkhand's Dhanbad, Usman Ansari was thrashed by a mob, house set on fire over a dead cow.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, upon returning from U.S. made a statement that 'killing in the name of cow is unacceptable.' However, it is high time that his words are also matched with strong action from the central government.

The Prime Minister may also share some responsibility in this regard as one of the major themes of the 2014 campaign was a supposed "pink revolution" that Congress was promoting, an insidious plan to slaughter more cows and make money of their meat. It seemed to have played well at that time with his constant charging the opposition of 'minority appeasement.'

INOC, USA urges NRIs worldwide to speak up urgently on the need to stop the politics of religious hatemongering and making India a subject of ridicule internationally.

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## GUEST COMMENT

# Another successful visit

**Modi-Netanyahu chemistry alchemizes ties**

Judging even by the high standards of personalized diplomacy set in place in the last three years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Israel has to be judged as an astounding success. The Prime Minister was serenaded in lavish terms; the reddest of red carpet was rolled out for him, just as stiff protocol niceties were rolled away to honor him; we are told that the standards and excellence of hospitality and courtesies extended to him were so far reserved only for the mightiest of global leaders. Narendra Modi had always had, reportedly, a special relationship with his Israeli counterpart, based on mutual respect and admiration that leaders reserve for strong, tough practitioners of hard politics. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu naturally went out of his way to lionize our Prime Minister; and, it was only natural that the visit should have produced a 'strategic partnership'.

A 'strategic partnership', in many ways, has become a charming amulet, diplomats have devised to upgrade a relationship. We have, for example, a strategic partnership with the United States, but we have very many valid and legitimate reasons to feel disappointed at Washington's lack of appreciation of our strategic concerns and sensibilities. On the other hand, even without a strategic partnership, New Delhi has had a steadily growing, pragmatic, working relationship with Tel Aviv. Both countries have a shared sense of victimhood against global terror. This working arrangement already had in place all the ingredients of a strategic partnership. What the Modi visit has done is to put the de jure stamp on a de facto relationship.

Over the decades our relationship with Israel had got hyphenated with the knotty Palestine issues. There were both domestic and geostrategic reasons for a cultivated ambivalence; the India-Israel ties were overdue for an upgrade as most of these reasons for diffidence have melted away. Domestically, for the first time New Delhi has is a ruling regime that believes that it does not need to get bogged down by the Muslim community's traditional sensitivities, at home or abroad. It is this substantive change in our internal political calculus that has lent a new substance to our ties with Israel.

(Tribune India)

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## AS I SEE IT

# The wheeling-dealing world of lobbying



By Harvinder Khetal

When the Prime Minister of India, the largest democracy in the world, met the President of the USA, the second largest democracy (in terms of population), last week, he got a red carpet welcome and the privilege to hobnob in the White House precincts. Among the other perks that come with the territory, Mr. Modi got to stay in the iconic Willard InterContinental Hotel that is located at a stone's throw from the presidential mansion in Washington DC. He joined legends who have stayed in this luxurious property and contributed to

“ A lobbyist is an activist who seeks to persuade government members to enact legislation that would benefit their group. It is inextricably linked to the democratic political process. But equally true is that such petitioners are associated with bribery and looked down upon for endeavoring to influence decisions through wheeling and dealing and wining and dining”, says the author.



the historic value of the 200-year-old hotel.

Due to its ideal location, the hotel has been the center of the US' social and political scene. And, Willard loves to prop up the fascinating folklore attached with its celebrated guests. It is famously said that Martin Luther King Jr gave the finishing touches to his famous "I have a dream" speech here. Another tidbit: that Abraham Lincoln walked in its corridors before his inauguration.

Then, due to the goings-on in the hotel because of its strategic location, Willard has also had a role in the legitimization of a word - lobby, as in 'seek to influence (a legislator) on an issue.'

Though lexicologists trace the term lobby to the British Parliament, the hotel has been fanning the myth related to its foyer. Most likely, the hotel's saga helped reinforce and push the word into gaining acceptance worldwide. So, how is the Willard's lobby related to the term lobbying?

The story originated during the presidency of Ulysses S Grant (1869-1877). President Grant enjoyed his drink and cigar while relaxing in the hotel lobby. And not-so fortuitously, folks fancying favors, flocked the foyer for a favorable influence on his decision-making. Thus, it came to be said and was even reported in newspapers that President Grant had coined the term by referring to the petitioners as "those damn lobbyists."

Of course, now lobbying has evolved into an art that does not necessarily take place in a lobby. A lobbyist is an activist

who seeks to persuade government members to enact legislation that would benefit their group. It is inextricably linked to the democratic political process. But equally true is that such petitioners are associated with bribery and looked down upon for endeavoring to influence decisions through wheeling and dealing and wining and dining. Wheeling and dealing is an attempt to make a deal or get an advantage by using complicated and sometimes unfair or dishonest means. And, to wine and dine someone is to entertain someone to a lavish meal and fine wines, usually with an ulterior motive.

In this context, I must confess that as a journalist, I have partaken of meals that often exude of a flavor of lobbying. I guess it's a job hazard that a good professional would know how to deal with objectively.

Interestingly, the 'Washington Post', quoting a Gallup poll, has reported that the occupation most despised in the USA is lobbying. While lawyer jokes are legion and salesmen are lampooned routinely, lobbyists are so despicably low on ethics that they don't even merit ridicule. The practitioners move around with such fancy titles as 'government relations officer'.

No surprise that the Willard has, of late, been choosing to distance itself from the myth related to the coining of the term lobby.

In India, a public relations firm came for flak and ultimately wined up following the leak of its notorious 'Nira Radia tapes'. But it is Dhirubhai Ambani who is synonymous with mastering the

knack of corporate lobbying. His dealings in the corridors of powerful authorities during the rise of the Reliance group reveal wheels within wheels (hidden or unknown things that influence a particular situation, making it more complicated than it seems at first).

It seems that the warp and woof (the foundation of any structure or organization) of Ambani's journey from a schoolteacher's son to a giant tycoon is cemented by lobbying, along with competence, hard work, management skills and foresight. The phrase warp and woof comes from weaving, in which the warp - the threads that run lengthwise - and the woof - the threads that run across - make up the fabric.

I got a peep into Ambani's fascinating and, at times, dark style of functioning on one of my trips abroad as I laid hands on his unauthorized biography 'The Polyester Prince: The Rise of Dhirubhai Ambani' by Hamish McDonald. The book is banned in India.

The book sums up human interactions thus: "Nobody is a permanent friend, nobody is a permanent enemy. Everybody has his own self-interest. Once you recognize that, everybody will be better off." And, lobbying is justified by quoting Ambani himself thus: "You should not do anything illegal. First of all, the law should be changed." So, he did exactly what he preached with prowess: by establishing connections with lawmakers.

(The author can be reached at [hkhetal@gmail.com](mailto:hkhetal@gmail.com))



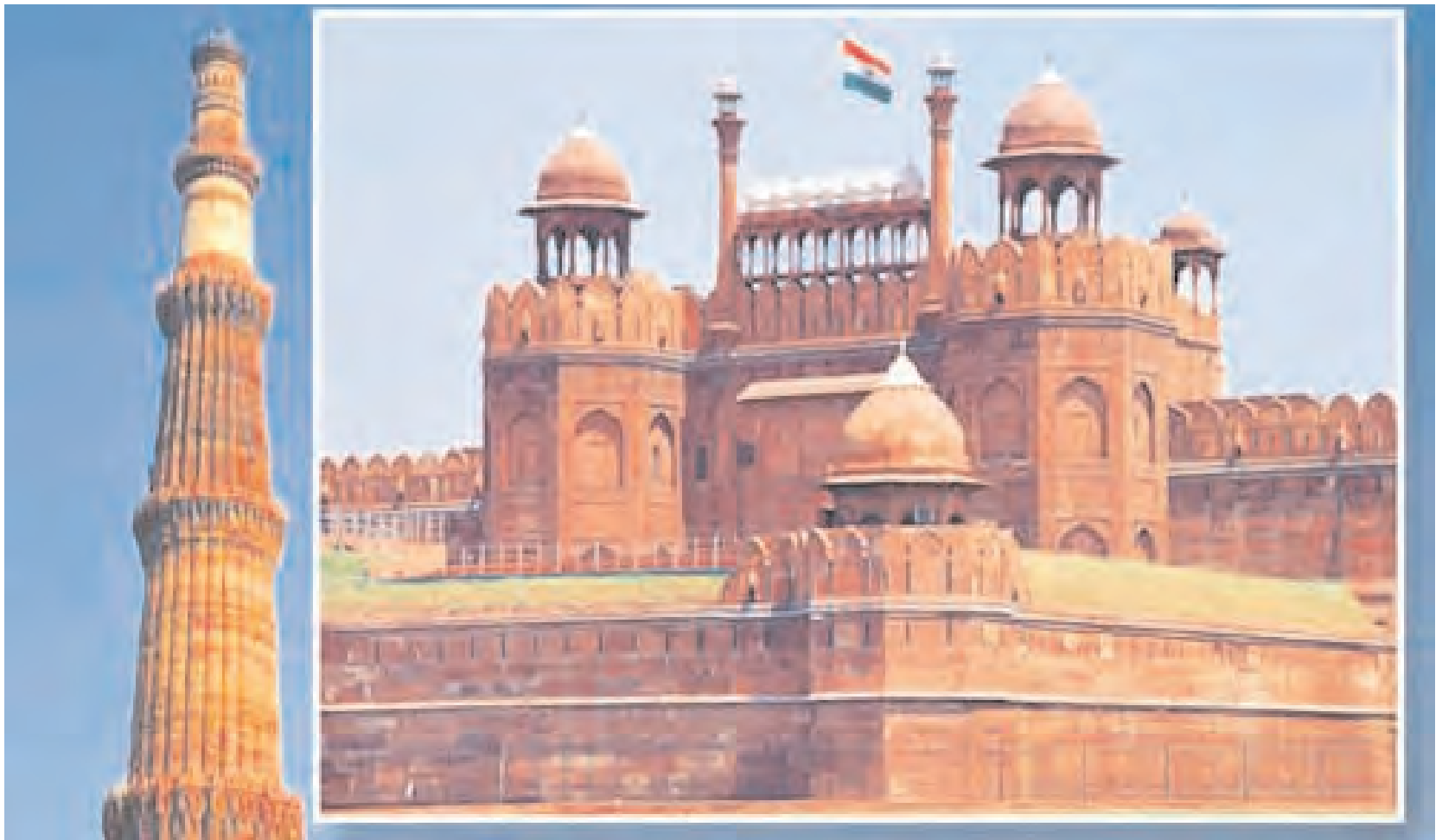
# MAKING OF A MONUMENTAL CRISIS

Parliament must resist a proposed amendment that compromises the 100-m no-construction zone



By Nayanjot Lahiri

**"India's monuments form an irreplaceable archive of our civilizational heritage. Our pride in our heritage has always been surplus while caring for that heritage suffers a huge deficit. Surely, India's archaeological heritage, as diverse and priceless as our natural heritage, seventy years after Independence, deserves better than what has fallen to its lot", says the author.**



India's monumental heritage is on the brink of a shameful shift. The Central government is poised to introduce an amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, in Parliament, which would remove the security net that exists around our nationally protected monuments.

## Endangered structures

Why is this security net necessary, and why is its proposed infringement shameful? Our protected monuments, from the Taj Mahal to the monuments of Mamallapuram, have a designated prohibited area - at least a 100-m radius - to protect them, where no new construction is allowed. It is similar to the zoning around tiger reserves where the core area is set apart for the animals to live in, and where human disturbance is not permitted. Just as this is done to prevent human-animal conflict, zoning around monuments is necessary to prevent monuments from defacement and to prevent the present from displacing the past by marring historical landscapes. Monuments, it needs to be remembered, are endangered structures and vulnerable to human interference. If tigers have disappeared across large parts of the habitats they occupied even till the early part of the last century, so have several of India's protected monuments. As it is, there are a mere 3,650 monuments which are nationally protected in a country where the records with the government show some 5,00,000 unprotected and endangered monuments.

The track record of the government in maintaining our nationally protected monuments, to put it most charitably, is an indifferent one. There are encroachments by government agencies and individuals. The 2013 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) noted that of the 1,655 monuments whose records were scrutinized and which were physically inspected, 546 of them were encroached. This may well be because of a lack of basic manpower in the form of monument attendants. In 2010, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) stated on record that its staff strength did not permit the deployment of even a single person on a regular full-time basis at more than 2,500 of its monuments. This meant that more than two-thirds of India's monuments that the Central government is supposed

to protect were poorly guarded. At the same time, the CAG pointed to connivance by ASI officials as well. As the files of the ASI reveal, there are also numerous instances where politicians have proactively protected those who have illegally occupied the prohibited zone around monuments.

The only protection for our defenseless heritage has come from courts of law because there are legal provisions which, at least on paper, prevent the encroachment of the prohibited zone around monuments. The idea itself, that a security net ought to be created around heritage buildings, can be traced to Jawaharlal Nehru. As Prime Minister, he complained to the Union Minister of Education in 1955 that India's old and historical places were getting spoilt by new buildings being put up around them. In order to prevent intrusions, Nehru suggested that the government "lay down that within a certain area no building should be put up without permission". An example of his proactive approach in creating such protective barriers is the enclosure encircling the tomb of Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana in Nizamuddin. This was built after Nehru had visited the site and suggested that the adjacent grounds be converted into a garden because, as he put it, he did not want the colony of Nizamuddin East to extend into the area around the tomb. This idea eventually found its way into the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules of 1959 which unambiguously, for the first time, noted a prohibited and a regulated zone around protected sites and monuments.

Because of these rules, the High Court of Delhi in 2009 struck down all permissions that had been illegally granted by the ASI through an Expert Advisory Committee. As a consequence of this judgment, in 2010, the Government of India set up a committee which recommended a new bill to Parliament. It is now known as the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act. Unanimously passed in March 2010, this legislation brought the prohibited and regulated zones around monuments within the ambit of the Act itself.

As a consequence of this statute, the National Monuments Authority was set up. It is shocking that even after these years, a major task of this authority remains to be done, that of preparing heritage bye-laws for nationally protected monuments. If India's

rulers cared at all for our monuments, by now not only would the bye-laws pertaining to the 3,650 national monuments have been prepared, they would also have been tabled in Parliament as was required by law. Instead of expediting the preparation of those bye-laws, the government has sought to dilute the 100 m prohibited area around nationally protected monuments. The proposed amendment aims to allow the Central government to construct within that area all kinds of structures. Incidentally, the Cabinet note shows that the Ministry of Culture, instead of protecting monuments, is now acting a clearing house for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The amendment is necessary, the Cabinet note states, because, among other things, an elevated road needs to be built in front of Akbar's tomb in Agra! The Ministry of Culture needs to be reminded that it is the nodal agency for protecting our monuments, not endangering them. Otherwise, it is better for the government to abolish this ministry since cultural protection is far from what it seems to be doing.

## One people, two norms

What makes this amendment shameful is that our Ministers live in the Lutyens Bungalow Zone in New Delhi where overhead metro lines have not been permitted because, quite rightly, they would have permanently marred the aesthetics of the area. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent to ensure that there are no ugly railway corridors across that area. Yet, the ruling class has no compunction in pushing for a legislation which would allow overhead contraptions in the vicinity of our national monuments. Does the government believe that the aesthetics around government bungalows matter but not around monuments? Or is it possible that they believe that monuments do not matter and only highways do?

India's monuments form an irreplaceable archive of our civilizational heritage. Our pride in our heritage has always been surplus while caring for that heritage suffers a huge deficit. Surely, India's archaeological heritage, as diverse and priceless as our natural heritage, seventy years after Independence, deserves better than what has fallen to its lot

*(The author is a historian and archaeologist of ancient India and a professor of history at Ashoka University)*

## Sale of weapons to India would undermine strategic balance: Pak

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan on Thursday expressed concern over the reported sale of advanced weapons to India by some countries, saying it would undermine the strategic balance in the region.

"Pakistan will continue to raise its voice at the international fora which should objectively assess its actions and policies towards South Asian region," Foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said at his weekly media briefing.

His comments came amid reports that the US has cleared the sale of predator Guardian drones to India.

Zakaria said Pakistan was alive toward the issue of its national security which would be safeguarded at every cost.

He also rejected allegations about presence of the Haqqani network in Pakistan and said that it was just "rhetoric" and effort to shift blame on his country.

"The killing of a number of commanders of Haqqani network in Afghanistan clearly indicate that the group is based in Afghanistan and not operating from Pakistan," he said.

He also claimed that in Pakistan there was no organised presence of any terror outfit like the Taliban, Jamaat-ul Ahrar, IS and Al-Qaeda.

Zakaria said that during the visit of the US delegation headed by Senator John McCain, matters pertaining to Afghanistan were discussed.

He repeated Pakistan's support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. He alleged that New Delhi was against peace in the war-torn country.

The spokesperson also said that there are reports of Indian forces using ammunition containing chemical agents and precursors in Kashmir. "We call upon the international community, particularly, relevant International organizations to initiate investigations into these reports," he added. (PTI)

## Ten killed, dozens hurt, in Bangladesh garment factory blast

**DHAKA (TIP):** A boiler has exploded at a Bangladeshi garment factory killing 10 people and injuring dozens, fire officials said on July 2, the latest mishap to hit one of the world's biggest garment producers.

The accident happened late on Monday at a plant of Multifabs Limited, a Bangladeshi company on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, a fire official said.

The firm supplies knitted apparel to clients in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Russia, Spain, Netherlands and Britain, including to Littlewoods, one of Britain's oldest retail brands, according to its website.

"Nine people were killed in the blast and one died in hospital," fire service official Palash Chandra Modak said.

The company said the plant was functioning well and the boiler had just been serviced.

"This was an accident. Everything was fine," Mahiuddin Faruqui, company chairman and managing director told Reuters.

"The boiler was running well. After servicing when workers were trying to restart it, it went off."

Bangladesh's garment-making industry, the biggest in the world after China's, employs four million people and generates 80 percent of its export earnings.

Multifabs started operating in 1992, and reached \$70 million in exports in 2016, supplying European brands such as fashion chain Lindex, which is part of Finnish retailer Stockmann and Aldi, Faruqui said. (Reuters)

## 10 injured as volcano erupts on Indonesia's main Java island

**JAKARTA (TIP):** A volcano popular with tourists erupted Sunday on Indonesia's main island of Java, injuring 10 people, an official said. Sileri Crater at Dieng Plateau spewed cold lava, mud and ash as high as 50 meters (164 feet) into the sky when it erupted, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

He said the sudden eruption occurred at around 11:30am, when there were about 17 visitors around the crater. Ten people were injured and were being treated at a hospital.

Soldiers and police officers were dispatched to the scene, while local residents and visitors were asked to evacuate the area in case of further eruptions, Nugroho said.

Sileri is the most active and dangerous among some 10 craters at Dieng Plateau. Its most recent eruption was in 2009, when it unleashed volcanic materials up to 200 meters (656 feet) high and triggered the creation of three new craters. (AP)

# Pakistan closely watching Modi's trip to Israel: Report

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan is closely watching Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic trip to Israel+ as it can have serious implications on strategic stability in the region, a media report said on July 3.

The Express Tribune reported that Pakistan officially does not comment on bilateral visits of other heads of governments and states, but it is closely following Modi's trip since it can have serious implications on strategic stability in the region.

"Israel has long been a major supplier of arms and other defence equipment to India and those deals have deliberately been kept secret by the two sides. However, the two countries are now more open and publicly talk about their deepening defence cooperation," the daily said.

India got access to some of the most modern defence technologies of America through Israel, defence analyst Lt-Gen (ret) Amjad Shoaib was quoted as saying by the daily.

Gen Shoaib said India had greatly benefited from the defence and military ties with Israel.

Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, an international affairs expert, said growing defence cooperation between India and Israel would disturb strategic balance in the South Asian region.

The Quaid-e-Azam University professor believes Israel assistance can propel India's missile programme, something that would undermine Pakistan's policy of maintaining credible deterrence, the daily reported.

"One of the subjects on which the Indian media has created a lot of hype is the threat emanating from terrorism. It has worked hard to relate terrorism with



Pakistan and blame it for virtually any terror incident occurring anywhere in India," the daily said.

PM Modi's three-day visit to Israel+ is the first by an Indian Prime Minister to the Jewish nation. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu along with his entire cabinet went to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport to receive Modi in a rare gesture.

Modi, before leaving for Tel Aviv, told an Israeli newspaper that terrorism was a common challenge and said New Delhi and Tel Aviv "can cooperate even more closely" in battling it.

Former ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi believes that the Indian media is too much obsessed with Pakistan, saying: "No matter where Modi goes, India always tries to drag Pakistan along."

However, Naqvi was sceptical if Israel would go too far to appease India.

"Pakistan is not under the immediate radar of Israel. Their (Israel) priority at the moment is Middle East."

However, Naqvi said their defence and

military cooperation was something that had direct bearing on Pakistan.

For Gen Shoaib, there is a lesson for Pakistan in the ever-growing close relationship between Israel and India.

"If India can cement ties with Israel while at the same time maintaining diplomatic ties with its enemy Iran, why can't Pakistan also show flexibility in its foreign policy," Gen argued.

"Our foreign policy should not be merely aimed at appeasing any particular country. Rather we need to follow our own national interests," he said.

Some analysts have advocated maintaining working relationship with Israel, if not establishing full diplomatic ties, in order to further and protect Pakistan's interests.

In 2005, during former president Pervez Musharraf's tenure, Pakistan and Israel established contacts and even foreign ministers of the two countries met in Turkey. However, things could not make headway further after that. (PTI)

## Dengue outbreak in Sri Lanka kills 225

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lanka is suffering its worst-ever dengue outbreak, with the mosquito borne virus killed 225 people and infected more than 76,000 this year.

Alarmed by the magnitude of the crisis, the government deployed 400 soldiers and police officers to clear away rotting garbage, stagnant water pools and other potential mosquito breeding grounds.

Dr. Ruwan Wijayamuni, Colombo's chief medical officer, said people's failure to clear puddles and piles of trash after last month's heavy monsoon rains had compounded the problem.

"It's pathetic that they don't keep clean their environment," Wijayamuni said. "Some residents do not allow officials to inspect the houses and clean them. This is really unacceptable."

The number of infections nationwide is already 38 percent higher than last year, when 55,150 people were diagnosed with dengue and 97 died, according to the Health Ministry. The highest number of cases is in the region around the main city of Colombo, though cases were being reported across the tropical island nation.

"This is mostly an urban disease" said Dr. Priscilla Samaraweera of the National Dengue Eradication Unit. Last month's heavy rains left the cities waterlogged, with puddles and rain



soaked garbage providing ideal spots for mosquitoes to breed and multiply.

In Colombo alone, 25 teams of soldiers, police officers and public health inspectors were knocking on doors at people's homes, advising them to clear clogged drains and empty outdoor pots that might have filled with rainwater.

Health officials were also fumigating public spaces.

This year's strain is particularly dangerous, Samaraweera said. There is no cure for any of the four strains of the virus, which causes a high fever, weeks

of exhaustion and in some cases a vicious skin rash. Patients most at risk of dying are the elderly, children or those with other medical complications.

Hospitals were so crowded with dengue patients, the army was building two temporary wards at Negombo Base Hospital, about 38 kilometers north of Colombo, military spokesman Brig. Roshan Senevirathna said.

President Maithripala Sirisena urged the public to cooperate with officials trying to fight the disease, saying it could affect the "lives of all the citizens of the country." (AP)

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## Indian American student wins National Speech and Debate Tournament



Kapur composed his own persuasive speech addressing a social issue

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Kapur, an Indian American Sikh high school student at Valley High School junior in West Des Moines, Iowa, has won this year's National Speech and Debate Tournament which is considered as the most prestigious high school competition in the US.

The win continued his impressive string of victories, which included first-place finishes at the Emory University, Minneapolis and Harvard University tournaments and the Barkley Forum for High Schools.

As an original orator, Kapur composed his own persuasive speech addressing a social issue. His speech, "Let's Dance," started out with a lively Bollywood dance and focused on his experiences as a Sikh American youth. He earned top rankings in the semifinal and final rounds of the Tournament of Champions before earning the championship trophy.

The Tournament of Champions is the most prestigious high school speech and debate competition in the U.S. To qualify, debaters must receive two bids, earned by advancing to late elimination rounds at select individual tournaments. Held annually at the University of Kentucky, the tournament provides the most successful debaters from individual tournaments with a chance to compete with each other. Valley seniors T.J. Foley and Trent Gilbert also made it to the elimination rounds of the Tournament of Champions.

## Chairman Crowley Introduces Citizenship Empowerment Act to Provide Voter Registration Forms to New Citizens

**WASHINGTON DC (TIP):** House Democratic Chairman Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Congressman Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA) have introduced legislation to require that all newly sworn-in U.S. citizens be uniformly provided voter registration forms at naturalization ceremonies, making it easier for them to exercise their core right as a citizen: the right to vote.

Currently, only some states and local election officials provide such materials to newly sworn-in citizens. The Citizenship Empowerment Act (H.R. 3113) would require officials to provide voter registration forms in citizenship packets and would allow election officials to set up informational tables outside naturalization ceremonies.

"We should do everything within our power to make it easier for Americans to vote, as that is the fundamental tool for ensuring a more perfect union," said Chairman Crowley. "Newly sworn-in Americans have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to our country, and they are often eager to make their voices heard. Providing voter registration forms at naturalization ceremonies would go a long way into making that a reality. I applaud Congressman Boyle for his leadership on this important issue and hope my colleagues will be inspired by the Independence Day Holiday to support this legislation." "The right to vote is the foundation of our democratic system. We should make it easier, not harder, for citizens to vote or register to vote whenever possible," said Congressman Boyle. "We should do all we can to provide all citizens a fair opportunity to participate in our democracy - and in fact encourage them to do so - regardless of the location they happen to be naturalized as a U.S. citizen. The first step of a truly representative democracy is participation. I am proud to introduce this legislation with Joe to cap off Immigrant Heritage Month and commemorate July Fourth."

The legislation is endorsed by Common Cause and the National Partnership for New Americans.

"Many immigrants to the United States fought and died for the right to vote," said Aaron Scherb, director of legislative affairs at Common Cause. "Ensuring that new American citizens can fully participate in our democracy is a common-sense reform, and Common Cause commends Representative Boyle for introducing the Citizenship Empowerment Act."

Providing new citizens with voter registration forms at their naturalization ceremonies is allowed but not required by federal law. This is an obvious disparity, whereas one new U.S. citizen can be sworn-in and immediately be given the opportunity to register to vote, while another may have to jump through multiple hoops to track down the necessary paperwork.

# Donald Trump is an 'outright thug,' says Padma Lakshmi

**The celebrity Indian American chef says the president would rather tweet www videos "than read a security briefing or actual health care bill."**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** In fact, even that would be a charitable description judging from the way she described the 45th president of the United States on Monday.

"So, it's official, we have an outright thug in the WH who tweets www videos rather than read a security briefing or actual health care bill"

So, it's official, we have an outright thug in the WH who tweets www videos rather than read a security briefing or actual health care bill!

Lakshmi's tweet came in response to a doctored video that Trump posted on Saturday where the president is seen body slamming an opponent with a CNN logo imposed on his face.

Lakshmi, an author and well-known host of Top Chef, a reality competition aired on Bravo, has been quite active on twitter:



Donald Trump (left) and Padma Lakshmi.

Photo via twitter

Lately, she has been campaigning against a Republican effort to repeal Obamacare, especially GOP lawmakers' attempt to defund Planned Parenthood.

Recently, the celebrity chef also featured on a video explaining why every woman deserves access to birth control and highlighting the work Planned Parenthood is doing.

This was not the first time the Indian American aired her contempt for Trump publicly. During the presidential election last year, she had called Trump a buffoon. "Even if he wasn't the racist buffoon that he is making himself out to be, I probably wouldn't vote for him," Lakshmi said, Variety reported. "But as an immigrant, I

obviously don't see his worldview as mine."

Laxmi was in India in February to promote her book Love, Loss and What We Ate: A Memoir.

Trump's tweet was part of his continuing tirade against CNN and other media organizations.

A few hours after the controversial CNN tweet, Trump tweeted again saying, "At some point the Fake News will be forced to discuss our great jobs numbers, strong economy, success with ISIS, the border & so much else!"

In response to Trump's tweet, CNN tweeted, "The President is no way form or fashion has ever promoted or encouraged violence. If anything, quite the contrary."

## Masaba Gupta to present designer wear on July 8

BY PRAKASH SWAMI

**SAN JOSE (TIP):** Bay area-settled Indian actress Jaishree Chandrasekar is presenting Urban Panache USA in partnership with House of Masaba to cast Masaba spell on Silicon Valley.

She is presenting international designer Masaba Gupta founder and creative head of House of Masaba at Amber India, 4296 El Camino Real, Los Altos on July 8 between 1 PM and 5 PM.

Gupta is the daughter of the National Film Award winning powerhouse of an actress, TV host and Theater producer, Neena Gupta and the legendary King of Swagger and Cricket, Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards.

Gupta gave tennis, dance, music, radio jockey and acting a shot. Sixth time was the game changer for this young lady as she enrolled herself into fashion school. And like a phoenix, she rose and continues to soar high.

Back in 2009, her mentor Wendell Rodricks encouraged her to apply for Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai at the tender age of 19 under Gen Next category. By 2010 she won the award for Best Emerging Designer by Cosmopolitan (2010).

Gupta kept scaling newer heights, as the fashion world raved about the ethereal Sonam Kapoor as she debuted Masaba Saree at Cannes 2011. Masaba became a celebrity favorite, and her designs featured on every major Fashion magazines and blogs.

Her ability to turn everyday objects into retro prints caught the attention of women across the seven seas, including me. In 2015 Vogue Italia (2015) awarded her India's most promising talents.

Masaba a diffusion line - unique and revolutionary is one of India's most successful fashion labels. The strength of the label lies in the ability to marry traditional Indian sensibilities and aesthetics while keeping the modern context alive.

By 2017 she made it to the prestigious Forbes India's 30 under 30 list. The headline rightfully said, "Masaba Gupta's



Jaishree and Masaba Gupta are teaming together to cast Masaba spell on Silicon Valley

instinct-driven designs belie her age". The Brand That Talk To the Mighty Girls

Her lust-worthy brand appeals to the modern women across the globe. From the ones who enjoy fuss-free kitschy clothing to the elegant show-stoppers. Her clothes are versatility personified. They can effortlessly transition from the tech conferences in Silicon Valley to the bustling streets of Florence.

Sonya & Trisha Suri, the dynamic mother and daughter duo founded Urban Panache. Trisha, a Business Management major and currently a student getting her masters in Computer Science at CMU, was helping her friend with her wedding trousseau. It was then that Trisha realized that there was a shortage of options in the United States when it came to catering locally to the American brides.

Jaishree is an Indian actress who has acted in Tamil-language films in the 1980s. She was introduced by veteran Tamil director C. V. Sridhar in the movie Thendrale Ennai Thodu in 1985. She got married in 1988 and lives in the San Francisco Bay area with her husband Chandrasekar and two sons.

Jaishree went back to school educated herself in Technology and has been a technology professional for the past 17 years. However, she made a comeback with movie titled Kadhal 2 Kalyanam in 2014, but the movie release has been delayed. On Christmas Day 2016, Jaishree's other comeback film Manal Kayiru 2 (the sequel of the original 80s



iconic hit) released in theaters internationally. She is the granddaughter of late S Jayalakshmi singer and actress and is grand niece of globally renowned artist and painter S. Rajam & Veena Vidwan Padmabhushan S. Balachander, both her grandmother's brothers.

She is now venturing into social media marketing with her page 'Jaishree Chandrasekar Presents'.

For years, Jaishree's clothing, jewelry, make-up style, cooking, recipes, kitchen ideas, travel ideas and suggestions & comments on assorted topics such as settling in the US, raising children have been of interest to her friends and family.

On her Facebook page, Jaishree Chandrasekar Presents, she hopes to expand this to a broader audience. The Face book page will promote items that she recommends & enable limited edition items and services as well, thereby opening up a vetted and credible shopping experience.

Jaishree and her team are currently in the process of quality-testing select vendors in the fashion industry, resorts and jewelry designers. One such company is Vaishali bangles inspired by the tradition meet modern design. They customize Jewelry according to the trend and also to suit custom requirements. Look out for recommendations on this page soon. For vendors who would like to reach quality clientele via Jaishree. Contact Jaishree at jaishreechandrasekarpresents@gmail.com

# AAPI supports Dr. Jerome Adams for United States Surgeon General



Dr. Gautam Samadder, AAPI President has supported nomination of Dr. Jerome Adams for United States Surgeon General



Dr. Jerome Adams with YPS members

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** "The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin is pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Jerome Adams for United States Surgeon General, currently serving as Indiana Health Commissioner with a proven leadership record with a steadfast dedication to improving the lives of the communities around him," said Dr. Gautam Samadder, President of AAPI, in a statement issued here.

Dr. Jerome Adams was nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as the new Surgeon General of the United States on June 29th. Adams, a physician anesthesiologist, has a long-tenured history in the health industry and is from Vice President Mike Pence's home state of Indiana.

If he is confirmed by the US Senate, he would serve a four-year term and would take over for Sylvia Trent-Adams, who's served as the acting surgeon general since April 21 when Trump asked Vivek Murthy to resign from the top job as America's Doctor. Murthy, a member and friend of AAPI, had served in the role since December 18, 2014 and was nominated by President Barack Obama.

According to Dr. Samadder, who assumed charge as the President of the largest ethnic organization of physicians in the US representing

nearly 100,000 physicians and fellows of Indian origin, Dr. Adams has demonstrated this leadership on numerous fronts including during the recent HIV outbreak in southeast Indiana and with the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic nationally. He is also an active leader within organized medicine and serves on the Health and Public Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee for the American Society of Anesthesiologists and has served on several boards of the American Medical Associations including the Young Physicians Section.

Dr. Adams is an anesthesiologist who has been outspoken against the opioid epidemic. He began serving as the Indiana State Health Commissioner in 2014 under then-governor Mike Pence and was in that role during the 2015 outbreak of HIV that spread among users of a prescription opioid, Opana. In the role, Adams oversees a number of branches of the state's health departments: Public Health Protection and Laboratory Services, Health and Human Services, Health Care Quality and Regulatory, and Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commissions. In addition to serving as the health commissioner, he's also the secretary of the Indiana State Department of Health's executive board and is also the chairman of the Indiana State Trauma Care Committee. Adams has testified in front of the US

Congress and the Senate Committees

Dr. Adams holds a master's degree in public health and was a key player in navigating Indiana's response to an HIV epidemic directly associated with drug use in 2015. "I would respectfully suggest that we're here today not so much to look back at what happened," Adams said to the committee. "But to make sure it doesn't happen in another community. You need to ask yourself, 'Are you helping more people than you're hurting?'" Adams, who earned his medical degree from Indiana University's School of Medicine, currently works as an assistant professor of clinical anesthesia at the school and also works as a staff anesthesiologist at Eskenazi Health. At Eskenazi, he's the chairman of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

Dr. Adams, with his wide range of experiences in the healthcare sector, understands the healthcare landscape, and will be a strong advocate for state public health, bringing a unique and valuable set of skills to the nation's healthcare system. "AAPI would like to work closely with Dr. Adams in helping shape healthcare policies and programs benefiting the entire nation and the people of this great nation," said Dr. Samadder, who has made making AAPI's voice heard in corridors of power in the nation a top priority of his presidency.

# Indian American Doctor Pariksith Singh recognized as the Frist Humanitarian Award Winner for the Year by Oak Hill Hospital

**BROOKSVILLE, FL (TIP):** Oak Hill Hospital recently recognized Pariksith Singh, MD, as this year's Frist Humanitarian Physician Award winner.

The Frist Humanitarian Award was founded in 1971 and honors outstanding individuals for their humanitarian and volunteer activities. It is one of HCA's Awards of Distinction and is one of the highest honors that HCA bestows on employees, physicians and volunteers. Named in honor of Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr., a founder of HCA and renowned humanitarian, this award recognizes individuals whose daily dedication and care giving, epitomize the highest standards of quality and personal commitment.

In recognizing Dr. Singh, his nomination included the following:

1. Provides excellent healthcare to the community
2. He puts his patients first
3. His actions speak louder than words
4. He shows respect for everyone

Dr. Singh received his medical training in India and completed his residency at Mount Sinai Elmhurst in 1996. He has held his Board Certification in Internal Medicine since that time. Upon completion of his residency, he moved to Florida and began his medical career. In 2001, he co-founded Access Health Care, LLC, where he continues as CEO, Medical Director, owner and physician.

Dr. Singh began the Auroveda Operating Foundation which includes the Community Outreach Center, Auro Community Garden, and the Kids' Garden at Pine Grove Elementary School. Other organizations he supports include People Helping People, Disabled American Veterans, the Crescent Community Clinic, Wounded Warrior Project, and neighborhood schools

In addition, he has established the Auroveda Integral Foundation in Jaipur, India. Through the foundation, he has organized an Ayurvedic and Homeopathic dispensary. The center provides cost-free treatment. Further, the foundation has submitted a proposal to establish a healthcare wellness and AYUSH Center in Jaipur that would have satellite locations in rural areas. AYUSH is an acronym that is used to describe the non-allopathic medical system in India. AYUSH refers to Ayurveda, yoga, unani, siddha and homeopathic.

Recently Dr. Singh was presented with the Special Doctor Service Award by iLaGaneshan, a member of Parliament in India. The award was in recognition of Dr. Singh's contributions to healthcare.



Oak Hill Hospital recently recognized Pariksith Singh, MD, as this year's Frist Humanitarian Physician Award winner

## Loretta Lynch denies offering assurances to Clinton campaign over email probe

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Former Attorney General Loretta Lynch pledged Thursday, July 6, to cooperate with a Senate Judiciary Committee investigation into whether she assured the Hillary Clinton campaign last year that the FBI probe into Clinton's emails wouldn't go too far, according to a report in Politico.

In a statement from her lawyer, Lynch also denied ever making such an assurance to a former Clinton campaign aide, Amanda Renteria - an allegation fueled by a Russian intelligence memo that's credibility has been called into question.

"Ms. Lynch does not know Ms. Renteria, did not discuss the Clinton email investigation with Ms. Renteria, and did not communicate to Ms. Renteria, either in words or in substance, that 'she would not let the FBI investigation into Clinton go too far,' says

a letter Thursday from her attorney, Robert Raben, to the leaders of the Judiciary panel.

"Likewise," the letter continues, "to the best of her knowledge and recollection, neither Ms. Lynch nor any representative of the Office of the Attorney General discussed the Clinton email investigation with Ms. Renteria, Representative [Debbie] Wasserman Schultz or her staff, or any DNC official."

The letter says Lynch "intends to cooperate fully" with the Senate probe.

Last month, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California, along with other members of the panel, sent Lynch a letter seeking answers about the Russian intelligence memo.

The intelligence memo, which was obtained by the FBI, suggested Lynch had assured Renteria that the investigation

into Clinton's emails would not go too far.

The existence of the Russian intelligence memo was first disclosed in April by The New York Times, which said it played a role in Comey's decision last year to bypass the normal chain of command and make a public announcement that the FBI was not recommending criminal charges against Clinton. He reportedly was worried that the Justice Department's credibility could be called into question if the announcement came from Lynch, and Russia later leaked the document.

The details about the intelligence memo came to light in a Washington Post report in May that said U.S. intelligence officials believe it might be unreliable or even a fake.

Renteria and others involved in the issue told the Post they did not know each other and had never gotten such an assurance from Lynch.



Dr. Singh was presented with the Special Doctor Service Award by iLaGaneshan, a member of Parliament in India

## CBI files case against Lalu, family after searching premises over hotel tender irregularities

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The CBI on July 7 (Friday) carried out searches at the premises of family members of former railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in connection with a fresh case of alleged irregularities in awarding the tender for maintenance of hotels.



A case has been registered against the then railway minister, his wife Rabri Devi, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and his son Tejashwi, the then IRCTC MD, P K Goyal, the wife of Yadav's confidante Prem Chand Gupta, Sujata, and others, CBI sources said.

Gupta is a former Union corporate affairs minister.

The sources said the FIR relates to allegations of irregularities in the tender for development, maintenance and operation of BNR Hotels in Ranchi and Puri, awarded to the private Sujata Hotels in 2006.

The BNR Hotels are heritage hotels of the Railways which were taken over by the IRCTC from the public transporter earlier in the same year.

Searches are being conducted today at 12 locations, including Delhi, Patna, Ranchi, Puri and Gurgaon, they said.

Source: PTI

## Achal Joti takes over as CEC

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Achal Kumar Joti today took over as the 21st Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). After taking over, he said his focus would be to "vigorously pursue the mandate of holding free, fair, inclusive and credible polls.



He said the poll panel's mission of "no voter is left behind" would continue to be his priority even as the focus

area would be to actively promote e-governance for holding state and LS polls. Joti, a 1975-batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, was the Chief Secretary of the state while Narendra Modi was the CM.

## Parties issuing whip to face penal action: EC on Prez poll

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Political parties which issue directions to their members to vote in a particular manner in presidential elections can face penal action, the Election Commission said today.

It, however, said parties were free to canvas or seek votes of the electors for any candidate or request them or appeal to them to refrain from voting.

Since there is no whip and the vote in presidential poll is through a secret ballot, voters are free to decide whether they want to cast vote or not.

The set of clarifications from the commission came after it was approached by some voters who wanted to know whether a member of a political party voting in defiance of the party's decision would attract disqualification on the ground of defection or the party would be liable to any penalty for asking their members to vote in a particular manner.

The EC said parties which issue whip or give directions can face action under section 171C of the IPC dealing with "voluntarily interferes or attempts to interfere with the free exercise of any electoral right".

The total strength of the electoral college President's poll comprises all elected MPs and members of legislative assemblies of all states and UTs of Delhi and Puducherry.

The total comes to 10,98,903 votes with each MP carrying a vote value of 708.

The vote weight of an MLA depends on the population of the state he or she represents. A candidate needs 50 per cent plus votes to win the poll. The halfway mark comes at 5,49,452.

## PREZ POLL

# In Nitish backing Kovind, BJP sees cracks in alliance

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Even as the party attacks Nitish Kumar for not acting against RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his family in alleged graft cases, BJP sees the Bihar CM's support to NDA presidential nominee Ram Nath Kovind as a serious division in the alliance rather than an "isolated" act.

A senior BJP member said Kumar's support to Kovind was reminiscent of his stance when he had supported UPA's presidential nominee Pranab Mukherjee in 2012 despite being part of NDA. Subsequently, Kumar parted ways with the NDA.

"By support to the NDA nominee, Kumar has expressed displeasure with RJD and Congress and the 'mahagathbandhan' will not last six months," he claimed. The party is keenly seeing what Kumar's position on the vice-president's election will be.

BJP's optimism is in contrast to remarks by JD(U) members like K C Tyagi, who said Kumar's support to Kovind did not have political ramifications beyond the presidential poll. However, while reacting to RJD and Congress's criticism of the CM, even Tyagi has recalled JD(U)'s alliance with BJP when Vajpayee was PM.

BJP feels the CM is keen to differentiate himself from his partners. "Candidature of Meira Kumar was a known secret. Kumar could have waited for two days. But he had made up his mind and Kovind's



Nitish Kumar

selection made it easy for him," the BJP member said. He said Meira Kumar's particular Scheduled Caste was a sizeable one in Bihar and it could have been a poll ploy to support her. "But a large section of JD(U) wanted to join hands with BJP."

After support for demonetisation, the latest trigger for Kumar to explore a break-up with the 'mahagathbandhan' is premised on several factors, including possibility of legal action against Lalu's family members. The CM, it is felt, has also realised the futility of forging a grand national alliance against BJP since Congress is unlikely to formally back anyone for PM other than Rahul Gandhi.

## PREZ POLL FIGHT BETWEEN IDEOLOGIES, SAYS MEIRA

**PATNA (TIP):** Opposition's presidential pick Meira Kumar has described her electoral fight with NDA nominee Ram Nath Kovind as a contest between two ideologies — communalism and secularism.

The former Lok Sabha Speaker was interacting with Bihar's ruling Congress and RJD legislators at a posh hotel in Patna on Thursday, ten days before the election is to be held on July 17. The other ruling ally, JD (U), has announced support to Kovind.

"Our country is standing at the crossroads... There's complete darkness on one side where people are being divided on religious and caste lines and the poor being suppressed for political advantage. We (read the parties supporting her) are on the other side, trying to help the suppressed sections. This is what we have been doing since ages," she said, alleging people today were afraid of even walking beside a cow.

Thanking RJD chief Lalu Prasad who was the first politician after Congress president Sonia Gandhi to call her, Meira said he told her about his support. "I knew he would support me for I have seen him lead the people of Bihar in stalling nefarious attempts to communalise the country in the past," she said and hoped history would be repeated with her win.

# I cared about EC's image, not my own, during EVM controversy: Zaidi

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** It was the Election Commission's integrity and image and not his personal reputation that he cared about during the entire EVM controversy, former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Nasim Zaidi has said.

"I was neither angry nor amused. I was very concerned about the integrity of the Commission, which it enjoys for decades. What was in my mind was how to preserve the integrity of the Commission and to retain and further enhance people's confidence in the institution. It is not a question of me as an individual," Zaidi told IANS in an interview when asked if he felt hurt or just laughed at the allegations during the EVM controversy.

Zaidi, who demitted office on Wednesday, said the entire controversy was "most avoidable" as electronic voting machines (EVMs) were in use for a long time and several expert committees had vouched for their soundness.

"I feel that this (EVM) controversy was most avoidable, in the sense that the EC has been a pioneer in deployment of EVMs in consultation with political parties, and with so many technical committees saying that these cannot be tampered with. By using the same EVMs we have conducted 107 assembly elections and three general elections in 2004, 2009, 2014. They have always thrown correct results. This controversy was clearly avoidable," Zaidi said.

He said that instead of "levelling wild allegations", political parties could have brought up specific cases of tampering with proof or credible information. "But we haven't had any such evidence. We are waiting for it even today," Zaidi said with a smile.

Zaidi said the Commission had always been open to suggestions and measures to further enhance the EVMs' credibility. After results to the assembly elections in Uttar



former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Nasim Zaidi.

Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur were declared, in which the BJP swept the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, some opposition parties raised doubts over the integrity of the EVMs. Many other parties joined the chorus that was sparked by BSP supremo Mayawati, who lost majorly in the state.

In Punjab, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party raised the same issue, and also after his party lost the Delhi civic elections. However, the EC was prompt in issuing rebuttals every time such charges were levelled. In June, the EC threw a challenge to political parties to come and hack the machine.

Only the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) showed interest in taking up the challenge. The poll panel had put in place several strictures for holding the exercise, after which most parties decided to keep away.

Source: IANS

# More stones for Ram temple reach Ayodhya, Muslim outfits express concern

**LUCKNOW (TIP):** Muslim outfits expressed serious concern as three truckloads of red stones reached the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) workshop at Ramsevak Puram in Ayodhya from Rajasthan.

According to the VHP sources over 200 tonnes of stones were unloaded from three trucks in the workshop in the early hours of Wednesday.

Barely a fortnight back, two truckloads of stones had arrived at the VHP workshop from Rajasthan. "More truckloads of stones are likely to reach the workshop in the days to come," said an employee at the workshop.

He said that the work of carving of stones was going in full swing at the workshop, which was located not very far from the VHP's office at Karsevakpuram in Ayodhya.

VHP spokesman Sharad Sharma said that there was no bar on bringing stones in Ayodhya.

"Trucks carrying stones have been arriving at Ayodhya since 1990...and they will keep on arriving in future also," Sharma told Deccan Herald over phone from Ayodhya on Thursday.

He said that the Akhilesh Yadav government had, under the influence of his "advisers" had banned the transportation of stones through an "oral order".

"The Saint community of the country now expect this government (NDA) to ensure construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya through a Parliamentary legislation on the lines of Somnath Temple in Gujarat," he added.

Sharma said that even seven years after the Allahabad high court's verdict in the



According to the VHP sources over 200 tonnes of stones were unloaded from three trucks in the workshop in the early hours of July 5.

Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid Title Suits, a regular hearing had not started at the Supreme Court.

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath had also said during an interview to a TV channel recently that the government did not intend to ban the transportation of stones as there was no legal bar on the same.

The then Samajwadi Party (SP) government had imposed a ban on bringing the stones after Muslim outfits reacted sharply when truckloads of stones had arrived at Ayodhya from Rajasthan in 2015. The arrival of the stones assumes

significance in the wake of framing of charges against senior BJP leaders L.K.Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and some VHP leaders by a special CBI court here for their role in the demolition of the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

Muslim leaders said that the government must stop the VHP from bringing stones in Ayodhya. "The matter is in the court and all parties must wait for the court verdict...nothing should be done to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country," said a senior Muslim leader here.

Source: [www.deccanherald](http://www.deccanherald)



PM Narendra Modi lays a wreath at the Indian cemetery in Haifa, Israel, on Thursday. Forty-four Indian soldiers laid down their lives during the liberation of Haifa in 1918.

## EXPEDITE WELFARE SCHEMES TO PREVENT FARM SUICIDES: SC

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Questioning the Centre on lacunae in implementing various policies and programmes to prevent suicide by farmers, the Supreme Court today refused to close a PIL on the issue, even as it said the government was moving in the right direction.

"We are not going to close it. We are just keeping ourselves in the loop. You are moving in the right direction but suicides are going up," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India JS Khehar said during the hearing of a PIL by Citizens Resource and Action Initiative (CRANTI), an NGO.

"Giving compensation to the family of a farmer who kills himself is not enough. You are moving but still the suicides are increasing. There are policies but everything is on paper. You must move towards implementation," it said.

The top court's comments came after Attorney General KK Venugopal explained the steps taken to deal with the agrarian crisis and tried to impress upon the Bench to leave it to the government to implement the policies which, even the petitioner admitted, were good.

Giving details of its "multi-pronged attack" to tackle the problem, Venugopal said it was not for the court to supervise the government. But the Bench said: "There is a motive for us to hear this. We want you to soften the effect of loan on farmers."

Hit by consecutive droughts, India has witnessed an agrarian crisis, driving many farmers to suicide owing to failed crops and indebtedness. Suicide by farmers increased by more than 40 per cent in 2015, crossing 8,000. Most of these were from Maharashtra (more than 3,000) and Telangana (more than 1,300). Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh too have seen suicides by farmers. Source: [The Tribune](http://TheTribune)

# Ahead of Burhan's first anniv, security beefed up in Valley

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** Fearing trouble on the first death anniversary of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, authorities have beefed up security across the Kashmir valley and also decided to block social media sites to prevent rumor mongering.

Sources said more than 200 additional companies of central forces have already arrived in the Valley to ensure there is no trouble this time. With Amarnath yatra also going on, authorities don't want to take any risk. "Police have already detained hundreds of workers of separatist organizations and seized more than 500 bikes to thwart any attempt by the Hurriyat to mobilize people on July 8," they said.

Separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik have called for a complete shutdown on July 8 and asked people to reach Tral, the native town of Burhan, where they plan to address a huge gathering jointly.

However, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Muneer Khan said they

## Jawan with AK-47 rifle goes missing from Baramulla

In the first case of its kind, an Army jawan decamped with a service rifle and some ammunition from his unit in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, forcing the authorities to sound an alert across the Valley, especially in Army installations.

Sepoy Zahoor Ahmad Thokar, of Sirmoo in Pulwama district, was posted with the 173 Battalion of the Territorial Army (Engineers) in Baramulla, the police said.

"Thokar deserted the Army on July 5-6 night. He has run away with a service assault rifle and three magazines," an official said.

"All field formations have been alerted," an official communication of the police said. A top police officer said ground intelligence suggested that he might have joined the militants. "If it is confirmed that he has joined the militants, it will be the first such case," the officer said. "However, there is no hard evidence at this point as we are still investigating."

will leave no stone unturned to ensure that peace and law and order are maintained in the Valley. "There is no question of allowing any rally or a gathering. Primary concern for security agencies will be to ensure that there is no breach of peace anywhere," he told reporters.

Khan said that they were not planning a blanket ban on the Internet on Burhan's anniversary in the valley. "There is nothing like suspending the Internet.

Every step will be taken as per requirement and the situation will be reviewed on day-to-day basis," he said.

The state government has already announced a 10-day summer vacation in all educational institutions from July 6. The vacations coincide with a protest schedule issued by the separatists and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir based United Jihad Council (UJC), an umbrella of militant organizations.

## UK court confirms Dec 4 as final hearing date in Mallya case

**LONDON/NEW DELHI (TIP):** A UK court on Thursday rejected fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya's request to shift the final hearing date in his extradition case to next year and fixed it for December 4.

Mallya, who is wanted in India for Kingfisher Airlines' default on loans worth nearly Rs 9,000 crores, has been in the UK since March 2016 and was arrested by Scotland Yard on an extradition warrant on April 18.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), arguing on behalf of the Indian government, told the Westminster Magistrates' Court in London that they had "excellent cooperation" with the Indian authorities in the case and now had sufficient material to establish a prima facie case for the extradition of the 61-year-old former chief of erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines.

"We have completed a review of materials and I am happy to state that we have had excellent cooperation with the Indian authorities in this case," CPS barrister Mark Summers told the judge.

"We are ready and willing to proceed and would invite the court to fix a hearing date at the earliest." "We have completed a review of materials and I am happy to state that we have had excellent cooperation with the Indian authorities in this case," CPS barrister Mark Summers told the judge. "We are ready and willing to proceed and would invite the court to fix a hearing date at the earliest."



# G20 HAMBURG SUMMIT

The G20 (or G-20 or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies founded in 1999. The G20 aims to discuss policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization. The G20 heads of government or heads of state have periodically conferred at summits since their initial meeting in 2008, and the group also hosts separate meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors.

Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU). The EU is represented by the European Commission and by the European Central Bank. Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 85% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), and two-thirds of the world population.

With the G20 growing in stature after its inaugural leaders' summit in 2008, its leaders announced on 25 September 2009 that the group would replace the G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations. Since its inception, the G20's membership policies have been criticized by numerous intellectuals, and its summits have been a focus for major protests by left-wing groups and anarchists.

The heads of the G20 nations met semi-annually at G20 summits between 2009 and 2010. Since the November 2011 Cannes summit, all G20 summits have been held annually.

## History

The G20 is the latest in a series of post-World War II initiatives aimed at international coordination of economic policy, which include institutions such as the "Bretton Woods twins", the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and what is now the World Trade Organization.

The G20 was foreshadowed at the Cologne Summit of the G7 in June 1999, and formally established at the G7 Finance Ministers' meeting on 26 September 1999 with an inaugural meeting on 15-16 December 1999 in Berlin. Canadian finance minister Paul Martin was chosen as the first chairman and German finance minister Hans Eichel hosted the inaugural meeting.

The Brookings Institution claims the group was founded primarily at the initiative of Eichel, the concurrent chair of the G7. Canadian sources identify the G20 as a joint creation of Germany and the United States. The G20 membership was decided by Eichel's deputy Caio Koch-Weser and then US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers' deputy Timothy Geithner.

"Geithner and Koch-Weser went down the list of countries saying, Canada in, Portugal out, South Africa in, Nigeria and Egypt out, and so on; they sent their list to the other G7 finance ministries; and the invitations to the first meeting went out."

## Early topics

The G20's primary focus has been governance of the global economy, and summit themes have varied from year to year. The theme of the 2006 G20 ministerial meeting was "Building and Sustaining Prosperity". The issues discussed included domestic reforms to achieve "sustained growth", global energy and resource commodity markets, reform of the World Bank and IMF, and the impact of demographic changes due to an aging world population.

In 2007, South Africa hosted the secretariat with Trevor A. Manuel, South African Minister of Finance as chairperson of the G20.

In 2008, Guido Mantega, Brazil's Minister of Finance, was the G20 chairperson and proposed



The world leaders ahead of the G20 summit in Hangzhou, China, in September 2016.

dialogue on competition in financial markets, clean energy, economic development and fiscal elements of growth and development.

On 11 October 2008 after a meeting of G7 finance ministers US President George W. Bush stated that the next meeting of the G20 would be important in finding solutions to the burgeoning economic crisis of 2008.

## WHICH COUNTRIES ARE G20 MEMBERS?

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, The European Union, represented by the European Council.

## When and where is the 2017 G20 summit being held?

This year's main G20 forum is being held from 7-8 July in Hamburg, Germany.

As well as permanent members of the committee, the leaders of Guinea, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, Spain and Vietnam will also be in attendance.

This will be the 12th G20 summit and the first time it has been hosted by Germany.

It is being hosted at the Hamburg Messe and Congress, a large convention centre which regularly hosts trade fairs.

There were surreal scenes ahead of the event, as hundreds of activists dressed up as zombies in a "Welcome to hell" demonstration.

The protests on the eve of the summit's opening became more violent, with riot police firing water cannons at demonstrators after they pelted cops with rocks.

## What will be discussed at the G20 meeting?

Theresa May is set to issue a rallying cry to leaders to develop technology to prevent future "lone wolf" terror attacks following the Manchester and London Bridge atrocities.

The Prime Minister will call for new tools to



be introduced to spot suspicious transfers of small sums of money in order to detect terrorist funding.

She will also urge world leaders to share more intelligence on the movement of known jihadi fighters returning from battle in Syria and Iraq.

Donald Trump will meet Vladimir Putin at the summit – and the US president offered rare public criticism of Russia's "destabilising" behaviour ahead of their talks.

Trump is also set for talks with May, who is poised to challenge him over climate change after he pulled out of the Paris Agreement in June. Their discussions will also focus on missile testing by North Korea in the face of escalating nuclear weapon development from Kim Jong-un's state in recent months.

Germany and the US could find themselves on collision course in Hamburg after Angela Merkel signalled that climate change, free trade and migration would be key themes of the summit.

## Summit agenda

Apart from usual, recurring themes "relating to global economic growth, international trade and financial market regulation", the G20 Hamburg summit is expected to focus on the following "issues of global significance":

### More inclusive growth

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: In spite of the recent US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the German presidency wants to make the most of the "renewed public policy interest for environmental sustainability, gender equity and social inclusiveness, in the spirit of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" - notably through the promotion of renewable energy and further fossil fuel divestment in both industrialised and developing nations.

### Women's rights and economic empowerment

### Refugees and European migrant crisis

### Counter-terrorism and national security

Cross-cutting policy recommendations  
Wolfgang Schäuble, the veteran German Federal Minister of Finance, has insisted on the "interconnected" nature of many of the issues facing G20 nations and, thus, on the need to preserve a strong consensus in favor of concerted, crosscutting policy measures:

"Globalization has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty, but there is also a growing rise in frustration in some quarters. Development, national security and migration are all interlinked"





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## RADHIKA APTE'S 'PHOBIA' TO GET SEQUEL

**R**adhika Apte might be just a few movies old in Bollywood, but with her stellar performances and strong screen presence, Radhika has made her mark in the cinema industry.

Her critically acclaimed film 'Phobia' that spoke about a woman who has a rare phenomenon of a disease called agoraphobia, where a person faces an extreme or irrational fear of open or public places, is said to be getting a sequel.

Since Bollywood is suddenly all about the biopics and sequels, this is a great time to venture into something like this and making a follow-up of a movie which doesn't fall under the commercial category.

As per reports in a leading daily, the makers of 'Phobia' are keen on making the sequel a big budget one with a leading star. Apparently, the makers will touch upon the subject of Aviophobia (fear of flying) in 'Phobia 2'.

Since 'Phobia' had Radhika Apte playing the protagonist, as per reports, the sequel will have a male lead. "I am doing Phobia 2, but this time it's with a male lead. The script demanded a male lead. The film was critically acclaimed and it made to the list of top ten films of 2016. So, we want to get someone who can pull off that kind of performance," Viki Rajani of production house Next Gen Films Pvt Ltd told a leading newswire.

The makers have reportedly locked in the script and the movie is said to go on floors soon. "There will supporting actors as it's on a flight and about phobia of flying," Viki said.

# BOLLYWOOD'S HIGHEST EARNING CELEBS

**R**eports had once claimed 'Bajirao Mastani' actress Deepika Padukone has charged a whopping Rs 12 crore for the Sanjay Leela Bhansali film 'Padmavati'. However, it was said to be justified due to her extremely demanding shooting schedule which kept her off the hook from signing other projects. According to the latest report in Mumbai Mirror, the actress who made her Hollywood film debut with 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage', was approached by a filmmaker for a project featuring a leading Khan and one more heroine. However, DP stuck to her fixed fee of Rs 12 crore and is in no mood to bring it down in the near future.

Yes, this has happened! Our desi girl has slayed with her impeccable performances overseas and is now featured in the Forbes highest paid television actresses in the world after starring in American TV crime drama 'Quantico'. No brownie points for guessing that we are indeed talking about Priyanka Chopra. Now according to recent reports, PeeCee is the highest paid television actress worldwide with an earnings of \$11 million. Her earnings are from the TV series and her pay check from 'Baywatch'. While that is a huge amount to wrap our heads around, the former Miss World has also managed to beat her international desi competitor Deepika Padukone in this race. DP's earnings are revealed to be \$10 million from her Bollywood movies as well as her Hollywood debut film, 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage'. Now will this create further rift between the once BFFs of B-town? Only time would tell!



## MOVIE REVIEW

### MOM

**CAST:** Sridevi, Akshaye Khanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Adnan Siddiqui, Abhimanyu Singh, Sajal Ali

**DIRECTION:** Ravi Udyawar

**GENRE:** Thriller

**DURATION:** 2 hours 27 minutes

#### STORY

The bliss of a biology teacher's family life in Delhi is shattered when her daughter, Arya (Sajal Ali) is physically assaulted by Jagan (Abhimanyu Singh) and gang. Does Devki Sabarwal (Sridevi) wait for the law to take its course? Or does Devki become Maa Durga and hunt down the perpetrators of the crime?

#### REVIEW

Mom reminds you for the umpteenth time that we're in Nirbhaya country. Like other films on the same subject, debutant Ravi Udyawar's emotional thriller tells you that India, or should that be New Delhi specifically, isn't safe enough for women, especially young girls. And its relevance makes it an important watch.

There's a lot packed in here. To begin with, the film dwells on the dynamics of a teenager's standoffish relationship with her stepmom. This entire track is beautifully handled. Then again, it is post the

teenager's abduction and assault when the film reveals its true facet. To say anything more on the actual plot is to risk spoiling its surprises.

Instead, it would suffice to say that when the avenging mother is joined by an inconsequential-looking private detective, DK (Nawazuddin), the screen ride becomes edgier and more exciting. There's also a tough-as-nails cop, Francis (Akshaye), who stays close on the heels of the vigilantes, adding gusto to proceedings. At times, there is that sense of déjà vu that you experience because most parents-looking-for-a-missing-teen movies follow certain set devices. But this one still manages to stay ahead with some interesting twists and turns. However, it is in the graph and the strength of Sridevi's character wherein the victory of this script lies.

In her 300th landmark movie (coincidentally produced by her husband Boney Kapoor) Sri demonstrates why she is the high-priestess of desi cinema. Here she turns in a captivating performance; happiness, helplessness, vendetta and victory, she walks you through the entire gamut of emotions with panache. Supporting her ably is her onscreen husband Anand (Adnan), who plays the polished gent with flair. Nawazuddin, with his quirks and one-liners, turns in a class act and Akshaye Khanna, who is in terrific form here, forces you to ponder why he takes such long matinee breaks.

Dew fresh Sajal Ali, who seems to have grown up watching Kareena Kapoor films, seems like a clone of the senior actor. But this is not to take away from her otherwise adept performance. A R Rahman's background score adds the required chills without distracting and Anay Goswamy's camera lingers as lovingly on the actors' faces as it does on the snow-capped peaks.





## ALICIA VIKANDER: ROMANCE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MARRIAGE

Actress Alicia Vikander said she does not relate with the idea of marriage and romance is more important for her. The 'Light Between Oceans' star, who is dating actor Michael Fassbender, said she is not in a hurry to walk down the aisle with her partner.

"My parents were divorced when I was three months old and my father is happily married to his fourth wife, so marriage as an idea has never meant that much." "For me, the word family means everything, that's the true connection. And I think it's better to come up with your own romantic ideas because that's what will give you wonderful memories," Vikander said.

# GWYNETH PALTROW CREATES 'AN UPROAR WITH NEIGHBOURS'

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow's plan to build a 14,000 sq ft mansion in Montecito, California, has not gone down well with her neighbours.

"She's created an uproar with neighbours on all three sides," Andrew Rice, a spokesman for one neighbour, Michael MacElhenny, told an online portal.

The neighbours say the new building is too big, too tall and incompatible with the adjacent houses, and it blocks their views.

Rice said Paltrow - who has owned properties in Amagansett, London, Malibu, California, and Los Angeles' Brentwood area, where a complaint was filed against her for erecting an oversized nine-foot gate - has left "a trail of tears" on two continents.

"Michael and the other neighbours have tried to work with her, and they've gotten nowhere," Rice said.

The Montecito Board of Architectural Review voted in favour of the plans last month when her architect claimed the house had been lowered eight feet. Rice said the real shrinkage was just one foot and that the project was moving forward to the next step based on incorrect information, the portal reported.

Source: IANS



## MOVIE REVIEW



# THE BIG SICK

**CAST:** Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan, Anupam Kher, Ray Romano and Holly Hunter

**DIRECTION:** Michael Showalter

**GENRE:** Romantic Comedy

**DURATION:** 2 hours 10 minutes

### STORY

Kumail Nanjiani (Kumail Nanjiani) is a Pakistani cab driver and an aspiring comedian who is instantly drawn to American student Emily Gordon (Zoe Kazan) who he bumps into at a bar in Chicago. But, his parents want him to be a good Muslim and marry a Pakistani. And therein lies the conflict or at least some of it ...

### REVIEW

Michael Showalter's drama is based on the real-life romantic track of the protagonist (Kumail who plays himself) and the girl he ultimately marries. And the script (co-written by Kumail and Emily) has many laugh-out-loud moments. Their initial dates, where the couple talks of keeping it casual are fun to watch. As is the scene in which you're introduced to Kumail's family. The

banter at Nanjiani's suburban Chicago home with his parents Azmat (Anupam Kher) and Sharmeen (Zenobia Shroff), is delightful. Like most immigrants, they've made America their home, but Pakistan still resides in their hearts. Typically they encourage their son to pray to Allah and even organize a daily parade of eligible young Pakistani-American women for him to choose his bride from.

Kumail who fears that he'll be ostracised doesn't tell his parents about his American girlfriend. Nor does he give in to Emily's request of having dinner with her parents—Terry (Ray Romano) and Beth (Holly Hunter) who are visiting from North Carolina. This is when Emily decides to call off their relationship. But fate wills otherwise. When she lands up in hospital, Kumail who takes charge of the situation also comes to terms with how deeply he cares for her.

Self-deprecatory humour keeps the mood alive through and through. Be it a mention of the ISIS or Terry's wish to talk with a Muslim about the 9/11 attacks, everything provides a 'good' laugh.

Kumail's cowardice in not telling his parents that he is dating a non-Muslim and his initial terse interactions with Emily's parents in the hospital are both funny and emotional.

As far as performances go, Ray and Holly lead the way; Anupam Kher is adept and Kumail with his mostly-comic expressions passes muster. The film lacks the vitality of My Big Fat Greek Wedding and other such romcoms. It could also do with a 10-minute shorter run. But there is no taking away from the fact that this smart comedy is an ideal monsoon getaway.

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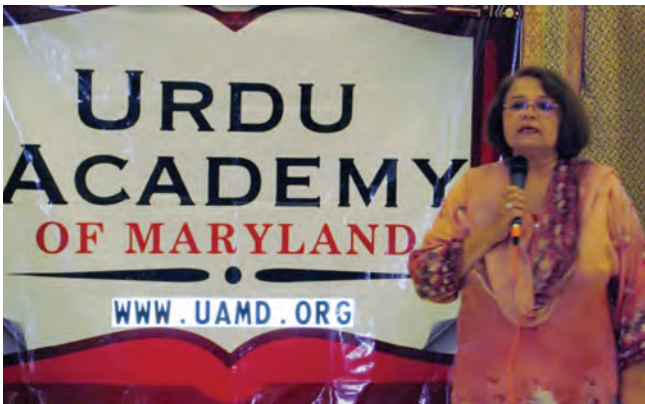


# Is anjuman mein aap ko aana hai baar, baar..



Anupma Sharda performing classical dance

It was so pleasing to watch beautiful rendition of Urdu poetry through a classical dance by Anupma Sharda, student of guru Purvi Bhatt from Dance School, wearing traditional dress. This song was from 1981 Urdu film, Umrao Jaan, which has a deep connection with Urdu literature and the Aligarh Muslim University. This and other songs in the film were written by Urdu poet Shaheryaar from the University and the film was directed by another Aligarhian Muzaffar Ali, who excelled in promoting Urdu literature. The presentation of this song at this event also conveyed a message to the audience that they would be coming to these Urdu promotion events, like this Urdu Mela, again and again. Is anjuman mein aap ko aana hai baar, baar Deevaar-o-dar ko gaur se pehchaan lijiye.



Nuzaira Azam, Master of Ceremony

This first Urdu Cultural Mela was the brain child of Tahira Anwar and Dr. Razi Raziuddin. Held on 20th May, 2017 at the Seneca Valley High School, Germantown, Maryland, it attracted a large number of people from Metropolitan Washington area. It was organized by the Urdu Academy of Maryland with the collaboration of the Aligarh Alumni Association Metropolitan Washington and Pakistan Association of Metropolitan Washington. and also present a bouquet of activities to give glimpses of Urdu culture to the audience. The main purpose of mela was to making aware of the richness of Urdu culture and heritage.

Tahira Anwar, who started the Urdu Academy of Maryland in 2013, said that the Academy has succeeded in launching Urdu teaching in two schools of Montgomery County. She was

very happy to announce that she was receiving requests for expanding the program to other schools. However, due to lack of resources she was not able to meet the demand. She is hopeful that the program could be expanded to other schools in Montgomery County and nearby other counties with help from the community. "In addition to preservation of cultural heritage, learning of mother tongue helps strengthen family and friendship bonds. Recent research has also shown that children growing up with multiple languages perform much better in highly competitive society," she added. Activities of the Academy are available at: [www.uamd.org](http://www.uamd.org).

Dr. A. Abdullah-a stalwart worker of Urdu spoke about origin and significance of Urdu in the Indian Subcontinent and now in North America. He praised the work initiated by the Urdu Academy of Maryland in Montgomery County of Maryland and expressed confidence that the work started by



Regional costumes show

the Academy will establish its roots, spread its branches like a banyan tree and others will get benefit from it. In the beginning it does require sacrifice, hard work, and patience, however.

Shoaib Ali Hasan eloquently presented Idgah-a classic short story by Munshi Premchand. This powerful story about



Shilpa Sharma and Sheikh Abdur Rahman presenting ghazals

a 4-years old orphan boy conveys a strong message how affection, motherhood, care, sacrifice, and satisfaction bring happiness.

Farheen Abdullah helped organize a colorful cultural show depicting traditional dresses representing different regions of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Mrs. Shilpa Sharma, a physical therapist by professions and Dr. Abdur Rehman, a scientist at the National Institutes of Health, respectively, presented ghazals from notable Urdu poets. The program also included several boutiques for ladies to do Eid shopping and delicious food and Urdu books for sale.

Nuzaira Azam was the Master of Ceremony. Mohammad Akbar, president, Aligarh Alumni Association, Washington-DC thanked the organizers and participants of the program, and the audience.



Audience



Program organizers (L to R): Rahat Yusuf, A. Abdullah, Farheen Abdullah, Firoza Salahuddin, and Tahira Anwer

## Keep EU doors open to Britain, say German Finance Minister and IMF chief

**HAMBURG (TIP):** The European Union should keep its doors open to Britain if it wants to change its mind about leaving the bloc, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said on July 6.

Speaking at an event ahead of the G20 summit in Hamburg, Schäuble said it was not up to him to advise the British to change their decision, but added: "If Britain were to move in this direction, the door would be open, even after Brexit."

Lagarde said the Brexit decision should not be made irreversible, adding the EU and Britain must continue to cooperate closely.

Lagarde also noted there were global challenges which demanded more global cooperation but also other challenges that needed regional cooperation. For his part, Schäuble said the United States would not remain the strongest power if it takes a "Just America" line. (Reuters)

## In media blitz, Beijing says Delhi's stand 'groundless'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** As the Doklam standoff enters its fourth week, the Chinese embassy here has launched a media blitz to drive home its point that India's position on the issue is "groundless". After its late night statement on Mansarovar Yatra on July 6, the embassy came up with a video in which it sought to explain that it was India that was trying to change the status quo in the region as Doklam+ belonged to China.

"As far as solution is concerned, the Indian troops must pull back to Indian side of the boundary unconditionally and immediately. This is the precondition for any meaningful dialogue between China and India+," Li Ya, the political counsellor with the embassy, said in the video. "We have strong evidence to prove that Doklam belongs to China."

Doklam has always been the traditional pasture for Chinese border inhabitants. Archives of Xi Zang Autonomous Region still retain some receipts of the grass tax paid by Bhutanese herdsmen. Today, the Chinese border troops still patrol there and the herdsmen graze their livestock there, and production and living facilities have been built there," he said.

Li accused India of crossing a delimited boundary and entering another country's territory in the name of security concerns, adding that this won't be acceptable to any sovereign state. Li, who claimed that he had first-hand knowledge of the area, said that based on his knowledge and work "for the past decade", India's "position is groundless". (PTI)

# Cyprus reunification talks collapse, UN chief 'very sorry'

**CRANS-MONTANA (TIP):** Talks to reunify the divided island of Cyprus collapsed in the early hours of July 7, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said after a stormy final session.

"I'm very sorry to tell you that despite the very strong commitment and engagement of all the delegations and different parties ... the conference on Cyprus was closed without an agreement being reached," he told a news conference.

The collapse marked a dramatic culmination of more than two years of a process thought to be the most promising since the island was split more than 40 years ago.

Guterres had flown in on Thursday to press Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci to seal a deal reuniting the east Mediterranean island, while U.S. Vice President Mike Pence had phoned to urge them to "seize this historic opportunity".

Diplomatic efforts to reunite Cyprus have failed since the island was riven in a 1974 Turkish army invasion triggered by a coup by Greek Cypriots seeking union with Greece.

The week of talks in the Swiss Alps, hailed by the United Nations as "the best chance" for a deal, ground to a halt as the two sides failed to overcome final obstacles.

Diplomats said Turkey had appeared to be offering little to Greek Cypriots wanting a full withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island, although the Greek Cypriots had indicated readiness to make concessions on Turkish Cypriot demands for a rotating presidency, the other key issue.

Guterres finally called a halt at 2am after a session marred by yelling and



drama, a source close to the negotiations said.

"Unfortunately... an agreement was not possible, and the conference was closed without the possibility to bring a solution to this dramatic and long-lasting problem," Guterres said.

"That doesn't mean that other initiatives cannot be developed in order to address the Cyprus problem," he added.

He declined to elaborate on what exactly had caused the talks to collapse, but said there was still a wide gap between the two delegations on a number of questions.

Greek Cypriots, who are due to launch a gas drill off the island in coming weeks that Turkey opposes, pointed the finger of blame at the Turkish Cypriot side.

Nicos Christodoulides, spokesman for the Greek Cypriot government, said Turkey had refused to relinquish its intervention rights on Cyprus or the presence of troops on the island.

"Tonight's development is in no way positive, but it is not the end of the road either," he said.

Guterres, who began his role in January by announcing a "surge of diplomacy for peace", is known for his energy and drive.

But he appeared tired and downcast as he announced the collapse of the talks to a handful of journalists at an impromptu news conference that lasted only three and a half minutes.

Diplomats say that Cyprus should be much simpler to resolve than many other situations where the United Nations hopes for peace, such as the bloody and complex wars in Syria, Yemen, Ukraine, South Sudan, Libya, or the Korean peninsula.

Success in the Cyprus talks would have given Guterres a high profile at the G20 talks in Hamburg, where he is due on Friday, and where he will meet US President Donald Trump, who has promised to cut the US share of UN funding (Reuters)

# 76 police officers hurt in clashes with anti-G20 protesters: Official

**HAMBURG (TIP):** At least 76 police officers were hurt on Thursday in clashes with anti-G20 protesters in Hamburg, German authorities said, as a demonstration dubbed "Welcome to Hell" erupted in violence shortly after it began.

"Police are still being attacked," said a spokesman for Hamburg's police force, adding that most of the officers hurt sustained light injuries.

Demonstrations turned violent late Thursday, as German police clashed with a group of masked anti-capitalist activists hurling bottles and stones.

What should have been a peaceful march by around 12,000 people in Hamburg protesting against globalisation was halted as police used water cannon and tear gas to disperse around 1,000 far-left militants.

Police called with loudspeakers on protestors to remove their masks but this was ignored and after more objects were thrown, authorities decided to separate them from the other protestors, police said on Twitter:

"Unfortunately it has come to the first clashes. We are implementing corresponding measures," read another tweet.

Protesters were seen scrambling to leave the scene, while others defiantly stood in the way of water cannon trucks as they moved in surrounded by riot police with helmets and batons.

Police tweeted a photo of a car and flames and said shop windows were smashed.



The main "Welcome to Hell" march was then called off but thousands of people remained as night fell and demonstrators engaged in smaller skirmishes in the back streets of Germany's second city, AFP correspondents said.

Up to 100,000 demonstrators are expected before and during the two-day Group of 20 meeting gathering Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping of China starting on Friday.

There were 20,000 police on standby together with armoured vehicles, helicopters and surveillance drones. A holding centre for detainees has been set up in a former hardware

store with space for 400 people.

"War, climate change, exploitation are the result of the capitalist system that the G20 stands for and which 20,000 police are here to defend," demonstrator Georg Ismail told AFP.

Major events like the G20 have in recent years usually been held in remote locations, but Germany was forced by its logistical demands to host it in a large city with a big venue and dozens of hotels.

Hamburg is desperate to avoid a rerun of the kind of major clashes seen at the 2001 G8 summit in Genoa or the Frankfurt opening of the new European Central Bank building in 2015.

In Hamburg, some 30 demonstrations have been announced, organised by anti-globalisation activists and environmentalists, trade unions, students and Church groups.

"Welcome to Hell" organiser Andreas Blechschmidt said the motto is "a combative message... but it's also meant to symbolise that G20 policies worldwide are responsible for hellish conditions like hunger, war and the climate disaster".

The main focus of attention inside the G20 venue on the first day of the summit on Friday will be Trump's first face-to-face meeting with Putin. Speaking in the Polish capital earlier on Thursday in front of 10,000 people, Trump didn't mince his words about Moscow.

"We urge Russia to cease its destabilising activities in Ukraine and elsewhere, and its support for hostile regimes -- including Syria and Iran -- and to instead join the community of responsible nations in our fight against common enemies and in defence of civilisation itself," he said.

Arriving in Hamburg later Thursday, Trump headed to talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has vowed to defend the 2015 Paris climate accord despite the US leader's decision to withdraw.

Merkel said before meeting the US president that Trump was facing isolation within the G20 over the issue -- one of several topics where the new US leader is likely to clash with his fellow leaders. (Reuters)

# Saudi Arabia chief foreign promoter of Islamist extremism in UK: Report

**LONDON (TIP):** Oil-rich Saudi Arabia is the chief foreign promoter of Islamist extremism in the UK, a new report has claimed, asserting that a "clear and growing link" can be drawn between overseas money and the recent wave of attacks in Britain and Europe.

The Henry Jackson Society, a foreign affairs think-tank, called for a public inquiry into the role of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations, BBC reported.

The think-tank said there was a "clear and growing link" between Islamist organisations in receipt of overseas funds, hate preachers and Jihadist groups promoting violence.

However, the UK's Saudi Arabian embassy says the claims are "categorically false".

Ministers are under pressure to publish a report on UK-based Islamist groups.

The Home Office report into the existence and influence of Jihadist organisations, commissioned by former Prime Minister David Cameron in 2015, has reportedly yet to be completed amid questions as to whether it will ever be published.

Critics have suggested it could make uncomfortable reading for the government, which has close and long-standing diplomatic, security and economic links with the Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia.

Today's report says a number of Gulf nations, as well as Iran, are providing financial support to mosques and Islamic educational institutions which have played host to extremist preachers and been linked to the spread of extremist material.

At the top of the list, the report claims, is Saudi Arabia. It alleges



individuals and foundations have been heavily involved in exporting what it calls "an illiberal, bigoted Wahhabi ideology", quoting a number of examples.

In a minority of cases, the report alleges institutions in the UK that receive Saudi funding are run directly from Saudi Arabia, although in most instances the money appears to "simply buy foreign donors' influence".

In a statement, the Saudi embassy here said any accusations that the Kingdom had radicalised "a small number of individuals are baseless and lack credible evidence".

And it pointed out that the country has itself been subject to numerous attacks by al-Qaeda and so-called Islamic State.

It added: "We do not and will not

condone the actions or ideology of violent extremism and we will not rest until these deviants and their organisations are destroyed."

The report's release comes at a time when Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt are all accusing Qatar of supporting extremism - a charge the report says is hypocritical.

Arab foreign ministers are meeting in Cairo to discuss possible further sanctions on Qatar, while the Qatari foreign minister will be making his own country's case at a press conference in London.

Endorsing the report, Labour MP Dan Jarvis said it shed light on "very worrying" links between Saudi Arabia and the funding of extremism and he called for the government to release its report on foreign funding. (PTI)

## The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference - 2017 in Durban, from 16th to 19th November 2017

**DURBAN (TIP):** The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference is being held in Durban from November 16th to 19th, 2017. This was disclosed to The Indian Panorama by Dr.V.R.S. Sampath, founder and convener of World Tamils Economic Foundation who is also President of Madras Development Society.

In a note sent to The Indian Panorama, Mr. Sampath said, "The aim of this conference is to bring the Tamils and the Indian Community the world over together, in order to foster co-operation and tap the vast human and material resources for a collective growth. This will be a platform to discuss business and investment opportunities, professional networking, knowledge sharing and discuss present economic situation in the world

"The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference will present a unique, dynamic, five day forum of not to be missed networking experience. This Conference will include Plenary Sessions, Paper presentation, Project Presentation, Community Leaders Speech, Awards, Exhibition, Networking, Get-together and Cultural Program. The participants will be coming from all over the world. Businessmen, Industrialists, Professionals will be attending this conference.

"The First World Tamils Economic Conference was held from 5th to 7th January 2009 at Chennai, 600 delegates participated from 25 countries. The Second World Tamils Economic Conference was held in Dubai, U.A.E from 1st to 4th October 2011 in which 650 delegates from 20 countries participated. The Third World Tamils Economic Conference was held in Chennai from 1st to 5th October 2016, 700 delegates from thirty countries participated in the conference.

"Ministers, Ambassadors of the various governments, distinguished guests, business leaders, community leaders, economists, professionals and academicians will be the key speakers of this conference."

Visit conference website: [www.economicconference.in](http://www.economicconference.in) for more information and registration.

## Hindus seek Diwali holiday in all Wales schools

**NEVADA (TIP):** Hindus are urging all state and independent/private schools in Wales (United Kingdom) to close on Diwali, most popular of their festival, which falls on October 19 this year.

Distinguished Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA) said that it would be a step in the positive direction, as it was important to meet the religious and spiritual needs of Hindu pupils.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, indicated that Wales schools should make efforts to accommodate the religious requirements of Hindu students and show respect to their faith by not conducting regular business and scheduling classes on Diwali. We did not want our students to be put at an unnecessary disadvantage for missing tests/examinations/papers, assignments, class work, etc., by taking a day-off to observe Diwali.

If schools had declared other religious holidays, why not Diwali, Rajan Zed asked. Holidays of all major religions should be honored and no one should be penalized for practicing their religion, Zed added.

Zed suggested that all Wales schools, state as well as independent/private, to seriously look into declaring Diwali as an official holiday, thus recognizing the intersection of spirituality and education. Zed noted that awareness about other religions thus created by such holidays like Diwali would make Wales students well-nurtured, well-balanced, and enlightened citizens of tomorrow.

Rajan Zed urged Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones and Cabinet Secretary for Education Kirsty Williams to work towards adding Diwali as an official holiday in all the state schools of Wales, and persuading the independent/private schools to follow.

Zed further says that Hinduism is rich in festivals and religious festivals are very dear and sacred to Hindus. Diwali, the festival of lights, aims at dispelling the darkness and lighting up the lives and symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

# Chinese aircraft carrier sails into Hong Kong on maiden visit

**HONG KONG (TIP):** China's first aircraft carrier sailed into Hong Kong waters on Friday in the latest show of the country's growing military might at a time of heightened regional tensions.

Tourists and residents gathered early to catch a glimpse of the massive carrier on its maiden visit to Hong Kong, part of celebrations marking 20 years since the handover of the city from British to Chinese rule.

The Liaoning was accompanied by several other naval ships from its strike group, with jet fighters and helicopters visible on the flight deck alongside hundreds of crew dressed in white uniforms.

"The Liaoning's visit shows that China is a militarily superior country," said Jack Chan, a retired businessman, who was watching the aircraft carrier from an oceanfront park.

Thousands of Hong Kong residents queued for hours on Monday, many unsuccessfully, for 2,000 tickets allowing access to the vessel this weekend.

Even though the former Russian naval ship remains a training vessel for China's rapidly modernizing navy, its missions through tense regional seas

**"I think Liaoning's visit definitely gives the central government a chance to display its military power. It's quite a positive and smart strategy to step up publicity overall," said Sean Moran, a tourist from the United States, as the ship passed behind him on a blustery morning.**

have been closely followed in Hong Kong, which is more used to hosting US carriers and other foreign warships.

"I think Liaoning's visit definitely gives the central government a chance to display its military power. It's quite a positive and smart strategy to step up publicity overall," said Sean Moran, a tourist from the United States, as the ship passed behind him on a blustery morning.

US consulate officials said that they have yet to be invited on board the Liaoning. The US navy often hosts the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on ships visiting Hong Kong, sometimes flying local military chiefs to aircraft carriers.

The Liaoning's most recent drills at

the weekend included operations in the Taiwan Strait that were closely monitored by Taiwan's military given recent tensions with Beijing, which regards the island as a breakaway province.

With its Soviet-era takeoff ramp distinguishing it from the ordinary Hong Kong traffic of container ships and bulk cargo vessels, the 55,000-tonne Liaoning steamed down the congested East Lamma channel shortly after dawn.

Significantly smaller than the US carriers that have long stopped in Hong Kong, the Liaoning started life as one of the Soviet Union's last carriers under construction, before being sold by Ukraine as a stripped down hulk to private Chinese interests in 1998.

The vessel was later refitted in a northern Chinese shipyard in what was seen by foreign military analysts as a key early test of China's naval modernization.

The Liaoning began sea trials as China's first aircraft carrier in 2011 and has more recently conducted fully integrated drills with its complement of J-15 jet fighters and a variety of support ships. (Reuters)

# THE ART OF FINDING LOST THINGS



**L**ost your house keys? Can't find your specs? Your daughter can't find her favourite doll? Try some findology to prevent losing things around the house. According to Findologist Michael Solomon, author of *How to Find Lost Objects*: "Don't get frantic and keep searching around. There are no missing objects, only unsystematic searches and clutter."

Solomon says if everything is in its place, nothing will be lost. Meaning: design spaces for specific things. So, your keys, spectacles, mobile, its charger and all thingamajigs must have designated spaces - and then, consistently put the objects there.

## Clutter begone

While designing a house, it's important to keep it free of clutter. Because amid clutter, things become invisible and virtually unfindable.

Solomon says, "Keys are among the most common objects we lose. And a missing set of keys can bring our day to a sudden and infuriating halt." But if you have lost something key, the big tip to finding it is to remain calm. "The moment you calm down, the lost object shows up," he says.

Solomon says that there's also "The Camouflage Effect" - a common situation in which your missing object is where you thought it was, or where you remember last having seen it. But it has become hidden from view, due to some other object having been inadvertently placed on top of it. The way out: look underneath things.

## Make up for lost time

The basic reason people should use findology while designing houses is to stop wasting time that goes in looking for things. Interior designer Namita

Sharma says, "People want specific corners in cupboards for placement of things in the kitchen and bedrooms." In smart houses, Sharma mentions that they try to create uncluttered spaces where there's no scope for an object just disappearing. Her take: "Lost keys, books, eyeglasses, jewellery, many times simply vanish and resurface after years. We want to reduce the frustration and trauma."

## PRINCIPLES OF FINDING LOST OBJECTS

1. Don't look for it.
2. It's not lost - you are.
3. Remember the three C's: be comfortable, calm and confident.
4. Its where it's supposed to be.
5. Domestic drift. If an object is missing from its designated space, it's probably where it was last used.



## ANTI-AGEING TIPS AND TRICKS

**N**othing signals the end of the carefree days of youth than the appearance of the early signs of ageing. The first fine lines and the first grey hair all serve to remind us that the glory days of our easy-going beauty routines are over. After a certain age, you just cannot afford to go out without sunscreen or be careless with your health without the effects showing up on your face and body. Eating healthy, exercising, eliminating stress, sleeping well and, of course, genetics, will all determine how fast you will show your age. But there are certain time-tested natural therapies that will help you care for your skin and hair and, maintain a basic level of health and vitality. We got some of India's top beauty experts to share their formulae with us.

### Back to the basics

One way in which you can increase the potency of these remedies is by supplementing them with a clean lifestyle. According to Suparna Trikha, director, Suparna Herbs, a company that manufactures natural skin and hair products, "Ageing is a state of mind. You can be young at 90 or look haggard at 19. Lifestyles and our changing temperaments and tempers are responsible for early ageing." The beauty guru advocates some simple changes that will make all the difference.

**STOP WORRYING:** "I see people worry all the time! Stop it because it will only give you more wrinkles and lines. If you have a problem without a solution, sleep over it."

**DESTRESS:** "Most people spend a majority of their time doing things they don't want to. To stay young, you should make the time to do something you enjoy at least four times a week. Play, follow a dream, listen to music, meditate, read a book or exercise." Avoid luxury: "Too much luxury can be stifling. For instance, avoid air-conditioning as it completely ruins the skin. Breathe fresh air and let your skin hydrate naturally."

**STAY TRUE TO NATURE:** "Walk outdoors, eat lunch under the open sky whenever you can, and meditate and exercise in the fresh air. Just being with nature calms the mind and eases tension."

**EAT FRESH:** "Have healthy eating options for every meal and add plenty of fresh fruits, salads, dry fruits, greens and lean meats to your diet."

**LAUGH:** "We don't laugh often and enough! Try to spend time with people who make you happy."

**DRINK UP:** "I call water ambrosia for the skin. No matter what your skin type is, water will keep you hydrated and younger-looking. It helps flush out toxins from the body and cleanses the skin like nothing else."

### Boost your reserves

According to Bharti Taneja, founder-director of the Alps Beauty Group, as one gets older, the skin naturally becomes less elastic and more fragile. Decreased production of natural oils dries the skin and makes it appear more wrinkled. Fat in the deeper layers of the skin diminishes and this causes loose, saggy skin and more pronounced lines and crevices. She advocates a good skincare regimen to look young.

**CLEANSING:** "First thing in the morning, wash your face with a deep-pore, soap-free and non-foaming cleanser, as the foaming ones tend to leave the skin drier. Take a little on your palm and massage your face for two to three minutes. Wash off with cool water and pat dry with a clean towel."

**TONING:** "A toner is a liquid meant to close open pores while cleansing. Toning firms up the skin and should follow every cleansing ritual. You can also try making a homemade toner by boiling tulsi, neem and mint leaves together in a litre of water till half of it evaporates. Store and apply whenever needed."

Source: Femina

## FOOD CORNER

### PUNJABI CREAMY CHICKEN

#### INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms washed & dried chicken boneless, 1/4 tablespoon ginger, 2 green chilli, 1/2 teaspoon powdered black pepper, 2 finely chopped onion, 1 tablespoon garlic, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder

#### For Garnishing

1 tablespoon dried fenugreek leaves

2 sprigs crushed lightly mint

For The Main Dish

100 gm fresh cream

#### For Toppings

1 tablespoon sliced & slit almonds

#### Method

■ To make this creamy chicken recipe, take a pan and heat a little oil in it on moderate flame. Put ginger, garlic and green chillies in it and saute till they become golden brown. Then add chopped onions to it and saute till they turn light pink.



■ Now add the washed chicken and cook for around 10 minutes. Add salt, black pepper powder and garam masala to the chicken, and cook till it is cooked or has turned golden.

■ Once the chicken is tender, go ahead and add the fresh cream. Mix well, cover and cook for around 6-10 minutes. When it's almost cooked, add kasoori methi powder and cover it for about 2 more minutes.

■ Your creamy chicken is prepared. Garnish it with almonds and lightly crushed mint leaves. Serve it hot with butter naan or stuffed naan along with raita of your choice!



# WEIGHT LOSS MISTAKES YOU'RE MAKING WHILE AT WORK

Starting a weight loss programme is easy, but following it up with your busy work schedule is not. Especially with a sedentary lifestyle, it is often difficult to keep a track of what goes inside your tummy. Birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, farewells - we are all part of celebrations while sitting on our desk and answering our emails simultaneously. However, these small nooks end up hurting our weight loss regime in a major way. Here are some common mistakes which we all make while at work:

## **Skipping breakfast**

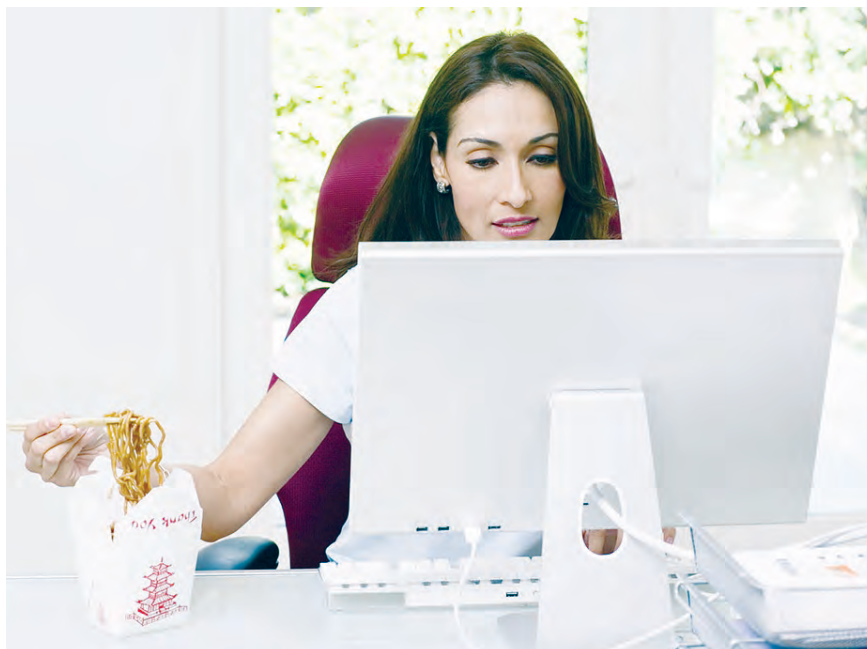
There is a reason why skipping breakfast is considered to be a sin. Skipping breakfast is a mistake which needs to be rectified. When we sleep at night, our body repairs itself. This is the reason why our body is generally hungry in the morning. If we do not feed our body anything at this time, we are not only slowing our metabolism but also heading towards weight gain more than anything else. Therefore, skipping breakfast is not the wisest decision.

## **Obliging co-workers**

One bite of chocolate from your work buddy or one slice of pizza because everyone in the team wants to order pizza can hamper your weight loss more than you think. It may look like a small quantity initially, but small quantities can add up to large ones and hence show on your weighing scale. Your solution: say NO!

## **Eating on your desk**

Getting a boiled vegetable salad with dal prepared by your mother will not help if you are eating on your desk. While eating on your desk not only resonates inactivity but also, you're not



burning calories. Taking out 20 minutes for lunch may seem difficult on busy days, but make sure you make your desk a no-lunch zone. Take your lunch box to the cafeteria or any setting which is away from your desk. This will help you in two ways: firstly, you get a break and secondly, your food is being digested simultaneously and hence you're burning calories.

## **Stress is eating you up**

Stress is eating you up: Work stress can often get to the best of us. Late working hours, long meeting hours, desk jobs which require mental calmness can lead us to eating foods all the time. This happens because your body requires fuel to work and concentrate. Involuntarily our hands start reaching out for anything and everything that we see when we face mental pressure and stress. At such times, we often forget to

drink even water. Here's help. You can try two things: firstly, start with keeping a bottle of water with you always and secondly, keep healthy snack nibbles like dry fruits or gur (sugarcane), which are instant energy-providers.

## **Unhealthy snacks**

That vending machine in your office pantry maybe stocked up with all your favourites and may seem like the ideal choice at certain times, but snacking on unhealthy foods can hurt you more than you think. You may consider burning calories next day in the gym, but eating unhealthy snacks everyday can hurt you in the long run as this can lead to weight loss plateau. Solution: Bring your home-cooked snacks. This will help you because you will not munch on unhealthy snacks after a long meeting or a very tiring task.

Source: TOI



## FIDGET SPINNERS: THERAPY OR DISTRACTION?

The newest toy addiction, fidget spinners, have made their way into the fingertips of many youngsters and adults too. These are devices that are portable enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Fidget spinners contain weighted propellers which allow you to spin it for several seconds. They are known to reduce stress and anxiety, not only in children but also in adults. However, in recent times, a lot has been spoken about this tiny toy - its benefits and disadvantages.

### **Why is it believed to help autistic kids?**

When in application, the fidget spinner spins around and creates a hypnotic effect. This is meant to relieve stress and anxiety as your brain is involved in a manner, which provides you comfort in stressful situations. Therefore, when an autistic child plays with a fidget spinner, the brain of the child is believed to release happy or stress relieving hormones. The continuous movement of the gadget helps in keeping the child focussed on one activity which involves a great deal of concentration.

"A fidget spinner is a normal toy that parents can give to a child who is restless as it will help calm the child. There is nothing in a fidget spinner which makes it 'special' for an autistic child," says Merry Barua, founder, Action for Autism. Merry also talks about how fidget spinners being sold in the name of 'special toys for autistic kids' is nothing but a marketing gimmick. However, she does add that while it can help pacify a child with special needs, it is wrong to call a fidget spinner a toy for autistic kids.

### **Are fidget spinners really for autism and ADHD?**

Fidget spinners, according to popular opinion, are meant to provide a pleasing sensory experience. Though no study confirms its effect on those suffering with autism and ADHD. While a lot of research has gone into finding out how a simple fidget spinner can help with neurological disorders, a documented study is yet to be published by any reputed institute.

A recent research by John Hopkins University cleared some air on its medical use. The research says as follows: "These were never made as a medical aid or medical device, and these claims come from smart marketing on the internet."

Consequently, it is safe to say that fidget spinners came in as a marketing gimmick more than anything else. It is common for children to get addicted to a new toy and take it with them wherever they go. Fidget spinners provide the child with stress management as it helps distracting them when in a confused or stressed situation.

### **More than a game, a distraction?**

Many schools and institutes have dissed the fidget spinner as a distraction more than anything else. This is because once the user starts spinning the little device, due to the sensory experience that it provides, he or she can go on for hours together.

### **Work place stress buster?**

Just like for children, a fidget spinner works as a stress buster for working millennials as well. This is because, when a person is playing with fidget spinner while working, their concentration is at its peak. This helps them focus on one point or the piece of work they are currently working on.

When sitting on your desk, working on ten different things at the same time, a fidget spinner can help provide one point of concentration that helps busting stress.

## Foods that improve eyesight

While it is a known fact that carrots are excellent for your eyes, there are other foods as well that are known to protect eyesight and promote eye health. Include the following food items in your diet...

Dark, leafy greens like spinach, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, iceberg lettuce, kale, etc contain a lot of antioxidants such as lutein and zeaxanthin that lower your chances of developing macular degeneration and cataracts.

While there are several people who are against consumption of eggs, when eaten in moderation, these can actually be beneficial for health. The yolk present in eggs contains lutein, zeaxanthin and zinc, which lower your chances of developing macular degeneration.

Consume citrusy fruits such as grapefruit, tangerine, oranges, lemons, sweet lime etc, which are packed with vitamin C, known to lower your risk of developing cataracts.

Consuming a handful of almonds daily will help slow down macular degeneration thanks to the vitamin E present in them.

Tuck into fish like mackerel, tuna, salmon, etc, which are packed with fatty acids that protect your eyes.

Some studies also say that regularly consuming oysters is said to improve eyesight.

Corn contains lutein and zeaxanthin, excellent for your eyes.



## METHANOL DISCOVERED AROUND SATURN MOON ENCELADUS



**LONDON (TIP):** For the first time, scientists have detected large quantities of methanol molecules around Saturn's moon Enceladus, a finding that has significant implications for the search for alien life.

Enceladus has peaked scientists' interest since water-rich plumes were discovered gushing from its south pole.

The discovery was made by the Cassini spacecraft, which has since flown through the plumes and sampled organic compounds.

The latest results, however, were gained using the IRAM 30-metre radio telescope in the Spanish Sierra Nevada, and reveal a higher-than-expected quantity of the molecule methanol around Enceladus.

This is the first detection of a molecule from Enceladus with a ground-based telescope.

Enceladus's plumes are thought to originate in water escaping from a subsurface ocean through cracks in the moon's icy surface.

Eventually these plumes feed into Saturn's second-outermost ring, the E-ring. Recent work has found similar amounts of methanol in Earth's oceans and Enceladus's plumes.

However, the new discovery suggests that material spewed from Enceladus undertakes a complex chemical journey once vented into space.

"Recent discoveries that icy moons in our outer Solar System could host oceans of liquid water and ingredients for life have sparked exciting possibilities for their habitability," said Emily Drabek-Maunder, from Cardiff University in the UK.

"But in this case, our findings suggest that that methanol is being created by further chemical reactions once the plume is ejected into space, making it unlikely it is an indication for life on Enceladus," said Drabek-Maunder.

The team suggests the unexpectedly large quantity of methanol may have two possible origins: either a cloud of gas expelled from Enceladus has been trapped by Saturn's magnetic field, or gas has spread further out into Saturn's E-ring.

In either case, the methanol has been greatly enhanced compared to detections in the plumes.

"Observations aren't always straightforward. To interpret our results, we needed the wealth of information Cassini gave us about Enceladus's environment," said Dave Clements from Imperial College of London.

"This study suggests a degree of caution needs to be taken when reporting on the presence of molecules that could be interpreted as evidence for life," said Clements.

"This finding shows that detections of molecules at Enceladus are possible using ground-based facilities," said Drabek-Maunder.

"However, to understand the complex chemistry in these subsurface oceans, we will need further direct observations by future spacecraft flying through Enceladus's plumes," she said.

Source: PTI

# FIRST BATTERY-FREE CELL PHONE RUNS ON AMBIENT LIGHT

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Scientists, including those of Indian origin, have developed a new battery-less cell phone for the first time, which consumes almost zero power and runs by harvesting energy from ambient radio signals or light.

The team also made Skype calls using its battery-free phone, demonstrating that the prototype made of commercial, off-the-shelf components can receive and transmit speech and communicate with a base station.

"We have built what we believe is the first functioning cell phone that consumes almost zero power," said Shyam Gollakota, associate professor at the University of Washington (UW) in the US.

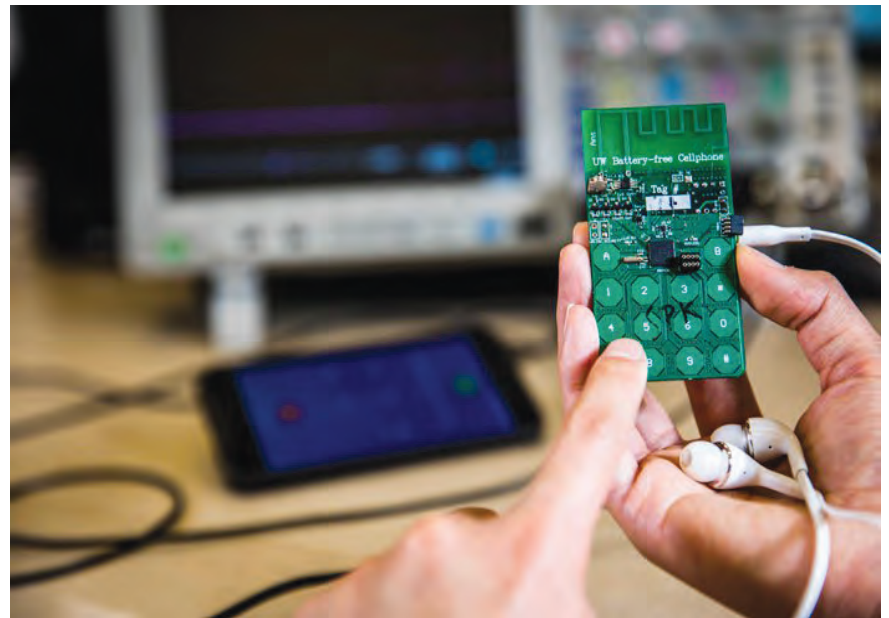
Researchers eliminated a power-hungry step in most modern cellular transmissions - converting analogue signals that convey sound into digital data that a phone can understand.

This process consumes so much energy that it has been impossible to design a phone that can rely on ambient power sources, researchers said.

Instead, the battery-free cell phone takes advantage of tiny vibrations in a phone's microphone or speaker that occur when a person is talking into a phone or listening to a call.

To transmit speech, the phone uses vibrations from the device's microphone to encode speech patterns in the reflected signals. To receive speech, it converts encoded radio signals into sound vibrations that are picked up by the phone's speaker.

In the prototype device, the user presses a button to switch between these two 'transmitting' and 'listening' modes, researchers said.



The prototype was able to perform basic phone functions- transmitting speech and data and receiving user input via buttons.

Using Skype, researchers were able to receive incoming calls, dial out and place callers on hold with the battery-free phone.

The team designed a custom base station to transmit and receive the radio signals. That technology conceivably could be integrated into standard cellular network infrastructure or Wi-Fi routers now commonly used to make calls.

"You could imagine in the future that all cell towers or Wi-Fi routers could come with our base station technology embedded in it, and if every house has a Wi-Fi router in it, you could get battery-free cell phone coverage everywhere," said Vamsi Talla, a research associate at

UW.

The battery-free phone does still require a small amount of energy to perform some operations. The prototype has a power budget of 3.5 microwatts.

Researchers demonstrated how to harvest this small amount of energy from two different sources. The battery-free phone prototype can operate on power gathered from ambient radio signals transmitted by a base station up to 31-feet away.

Using power harvested from ambient light with a tiny solar cell-roughly the size of a grain of rice - the device was able to communicate with a base station that was 50 feet away, they said.

The study was published in the Journal Proceedings of the Association for Computing Machinery on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies. Source: PTI

## Smart headlights can help drivers see through rain, snow

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have developed a smart headlight system for the first time that can help drivers see through heavy rain or snowfall and safely navigate roads during stormy nights.

The system invented by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in the US improves visibility by constantly redirecting light to shine between particles of precipitation.

It prevents the distracting and sometimes dangerous glare that occurs when headlight beams are reflected by precipitation back toward the driver.

"If you're driving in a thunderstorm, the smart headlights will make it seem like it's a drizzle," said Srinivasa Narasimhan, CMU associate professor of robotics.

The system uses a camera to track the motion of raindrops and snowflakes and then applies a computer algorithm to



predict where those particles will be just a few milliseconds later.

The light projection system then adjusts to deactivate light beams that would otherwise illuminate the particles in their predicted positions.

"A human eye will not be able to see that flicker of the headlights," Narasimhan said.

"And because the precipitation particles aren't being illuminated, the

driver won't see the rain or snow either,"

To people, rain can appear as elongated streaks that seem to fill the air. To high-speed cameras, however, rain consists of sparsely spaced, discrete drops.

That leaves plenty of space between the drops where light can be effectively distributed if the system can respond rapidly. Lab tests demonstrated that the smart headlight system could detect raindrops, predict its movement and adjust a light projector accordingly in 13 milliseconds.

At low speeds, such a system could eliminate 70 to 80 per cent of visible rain during a heavy storm, while losing only five or six per cent of the light from the headlamp.

To operate at highway speeds and to work effectively in snow and hail, the system's response will need to be reduced to just a few milliseconds.

Source: PTI

# AMAZON INVESTS OVER RS 2,000 CR IN INDIA BIZ

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Global e-tailing giant Amazon has invested over Rs 2,000 crore (over \$310 million) in India in the past two months as it looks to consolidate its position in the country and fend off local rivals like Flipkart.

The US-based firm pumped in Rs 1,680 crore in June into its online marketplace business in India, while Rs 341 crore was invested in the preceding month in the wholesale business.

As per regulatory filings with the Corporate Affairs Ministry, Amazon Corporate Holdings and Amazon.com.incs has made these investments in the two Indian entities.

The capital infusion will also provide more arsenal to the Indian entity that has been aggressively investing in expanding infrastructure and adding solutions to enhance consumer and seller experience. Last year, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had committed investments to the tune of \$5 billion into the Indian market. Estimates suggest that the company has already invested over \$2 billion in the last few quarters in the Indian market.

Amazon India, which has recently completed four years of operations, has been directing its investments towards building warehouses, strengthening logistics and increasing product assortment.

Besides, money is also being invested



in marketing and promotions as the company looks to bring more consumers into shopping online on its platform.

Bezos, as part of investor calls, has highlighted the importance of the Indian market to its operations on multiple occasions and has assured that the company will continue to invest in India. When contacted, an Amazon India spokesperson said: "We remain committed to our India business with a long-term perspective to make e-commerce a habit for Indian customers and invest in the necessary technology

and infrastructure to grow the entire ecosystem."

With Tiger Global-backed Flipkart raising \$1.4 billion earlier this year, the competition is intense and the rivals are already believed to be gearing up for the festive season. Amazon has invested Rs 341 crore in Amazon Wholesale India, the wholesale B2B arm of Amazon India. The company has also made an additional investment of Rs 1,680 crore in its India unit as it looks to further strengthen operations in the booming e-commerce market. *Source: PTI*

## MODI GOVT'S GST IMPERFECT, SAYS CHIDAMBARAM

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Modi government's Goods and Services Tax (GST) is "very, very imperfect" and cannot be called "one nation, one tax" as it has seven or more rates, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram has said.



P Chidambaram

The Congress will press for a reduction in tax rates and demand a cap of 18 per cent, besides seeking to bring petroleum, electricity and real estate under the new tax regime, the former finance minister told reporters.

"This is a very, very imperfect GST. This is not the GST which we (the UPA) had envisaged," he said. What the government had implemented, he said, was a GST with at least seven rates.

"It is a mockery of the GST. When we have rates such as 0.25, 3, 5, 12, 18, 28 and 40, and possibly more because of the discretion vested with state governments, how can we call this a 'one nation, one tax' regime," he wondered. Asked if the issue would be raised in Parliament, he said, "Of course, this is a preview".

Chidambaram said the Congress would continue to watch the roll out of the GST and "articulate the fears and grievances" of businesses and consumers. "We will keep vigil over the possible misuse of the draconian powers given to the anti-profiteering authority. We will highlight the elements of the true GST," he said.

The senior leader said his party would hold meetings across the country to highlight that the Congress was the "original proponent" of the GST and campaign for a "true GST". He noted that authorities and businesses were "unprepared or under-prepared" for the tax regime and said its launch should have been deferred by two months, while the GSTN (goods and services tax network) should have been put on a trial run. "I suggested a trial run for two months and effectively we should have a rollout of GST from September 1," he said. He said the government should have tried to make it as perfect a GST as possible as this was "very imperfect".

## Aadhaar gets praise at global forum for financial inclusion

**HAMBURG (TIP):** As the world debates use of big data and analytics to improve financial inclusion, India's Aadhaar system has come in for praise by a global body on financial reforms for expanding banking reach and lesser use of cash.



In a progress report on efforts to assess and address decline in correspondent banking, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) said its action plan in this regard is making good progress but the fall in numbers is continuing.

"A decline in the number of correspondent banking relationships remains a source of concern for the international community," it said, while flagging issues like problems in international payments and some payment flows being driven underground.

This may have adverse consequences for financial inclusion, as well as the stability and integrity of the financial system, it added. The FSB has submitted its action plan in this regard to the G20 Summit, which begins here tomorrow and is being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the leaders of the world's other largest economies.

The FSB has been established to coordinate at the international level the work of national financial authorities and global standard-setting bodies in order to develop and promote the implementation of effective regulatory, supervisory and other financial sector policies.

It has established a Correspondent Banking Coordination Group (CBCG) to coordinate and maintain impetus in the implementation of the action plan.

On potential applications of financial technologies, the FSB said the CBCG had an initial discussion on whether advances in big data and analytics might be usefully combined with KYC utilities, better information in payment messages and the LEI (Legal Entity Identifier) to facilitate due diligence on correspondent banks and transaction monitoring. *Source: PTI*

## Air India launches Delhi-Washington flight

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** State-owned Air India on Thursday launched its first flight to Washington DC from New Delhi, thereby adding its fifth destination in the US.

Air India has deployed its 238-seater Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft to cater to the new direct service to the US. The plane offers eight seats in first class, 35 in business and 195 in economy class.

The launch took place at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here in the presence of Charge de Affairs of US Embassy Marykay Loss Carlson, Air India chairman and managing director Ashwani Lohani, commercial director of Air India Pankaj Shrivastava, among other airline officials.

Indian ambassador to the US Navtej Sarna, Lohani and Shrivastava are also flying to Washington.

The occupancy on flights to Washington is at 90 per cent for the month of July, according to the airline spokesperson.

The airline will operate a bigger 321-seater Boeing 777-300ER aircraft between July 9 and 17, he said.

Washington is the the fifth destination for Air India. The service to the US capital will be offered three times a week.

Apart from Washington, Air India flies to four US airports - New York, Newark, Chicago and San Francisco.

There are daily flights to Newark, New York and Chicago. However, its Delhi-San Francisco flight is operated six times a week.

The national carrier also plans to fly to other destinations in the US, such as Los Angeles and Houston among others.

## Oil prices slump over 1 pct on rise in US output

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Oil prices fell by more than 1 percent early on Friday, with U.S. crude futures dipping below \$45 per barrel as news of a rise in U.S. production added to earlier reports that OPEC output was also on the rise.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were trading down 58 cents, or 1.2 percent, at \$47.53 per barrel by 0137 GMT.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$44.95 per barrel, down 57 cents, or 1.3 percent.

News of the production rise outweighed positive sentiment from falling crude and gasoline inventories in the United States.

"Oil prices were initially stronger of the back of the better than expected drawdown in inventories... However, the exuberance was short-lived, as the market turned its attention to another increase in U.S. production," ANZ bank said on Friday.

U.S. crude inventories fell by 6.3 million barrels in the week to June 30, to 502.9 million barrels, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Gasoline stocks fell by 3.7 million barrels, to 237.3 million barrels.

The data suggested strong demand in the United States, but this was offset by a 1 percent rise in weekly U.S. oil production to 9.34 million barrels per day (bpd). Since mid-2016, that's an increase of more than 10 percent.



The rising U.S. output comes as supplies from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rose for a second month in a row in June, according to Thomson Reuters Oil Research, despite its pledge to hold back production between January this year and March 2018.

OPEC exported 25.92 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, 450,000 bpd more than in May and 1.9 million bpd more than a year earlier.

*Source: Reuters*

## "|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



## BEJAN DARUWALLA

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## Predictions for the month of JULY, 2017

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

### Aries

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

### Taurus

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

### Gemini

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

### Cancer

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

### Leo

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

### Virgo

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

### Libra

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

### Scorpio

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

### Sagittarius

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

### Capricorn

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

### Aquarius

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

### Pisces

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

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

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

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

# HOLY MONTH OF SHRAVAN

Shravan or Shraavana is considered the holiest of months according to the Hindu calendar. The fifth month of the Hindu year is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The auspicious Shravan 2017 dates begin from July 10 and continue till August 7 in North India while Sawan Somwar Vrat Dates for Western and South region starts from July 24 to August 21. All Mondays or Somwar(s) which fall during the Shravan month also called Sawan month in the North Indian states hold immense significance. Devotees observe fast also known as Shravan Somwar or Sawan Somwar Vrats to please Lord Shiva. Sawan Shivaratri and Hariyali Amavasya are other auspicious days during Shravan month time.

Shravan begins from the first day of the full moon and ends in the third week of August, the day of the next full moon. The month gets its name Shravan from the Shravan Nakshatra or star that rules the sky during the time. It is considered the holiest month in the Hindu calendar as many festivals and religious events take place. With almost all the days during Shravan Maas being auspicious, individuals go ahead with ceremonies for shubh aarambh i.e. good start.

Lord Shiva being the ruling deity of the religious month is worshipped with dedication. It is the important time for the Shiva followers who observed holy fast to please the Hindu God. Many devotees observe fast on sixteen Mondays called the Solah Somwar starting from first Somwar of Sawan month to get desired wishes fulfilled from Lord Shiva. Not just the Mondays, the day devoted to Mahadev, Tuesdays during Shravan month also holds importance. The second day of the week in Shravan month, Mangalwar are dedicated to Goddess Parvati, the consort of Lord Shiva. Keeping fast on Tuesdays is known as Mangal Gauri Vrat.

## What Is Sawan Somvar?

Sawan Somvars hold a great significance because they are the special days of Lord Shiva in the special holy month. Highly auspicious results can be obtained by worshiping Lord Shiva on Sawan Somvars every year.

The starting of fasts of Solah (sixteen) Somvars is also considered as highly auspicious in the month of Sawan. Reciting Solah Somvar Vrat Katha is considered highly auspicious for women. Sawan Somvar Vrat is mainly categorized into three categories, these are:

**Sawan Somvar :** Fast of Monday only in the month of Sawan

**Solah Somvar :** Beginning the fast of Solah (sixteen) Somvars, in the month of Sawan

**Somya Pradosh :** Fast observed till the evening during Pradosham

Lord Shiva and Maa Parvati are the two main deities worshiped during the month of Sawan. Devotees offer their favorite offerings to please the deities and to receive their blessings. These offerings include Bel Patra, Datura, rose or marigold flowers and much more. Worship and offer Lord Shiva his favorite offerings to receive his blessings during Sawan in 2016.

## Sawan 2016: How To Perform Sawan Somvar Vrat?

Every devotee has to keep certain points in mind while performing the fast for Sawan Somvars. These points will prove to be beneficial in getting the maximum benefit of the Sawan Somvar Vrat.

Get up early in the morning and perform all the morning rituals like bathing, wearing clean clothes, etc.

Go to the nearest temple and bathe the



Shiva Lingam with water, milk, or the mix of both.

Clean the Puja Sthana (place to perform Puja) at home, establish the idol or picture of Lord Shiva and Maa Parvati.

Take the Sankalp (pledge) that you will perform all the Somvar Vrat with full faith and devotion.

Take the name of Lord Shiva and perform meditation

In the evening, take bath or clean your hands and feet properly for performing Puja once again.

Clean the Puja Sthana (place for performing Puja) and worship Lord Shiva and Maa Parvati.

Recite or listen to Somvar Vrat Katha, otherwise the fast is considered as incomplete.

Recite Aarti with other family members or devotees.

Distribute Prasad (sacred food) among all the devotees or family members.

The devotees can now consume the food for fast (Satvik Khana).

Keep all these points in mind and perform Sawan Somvar Vrat for obtaining maximum benefits.

## Auspicious Results Of Sawan Somvar Vrat

After discussing that how to perform Sawan Somvar Vrat, we should also not miss out the auspicious results that can be obtained by observing this very auspicious Sawan Somvar Vrat every year and during Sawan in 2016.

All the difficulties and tensions of life will disappear.

Lord Shiva blesses unmarried girls with desired husband.

Lord Shiva blesses married ladies with long life and well being of husband and sons.

Lord Shiva fulfills all the desires and wishes of his devotees.

Lord Shiva blesses his devotees with wealth and prosperity.

Lord Shiva is so kind toward his devotees that anyone can easily please him by showing love and gratitude, thus he is also known as Bholenath. Let's now talk about another very important day of Sawan that is Sawan Shivaratri.

## Sawan Shivaratri

Sawan Shivaratri is also a major part of the month Sawan. Its celebrations are observed

by devotees with full faith and devotion, as it falls in the special month of Sawan. It is the second most important Shivaratri after Maha Shivaratri. It is also believed that if Sawan Shivaratri falls on the day of Monday, its significance increases up to many times. Because then, the three auspicious events related to Lord Shiva fall on the same day that are the month Sawan, Sawan Somvar and Shivaratri.

## Legend Of Sawan

Let's discuss the legend of month Sawan, before performing the Sawan Somvar Vrat in 2016.

The legend of Sawan is related to Lord Shiva. During the period of Samudra Manthan, lots of things came out which were equally distributed among the gods and demons. Some undesirable items also came out from the Manthan, which were not accepted by any of the god or demon, such as Halahal (poison). This poison or Vish/Halahal could have some really adverse effects on the living beings. The whole world could have finished or adversely affected by Halahal.

For saving the world from these ill effects of Halahal, Lord Shiva consumed the whole Halahal and stored it in his throat. Due to this reason, the color of his neck turned blue and he was attributed with the name Neelkantha. This whole event took place in the month of Sawan, which increased the significance of worshiping Lord Shiva in the month of Sawan.

## Beautiful Month Of Sawan

The month of Sawan is considered as the most beautiful month in terms of weather changes. Every year, some really pleasant changes are encountered by nature in itself in the month of Sawan.

The sky fills with clouds, the fields fill with green grass and beautiful flowers. Rainy season starts in the month of Sawan or Shravan and it seems like the whole universe is worshiping Lord Shiva by pouring water on him in the form of rain.

The whole world feels relieved in the month of Sawan with the cool breezes and rains, after the hot season of summers. It seems like all the birds and insects come out to greet Lord Shiva. Water level also increases in the month of Sawan. Nature regains its beauty in the month of Sawan.

Every year, the pleasant weather and divinity come along in the month of Sawan. We are going to encounter these beautiful changes of nature filled with the blessings of Lord Shiva again during Sawan in 2016.

If you also want to gain auspiciousness, wealth, and prosperity in life, worship Lord Shiva during Sawan in 2016 and observe all the Sawan Somvar Vrats in 2016.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it? If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it? Indian alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

# RARE IMAGES OF DHAKA'S GURDWARA

BY WAQAR A. KHAN

PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTED BY THE  
AUTHOR

I spent a part of my impressionable years, that is to say, my boyhood school days in Islamabad, West Punjab, Pakistan. During my stay there, I made memorable visits mostly to the northern regions of Pakistan. I also visited the cosmopolitan cities of Karachi and Lahore. I was particularly enamored of Lahore, once a fabled city of the grand Mughals, Sikhs and later of the British Raj where Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims and other ethnic minorities once coexisted amidst great harmony and amity. Lahore in the British colonial days had rightly earned the enviable sobriquet as, "Paris of the Orient" (see the engrossing book, LAHORE: A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY by PRAN NEVILE, 1993). Even in the late 1960s, it exuded a charm of its own with its Mughal monuments and gardens - the Lahore fort, Shalimar and Shahdara Baghs, Badshahi and Wazir Khan's mosques, mausoleums of Jahangir and Nur Jahan, Anarkali bazaar and the tree lined Mall, to name a few. However, besides the "Ajab Ghar" (Lahore museum) and "Kim's Gun" (Zamzama) made famous by Rudyard Kipling, the old Lahore fort along with its Sikh era exhibits which included the priceless collection of the last Sikh Maharaja Dalip Singh's daughter, Princess Bamba Sutherland, attracted me the most.

On my very first visit to the Lahore fort, I was drawn to remnants of some interesting, fading Sikh murals on a wall in an inner courtyard. It looked somewhat incongruous in its setting and thus attracted my attention. However, the guide could not say much beyond reluctantly conceding with a grimace that, "woh Sikho ka hai" (those are of the Sikhs). He was neither interested nor knowledgeable in Sikh history. Such a peculiar mindset - one of disdain and denial - was understandable given that in wake of the Partition of British India in 1947, the horrors that befell the Punjab were still fresh. Furthermore, the guide was too eager to point out the Mughal features of the fort in which he was also ill informed. Leaving the fort, I went to see the adjacent, elegant Samadhi (tomb) of the Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), the "one-eyed lion" of the Punjab. My abiding interest in the magnificent, yet short lived Sikh kingdom (1799-1849), and the history of the brave, hardy and industrious Sikhs of the Punjab had begun.

The Gurdwara seen in a fairly pristine condition in 1950, from the northeast. The architectural details on the exterior of the building can be clearly noted.

Ranjit Singh was a born ruler. He united the various Sikh misls (tribes) and built a powerful empire in the Punjab, with Lahore as his capital. At its zenith the whole of Punjab, Peshawar up to Khyber Pass, Kashmir, western Tibet (Ladakh) and Sindh was under his sway. In the context of his time, Ranjit arguably possessed the most formidable modern army in South Asia, trained and commanded by some legendary foreign mercenaries - Neapolitan and French officers - some of whom had once served in Napoleon's army. However, the Sikh court politics and culture remained in a modern era, essentially medieval in character, with its penchant for intrigue, assassination, and dissension and reckless adventurism - initiating the disastrous wars with the East India Company. As a result, the once powerful Sikh kingdom was eventually annexed by the Company in 1849, following the Anglo-Sikh wars, only ten years after Ranjit's death in 1839.

Since long, I have been reading up on the history of the Sikhs. Consequently, I have developed a great admiration for a brave,



colorful, vibrant, enterprising and gregarious people. Even from the rusticity of the villagers in East Punjab emanate an endearing warmth, gaiety and celebration of life, especially, through their songs and dances during various festivals. On the other hand, the somber, sonorous and lilting devotional Kirtans sung in the Sikh Gurdwara are soulful, seemingly a constant reminder of their past sufferings as a people and their enduring quest for the unity of faith and appeal to the universal brotherhood of Man.

A distant view of the Gurdwaras, center, seen from the south. Auxiliary buildings and substantial landed property of the Gurdwara can also be observed in this rare photo taken in 1950.

A word about the Sikh religion. Sikhism is a monotheistic religion which originated in the Punjab in the 15th century, as propounded by Guru Nanak, its founder and first Guru or spiritual teacher. He was succeeded by nine other Gurus. On the death of the 10th Guru, Gobind Singh, the Sikh holy book, Guru Granth Sahib, was declared as the eternal Guru, whereby, its scriptures have become the embodiment of the temporal and spiritual guide of the Sikhs.

In Bangladesh, there are approximately 7 Sikh Gurdwara (temple) in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Sylhet. There are 10-12 million adherents to the Sikh faith worldwide.

In May 2016, Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies, an organization dedicated to the promotion of cultural heritage, handed over 4 rare photographs taken in 1950 of the Gurdwara Nanak Shahi (Sikh temple) at Nilkhet, Dhaka, to the Gurdwara Management Committee in a simple ceremony.

The 4 rare photographs of the Gurdwara of 1950, taken soon after the partition of British India in 1947, documents the main Gurdwara built in 1830, during the East India Company era. The adjacent auxiliary or support

buildings, which then housed the Langarkhanna (community kitchen and place for free distribution of food) and Musafir-khanna (rest-house for guests/pilgrims), were probably also built during the same time as the Gurdwara, as evident from the same architectural pattern. The Gurdwara and the adjacent buildings as seen in these pictures of 1950, appear to have been in a pristine condition then.

The pictures show the main Gurdwara, a Company era building, with its distinctive Indo-Mughal architectural features (especially the interior). In one of the photos it is interesting to note the presence of Sikh Samadhis (graves) on the compound at the rear end of the Gurdwara. Also, in the pictures can be seen a few male Sikhs. One such photo probably show the then lone Granthi (priest), the brave and dedicated, Bhai Swaran Singh, sitting on an ornate wicker chair with his long, loose hair after a bath. Bhai Swaran Singh stayed back after the partition of 1947, to look after the Gurdwara, when all else had left for India. Sadly, he along with his Bengali Muslim friend were brutally killed during 1971, by the collaborators of the Pakistani Army.

Rear view of the Gurdwara, showing old Sikh Samadhis on the grounds. Closer inspection of the Gurdwara show intricate designs on the building.

Known today as the Gurdwara Nanak Shahi located in Nilkhet, on the Dhaka University Campus, the original Gurdwara was erected on this spot much earlier as it was deemed a sacred place by the Sikhs. Legend has it that Guru Nanak (1469-1539) on his visit to Dhaka, had stayed at this place to preach Sikhism. And, so did the 6th Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675) after him, who also lived in Dhaka for two years. The place was then a Mughal mohallah (locality) and fell under the Sujatpur mouza. A humble Gurdwara was first constructed here by a Sikh devotee, Bhai Natha, during the time of the 6th Guru. The

Gurdwara in the photographs date from 1830, when the earlier old Gurdwara buildings were rebuilt along with additional ancillary edifices. Thus, this Gurdwara in Dhaka, is considered by the Sikhs as one of the oldest and holiest in the subcontinent.

From 1947 until 1964, the Gurdwara somehow managed to stay functional with financial help from local devotees and Sikh pilgrims from India. Monetary donations, however paltry, were also had from Sikh personnel working for UN agencies in Dhaka and the Indian Consulate and overseas Sikhs. However, such funds were insufficient for the overall physical upkeep of the Gurdwara buildings and premises. Consequently, the Gurdwara complex soon started to show signs of neglect and suffered from lack of repair. But the real downturn in the fortune of the Gurdwara started with the state sponsored communal riots in the then East Pakistan in 1964, followed by the Indo-Pak war of 1965, after which hostilities stopped all Sikh pilgrims from India. Therefore, regular funds were seriously affected. Within a very short time the Gurdwara complex bore a dilapidated, forlorn and abandoned look. Invasive vegetation and adverse climatic conditions made things worse. Through all this Bhai Swaran Singh prevailed until killed in 1971.

On the liberation of Bangladesh, when the Indian Army entered Dhaka on December 16, 1971, Sikh officers and soldiers prayed (gave thanksgiving) in this ruinous Gurdwara. During 1972 some funds were made available, and rudimentary efforts at restoration and cleaning up were conducted. In 1973 some laborers started to demolish a ruined portion of the Gurdwara adjacent to the Arts faculty of Dhaka University. Thankfully, it was stopped before any major damage was done to the remnants of the Gurdwara.

Finally, through the noble initiative of Sardar Harbans Singh, the then Chairman, International Jute Organization in Dhaka, a major restoration project of the Gurdwara was undertaken in 1988 and completed in 1989. Thus, the Gurdwara was made fully functional as a place of visitation and worship. Funds for this major restoration project were procured by the relentless efforts of Harbans Singh, from overseas Sikh donations. However, while the exterior façade of the Gurdwara has undergone major structural changes, care was taken to preserve the attractive original interior with some changes made in the layout, like the added Parkarma verandah around the holy inner sanctum to provide overall protection to the Sri Darbar Sahib, where the Sri Guru Granth Sahib (holy book) is kept on a new, beautifully carved, high marble kiosk. Wahe Guru! Sat Sri Akal!

*(The author is founder, Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies)*

*(Source: The Daily Star / Bangladesh)*

# ODISHA: THE LAND OF EXQUISITE TEMPLES AND MONUMENTS

There are some places in the India that are special, and Odisha (Orissa) tourism is definitely one of them. Filled with exquisite temples and extraordinary monuments, home to many thousands of prolific artists and craftsmen; and possessing beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, and natural landscape of often-enchanting beauty, Odisha (Orissa) tourism is a unique and fascinating land that is, nevertheless, still largely undiscovered by tourists.

Tourism in Orissa (Odisha) India is a veritable museum of India's sculptural and artistic heritage and has long been famous to scholars and connoisseurs for the magnificent Sun Temple at Konark (The legendary 'Black Pagoda' of European mariners), for the majestic temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri (renowned for the spectacular Rath Yatra chariot festival), and for the glorious temples of Bhubaneswar. The small but ever-growing number of sophisticated tourists who do manage to find their way to Orissa (Odisha) tourism are generally prepared with some knowledge of these temples, Puri tourism, of the delicate Orissan ikat textiles which have been become famous throughout the world, and, perhaps, of the beaches at Puri and Gopalpur on sea.

## Puri

Rest, Relax and Recall stand totally redefined on the seat of Lord Jagannath- Puri India. Known for its Historic antiquities, Religious sanctuaries, Architectural Grandeur, Seascape beauty, moderate climate and spiritual significance, this coastal district of Odisha (Orissa) attracts a number of visitors every year. Puri tourism has always been popular among traveler enthusiast due to the existence of many amazing Tourist Places in Puri including the Jagannath Temple Puri, Odisha (Orissa).

With a rich historic heritage dating back to 3rd century BC, this temple town welcomes both the pilgrims and fun seekers with open arms, offering its splendid beaches to the latter. Having one of the largest briny water lakes in India namely the Chilika Lake, the city offers an ideal resort to migratory birds.

Better known as the earthly abode of Lord Vishnu or Jagannath, Puri has a rich cultural heritage presenting a unique blend of claims of time and eternity with a power answerable only to wisdom. Considered to be utterly pious by the Hindus, Puri is one of the four sacred dharmas representing a rare spark of immortality owned against the powers of negation, through a spirit of university, adaptability by the Oriya people.

The city is also possesses a very significant monastery in the form of Gobardhan matha established by Adi Shankaracharya on his visit to Puri. Other religious heads and dignitaries like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Rai Ramananda, Jayadeva, Gorakhanath- the father of Nath cult of religious iconoclasm and Saint Totapuri- a vedant teacher of Ramakrishna have also visited Puri leaving indelible imprints of their philosophies on the cultural curtain of the city.

In addition to its undaunted spiritual significance, it is the quintessential characteristic of its culture and philosophy that has helped Puri to be transformed from Pan-Indian to Pan-Continental. This is further made clear by the celebration of 'The Car-Festival of Lord Jagannath' and 'Puri Beach Festival' with an equivalent gusto thus



presenting a fine blend of spiritual and sensory pleasures.

Recognition of the Rath Yatra at a global level, acceptance of Odissi as a classical dance

form, Orissan School of architecture referred to as poetry frozen in stone and 'the Mahaprasad brotherhood' have no doubt helped a lot to fetch Puri, the status of an

internationally known city.

## Konark

Located on the sea-shore at a distance of 33 kms from Puri and about 64 kms from Bhubaneswar, Konark India is also known as Konaditya. The name Konark has been derived from the words Kona and Arka, Kona meaning corner and Arka meaning the sun. Konark Travel & Tourism provides complete guidance about tourist attractions of Konark.

Konark is one of the most famous tourist destinations in India from the spiritual standpoint and boasts of one of the best known architectural specimen. Konark is known for Sun temple which was dedicated to the Sun God by Samba, Lord Krishna's son who was cured of leprosy by the god. The temple has been designed in the form of a chariot, pulled by 7 horses carrying the Sun god. This chariot stands on 24 wheels, each wheel having a diameter of about 10 meter. Attached with a set of spokes, the wheels have excellent carvings. The main attraction of this temple is the idol of Jagmohana that showcases the brilliance of the contemporary architects of those days. Built in the year 1278 by Ganga King Narasimha Deva, the temple is referred as the Black Pagoda.

Another temple resembling the Sun temple is Melakkadambur Shiva temple. This temple too is in the form of a chariot and is one of the oldest temples of Konark. Built during the period 1075-1120 by Kulottunga Chola I, this temple is believed to have set the pace for other chariot temples in India.

The tourists coming to Konark also visit the Chandrabhaga Beach, one of the most exotic beaches in Odisha (Orissa) offering a picturesque view. Surrounded by palm and casuarinas, the beach is at a short distance from the sun temple. The Archaeological Site Museum, another site of tourist interest is an exceptional collection of the various pieces of loose sculptors from the remnants of the Sun temple complex.

The Konark city is also known world over for its fairs and festivals. The Konark Dance Festival held here comes as a true rejuvenator of the ancient classical dance forms like Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi and the local Chhau dance. Another festivity observed with a great fanfare at Konark is the Magha Saptami Mela held on the banks of Chandrabhaga River. Millions of devotees gather here to take a holy dip in this river on the occasion as this dip is believed to be a sure cure for all illnesses.

## Bhubaneswar

The history of the city stretches back over 2000 years. The area first appears as the ancient capital of Kalinga. Bhubaneswar India, the 'city of temples', named after Tribhuvaneshwar, 'Lord of Three Worlds', still preserves over 500 of India's finest temples, around which the religious life of the city revolves.

Mythological references and the epigraphic sources describe the area as Ekamra Kshetra and Saiva Pitha. In 1936, the Odisha (Orissa) became a separate province with Cuttack as its Capital, which was eventually changed to Bhubaneswar in 1956. Together with Puri and Konark, Bhubaneswar forms the 'golden triangle'--one of the most visited destinations in East India, for its proud possession of magnificent sculpture and majestic architectural heritage.

# At least 28 killed in barbaric Mexican prison fight

**ACAPULCO (TIP):** At least 28 inmates were killed when a brutal fight broke out in a prison in the Mexican Pacific resort of Acapulco on July 6, one of the worst outbreaks of violence in the country's troubled penal system in recent years.

Acapulco is the biggest city in Guerrero, one of Mexico's most lawless states and a center of opium poppy production that has been a major concern to US officials.

The prison carnage was particularly embarrassing to Mexico as it came the same day US Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly was visiting Guerrero, in Mexico's southwest.

Guerrero state security official Roberto Alvarez told reporters the fight broke out between rival gangs in the maximum security wing of the prison. In addition to 28 dead, three people were injured, he said.

Authorities found bodies throughout the wing, inside and outside the kitchen, as well as the area for conjugal visits, he said. A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, and told four of the dead were decapitated.

Alvarez told Reuters the prison was close to 30 percent over capacity. It was built for 1,624 inmates but had 1,951 men and 110 women behind its walls, he said.

Despite reports of gunfire in the prison, all the casualties



were due to wounds from sharp instruments, such as the improvised weapons that are fashioned by inmates, Alvarez said. Violent crime in Mexico has jumped in recent months and 2017 is on track to be one of its bloodiest on record.

The number of murder cases in the first 5 months of 2017 jumped nearly 30 percent and murder investigations hit a record high in May. Drug gangs have been battling for control amid a power vacuum following the January deportation of

Sinaloa cartel boss Joaquin El Chapo Guzman to the United States.

The United States and Mexico are discussing how to crack down on the cartels now that most of the established capos have been killed or captured in a decade long, military led campaign.

Kelly, one of the main links between Mexico's government and the Trump administration on migration and security cooperation, arrived in Mexico on Wednesday and has held meetings with other top officials, including President Enrique Pena Nieto. He visited a military base outside Acapulco on Thursday to meet Mexico's army and navy chiefs. Kelly discussed the military's efforts to battle drug traffickers and observed the deployment of troops to destroy opium poppy fields, the defense ministry said in a statement.

Acapulco, one of Mexico's most famous beach resorts, was once a playground for Hollywood stars but in recent years has been roiled by vicious gang warfare. It is now ranked one of the most murderous cities in the world.

The past week has been particularly bloody in Mexico.

On Wednesday, at least 14 people were killed in a shootout in the northern state of Chihuahua, while 17 suspected gang members were shot dead by police late on Friday near Mazatlan in Guzman's home state of Sinaloa. (Reuters)

contd from page 1

## Israel backs India's fight on terror

visas, which are only granted for one year presently. "The real potential is allowing Israeli technology to access the Indian market by manufacturing products for the world," Shiv Khemka, Vice-Chairman of the Sun Group that partners with hi-tech Israeli companies like Eccopia that produces robotic non-water cleaners for solar panels at a factory in Haryana, and water purifiers told media.

"We'll share our technology with India & provide clean water for millions. I'm proud of Israel!" Mr. Netanyahu wrote in a tweet, adding to a photo of him and Mr. Modi standing in the shallows that there is "nothing like going to the beach with friends."

On Wednesday, India and Israel also launched a research and development fund for innovation worth \$40 million contributing, \$20 million each. While the figure is small, officials say they hope to kickstart the process of helping students to take their inventions to product lines, and that their success would spur more such innovations.

Earlier, Israel supported India in its fight against terrorism. Israel believes that there is no difference between Pakistan based "Lashkar-e-Taiba" and the Hamas group operating in Israel and Palestine, senior officials in Jerusalem said, pointing out that the Israeli government has unequivocally supported India on the issue of terrorism.

## Tillerson in focus as ExxonMobil investigation intensifies

Mr. Schneiderman's office considers the nation's chief diplomat a central figure in a case that pits the ambitious Democrat against a Texas energy giant and has divided attorneys general nationwide.

It remains unclear whether he will ultimately force Mr. Tillerson to answer questions under oath, but he told The

Associated Press he has the legal authority to question the secretary of state, who served as Exxon's CEO until joining the Trump administration.

"We haven't gotten to the point where that's necessary, but yeah, we have the legal right to conduct depositions. I don't know that we're going to have to get to Mr. Tillerson, but sure," Mr. Schneiderman said when asked whether he has the right to question Mr. Tillerson.

Mr. Schneiderman opened the Exxon investigation in November 2015, shortly after reaching a settlement with another fossil fuel giant, Peabody Coal. In that case, Mr. Schneiderman's office determined that the coal company misled shareholders, regulators and the public about the company's financial risks related to climate change.

Now, Mr. Schneiderman is using the subpoena power of his office to determine whether Exxon did the same.

After being forced to produce internal communications about the impact of climate change on its business, Exxon earlier this year acknowledged that Mr. Tillerson used the "Wayne Tracker" alias during email communications. The company says the alias was created to help the former CEO avoid a flood of messages after environmental activists obtained his actual email address.

Most of the "Tracker" emails have been deleted, Exxon says, citing the company's practice of automatically deleting emails after a certain period of time. Exxon officials testified that the company allowed several months of Mr. Tillerson's emails to be deleted even after Mr. Schneiderman's office flagged them for preservation.

For now, Exxon says that many of the messages can be retrieved by collecting emails from those he communicated with.

The New York Attorney General's office will depose nine Exxon witnesses in the coming weeks in a series of lower-level depositions in a chain that is ultimately expected to lead to Mr. Tillerson. The State Department declined to comment on Mr. Tillerson's involvement in the Exxon probe. The secretary of state has retained a private attorney to represent him in the matter.

The judge presiding over Mr. Schneiderman's investigation, New York Supreme Court Justice Barry Ostrager, has so far allowed the Attorney General to use his broad subpoena power to investigate Exxon. But he has been critical about both sides' behaviour.

## CBP Announces Expansion of Global Entry to Indian Citizens

"CBP is excited to offer our flagship Trusted Traveler Program to Indian citizens," said Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan. "By expanding Global Entry eligibility, CBP is transforming the international arrivals process, making it more secure, efficient and welcoming, for the millions of Indian citizens who visit the United States each year."

Currently available at 53 U.S. airports and 15 Preclearance locations, Global Entry streamlines the international arrivals process at airports for trusted travelers. The more than 4 million Global Entry members bypass traditional CBP inspection lines and use an automated kiosk to complete their admission to the United States. As an added benefit, Global Entry members are also eligible to participate in the TSA

Pre?™ expedited screening program.

U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals and U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents may apply for Global Entry as well as citizens of certain countries with which CBP has trusted traveler arrangements, including Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and now India. Canadian citizens and residents enrolled in NEXUS may also use the Global Entry kiosks.

The non-refundable application fee for a five-year Global Entry membership is \$100 and applications must be submitted online. Once the applicant successfully passes a background check, a CBP officer will conduct an interview with the applicant at one of the more than 100 Global Entry Enrollment Centers located throughout the U.S., Canada, and Qatar and then make a final eligibility determination.

While the goal of Global Entry is to speed travelers through the process, members may be selected for further examination when entering the United States. Any violation of the program's terms and conditions will result in appropriate enforcement action and revocation of the traveler's membership privileges.

## 67-year-old Sikh postmaster stabbed; turban ripped off by robber in UK

wounds as a result of the incident, and his wife Kulwant said he is "not the same person" since the attack at the Post Office in Erdington, Birmingham.

The incident took place in March but the shocking CCTV footage has been issued by the police now, showing the moment the man lunged at Thethy with a six-inch blade.

"Normally when somebody comes in, I greet them and say 'good morning' or something like that. But before I could speak, he had got in my face and stabbed me in the neck," Thethy was quoted as saying by Metro.co.uk.

"It was only a small wound, about 2cm deep, but as you can imagine it was very painful. He was shouting 'give me the money, give me the keys'. The man was crazy, he was pushing me around and wielding the knife," he said.

In the video footage of the incident that happened on March 17, the pair can be seen grappling after the attacker ripped the turban off Thethy's head.

His wife managed to trigger the panic alarm from a separate room, leading to the man rushing out of the shop.

"He kept telling me that he would kill me, but I always believed that I would be ok. Looking back, I'm not sure if he cared about the money. I think he just wanted to kill somebody. Ever since the incident, I have felt scared every day to work in the shop," Thethy said.

Describing life after the attack, Kulwant told a TV show that her husband has been hit hard by the assault, "He's been nervous, he's not the same person."

Police Constable Alan Reeves of West Midlands Police, said, "This man is a particular danger to the public and needs taking off the streets. We want to identify him and arrest him for the protection of the public, given the viciousness and how frenzied the attack was."

(Source: PTI)



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## Coach Selection: All eyes on Cricket Advisory Committee now



Captain Virat Kohli wants Shastri to coach Team India.

**MUMBAI (TIP):** As the clock begins to tick away for the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) to zero in on Team India's new coach, a question - better asked sooner than later - has become the talking point.

How exactly do the members of this committee propose to recuse themselves from any potential conflict in settling for who they think will be a suitable candidate for the position of the national coach? To be fair, there's no conflict to mention in definitive terms. Yet, as the word itself (conflict) continues to trigger panic in the country's cricketing fraternity these days, there'll be questions asked and answers will have to be given if there is lack of clarity.

To date, the CAC has not gone into the details of why they chose Anil Kumble over Ravi Shastri in 2016, knowing the latter's contribution and who the team wanted. "If details are not given, people will speculate. Was there board politics involved? Was there an ego issue between individuals?"

Was there a serious conflict of interest? And when answers to such things come out from unexpected places, they end up giving way to all kinds of controversies," say those tracking developments from close quarters.

Shastri and Kumble, both, lived up to their roles impressively, but it is not the ability of the candidates that is coming in to question. Instead, it is the ability of the CAC to do the right thing that went unanswered last year and once again comes under the scanner.

## DJOKOVIC BREEZES IN WIMBLEDON HEAT

**LONDON (TIP):** Novak Djokovic raced into the Wimbledon third round for the ninth year running, with a 6-2 6-2 6-1 drubbing of tournament debutant Adam Pavlasek on a sweltering Court One.

The three-time champion pinned his Czech opponent behind the baseline with unerring groundstrokes off both wings, moving him from side to side and forcing error after error.

Pavlasek was playing his childhood idol and the 22-year-old, ranked 136, appeared overawed by the occasion. He rarely tested the Serbian second seed, who is looking to salvage his season after losing his Australian and French Open crowns.

Djokovic will next play Latvian Ernests Gulbis who beat Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro 6-4 6-4 7-6(3).

German 27th seed Mischa Zverev beat Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin 6-1 6-2 2-6 3-6 6-4 after an intense battle that lasted over three hours.

In the women's draw, American Coco Vandeweghe beat German Tatjana Maria 6-4 6-2 in their second-round match. Svetlana Kuznetsova needed just over an hour to book a spot in the third round, beating fellow Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-0 7-5.



# VIRAT KOHLI LEADS INDIA TO 3-1 SERIES WIN OVER WEST INDIES



India celebrate their series win, West Indies v India, 5th ODI, Kingston, July 6, 2017. Pic courtesy: AFP

**KINGSTON (TIP):** Skipper Virat Kohli led from the front with a fluent century as India today wrapped up the five-match series 3-1 with a convincing eight wicket win over West Indies, here on July 6.

Asked to bowl, comeback man Mohammed Shami bagged four wickets as an under-fire India produced a disciplined bowling effort to restrict West Indies to a modest 205 for nine.

Playing only his second ODI after a long injury lay-off, Shami picked up four wickets giving 48 runs from his 10 overs to pull West Indies back.

Besides Shami, Umesh Yadav gave him ample support from the other end and returned with impressive figures of three for 53. For West Indies, Shai Hope top-scored with a patient 51 off 98 balls during which he hit just five boundaries, while his brother Kyle made 46 off 50 deliveries with nine fours to his credit.

Later chasing the total, India hardly faced any trouble as Kohli (111 not out) and ever-consistent Ajinkya Rahane (39 off 51) shared 79 runs for the second wicket in 17.5 overs to set the platform for the comfortable win.

Today's match was a test of character for Kohli and his men after the unexpected 11 run loss against the hosts in the low-scoring fourth ODI in Antigua.

But Kohli meant business as he anchored India's chase with his 28th ODI century that came off 115 balls and was studded with 12 fours and two sixes.

Besides the early dismissal of Shikhar Dhawan, the Indians were in complete control of the chase.

In the pursuit of the target, India lost Dhawan in the last delivery of the opening over, caught by Evin Lewis off Alzarri Joseph.

But thereafter, it was Kohli and Rahane's show as the duo dominated the proceedings with consummate ease.

While ever-consistent Rahane played the second fiddle, Kohli played with aggression from the onset.

But Rahane was unlucky to miss out on his fifth consecutive half-century of the series as he was dismissed Devendra Bishoo adjudged LBW in the 19th over. He



Virat Kohli lets out a roar after getting to his 28th ODI ton, West Indies v India, 5th ODI, Kingston. Pic courtesy: AFP

struck five boundaries during his knock.

But Kohli played a chanceless knock and dictated the terms. He showed his class and brought up his 28th ODI century, a record 18th while chasing, with a boundary of Kesrick Williams.

Together with Dinesh Karthik (50 not off 52 balls), Kohli stitched unbeaten 122 runs for the third wicket to take India home with 79 balls to spare.

Earlier opting to bat, West Indies made a decent start before the hosts lost their first wicket in the ninth over when Lewis (9) was caught by India skipper Kohli off the Hardik Pandya's (1/27) second delivery of the innings.

Hope brothers, Kyle and Shai then shared 37 runs off 45 balls for the second wicket before Umesh struck twin blows in consecutive balls to peg West Indies back.

Kyle, who was looking good, struck Umesh for two consecutive boundaries in the 16th over but in search of one too many he perished, picking out Dhawan at midwicket while trying to attempt for an ambitious pull.

Umesh then had Roston Chase LBW for a duck with a full and straight delivery in the next ball. The batsman went for the review but to no avail with West Indies slumping to 76 for three by the end of the 16th over.

Shai and Jason Mohammed (16) then

stitched 39 for the fourth wicket before Kedar Jadhav (1/13) struck with his golden arm, dismissing the latter with a straight forward return catch.

Young Shai held one end up and played with caution to notch up his second half-century of the series in the 38th over.

Together with skipper Jason Holder, Shai added 48 runs for the fifth wicket to keep West Indies' innings afloat.

While Shai played with caution, Holder was aggressive from the onset and piled up his 36 runs off just 34 balls with the help of four boundaries and one six.

But an irresponsible shot led to Holder's dismissal as he was holed out to Dhawan at long-on to hand Shami his first wicket.

An over later Shami struck again when he dismissed Shai with the set batsman attempting an ambitious shot and Ajinkya Rahane did the rest by latching on to an outstanding running catch at midwicket.

Shami again struck in his next over removing Ashley Nurse, who chipped one straight to Kuldeep Yadav at short midwicket.

Shami also accounted for Devendra Bishoo, caught by Dhoni behind the stumps.

Rovman Powell (31 off 32 balls) played a good hand towards the end to get West Indies past the 200-run mark.

Source: PTI



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**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  
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### Golf For Sight



**Friday, July 21, 2017**

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